

**Demanding Power: Struggles over Energy Access in Fragile Settings Research Programme  
Utafiti Sera Stakeholder Engagement/Launch Workshop Brief  
Wednesday July 10, 2019, Golden Tulip Essential Lagos Airport Hotel**

**I. Study Background**

The Demanding Power: Struggles over Energy Access in Fragile Settings Research Programme is an international study that explores how, as well as the circumstances under which struggles over energy access in fragile and conflict-affected settings empower the powerless to hold public authorities to account. The study is premised on a number of fundamental assumptions informed by our current understanding of social and political actions: 1) that people living with/in poverty and exclusion generally lack the power to hold public authorities to account; 2) that people's efforts to hold public authorities accountable are likely to be tougher if they live in fragile, conflict and violent -affected settings (FCVAS); and that even though, points 1 and 2 above may hold, at key moments, and in defence of their basic needs, otherwise powerless people in FCVAS have occasionally mounted social and political action that has empowered them to demand a public response.

The project centres on the increasingly important but under-researched issue of access to energy, to: comparatively explore how and when social and political action emerges; how it manifests; its effects in terms of the services it secures and people's capacities to hold public authorities to account; and whether it feeds into longer term dynamics of empowerment and accountability in fragile and conflict settings. In particular, the project will:

- a) analyse the struggles people on low and precarious incomes face to meet their energy needs
- b) identify the conditions under which they succeed in negotiating or claiming public action, and
- c) assess the wider effects of such action, in terms of empowering people to hold public authorities to account.

The project will involve in-depth work in Mozambique, Nigeria, and Pakistan. It is part of the Action for Empowerment and Accountability (A4EA), an international research programme which explores how social and political action can contribute to empowerment and accountability in fragile, conflict, and violent settings, with a particular focus on Egypt, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria and Pakistan.<sup>1</sup>

**II. About the Workshop**

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) and Leadership Effectiveness Accountability Professionalism (LEAP) Africa have convened this policy dialogue forum to share the proposed study with key stakeholders in the energy sub-sector. The convening is an opportunity to exchange views and

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<sup>1</sup> Led by the Institute of Development Studies, A4EA is being implemented by a consortium which includes: The Accountability Research Center, the Collective for Social Science Research, the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, Itad, Oxfam GB, and the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research. It is funded with UK aid from the UK Government.

ideas on the proposed study. It will be a space to space to learn from, and better plan for, anticipated study results and future stakeholder engagements.

### **III. Objectives**

The half-day forum is designed as a knowledge-sharing and stakeholder-learning event for the study team led by PASGR and IDS, as well as development and policy practitioners and other stakeholders involved in similar study/work in Nigeria. It will provide an opportunity for participants to openly discuss and critique the study and to provide in-depth insights that can enable the team contextualise, improve and capture the true picture of energy politics as they experience them in Nigeria. Significantly, convening will serve as an opportunity to interact with the potential users of the research specifically those on the energy subsector, members of the civil society, the media and the government, members of the press and academics researching this.

Specific objectives are to:

- Create awareness among key stakeholders and policy actors about the study.
- Initiate contact with potential policy actors and stakeholders as part of initial steps towards research-policy uptake and engagement.

### **IV. Structure**

The event will feature keynote speaker(s), presentations, and plenary discussions, with ample time for discussions amongst the speakers, presenters, panelists and the audience on critical issues that the study should prioritise and how to ensure a sustainable policy engagement and uptake informed by the evidence from the study.

### **V. Target Audience**

Audience will include policy actors, government officials, private sector actors, and representatives of multilateral, regional /sub-regional development organisations, bilateral donors, academia, CSOs, and the media with interest in energy politics.

### **VI. Expected Outcomes**

The expected outcomes of the event include, but are not limited to:

At the end of the Inception workshop, we should have:

- 1) Ascertain key stakeholders to be engaged for the research as well as for policy uptake.
- 2) Identify activities that will culminate into policy uptake on research evidence and follow-up action drawn
- 3) Deepened engagement with key stakeholders, and seize upon opportunities to create new learning/ fill in knowledge gaps that the study needs to address;

**Project Launch Agenda (to follow)**