

LabODD – Energy Group

Measuring the contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals of social businesses and impact investors engaged in the energy sector

Presentation of LabODD

In October 2020, CERISE launches the LabODD to support **impact organizations** (microfinance institutions, social businesses – in agri-business and energy access – and impact investors) to better **measure the results with their beneficiaries**, in link with the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

More specifically, the LabODD seeks to equip and support impact organizations so that they can:

1. **Understand the issues of measuring results, appropriate the SDG framework**, and incorporate these elements into the definition of their strategy and the implementation of their operations;
2. **Collect and analyze outcome data at the level of their beneficiaries** – data that are reliable, useful for decision-making, and in line with their desired contribution to the SDGs;
3. **Base their reporting and analysis of the contribution to the SDGs** on visual, synthetic, constructive, and calibrated results data.

In this perspective, the LabODD operates as a **working group**, involved in experience-sharing, experimenting new approaches, supporting partners in the field, collectively creating tools and operational guides, capitalizing results, and disseminating open access resources.

Led by CERISE, the LabODD gathers up to date 30 member impact organizations, involved in implementing field activities, sharing experiences and capitalizing. The LabODD is open to any structure that wants to be an active participant, in line with its objectives and its charter. It will be supported by thematic groups over the 3 coming years: energy, agriculture, inclusive finance, gender, environment.

Objectives of the Energy Group

Within the LabODD, CERISE suggests to create an Energy group, in order to explore more specifically the **issues and practices of outcome measurement, in link with the SDGs**, for impact organizations involved in the **energy access sector** (social businesses and impact investors).

The objectives of the Energy group are the following:

- **Question current approaches and practices:** impact thesis, choice of indicators, link with SDGs, use of proxies and formula, lean approach, etc.;
- **Appropriate the SDG framework:** navigating at the level of targets and indicators, discussing advantages and limitations;
- **Experiment in the field:** support field partners in using existing data and/or collecting and analyzing new data;
- **Share experiences** related to outcome data collection, analysis and use;
- **Capitalize:** potential co-creation of a common reporting framework, operational guides, or other resources.

Envisioned activities

PHASE 1 – EXCHANGES AND BRAINSTORMING *(April to July 2021)*

We propose to start the Energy Group activities by a set of 4 workshops to brainstorm / exchange / discuss about current issues and practices.

<p>Workshop 1 – Theories of change and SDG framework</p> <p>To question the impact theses of the energy access sector (questioning our habits, analyzing underlying hypotheses...) and connecting with the SDGs.</p>	<p>Workshop 2 – Needs and expectations of different stakeholders</p> <p>To identify, understand, compare and reconcile the expectations of social businesses, impact investors, donors and other stakeholders in terms of outcome measurement.</p>
<p>Workshop 3 – Existing data and how to use them</p> <p>To identify what data is already collected in the field by energy access social businesses, and exchange on how this data can be used, with a focus on proxies and formula (i.e. GOGLA).</p>	<p>Workshop 4 – The “lean data” approach</p> <p>To get familiar with the “lean data” approach, share experiences, discuss the advantages and limitations of this approach, and the use of tools developed by 60 Decibels (i.e. 60 dB Impact Index).</p>

PHASE 2 – EXPERIMENTATION *(April 2021 to December 2022)*

The LabODD could guide and support different energy access social businesses in outcome data collection, analysis and use.

This field work will provide an opportunity to experiment some tools or practices, to deepen analysis, and learn some lessons for the whole sector.

Various **experience-sharing workshops** will be organized as we progress on **outcome data collection, analysis and use**.

PHASE 3 – CAPITALIZATION *(September 2021 to June 2023)*

Experience-sharing, common reflections and field experimentations will allow capitalizing on the French and international expertise on outcome measurement, in connection with the SDGs.

Depending on the objectives that the Energy Group will set and on field experience feedback, different collective works could be envisioned: **co-creation of a harmonized tool to measure outcomes in the sector** (potentially based on MetODD-SDG, and/or in partnerships with other recognized actors such as GOGLA, GIIN, 60 dB, etc.), **operational guides**, **review of good practices**, **case studies**, etc.

**You want to know more or join the LabODD Energy Group?
Get in touch with CERISE team!**

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