

Putting monitoring and evaluation to work in sustainable energy projects

The course, moderated by Ms. Sarah Adams, Acting CEO of Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP), was presented by several instructors: Mr. Edgar Blaustein, consultant from THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France, Dr. Marlis Kees of GTZ Household Energy Programme HERA, Ms. Gina Rodolico from E+Co, and Ms. Simone Lawaetz from USAID.

The Monitoring and Evaluation of Energy for Development (M&EED) international working group is an initiative of several partners to develop a guide for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) at the project level for sustainable energy projects. The guide first gives an overview of M&E, followed by several thematic modules to address different kinds of projects. Mr. Blaustein explained the concept, purpose, application and expected results of M&E.

M&E can be used to demonstrate the impacts of development projects to donors, to implicate stakeholders in a project, as a tool for project teams to evaluate their progress, and to improve future project planning and implementation. It is a complex process as it involves different stakeholders, data collection is difficult and costly, and there is significant time lapse between a project and some of its impacts. Energy projects pose a particular challenge since there are many different kinds of projects (e.g. hydro, biofuels, PV) and many different types of development impacts. M&E should be carried out by an outside, independent team. Mr. Blaustein discussed the importance of involving all stakeholders in M&E from the project design phase so that they are all clear about the project goals and the indicators that will be used to measure them; of establishing a baseline before the project is implemented; and of measuring during and after implementation the inputs, outputs, results and impacts of the project. Even though there is no prescribed methodology, as the actual M&E should be tailored to specific needs and local contexts, he presented 10 general steps to carry out M&E. The guide developed by M&EED is available at the GVEP website.

Dr. Kees, Ms. Rodolico, and Ms. Lawaetz shared their experience with monitoring and evaluation in specific energy projects.