

# Co-DEC policy seminar

Co-

Designing

Energy

Communities

with energy-poor women  
in urban areas

Ongoing case studies in

KENYA

UGANDA

SOUTH AFRICA

A LIRA 2030 PROJECT  
2017-2019



## HIGHLIGHTS

The seminar brought together 27 participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss the connections between health, energy and housing using the case study of Mathare informal settlement.

The Co-DEC team presented preliminary results of a household survey and participatory mapping exercise in Mathare. The presentations offered an opportunity for the participants to engaged in plenary and group activities to discuss:

- Health challenges (such as in-door air pollution and fires) caused by poor energy sources (such as biomass; paraffin; illegal fuels)
- Poor uptake of renewable energy sources
- Poor enforcement of environment regulations
- Opportunities for collaboration amongst stakeholders to jointly solve household energy issues.

The main outcome of the seminar was the consensus on the need to build collaborations that can address the energy, health and housing policy challenges,

The future goal of the Co-DEC project is to facilitate a knowledge network that can co-design joint policy portfolios to address the energy-health-housing challenges in urban areas in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. Similar policy seminars will be carried out in Uganda and South Africa.

**9th November 2017**

CHIROMO CONFERENCE CENTRE



LIRA 2030  
Africa



# Co-DEC policy seminar

## Participants

Amollo Ambole  
Madara Ogot  
Buyana Kareem  
Nelson Cheruiyot  
Christer Anditi  
Julia Kamuiru  
Baraka Mwau  
Jason Waweru  
Carolyne Irungu  
John Ndugire  
Antony Waweru  
John K Maina  
Onyango Outha  
Winfred Ndegwa  
Joyce T. Njoroge  
Bob Bogonko  
Richard Ayah  
Teresa Mbatia  
Margaret Oluka  
Lillian N. Sarah Kongemi  
James Wafula  
Michael Munene  
Mbeo Ogeya  
William Apondo  
Betty K. Mwiti  
Romanus Opiyo  
Patrick Ngaruri

## Organisation

Living Lab: University of Nairobi (UoN) - Convener  
Living Lab/ Director Research & Extension: (UoN) - Main Facilitator  
Urban Action lab: Makerere University - Facilitator  
Living Lab UoN - Photography  
Living Lab UoN - Presenter  
Living Lab UoN – Rapporteur  
Consultant Urban Planner - Presenter  
Kosovo: Mathare - Presenter  
Mlango Kubwa: Mathare - Presenter  
Mathare resident  
Mathare resident  
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum  
Nairobi City County Council (Health)  
Nairobi City County Council (Health)  
Nairobi City County Council (Health)  
Council of Governors  
Science and technology park- University of Nairobi  
Geography department- University of Nairobi  
School of Pharmacy - University of Nairobi  
Wangari Maathai Institute-University of Nairobi  
Institute of Nuclear Science - University of Nairobi  
School of the Arts and Design - University of Nairobi  
Stockholm Environment Institute  
Stockholm Environment Institute  
School of the Arts and Design - University of Nairobi  
Department of Regional and Urban Planning - University of Nairobi  
Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO)

## Aspects to consider in communicating the Energy-Health-Housing Connections



### Credibility

Who are the actors and what are their roles? The seminar brought together actors from the community (Mathare), government, academia/research and civil society to capture diverse perspectives.

### Legitimacy

Are actors' contributions recognised and acknowledged? E.g. Mathare residents understand the reality in Mathare; government officials enacts policy; researchers articulate the evidence; civil society represents marginalised groups.

### Partnership

There is need for collaboration amongst the difference actors.

### Getting a hook/ playing into the narrative

The conversations between diverse actors need to be anchored by a common understanding. The Co-DEC project seeks to promote such an understanding by articulating the energy-health-housing narrative in Mathare. Terms such as 'Mulika mwizi', which refers to indirect electricity connections in Mathare, is an example of a hook that stimulated the conversation.

### Clarity of expectations

Actors should be clear on what their role is in the knowledge network. E.g. researchers should not be mistaken for political actors.

### Cultural appropriateness

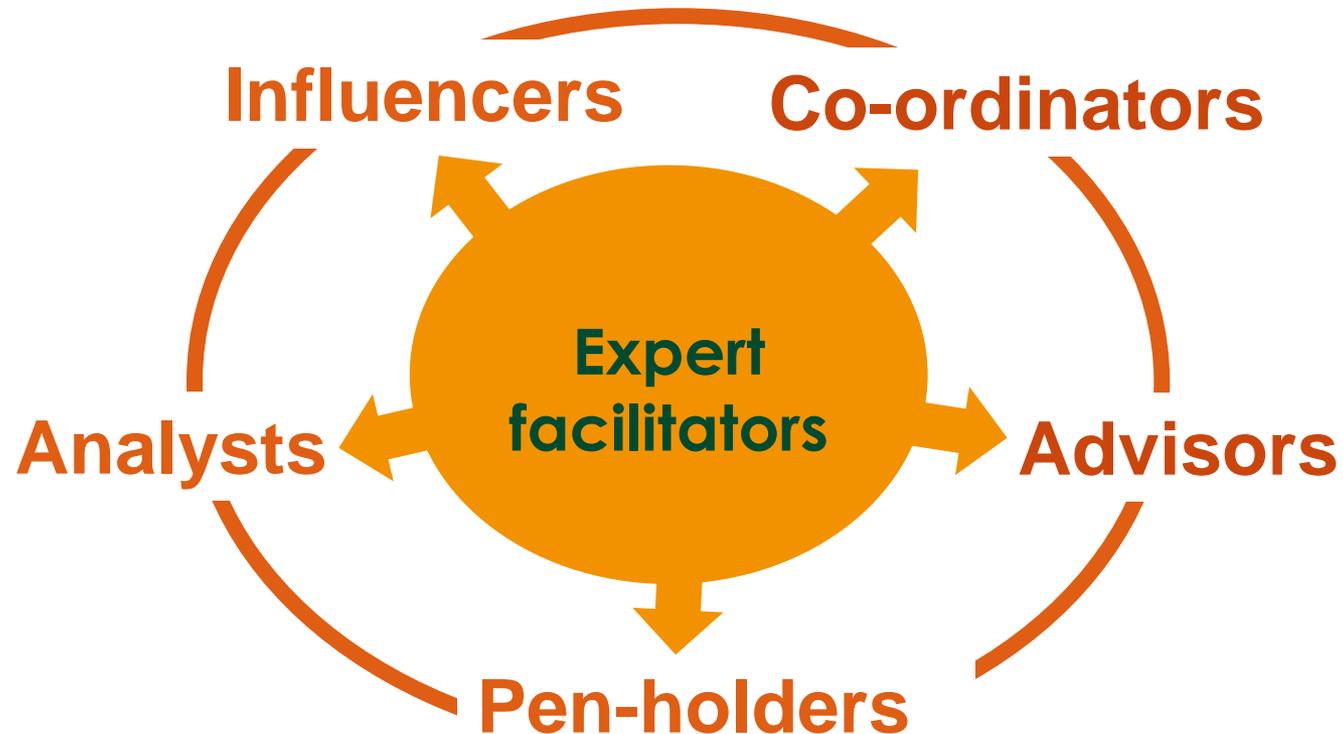
Actors need to understand the local cultural context.

### Timing

Research processes need to be well timed to achieve optimal results.

## Building the Energy-health-housing knowledge network:

Actors from community, government, academia/research, civil society, and private sector provide a multi-disciplinary perspective for addressing the energy-health-housing challenge.



The roles of actors can change depending on the context. E.g. in the Co-DEC project, Jason (Mathare community leader) is both an advisor and influencer in how the research is carried out in Mathare. In future, he could also be an expert facilitator of a community-based knowledge network.



For more: [www.codec.livinglab.co.ke](http://www.codec.livinglab.co.ke)