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**Theme:** *Catalyzing Energy Justice: Energizing Communities Through Girls/Women and Sport*

**Fundraising Target:** *USD \$20 million*

**Convening Platform:** *CSW70 High-Level Investment Forum + Sport-for-Impact Activation*

**Proposed Dates:** *16<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

**Proposed Venue:** *TBD*

**Convener:** DoTheDream Youth Development Initiative / Girls in Energy Initiative

## Executive Summary

Across Africa, the energy access gap is not simply an infrastructure deficit – it is a development constraint that undermines education outcomes, healthcare delivery, women's economic participation, safety, and digital inclusion. The Girls in Energy (GiE) Project responds with a scalable, investment-ready approach that does not only provide electricity – but energizes communities through a connected model of clean power, economic empowerment, education, healthcare resilience, and sport-led community mobilization.

At CSW70, we will convene a high-level investment and influence platform to mobilize USD \$20M from governments, private sector leaders, development partners, DFIs, foundations, and philanthropists, while leveraging the unmatched reach of sport to amplify visibility, build trust, and accelerate commitments.

This convening will position women and girls as the catalysts of energy justice – not only as beneficiaries, but as the next-generation workforce, innovators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders who ensure adoption, accountability, and lasting impact.

## Context and Problem Statement

Energy poverty continues to shape life outcomes across underserved communities. Where electricity is unreliable or absent, the cost is measurable and compounding:

- **Education:** reduced learning time, limited digital access, under-resourced schools
- **Healthcare:** clinics without reliable power, weak cold chains, interrupted maternal and childcare
- **Economic empowerment:** constrained productivity, limited value-add enterprises, fewer income opportunities – especially for women



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- **Safety and inclusion:** unsafe mobility after dark, limited civic participation, digital exclusion
- **Climate and resilience:** slower transition to clean alternatives, continued exposure to harmful fuels

Energy justice requires more than connections – it requires fair access, inclusive decision-making, and equitable benefits, particularly for women and girls who are disproportionately impacted by energy poverty.

### **The Opportunity: From Power Access to Energized Communities**

Girls in Energy is designed around one central principle: **Electricity is the enabler – but development is the outcome.**

Our model links clean energy access to community transformation by activating five integrated impact pathways:

1. **Electricity that powers essential services** (schools, clinics, enterprise hubs, safe public spaces)
2. **Women's economic empowerment** through productive-use energy and enterprise enablement
3. **Education transformation** via STEM pathways, digital access, and learning continuity
4. **Healthcare resilience** through powered clinics, cold chains, and reliable service delivery
5. **Sport as a multiplier**, mobilizing communities, shaping norms, amplifying fundraising, and driving ownership

This is how we move from **providing energy to energizing communities** – with measurable development gains.

### **Why Sport: A Strategic Accelerator for Energy Justice**

Sport is one of the most scalable social systems in Africa and globally. It offers a rare combination of reach, trust, convening power, and financing pathways. We will use sport to:

- mobilize public and community support for energy justice
- attract corporate sponsorship and philanthropic funding at scale



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- activate digital giving and match-funding challenges
- elevate women and girls as visible leaders of the clean-energy transition
- convert global attention into local impact through transparent project pipelines

Using sport to power energy is not symbolic – it is a structured financing and mobilization strategy that transforms influence into investment and community ownership into sustainability.

### **Goal and Investment Target**

**Primary Goal:** Mobilize **USD \$20 million** in commitments to scale Girls in Energy and community energy justice interventions across priority African communities.

### **Capital Mobilization Sources:**

- Government co-financing and policy-enabled partnerships
- Corporate ESG/CSR commitments and sponsorship packages
- Development partner grants and technical assistance
- DFI catalytic capital/blended finance (where applicable)
- Philanthropic gifts and impact-aligned investors

### **Event Objectives**

1. Position energy justice as a gender and development priority with investable solutions.
2. Showcase Girls in Energy as a scalable model linking energy access to community development.
3. Demonstrate a Sport-for-Energy-Justice approach that unlocks finance, reach, and accountability.
4. Secure multi-sector commitments toward the \$20M target.
5. Build an implementation coalition with a visible commitments' tracker and delivery roadmap.

### **Proposed Event Format (Hybrid | High Impact)**



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### A) High-Level Investment & Policy Forum (90 minutes)

- Opening: Energy justice as a foundation for community development and women's rights
- Keynote: Financing girls and the clean-energy transition – why it delivers outsized returns
- Panel 1: **Energizing Communities** (education, healthcare, enterprise, safety outcomes)
- Panel 2: **Sport as a Financing and Mobilization Engine** (brands, icons, CSR, foundations)
- Girls in Energy spotlight: pipeline overview + community-ready project portfolio
- **Commitment Moment:** pledges, challenge grants, partnership signings, MOUs
- Close: next steps, due diligence pathway, implementation kick-off timeline

### B) Sport-for-Impact Activation (60–120 minutes)

- Sports icon “Energy Justice Ambassador” moment
- “Score for Power” matched-funding triggers (goals unlock sponsor matching)
- Live pledge wall + digital giving channel for global participation
- Project showcase: ready-to-fund community assets (schools, clinics, hubs)

**Potential Sports Engagement (Illustrative):** Global sports icons such as Ronaldo or the Williams sisters—positioned as amplifiers for girls’ leadership, community development, and clean-energy justice.

### Speakers and Stakeholders

We will curate speakers across five blocs to ensure credibility and investor confidence:

- **Renewable energy leaders:** mini-grids, distributed energy, energy access innovators
- **Government & policy:** energy, gender, education, youth, and finance decision-makers



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- **Development finance & partners:** DFIs, multilaterals, foundations, UN stakeholders
- **Private sector & investors:** ESG/CSR executives, energy firms, corporate philanthropies
- **Sport & culture:** icons, federations, sport-for-development leaders, brand partners

## What the Funding Will Deliver

Funds mobilized will support an integrated portfolio that energizes communities while building a durable talent pipeline:

- **Community energy solutions:** solar schools/clinics, mini-grids, enterprise power hubs
- **Girls' STEM-to-energy pathways:** training, mentorship, internships, green jobs access
- **Women's economic empowerment:** productive-use energy support for women-led SMEs
- **Safeguarding and inclusion:** rights-based community engagement and protection systems
- **Monitoring and accountability:** transparent reporting, milestones, and measurable outcomes

## Results and Success Metrics

### Commitments & Financing

- Total capital mobilized, disbursed, leveraged co-financing ratio, number of partners onboarded

### Energy & Community Development

- schools/clinics/hubs electrified; uptime/service continuity; productive-use indicators
- Improved learning access (study hours, digital reach) and healthcare continuity proxies

### Women & Girls Outcomes



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- girls enrolled/completing STEM-energy programs; mentorship matches; placements/internships
- Women-led enterprise productivity indicators linked to energy access

### **Sport Mobilization**

- Reach and engagement; conversion rate (audience → pledge/sponsor); sponsorship value

### **Call to Action**

This CSW70 convening is designed to move beyond dialogue into delivery. We invite:

- **Governments** to co-finance and enable policy pathways for equitable energy access
- **Private sector leaders** to sponsor talent pipelines and community infrastructure
- **DFIs and development partners** to provide catalytic finance and technical support
- **Sports icons and brands** to amplify reach and unlock new funding channels