

# Status of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in (Liberia)

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

*Theme: Promoting Social Inclusion for Sustainable Energy for All*

Sylvester Massaquoi  
MINISTRY OF LANDS, MINES & ENERGY  
DIRECTOR

Edward M. Konneh  
ECO-GEN TAG MEMBER

# Status of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in (Liberia):

Issues	Status
Gender expertise, competence and capacity building requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Ministry does not have a gender unit, instead, there is a gender focal point who have had no Gender-energy related training.</li><li>▪ There is a gap in gender mainstreaming both in energy production side where there is a lack of women energy engineers or Technicians, and on the consumption side where women who are the major users of energy face the greatest difficulties;</li></ul>
Gender and energy programs and projects in your country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Gender in Energy has been initiated by the Government of Norway under its institutional capacity building program in partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Mines &amp; Energy;</li><li>▪ The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)/MLME program approved gender component in 2011 and has been working with various women groups in urban and rural Liberia;</li><li>▪ In 2011, a need assessment workshop was conducted in Six (6) of the fifteen counties where involvement of women were identified followed by a two day TOT workshop conducted by ENERGIA on energy Technology focusing on the uses at home, communities, income generation and skill building.</li><li>▪ In 2012, a program for girl's education in science was launched in 120 secondary schools in Monrovia in collaboration with the MOE, MOG&amp;CA, RREA and MLME. This initiative gathered over 360 students in three (3) locations and conducted counseling;</li><li>▪ The NVE program provided US\$2,000.00 as grants per rural women organization to empower women energy initiatives.</li></ul>

Issues	Status
Challenges faced by female energy entrepreneur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited trained women engineers/Technicians in the energy sector;</li> <li>• No allocation in the national budget for gender mainstreaming in the energy sector;</li> <li>• Limited targeted women businesses for connection by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC);</li> <li>• Lack of Regulatory framework that will enhance women participation;</li> <li>• Lack of Micro-Finance Loan Schemes for female entrepreneurs.</li> </ul>
Equal participation of men and women in the energy sector as employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presently the Liberian Energy Sector is largely male dominated;</li> <li>• Recently that the RREA employed an Energy Programs Gender Officer at the level of a Technician;</li> <li>• The President early 2013 appointed a woman as the first female Assistant Minister for Energy , but this appointment was only short-lived when the lady was transferred to another entity.</li> </ul>
Policies and legislative frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Liberia National Energy Policy (NEP 2009) calls for equal participation of both men and women in the energy sector;</li> <li>▪ Liberia Electricity Law is before the National Legislature for enactment which is expected to address gender issues in the power sector;</li> <li>▪ Liberia's draft SE4ALL Action Agenda is emphasizing a program for Energy and Women Health which proposes Inter-Ministerial approach, involving the Ministries of Health, Energy, Gender and Children Affairs, Finance and Academic Institutions.</li> </ul>

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## Main challenges and barriers to Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in (country)

- Energy Access – there is a lack of energy access – less than 2% of the population have grid connected electricity;
- Institutional Framework – there is no energy related gender institutional framework;
- Need of Data Base on Gender Issues;
- Capacity Building - to enhance the development of locally led and locally responsive development programs by strengthening local women groups and women associations to participate in energy training programs;
- The lack of Gender Mainstreaming Legislative and policy framework in the energy sector;

## External support needed to put the ECOWAS Gender and Energy Policy into action in (country)

- Technical & Logistical Assistance
- Budgetary Support
- Training – Local & Foreign
- Baseline Studies on Gender Issues
- Development of Gender Mainstreaming Programs