



Status of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in The Gambia

Regional Validation Workshop for the ECOWAS Policy for Gender
Mainstreaming in Energy Access

Theme: Promoting Social Inclusion for Sustainable Energy for All

Kemo K. Ceesay & Adama Gassama
Ministry of Energy
The Gambia

Outline of Presentation

1. Gender expertise, competence and capacity building requirements
2. Gender and energy programs and projects in your country
3. Challenges faced by female energy entrepreneur
4. Equal participation of men and women in the energy sector as employees
5. Policies and legislative frameworks



Gender expertise, competence and capacity building requirements

- The Ministry of Energy is mandated to implement the women and energy component of the Gender Policy in collaboration with partners (i.e. Renewable Energy Association of the Gambia, Department of Community Development, Women's Bureau and the private sector);
- There is no gender unit at the Ministry of Energy;
- The focal person has a no specific background on gender;
- The focal persons at different Ministries are directly involved in all Gender policy formulation and they have a key stake in the projects and programmes implementation at the level of the Women Bureau;
- There is need to enhance capacity of the gender focal points in all the Ministries on energy/gender issues;
- Gender issues are not mainstreamed in energy programs. and projects.



Gender expertise, competence and capacity building requirements

Gender Experts:

1. Adellet Sosseh (Education for All Network),
2. Dr. Isatou Touray (Gamcotrap),
3. Dr. Siga Jagne (private consultant),
4. Tida Jatta (Gender Education Unit),
5. Mrs. Fatou Kinteh (Lecturer at the University of the Gambia),
6. Ms. Isatou Ndow Principal School of Education, Gambia College,
7. Ms. Almedal and
8. Mrs. Bintou Gassama Jammeh former Women's Bureau Director and Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Women's Affairs



Gender and energy programs and projects in The Gambia

- The Multifunctional Platform.
- Promotion of improved cookstoves.
- Program for the promotion of domestic and alternative energy in the Sahel (PREDAS).
- National Sensitization campaign on energy efficiency and conservation



Challenges faced by female energy entrepreneur

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of information on energy business opportunities
- Lack of entrepreneurship skills
- Lack of access to bank loans
- Limited time
- Cultural norms and traditional practices,
- Lack of appropriate energy technology.



Main challenges and barriers to Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in The Gambia

- Lack of gender unit at the Ministry of Energy to appropriately advocate for gender issues.
- Lack of general awareness of the importance of gender mainstreaming in energy access
- Cultural norms and traditional practices
- Lack of strong advocacy for mainstreaming gender in all development issues e.g. Energy Access



External support needed to put the ECOWAS Gender and Energy Policy into action in The Gambia

- Financial support
- Sensitization of the general public on ECOWAS Gender and Energy Policy
- Creation of gender unit at the Ministry
- Training of young women on entrepreneurship skills
- Training of Ministry of Energy staff and other relevant institutions on gender and energy



Equal participation of men and women in the energy sector as employees

Ratio of Professional employees:

- Male 74%, female 26%

Factor responsible for low female employment ratio:

- Women marrying early and many not pursuing professional career (cultural norms & traditional practices)
- The girl child is much relied on by their mother for domestic work

Efforts to address the situation:

- Women empowerment
- Free education for the girl child



Policies and legislative frameworks

The Gambia has all the good laws and policies to promote and protect the rights of women

- The 1997 constitution,
- Women's Act 2010,
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Offenses Act 2013 ,
- Trafficking in Persons Act 2007,
- The Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy 2010-2020,
- The national development blue print enshrined in Vision 2020,
- The Programme of Accelerated Growth and Employment, 2012-2015(PAGE)



Thank you for your Attention



WWW.ECREEE.ORG

