

**FANDEMA**

# **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE GAMBIA**

Freetown (Sierra Leona), 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013



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## Fandema is a word in mandinka that means “help yourself”

One single word illustrates the activities of more than 100 women committed in the improvement of their life standard through their own **empowerment**. A **root empowerment** through **basic education**; a **development empowerment** through **transversal education**, and a **productive empowerment** through the **skills training**.

Working with women and community development in Africa is planting a seed of knowledge, motivation, independence and personal self-esteem, from mothers to daughters. The fruits are the changes that next generations will see if we are able to respect our own culture and rhythms.



## 1.1 What is Fandema?

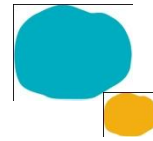
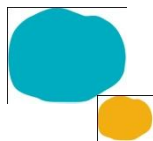
It is a local and community development project for women with the aim to empower and upgrade the life standard of women by strengthen their productive capacities and abilities through the training for the entrepreneurship in **Tujereng** The Gambia, promoted by Associació Solidança and developed by Mboło Association.



## 1.2 Stakeholders/beneficiaries

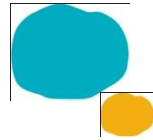
Women on the range of age of 18 to 65 years old, especially those women who has been

- drop-out from school
- For those who don't have the chance to attend school
- For those who want to improve their life standard



## 1.3 Aims

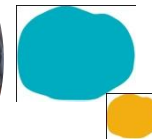
1. Improve the basic education of women



2. Create vacancies, new bussiness oportunities and helping entrepreneurs to enter to the formal market

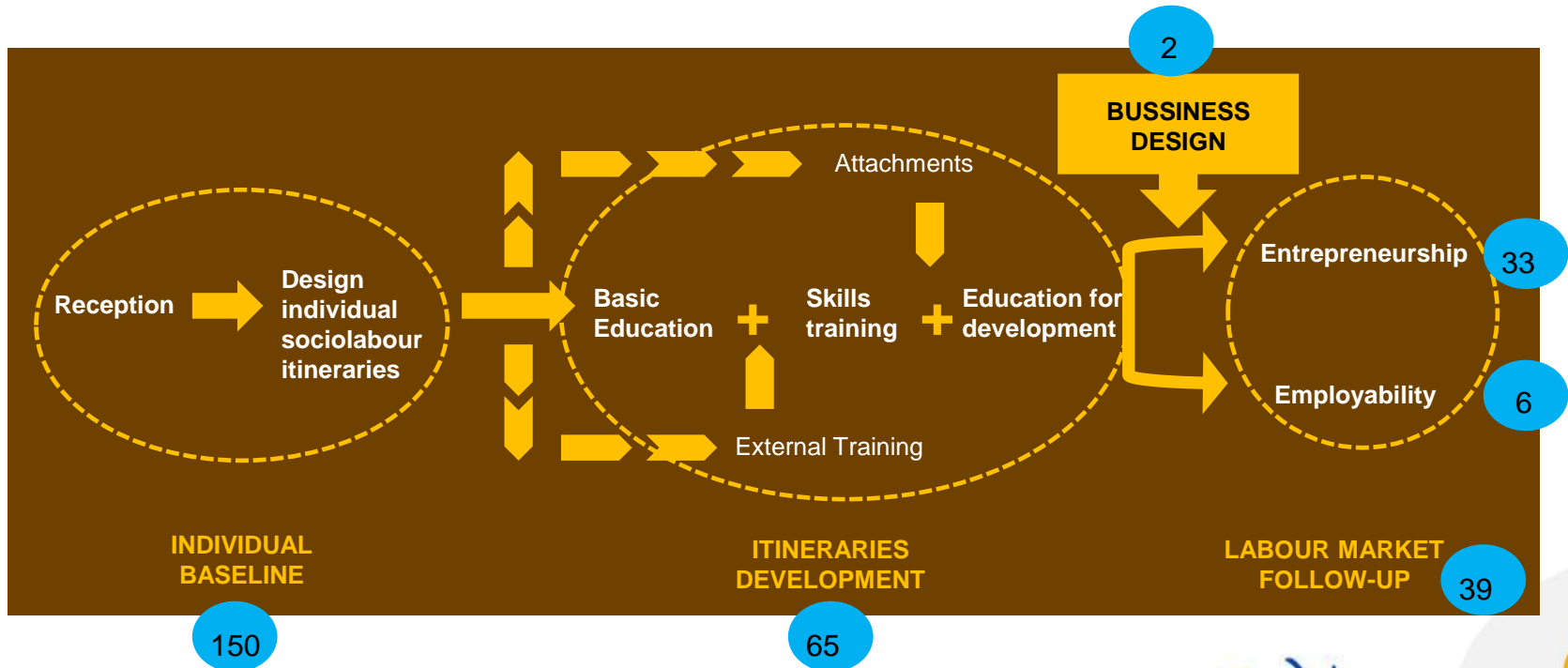


3. Women empowerment in the community



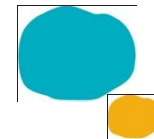
## 1.4 Methodology

A personal itinerary is designed, which defines their complete phased training adapted by the beneficiaries own education background, labor experience and professional expectances. And MOU is signed for both parties to start the itinerary development.



## 1.5 Solidarity Revolving Fund

Is made available to support all approved business plans (designed by the beneficiaries conducted by the business technician, the social worker and the trainer) to undertake any business under the SRF criteria. **A close follow-up is done by the socioeconomic department** when the business is established.



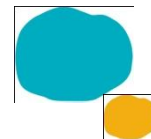
## 1.6 Principles

### Self-management and self-sustained

- Selling second hand clothes
- Our own products and goods from the skills training
- Training of the beneficiaries to be future trainers

### Environmental friendly

- Eco-building (using traditional materials)
- Renewable energies (solar and wind for energy and solar for water pumping),
- Waste management (reusing the materials, waste management and composting the organic fraction)
- Environmental sensitization, awareness and training.





## 2

# Fandema and Renewable Energy in The Gambia

Fandema is a demonstrative project to show how Renewable Energies, solar and wind, are a solution to the problem of energy access, and how the access of electricity can help developing new industrial and socioeconomic activities.

Being one of the project selected under GEF-UNIDO, ***Promoting Renewable Energy based Mini-Grids for Productive Uses in Rural Areas of The Gambia***, Fandema RE system is designed to make use of RE only and, as part of the trainings given, the use of RE for economical activities will be encouraged and promoted.



## 2.1 Past energy practices

### FANDEMA WAS NOT CONNECTED TO THE GRID. IT WAS RUN BY A GENERATOR

#### ■ CONSUMPTION OF FUEL FOR RUNNING THE OFFICE AND ICT TRAINING.

It was only allowed to use 1 hour for ICT training (3 laptops) and 2 or 3 hours/day for office.  
More than 432 liters of fuel for 7 months in 2012 and cost of 16.840 GMD (432€)

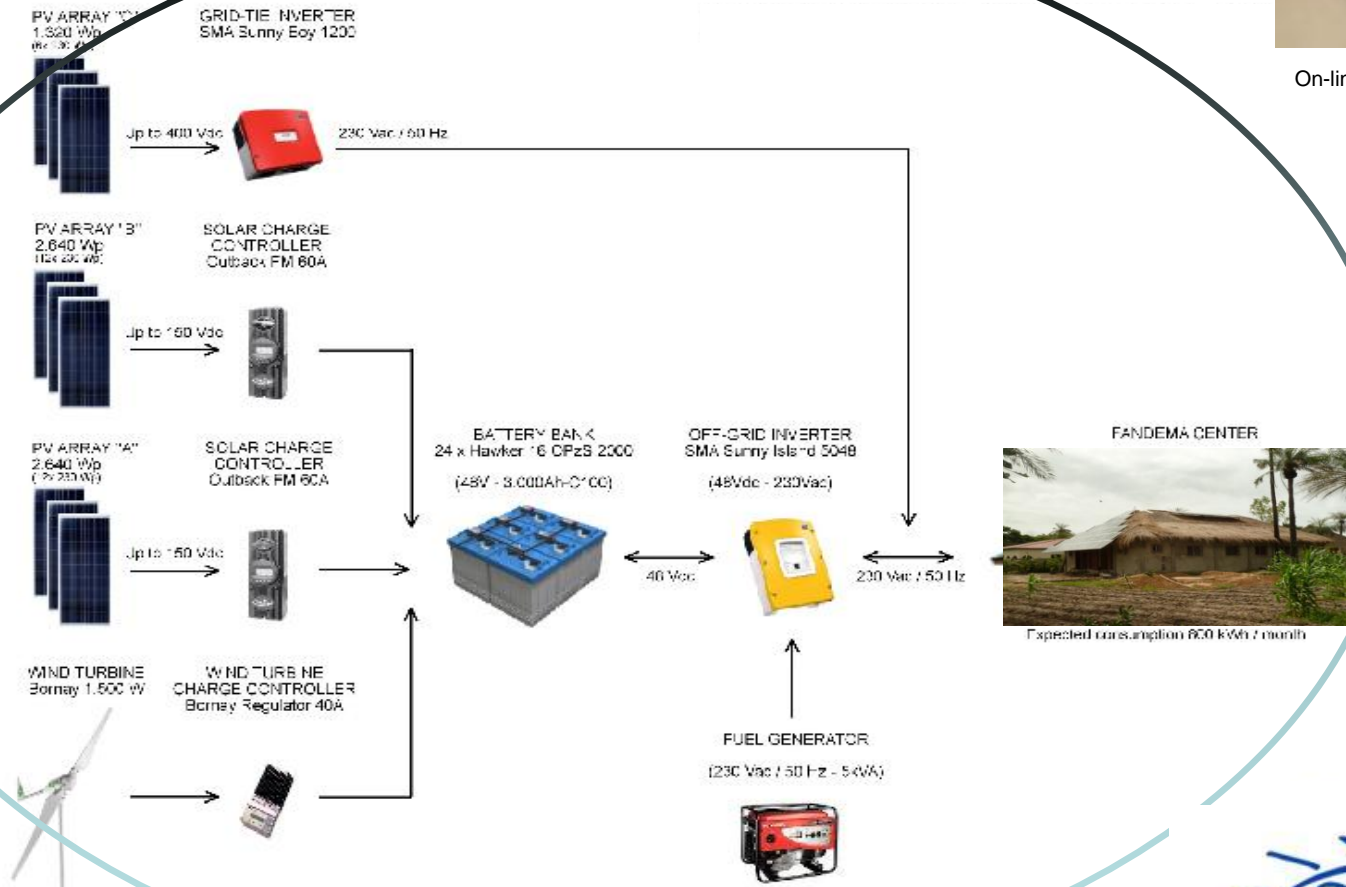
#### ■ WATERING THE GARDEN

Collect water outside the project area  
5 women doing it for more than 2 hours/day

### PROBLEMS:

- Office no efficiency (time running and no use of photocopy)
- Spoilt equipment for problems of stabilizer
- Time invest in watering that women could not be under education or extra working
- No quality training for poor access to energy (i.e. not all the computers could be used for the training; not all electrical sewing machines or over lock could be used...)
- High amount of the budget to pay fuel

## 2.2 Fandema's Hybrid Stand-alone system



On-line monitoring system



Expected consumption 600 kWh / month

## 2.3 RE running in the activities. Demostration practices for future economical activities and services giving to the community

Soap and cosmetic handmade



Gardening



ICT



Sewing



Video club



Office



Ice and cold water



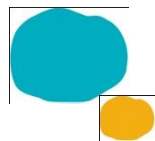
Renting the hall for programs



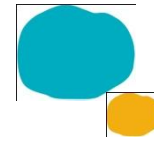
## 2.4 RE: a matter of knowledge

The lack of know-how and technical knowledge is one of the existing barriers hindering the objectives of the Government of The Gambia and GEF-UNIDO concerning the promotion of RE and Energy Efficiency needed to address their problems on the Energy Sector. Mbolo's RE training has the aim to improve knowledge and skills on RE solutions and Energy Efficiency, based in household basis.

1. **Design, installation and maintenance of RE in The Gambia**



2. **Women awareness and sensitization on RE and climate change**



3. **Elementary training on RE equipment in Fandema**



3

## Gender and RE: our immediate future challenges

*“Women are household energy managers, energy users and suppliers, and budding energy entrepreneurs, including them in energy sector decisions that affect them, can help ensure more effective use of resources and satisfied customers” (ENERGIA.ORG).*

Let's bring efficiency solutions to be applied in women daily basis; let's create a RE market for the women needs; let's train them to be an environmental facilitator and give financial possibilities for economical activities with few GHG. All these aspects can be replicated and apply effects in other women communities, either in The Gambia or in the MRU region.



### **3.1 JOB CREATION: Some energy efficiency solutions to provide women daily life more justice, equality and give more freedom. Positive cost opportunity**

The opportunity costs of household activities frequently excludes women from undertaking income generating or educational activities, which deprives poor families of much needed income.

**Pedal washing machines**

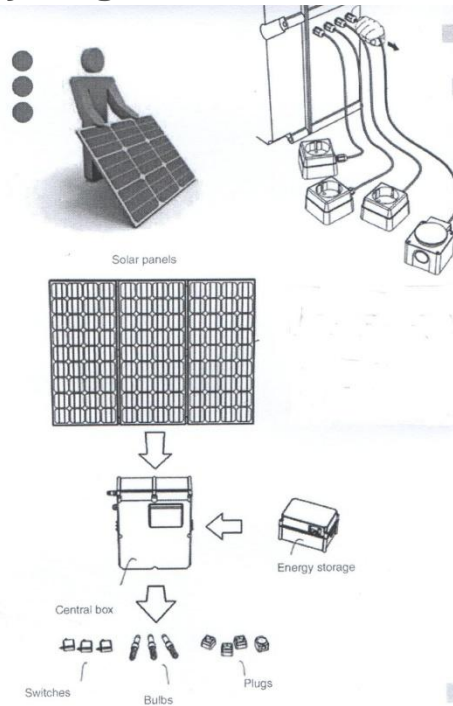


**Improved cooking stoves/solar cooking**



### 3.1 JOB CREATION: RE toolkits for household/educational centres/bussiness

A photovoltaic power generating equipment easily installed by users because it's not needed any technical knowledge to install. Everything can be ensembled by the RE women workshop.

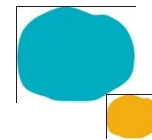




### 3.1 CAPACITY BUILDING ON RE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

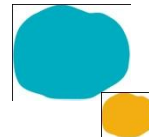
At least one year, the women are trained in environmental topics like forest conservation, climate change, waste management, RE, etc. They are aware of this issues and can be decisions makers.

On the other side, Gambia Government is promoting the use of RE by creating the law, implementing some programs at schools, having demonstration sites. There is the need to have some environmental workers that works through the promotion of environmental education, awareness and sensitization.



### 3.1 RE IN THE CRITERIA OF MBOLO SOLIDARITY REVOLVING FUND

1. One of the criteria of the solidarity revolving fund is in case of a necessity of energy then has to get source from renewable energy.
2. MBOLO SRF can finance basic installations of renewable energy to conduct their economic activities.



# Collaborators



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# THANKS

For any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us

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