

5 IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

Recommendations from Africa

The latest Sustainable Development Goals Report states that: “achieving energy and climate goals will require continued policy support and a massive mobilization of public and private capital for clean and renewable energy”. This is especially critical for Africa where access to electricity is low compared with global averages. Strong collaboration and capacity building is needed to implement scalable and sustainable energy access solutions. Through extensive engagements under the SESA project, five important considerations emerged as critical for successful capacity building in Africa.

(UN. 2022. Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022)



01. Type of capacity

Determine the various areas in a process or institution that needs to be strengthened and/or developed to transform the present capacity to a desired state. Categories identified through SESA: political and legal; knowledge and awareness; human capacity and skill; access to finance.



03. Stakeholder group

Identify the stakeholder group which the specified capacity building is targeting. Groups identified in SESA: national and country government officials; local municipality officials; living lab stakeholders; local community; financial institutions; technology users; journalists and news press; all stakeholders.



05. Language

Determining and using the preferred language(s) of local stakeholders during capacity building activities can enhance buy-in from stakeholders and in time, the effectiveness of the initiative. Local languages identified through SESA included French, Arabic, Twi, Xhosa, Chichewa and English.



02. Context-specific topics

Capacity building themes and topics should be relevant to and guided by the city or regions needs and context. Recurring themes identified through SESA include: benefits of renewable solutions; climate change explained; site-specific technology explained [about the technology]; site-specific technology use explained [utilisation]; site-specific technology maintenance explained [maintenance]; small business development; monitoring and evaluation.



04. Format

Recommend ideal format to effectively deliver capacity building. It is important to consider literacy levels and access to information channels when thinking about format. Formats put forward in SESA: in-person training; hybrid training; e-learning modules; stakeholder forum; in-person dialogue; hybrid dialogue; explainer video; visual poster; technical assistance and training module; radio broadcasting; explainer audio clip; in-person demonstration; train-the-trainer workshop(s); user manual/guideline.

Smart Energy Solutions for Africa (SESA)

SESA is a collaborative project between the European Union and nine African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania) that aims at providing energy access technologies and business models that are easily replicable and generate local opportunities for economic development and social cohesion in Africa. Through several local living labs, it is expected to facilitate the co-development of scalable and replicable energy access innovations, to be tested, validated, and later replicated throughout the African continent.

About ICLEI

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