

## Mott Foundation Grant Reporting Form Narrative Report

**The narrative and financial reports must be submitted together.** They cannot be processed separately. If you have any questions regarding the completion and submission of this report, please feel free to contact your Mott Foundation program officer.

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Grantee: Christian Aid

Project: African Development Bank Energy Financing

Mott Foundation Grant # G201600905      Period Covered: 8/1/2019 through 12/31/2019  
(start date of grant)                      (end date of reporting period)

1. List the reporting objectives referred to in the grant agreement letter and concisely indicate the progress achieved toward each objective.

This was the second phase of the project implementation and was funded for a period of six months running between August 2019 and December 2019. During this phase, the project aimed at achieving three key objectives. Each of these objectives and their respective activities, as well as the resultant outcomes achieved during the implementation period are reported below:

**Objective 1: Building on successes and learnings from the previous grant, Christian Aid, in close coordination with the Vasudha Foundation and the ACCESS network will continue to grow a robust, knowledgeable and credible network of CSOs across five targeted African countries – Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Ghana and Tanzania - with a strong collective voice to call for the delivery of sustainable energy access for all;** During the implementation period, Christian Aid, in very close collaboration with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) has continued to provide support to the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy & Access (ACSEA) to play its role in influencing the energy policy debate across Africa. During this period, recruitment of volunteers was successfully carried out in five national chapters across Africa (Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Ghana and Tanzania). Each country selected one qualified candidate through a competitive process. This exercise was carried out in August 2019. (**See annex recruitment process**) All the volunteers have rich background on project management and matters energy. Immediately after recruitment all volunteers signed their contracts and started implementation of project activities from September 2019.

This has greatly improved coordination of ACSEA activities in Africa and sharing of best practices on Decentralized Renewable Energy access (DRE) and investment across Africa. Following this successful recruitment and improved coordination, each country carried out at least 3 advocacy actions targeting to sensitize communities to demand greater action against fossil fuels energy projects; community/ sub-national events were organized to empower communities with relevant skills and advocacy technics to demand better investments and access to energy from development partners and National governments.

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Most development partners like African Development Bank (AFDB) have bowed down to the pressure from ACSEA network and other CSOs in Africa; as a result, they have withdrawn their initial plans to finance Coal projects in Botswana and Kenya and indicated that their investments will purely focus on environmentally friendly technologies like renewable energy source.

This period also, PACJA in partnership with Christian Aid (CA) through ACSEA has produced clear national and regional evidence for the case for a shift to low-carbon energy, including feasible means of making this transition. Generation of this evidence was achieved by first research that was conducted in Botswana and Zambia. More studies are currently ongoing in Ghana and Tanzania. This evidence will then be used as the basis of building national and regional advocacy movements i.e. African Coalition for sustainable Energy Access (ACSEA) to deliver targeted engagement with the drivers of change, including governments, multilateral banks and Regional Economic Integration Communities (RECs

During this phase, Christian Aid and PACJA mobilized more CSOs to join ACSEA making it a strong and competent regional platform that ably engages with energy access issues at the Pan-African level. More than 50 CSOs under ACSEA have been trained on how to engage effectively with development partners and National government and demand better investments on energy. ACSEA platform is now composed of diverse groups working in the areas of energy policy advocacy, including private sector players involved in provision of Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE). More specifically, ACSEA, with the support of CA and PACJA, undertook the following activities and realized these results:

**Capacity building** – In the second phase of the project implementation a total of 17 Capacity building workshops were organized in Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Ghana, Abidjan and South Africa. The workshops and trainings brought together communities drawn from both local as well as international organizations. Some trainings targeted communities and State actors in respective countries. Recommendations from the research studies were used to create awareness on renewable energy access and engage leaders in energy policy development and implementation process. Social media and local FM stations were used to push the energy access agenda in the all countries through ACSEA networks. This has greatly enhanced understanding of clean energy access and investment in Africa within ACSEA network. Moving forward, recommendations from workshops will be adopted as a way of creating awareness among members of publics on the benefits of using renewable energy.

In Tanzania Sensitization session of the CSOs on Decentralized Renewable Energy was held on 23rd of October 2019 in Dar-es-salaam Tanzania. The session brought together a total of 25 participants from 4 regions namely Dar-es-salaam, Morogoro, Songwe and Singida. Participants were drawn from, CSOs as main target in order to provide a wide chance for discussion and free opinion giving on the topics of Renewable Energy (RE). The CSOs represented different groups and sectors related to the energy sector and renewable energy initiatives. A CSOs learning Alliance was formed at the end of this activity in order to operationalize the platform for knowledge and experience sharing, advocacy work and

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strategies planning as well as raising CSOs voices on DRE in a collective manner. Additionally, the sessions deliberated on energy policy issues in Tanzania, particularly as relates to energy access and investment in clean energy, as well as institutional governance issues of ACSEA, particularly on strengthening the network's management and governance structures. The training sessions were very useful to the network members in that the participants were able to identify their strategic roles in influencing investment in the sector, particularly with the national government, as well as the African Development Bank (AfDB).

ACSEA network in Ghana held 3 training in October and November 2019 in Accra that focused on Energy access and investment. Participants included stakeholders from state agencies, including the Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Gender, representatives from Civil Society Organization, the media, youth and women's groups from communities within the Ga West Municipal Assembly. The session provided an in-depth and basic understanding and need for the use of renewable energy and Ghana as well as some potential avenues for increasing its use. Broadly, the trainings focused on creating awareness amongst targeted participants on key policy challenges as well as opportunities for influencing increased investment in energy access across Africa, as well as the strategic opportunity for CSOs to influence institutions.

ACSEA network in Malawi spearhead by CISONTEC oriented and introduced local communities on existing national energy policies, legal frameworks and national energy plans with an aim of raising awareness of the district and community stakeholders on policy as a way preparing them for thorough engagement in this energy advocacy journey. This engagement with communities was in line with project result area 5 that targets to empower communities with knowledge and skills to demand for action against Fossil Fuels energy projects; The training and workshops also served as appropriate avenues to demand for access to energy from development partners.

Botswana ACSEA Platform created synergy between private sector and CSOs with an aim of encouraging more investment on renewable energy sources. Trainings workshop noted that National and sub national government should collaborate with CSOs to capacitate the private sector on Clean energy investments. An additional workshop could be held to capacitate churches on how they can effectively influence the congregation to lobby and advocate for sound policies and renewable energy sources.

Zambia training workshops emphasized the need for government to work together with private practitioners in diversifying the energy sources because Hydroelectric Power at Nkula station is facing a number of challenges hence unreliable. ACSEA network in Zambia noted it is still worrisome to see that government is still considering coal power as priority area when there are global calls to dispense of fossil fuels. Looking at the trend in terms of how developed countries have been using fossil fuels to propel their economies, it is justifiable for Malawi to also include production of energy from coal in the energy mix. However, much

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emphasis should be put on environmental protection along the way.

As a result of the trainings, participants, who are also members of the ACSEA network, have engaged with their respective governments, as well as with the AfDB leadership both at the national, as well as in the regional spaces. In Kenya and Botswana for example, members have greatly influenced government plans on Coal mining leading to withdraw of AFDB plans to finance fossil fuels projects in Africa. In Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia prioritization of decentralized energy systems have gained prominence as a result of the member engagement with the government on the need to prioritize this.

**Establishing and enabling functioning structures-**During this period, recruitment of volunteers was successfully carried out in five national chapters across Africa (Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Ghana and Tanzania). Each country selected one qualified candidate through a competitive process. This exercise was carried out in August 2019. (See annex recruitment process) All the volunteers have rich background on project management and matters energy. Immediately after recruitment all volunteers signed their contracts and started implementation of project activities from September 2019.

This has greatly improved coordination of ACSEA activities in Africa and sharing of best practices on Decentralized Renewable Energy access (DRE) and investment across Africa. Following this successful recruitment and improved coordination, each country carried out at least 3 advocacy actions targeting to sensitize communities to demand greater action against fossil fuels energy projects; community/ sub -national events were organized to empower communities with relevant skills and advocacy technics to demand better investments and access to energy from development partners and National governments. Most development partners like African Development Bank (AFDB) have bowed down to the pressure from ACSEA network and other CSOs in Africa; as a result, they have withdrawn their initial plans to finance Coal projects in Botswana and Kenya and indicated that their investments will purely focus on environmentally friendly technologies like renewable energy source.

**Evidence generation-** PACJA in collaboration with Christian Aid (CA) has worked with identified local members/partners from across the continent under the auspices of the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access (ACSEA) to produce clear national and regional evidence for the case for a shift to low-carbon energy, including feasible means of making this transition. To generate this evidence, first research was conducted in Botswana and Zambia and follow up study will be conducted in Ghana and Tanzania. This evidence is being used as the basis of building national and regional advocacy movements i.e. African Coalition for sustainable Energy Access (ACSEA) to deliver targeted engagement with the drivers of change, including governments, multilateral banks and Regional Economic Integration Communities (RECs)

Energy mapping and policy studies that were conducted in Zambia and Botswana in close partnership with the Vasudha Foundation, were used by the mobilized CSOs, complemented

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further by their experiences from the ground, to ignite policy discussions around decentralized renewable energy at the national (government) level, as well as amongst the AfDB leadership, particularly at the directorate level. In addition, the study exercise, which was also conducted in Kenya and Malawi during the first year of project implementation, which included consultative meetings with the different CSOs and policy makers, and the subsequent validation meetings, helped in further consolidating the different players into the network, as well as building the capacity of the CSOs to better understand the energy policy field. Engagements with policy makers from the target countries during the study exercise also helped to solidify the place of the ACSEA national chapters as the recognized CSO network in the energy field, thus creating opportunities for greater engagement in the future in terms of energy policy influencing

Although the research findings did not significantly influence any specific changes to the current modelling of the project (since this had already been submitted), the policy issues that it brought to the fore created an opportunity for future engagement with the AfDB, particularly in the context of the countries targeted by ACSEA in its future work. In addition, during the capacity building engagements with the CSOs and the policy study processes undertaken, the place of energy for productive use, beyond 'turning on the switch', became evident. Whilst communities may be willing to pay for the energy services provided to them, it has become evident that their ability to do so is jeopardized primarily by poverty levels, manifested through low income, which further compromises sustainability of the intervention efforts. Providing energy for productive use, designed in a way that promotes poverty reduction efforts, thus does not only help build income for the communities and hence their ability to pay for the service, but also guarantees sustainability of such projects. Influencing increased investment in these kinds of interventions therefore remains critical even for the realization of the rest of the SDGs

**Objective 2: Influence the African Development Bank (AfDB) to shift its investment across Africa from fossil fuels to renewable energy and low carbon energy projects, highlighting the percentage shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy;**

**Strategic participation at the AfDB's 2019/20 annual meetings** – Under result area 2 of the project; "5 strong national ACSEA chapters should be engaging institutions including AfDB & governments on energy access". ACSEA was represented in AFDB annual meeting from 7-9 March 2019 by the coordinator - Mr. Augustine Njamnshi and other ACSEA Members. It is alongside this meeting that Civil Society Forum celebrated its tenth anniversary under the theme "Engaging Civil Society in Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity". This edition followed the second Statutory meeting of the African Development Bank - Civil Society Committee held on May 6th 2019. The meeting served as an enabling platform for a dialogue where one common objective was defined: Accelerate efforts to voice the priorities of citizens in the African Development Bank's work. ACSEA agreed with AFDB leadership that there is need to Maximize productive use and benefits of decentralized renewable energy systems for last mile electrification and women's economic empowerment with an aim of empowering SMEs and local communities to thrive and reduce poverty in Africa.

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The Forum enabled development stakeholders – namely, AfDB, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social entrepreneurs – to voice the priorities of citizens and to discuss civil society’s role in implementing the “Integrate Africa” priority of the High-5 Strategy. It is only through a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach that the AfDB ten-year strategy 2013-2022 can be ensured. Consistent with the global shift in terms of technology, globalization, geopolitics, and emerging markets, the roles and responsibilities of civil society in Africa have expanded. In the quest to efficiently address pressing issues, CSOs are increasingly seen not only as advocates or service delivers but also as enablers for change, policy influencers, project incubators, experts and implementing partners. It has become a development stakeholder, acting on the international scene as a key partner.

On the sidelines of this tenth anniversary, which confirmed the long-term engagement of AfDB towards the collaboration with CSOs, AfDB’s Civil Society and Community Engagement division made a call to action to CSOs for the support of the African Development Fund’s replenishment. The call was well received by CSOs representatives who committed to advocating for the Fund’s replenishment, seeing it as instrumental for the betterment of the lives of local communities that they support through their activities especially renewable energy projects in Africa. The 10th edition of the Civil Society Forum served as a milestone for the relation-ship between institutional and civil society stakeholders of African development and the promotion of their common agenda

Using multi-pronged approaches including face-to-face meetings with the directors, issuing of position statements addressed to the bank’s technical leadership, as well as signing of petitions, network members managed to sustain the pressure on the bank to stop financing fossil fuel projects, and instead increase it invest in DRE opportunities. These engagements focused on lobbying directors to influence the bank to change its strategy in terms of investments in the energy sector away from fossil fuels and into RE projects.

As a result of all of the above engagements, as well as sustained pressure on the bank to shift its investment from fossil fuel based energy sources and into renewable energy AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina indicated in November 2019 that bank took environmental concerns seriously and was focusing on renewable energy, adding that coal projects risked becoming “stranded assets” on the AfDB’s balance sheet. AFDB is now “getting out of coal,” . The bank has dropped plans to Finance Lamu Coal project in Kenya and Botswana

**Facilitating regional high-level sustainable energy policy dialogues for clean energy investment** -ACSEA in collaboration with PACJA and with support from Christian Aid and CS Mott foundation hosted a side event in the sidelines of African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on energy access and investment for development in Durban, South Africa, on 7th Nov 2019. The seventeenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) provided a strategic opportunity for this kind of discussions. The session helped ACSEA and other development partners deliberate on the policy implications and financing opportunities for implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Africa, including Renewable Energy and Energy access. Broadly, the high-level

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regional workshop focused on energy access for development and linkage with climate change. The dialogue was able to achieve the following.

- ACSEA network in partnership with state and no-state actors deliberated & develop strategies and actions for influencing increased allocation of investment by DFIs, private sector and national governments in the energy access space {particular emphasis on Energy for Development (E4D)} in Africa
- Through development of a common position on energy use and access; ACSEA Influenced the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to prioritize investment in Renewable Energy and Energy Access
- Strategies and measures for strengthening Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access (ACSEA) to engage effectively at national, regional and international Level were developed, moving forward it is anticipated the platform will influence more changes in Africa on renewable energy use

ACSEA plans to organize a webinar to disseminate the outcomes of this workshop to the larger CSOs constituency for input and contribution.

### **Facilitating national nodes to engage with, and influence Country Strategy Papers**

The 10th Civil Society Forum and high-level dialogue on energy created a space between different MDBs to interact with CSOs representatives. Representatives from the World Bank Group (WBG) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), joined AfDB representatives to give an overall view of their institution's framework of engagement with CSOs. The meetings also allowed an exchange on best practices and knowledge-sharing between the civil society and MDBs to strengthen synergies and foster collaboration.

### **OBJECTIVE 3: To sensitize communities on the importance and advantages of a sustainable energy transition in the target countries.**

**Social media and media campaigns and Campaign actions-** In August and December 2019, ACSEA ran a very successful online engagement and campaigns on renewable energy use and access in Africa. Social media and local FM stations were used to push the energy access agenda in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, Tanzania and Botswana. This promoted more understanding on clean energy access issues among local communities because information was simplified. ACSEA also developed fundraising concept note on communication strategy and online campaign that will serve to galvanize Africans beyond project countries to speak up against public investments in fossil fuels and pressure the AfDB to divest towards and support renewable energy. This is an extension of activity 6 in the project on "Online campaigns on power shift" Additional resources are required to develop a communication strategy and online campaign to supplement the specific objectives of the project. Once the online campaign is developed by consultant, ACSEA members will be trained on communication strategies for social change workshop, which will define key messages, advocacy approaches, communication channels and required resources.

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### ***Facilitating community and national level sensitization meetings and Campaigns***

Pan African Climate justice Alliance in collaboration with ACSEA network and other institutions came together to raise awareness during the global climate strike on the need for the government and policy makers to take action in ending the growing climate crisis which is greatly contributed by the use of fossil fuels. This campaign was carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> September, in which ACSEA platform engaged in various activities on creating awareness on Decentralized renewable energy (DRE) systems in their countries.

Zambia ACSEA network organized a march on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and mobilized key Government departments, civil society organizations, Community based organization and individuals advancing similar agendas on climate change related issues especially on renewable energy access in order to undertake affirmative action. The march recommended there is need to build viable climate adaptive livelihoods that would discourage heavy natural resource harvesting such as trees for energy used for charcoal production.

CISONECC Malawi platform (ACSEA) participated in the Second National Youth Conference on Climate Change in Lilongwe, Malawi. The conference began on 24th September and ended on 26th September 2019 at the side-lines of Global climate strike week. The conference theme was Renewable energy access and use. The specific focus areas included; the current status of energy, principles and elements of renewable energy in Malawi, and the best renewable energy options for Malawi. The conference recommended Malawi should invest in the production of clean, reliable, off-grid energy sources by training youth in the production of renewable energy systems and support them with startup capital in form of loans to empower them economically

Kenya ACSEA platform also organized a Climate strike March on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The march highlighted need to invest more on renewable energy sources in order to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels and create green and sustainable jobs. ACSEA members urged Kenya government to step up the pace, if the country will meet the set international climate & sustainable development goals. Global trends continue to indicate that investing in renewable energy is investing in a profitable future. Investments in renewable energy in 2018 were three times higher than the amount invested in new coal and gas-fired generators. Journalist in Kenya play important role in creating awareness and holding government into account especially in the implementation of climate project policies. Media should be given the necessary support in order to advocate for Climate Justice and capture the attention of the government, private sector and other financial institutions to invest in clean and sustainable energy sources.



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2. What major favorable or unfavorable variance(s) from stated goals, objectives, and projected expenditures occurred during the period? Indicate if the variance will hinder or prevent the accomplishment of the objectives.

- a) Proactiveness of ACSEA platform in sustained pressure and engaging AfDB and other MDBs as resulted to shift their focus and investment from fossil fuel-based energy sources and into renewable energy. AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina indicated in November 2019 that bank took environmental concerns seriously and was focusing on renewable energy, adding that coal projects risked becoming “stranded assets” on the AfDB’s balance sheet. AfDB is now “getting out of coal,”. The bank has dropped plans to finance Lamu Coal project in Kenya and Botswana coal project. Its is anticipated going forward ACSEA will continue pushing for Zero investment in fossils fuels in Africa. This is a motivation to Platform members that their efforts are bearing fruits though much remains to be done in lobbying for establishment of Decentralized renewable Energy systems in Africa (DRE) to ensure vulnerable communities are benefiting.
- b) Insufficient funding is a big gap in supporting ACSEA platform deliver its full mandates and achieve its objectives in Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania. This is a major weakness also in sustaining strong and powerful energy campaigns in those countries. With recruitment of volunteers more funding will be required to ensure proper coronation of activities and supporting Volunteers logistics.
- c) ACSEA also developed fundraising concept note on communication strategy and online campaign that will serve to galvanize Africans beyond project countries to speak up against public investments in fossil fuels and pressure the AfDB to divest towards and support renewable energy. This is an extension of activity 6 in the project on “Online campaigns on power shift” Additional resources are required to develop a communication strategy and online campaign to supplement the specific objectives of the project. Once the online campaign is developed by consultant, ACSEA members will be trained on communication strategies for social change workshop, which will define key messages, advocacy approaches, communication channels and required resources.

3. Do you currently expect that the planned results will be achieved by the completion of this grant period?     Yes     No    If “No”, please explain.

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4. Do you currently expect to continue this program after the end of this grant? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If “Yes”, does your organization have appropriate funding committed?