

## RET program

Brief update as of 7 May 2020

All three partners in all three countries have continued to work despite the situation with Covid-19. A variety of measures have been introduced in all three countries including state of emergency, curfew, ban on public gatherings, restriction of travel, etc. Bosnia and Herzegovina has revoked the state of emergency, while Moldova is expected to revoke it on 15 May and Georgia on 21 May (and some restrictions already on 11 May such as transport). None of the partners expect major disruptions in implementation, while just a small portion of activities (trainings, seminars) is postponed for summer due to governments' restrictions and recommendation on social distancing. These delays are not seen to have any significant impact on meeting the objectives of the projects.

The staff is in full capacity and where possible, present in the field. They are taking precautionary measures and those who are meeting beneficiaries, do that individually in order to minimize the risk of infection and follow the governments' guidelines.

### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

RET/Bosnia partner RDS does not envisage significant disruptions in the implementation. The program predominantly works with families in rural areas who lead a self-sustaining lifestyle. So far, 10 families in Drvar region (out of 16 in the project) were visited by project team to assess the technical conditions for installment of photo-voltaic packages. The small modifications on houses preceding the installment of solar panels will start in June.

In April, one of the team members visited Hercegovina region (Nevesinje municipality) and the beneficiaries who will receive mobile photo-voltaic packages – the mobile packages are an innovation in the project.

The trainings are postponed until summer period due to restrictions on group public gatherings.

### *Georgia*

Due to state of emergency and movement/ gathering restrictions, RCDA suspended all group activities that may pose any threats to the health of beneficiaries or staff. These activities will take place in the summer months.

Contact via phone and online with beneficiaries and community leaders is in place. Installation of technologies will take place after the state of emergency is revoked. Some of the materials needed have already been purchased.

Through their Khamiskuri Water Sanitation and Renewable Energy Resource Centre, RCDA in cooperation with local CBOs is working closely with public institutions on providing information to local population on issues related to Covid-19. The issue and challenge for many communities remains access to disinfection materials.

When it comes to supporting the women's cooperative in marketing and branding of their products, RCDA developed a list of potential clients and already reached out to them.

Inventory of renewable energy resources in two communities, Mulakhi and Magrani, has been conducted and report is being prepared.

Energy Needs Assessment in two communities with the purpose of tracking energy spending by households has been carried out based on the information provided by households in target villages of Mulakhi and Magrani. Energy needs assessment report is being prepared.

#### *Moldova*

All group activities (seminars and trainings) are postponed for after 15 May when the emergency state and restrictive measures are expected to be lifted.

One seminar was held early March, and an assessment of households' economic situation and their technical needs was carried out, including a visit to a kindergarten in Okul Alb village.

So far, Ormax managed to construct 7 solar water heaters and purchased 10 water boilers. Additional needed materials will be available for purchase only after the planned lift of current emergency measures (15 May).

There are no budget implications for the project and all activities will be fully implemented.