



**Sustainable Development Application Form**

*Please email this form in MS Word format along with detailed financials of proposed projects to  
Rev. Vy Nguyen, Executive Director ([vy@weekofcompassion.org](mailto:vy@weekofcompassion.org)).*

Submitting Partner: Church World Service		Date: 5 October 2019	
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Name of Contact: Steve Weaver		Title: Regional Director for Middle East/Europe	
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Project Name, Local Country Partner, and Location: <b>Renewable Energy Program in poor rural communities in Georgia, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina,</b> Partners: CWS, RCDA (Georgia), Ormax (Moldova) and Regional Development Service (RDS) (Bosnia and Herzegovina)			
Partner's History/Relationship with the Project:			
<p>Church World Service has been active in the region for several decades, with a long-standing commitment to strong local partnerships. Over the past three years, CWS has supported Ormax, RDS, and RCDA as they have come together to develop a regional innovative technologies learning platform and the initial phases of a regional program. This learning platform began in 2014. It has involved several learning exchange opportunities including the regional meeting of all partners in Serbia in November 2015 and project exchange visits in Moldova and Georgia in October and November 2016. CWS staff joined staff from our three partners for these valuable learning experiences. Objective 1 of this proposal aims to further strengthen this component of the Renewable Energy Technologies Program. Given the similarity of poverty, environmental, and energy challenges in these three countries CWS believes this regional collaboration will further the spread and adoption of these regionally appropriate technologies.</p> <p>Ormax Youth Cultural Association was founded in 1996 and registered in 1999 with the aim to improve the ecological situation by empowering civil society in the fields of the environmental and ecological development.</p> <p>Since its establishment in 1999, RDS has been implementing programs in Bosnia and Serbia, initially with the primary purpose of helping refugees, returnees and displaced persons. RDS now implements a wide range of innovative technology programs, including a Social Innovation Centre for renewable energy and energy efficiency.</p> <p>RCDA was established in 1997 by a group of small farmers, farmers' credit unions and farmers' co-operatives, CBOs and NGOs. Within its vision to build sustainable communities through fulfilling the potential of people, it implements programs focused on Renewable Energy Resources, transfer of affordable technologies, and value-added production chains.</p>			
<b>Description of Project</b>			
Name of Project and Purpose ( <i>agricultural, health, water, micro-credit, education, community development, etc.</i> - and how it might address at least one of the <b>17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030</b> ):			
<b>Name of the project:</b> Renewable Energy Program in poor rural communities in Georgia, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).			
<b>Background</b>			
Lack of access and the high cost of energy traps the poorest communities in vicious cycles of poverty and environmental degradation. But it is possible to simultaneously develop strategies that address climate change, address hunger and poverty and build sustainable development strategies. By promoting decentralized affordable, low carbon, renewable green energy technologies such as solar energy, bio mass conversion and eco – san toilets through community owned and managed social enterprise projects,			
Poverty and unemployment remain among the key challenges in the region, especially for people living in remote and rural areas. Economic growth has been slow and largely driven by the contributions of emigrants sending cash back home to their families. Economic migration rates are quite high, with people leaving internally to urban areas or outside countries, predominantly to the EU in search of steady income and better living conditions. While Bosnia is additionally burdened with			

influx of migrants and refugees, Moldova still suffers from political crisis caused by misuse of the EU funds and change of government.

Energy poverty is a widespread phenomenon throughout Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). Many poor people living in these regions can hardly pay the ever-rising electricity costs. To heat their houses in winter, they are often forced to burn wood, diesel or any other thing they can find, such as plastic - with all the harmful impacts on the environment. In the entire region, the impacts of climate change undermine development efforts and most severely impact the poor, who are relying on natural resources for their livelihoods.

The effects of the 1992-1995 war remain one of the leading causes of poverty in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia has one of Europe's highest unemployment rates – 35%, with youth unemployment at 55% - one of the world's highest rates. An estimated 20 percent of people live in absolute poverty, while almost 50 %t is vulnerable to becoming poor. The estimate is that for more than 3,000 families in rural areas life without electricity, refrigerator and television is still a reality (5% of the territory of BiH is still not re-connected to the official grid). For the state, such investment is not economically justified and greatly relies and is dependent on political will or the lack thereof.

In homes without electricity, critical things for survival are compromised. No access to clean, running water, no means for preserving food, unhealthy heating practices that rely on lanterns, kerosene lamps, candles and wood stoves, no means for powering electrical appliances to ease the labor or power a business all profoundly deepen vulnerabilities of already vulnerable people. Children in such households cannot easily read and learn at night at home, they cannot access the internet, watch films; some must move during school terms to get their education in urban areas without basic amenities such as storing and preserving food, or having access to water, the rural areas without electricity face abandonment even though they are suitable for life and farming and able to sustain local population. The state still has no strategy to solve the problem of rural electrification, nor a clear state strategy for the development of rural areas

Poverty and unemployment remain among the key challenges of Georgia. With the poverty rate at 11.6 % and unemployment rate at 12.6%, poverty continues to be deeply entrenched, especially in rural areas in Georgia. The rural population of Georgia is also in decline; according to the data from the Demographic Census of 2014, the rural population has decreased by 24% since 2002.

Moldova is the poorest country in Europe; currently, nearly 70% of the 2.6 million inhabitants live below the limit of national poverty. 60% of the population lives in rural areas where they depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, making poverty a largely rural phenomenon that affects 90% of all rural population, affecting women, elderly, agricultural workers and small farmers. According to the EU agencies, 30% of the import budget is used for purchasing energy resources. Most of the rural population cannot afford to heat their homes during wintertime or to enjoy hot water in their bathrooms and kitchens. High electricity and fuel costs push people below the poverty line, leading to several challenges and issues, and causing malnutrition and contributing to poor health and low quality of life. Developing countries such as Moldova have fewer resources for adaption to climate change effects and for recovering from losses caused by severe weather conditions. Government led interventions with regards to climate change adaption are small.

In recent years, each country has faced natural disasters that have required aid, including landslides in Georgia, flooding in Serbia and Bosnia, and harsh winters in Moldova.

CWS's team in Europe, in conjunction with local partners, is committed to helping people in rural areas gain a sustainable energy supply, mainly by utilizing RETs enabling farmers, internally displaced persons, returned refugees, eco-migrants and other vulnerable groups to overcome poverty and build sustainable livelihoods. We accomplish this by providing training and resources for families and communities to utilize renewable energy resources and to develop cooperatives and social enterprises. Using renewable energy, the program enables families to decrease traditional energy consumption, which had previously been costing an unusually large portion of their income.

**Purpose:**

CWS and partners will work with vulnerable groups in Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to generate their own power supplies for homes and schools, manage water supplies, grow more food, improve sanitation and reduce recurring health problems.

- Develop and support models that provide green and socially inclusive sustainable energy services to rural communities
- Alleviate poverty through the reduction of energy poverty
- Increase employment opportunities for men and women through the establishment of cooperatives and social enterprises.

The project will carry out:

- Joint projects with organizations from the region
- Poverty reduction through income generation opportunities based on energy cooperatives and social entrepreneurship
- Adapting agricultural production to climate variability and disasters, introduction of measures to decrease land degradation through utilization of locally existing renewable energy resources
- Building community resilience to adverse impacts of climate change and disasters
- Supporting communities to utilize renewable energy resources
- Support and encouragement for women and youth
- Developing specific agricultural value chains based on renewable energy

**The program addresses several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030:**

Primarily the project will focus on contributing to SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

It will also focus on:

SDG 1: End of poverty in all its forms everywhere;

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target Population (*children, women, farmers, urban poor, etc.* - priority will be given to projects that enable the empowerment of women and children):

**Target population**

Rural populations in Georgia, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina often lack stable sources of income. In particular, the most marginalized segments of the society such as the elderly, female-headed households, displaced, unemployed, children, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups often have insufficient means of income. As a result, the below will be among prioritization criteria for this program:

- Vulnerable women (heads of household, unemployed with little/no access to other income generating activities);
- Individuals (or families) with lack of access to land (i.e. who do not own more than 0.5 hectares of land);
- Individuals (or families) who are unemployed by no fault of their own, have not rejected employment opportunities, vocational trainings and are actively seeking employment;
- Individuals (or families) not able to provide for basic needs for themselves due to socio-economic or other reasons (no income, elderly, physically or mentally disabled, dependent on other people's care, large families, returnees);
- Girls and boys, and teachers in kindergartens and schools
- Selected representatives from civil society, emphasizing women leaders, who play a role in the uptake of new technologies (e.g. community leaders, local authorities, community-based organizations, women initiative groups, etc.)

How many persons are/will be served? (*please give as specific a figure as possible*)?

**Total number of persons served is approximately**

- Georgia – 740 (direct)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – 110 (direct)
- Moldova – 850 (direct)

Key Objectives and Activities:

Objective 1: Promoting and securing renewable, eco-friendly sources of energy for population in need

- This will include provision of solar photovoltaic panels for production of electricity (Bosnia), solar water heaters for households and schools and kindergartens (Bosnia, Moldova), biomass-based technologies (Georgia, Moldova).

Objective 2: Program priority 2: Developing livelihoods and addressing economic needs of rural population

- Livelihoods and sustainable rural development based on RET are crucial for strengthening resilience of rural communities and their economic sustainability, their community leaders' capabilities, etc. The focus will be on community leaders, families receiving RET equipment, women and young people interested in learning more about green development and energy efficiency in all three countries. Developing specific agricultural value chains based on renewable energy and ensuring participation of women and youth is the key in addressing social and economic interests of local people and contributing to poverty reduction while utilizing renewable energy resources at the same time. Trainings, workshops and field visits will be organized to get familiar with the innovations already available in other

communities and countries. This will also include provision of technologies such as solar fruit and herb dryers for families or small, social enterprises and cooperatives.

Objective 3: Empowering marginalized rural women through establishment of cooperatives based on RET

- Women-led energy cooperatives will be established in economically devastated villages in Moldova and Georgia in order to provide jobs for local women who want to stay in their region and contribute to their families and communities. The goal is to support women to organize themselves in a group which will utilize renewable energy for running production facilities and offer and deliver organic products to national and foreign markets, resulting not only in increased income, but also in strengthening the feeling of ownership and contributing to development of leadership skills, self-confidence and empowerment of these women.

Objective 4: Assessing impact of the project, sharing knowledge and good practices nationally and regionally.

Duration of Project: 12 months (1 November 2019 – 31 October 2020)

#### Project Budget

Total Budget: \$75,000

Amount Requested from Week of Compassion: \$40,000

Is this a one-time request or an on-going request? On-going

Is the project financially supported by ecumenical or outside partners? If so, what percentage does it cover for this project and please list those partners?

The program is co-funded by CWS (own unrestricted/broadly designated funds) \$35,000

What is the overall percentage of fund requested that will be used for administration/overhead? Administration and overhead costs are included in the direct costs budget lines.

If this project has been funded previously or is in the same geographical area, please specifically state when and how much was granted:

WOC funded the RET program in 2017-2018 for \$35,000

Dates and project names of previous approved proposal submissions within the last 5 years:

Renewable Energy Technologies – CWS and RCDS, RDS and Ormax (2017)

How do you plan to monitor, evaluate, and report back to Week of Compassion? ***(Please note that future funding is contingent upon reporting, and that reports should be made between 6 months- 12 months after funding. In addition to reporting, please provide at least one story of transformation and photos.)***

The progress towards meeting the program objectives will be monitored closely, and corrective measures taken to ensure the desired results are met. CWS will utilize a monitoring and evaluation strategy that will include 6 month and annual (final) financial and narrative reporting and a final program evaluation by an external consultant. Program performance and results will be monitored and reviewed using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Regular monitoring will be conducted by partner staff daily, and by CWS program staff with bi-monthly (every two months) site visits (minimum) and weekly email and phone consultation.

Partner program staff will monitor the progress of beneficiaries and the program through regular update and monitoring of an indicators checklist, beneficiary database, individual action plans and individual learning support plans, and coordination at weekly meetings and through monthly reports by program staff.

Have all reports and stories from previous projects been submitted to WoC? Yes

Application prepared by: CWS

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