

ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access: **Situation Analysis**

Regional Validation Workshop

Theme: Promoting Social Inclusion for Sustainable Energy for All

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Situation Analysis: Key Components

- Context
 - Energy Poverty
 - Gender Dimensions of Energy Access
 - Gender and Experience of Energy Poverty
 - Energy and Development: Implications on Gender
- Policy Landscape
 - Regional Policies, Programmes and Initiatives on Energy and on Gender
 - Selected Gender and Energy Programmes
 - National Energy and Gender Policies
 - Linkages between Energy and Gender in Policies
 - Institutional Landscape
 - Gaps Identified
- Entrepreneurship and Workforce Participation
 - Findings on Entrepreneurship
 - Employment Situation of Women
 - Barriers for Women (and Men)

Methodology

- Analysis of third-party research done to date
- Interviews with entrepreneurs, development practitioners, gender and energy experts
- Interviews with members of the ECOW-GEN Technical Advisory Group
- Review of Member States' energy and gender-related policy documents
- Review of gender and energy programme documents

CONTEXT

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Energy Poverty in the Region

- Modern energy services are not available, accessible or affordable
 - 75% of electricity generation comes from fossil fuel
 - 34% of people have access to electricity
 - Up to 0.28 USD/kWh in some countries; electricity more expensive in rural areas than urban areas
- Heavy dependence on traditional biomass
 - 85% of people still cook with charcoal and firewood
 - Biomass represent 57% of final energy consumed



Gender and the Experience of Energy Poverty

- The West Africa region is among the regions with the highest experience of energy poverty
- The gendered nature of the experience of poverty with women bearing its worse consequences
- Use of inferior fuels (e.g. cow dung, twigs, paraffin, plastics, firewood etc) with very few alternatives for rural and urban poor women and men
- Urgency of addressing the energy deficit in response to the differential energy needs of men and women in the region

Gender Dimensions of Energy Access



1. Electrification

- Differential access by men and women to electrification, possibly because of socio-economic status
- Men and women have different preferences for off-grid lighting products and appliances
- Men usually make buying decisions within the household
- Men and women use electricity differently
- More male participation in decision making at project level

2. Cooking

- Women collect the fuel
- Women do the cooking
- Men manufacture cooking appliances

Gender Dimensions of Energy Access

3. Transportation

- Men and Women have different tolerance levels for the distance they have to travel to work
- Social norms influence where women may travel and what modes of transportation they may use
- In rural areas, women travel long distances on foot to carry goods, fetch water, collect firewood, take children to health clinics
- The use of bicycles is wider and more accepted among men than among women. However, some communities (e.g. Northern Ghana and Burkina Faso) have large numbers of women using bicycles.

4. Mechanical Power and Productive Uses

- Men and women have different roles in farming and employ energy efficient technology at different rate
- Men and women grow different crops, partly because of culture, partly because of resource constraints
- More women are involved in manual or low-tech agro-processing than men
- More men are involved in energy-intensive manufacturing than women
- However modest changes are occurring in response to changing socio-economic trends.



Energy and Development: Implications on Gender

- Productivity and Income
 - Women in electrified households are more likely to find paid work outside of the home; no significant change for men
 - Men are better positioned to acquire and make use of mechanical power for productive use and therefore, are more likely to increase their productivity and income
 - Access to electricity allows both men and women to engage in more income-generating activities
- Health
 - Electrification decreases fertility rates, which correlate positively with improved maternal health and economic growth
 - Modern cooking fuel and cooking appliances decrease exposure to harmful air pollutants for both men, women and children; in some cases men are more at risk
- Education
 - Electrification increases school attendance for both male and female children but more for female children by releasing domestic labor constraints on women and girls
 - Electrification allows school children, both girls and boys, to study at night therefore increasing performance

POLICY LANDSCAPE

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Regional Policies, Programmes and Initiatives

ENERGY

- Policies
 - ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy
 - ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy
 - ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy
- Programmes
 - ECOWAS Rural Electrification programme (ERuReP) 2015-2020
 - Energy Efficiency for Access in West Africa (SEEA-WA)
- Initiatives
 - UEMOA Initiative Regionale pour l’Energie Durable (IREDD)
- Others (in the report)

GENDER

- Policies
 - ECOWAS Gender Policy
 - The Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights Between Men and Women for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region
 - African Development Bank Gender Policy
 - African Union Gender Policy
 - CILLS Gender Policy
- Initiatives
 - The ECOWAS Federation on Business Women and Entrepreneurs (ECOWAS/FEBWE)
- Others (in the report)

Selected Gender and Energy Programmes

- The ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN)
- The West African Clean Cooking Alliance
- The Gender and Energy Program of the Africa Renewable Energy Access (AFREA)
- The UNDP Multifunctional Platform Programme
- Programme pour la Promotion des Energies Renouvelables, de l'Electrification Rurale et de l'Approvisionnement Durable en Combustibles Domestiques (PERACOD)

National Policies in ECOWAS Member States

ENERGY

- All Member States have either a National Energy Policy, a Sectorial Policy, a Strategy or a Policy Declaration
- Only Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal have a stand-alone Renewable Energy Policy
- Only Liberia and Nigeria have an Energy Efficiency Policy
- Only Burkina Faso, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria mention gender equality in their policies

GENDER

- All Member States have a National Gender Policy in place
- Only the gender policies of Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Togo make the link between gender equality and energy poverty

Energy and Gender National Policies

	National Energy Policy	Renewable Energy Policy	Energy Efficiency Policy	Gender Dimension in energy Policies	National Gender Policy	Energy Linkage in Gender Policy
Benin	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Burkina Faso	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Cape Verde	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Cote d'Ivoire	yes	no	no	NA	yes	no
Gambia	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Ghana	yes	yes	no	no	yes	NA
Guinée	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Guinée Bissau	NA	no	no	NA	yes	NA
Liberia	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Mali	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Niger	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Nigeria	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Senegal	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Sierra Leone	yes	no	no	yes	yes	NA
Togo	no	no	no	no	yes	yes

Institutional Landscape

- Gender audits in energy sector
 - Member States that have conducted a gender audit: Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal
- Gender balance in workforce
 - More men than women in decision-making positions
 - More men than women in technical positions
 - More women than men in administrative positions
- Collaboration with Gender Ministry
 - Gender Ministries lack influence over other ministries
 - Not much collaboration in general except in Gambia, Burkina Faso and Niger. E.g. Gambia Ministry of Women affairs is part of the Steering Committee of the Ministry of Energy

Institutional Landscape: Gender Focal Units

- **Presence of Gender Focal Units (GFU) or Gender Focal Point (GFP)**
 - Member States with GFU at Ministerial level:
Burkina Faso
 - Member States with GFP at Ministerial Level:
Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Liberia, Niger and Nigeria
 - Member States with GFU at Agency Level:
Mali
 - Member States with GFP at Agency level:
Liberia, Senegal and Ghana
- **Resources for GFU/GFP: human, financial, tools**
 - Limited human resources for Member States that have a GFP (one person)
 - Limited financial resources, often tied to specific project
 - Lack of adequate tools
- **Competence and Capacity of the GFU/GFP**
 - GFP not always the right person for the job
 - Lack of gender-specific training
- **Role of the GFU/GFP**
 - Role not clearly defined
 - Not able to influence policy

Gaps Identified

- Lack of explicit gender references in energy policies
 - And when there is reference, gender-mainstreaming is absent or vague in the implementation plan
- Lack of explicit energy references in gender policies
- Lack of budget allocations to promote gender in energy infrastructures
- Insufficient ministerial budget allocations for Gender Focal Units (GFUs)
- Gender imbalance in the workforce at the Energy Ministries

- “Gender Equality” is mixed up with “Women Empowerment”
- “Gender” is considered the domain of the Ministry of Women Affairs
- “Energy” is considered the domain of the Ministry of Energy
- “Gender” is low on the priority list of Energy Ministries
 - Not many gender mainstreaming programmes are driven by national governments or ministries.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

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Findings on Entrepreneurship

- A large number of women are engaged in entrepreneurial activities .Women are more likely, than men , to start-up new businesses (with females in Nigeria and Ghana having some of the highest rates globally) and are more likely than men to discontinue their businesses, due to a variety of reasons such as lack of finance, etc.
- 80% of women-owned enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the consumer sector
- Women-owned businesses, compared to male-owned businesses, on average are more likely to be small and more likely to be in the informal sector
- In the energy sector, women, on average tend to engage in businesses that are less capital intensive, utilize simple technology and are closer to the customer in the value chain
- Very few women are in electrification, manufacturing of energy products and exploration of oil and gas. This is similar to what pertains in other regions of the world.

Employment Situation of Women

- Women comprise 43% of the labor force in ECOWAS Region
- In Sub-Saharan Africa women make up 21% of full-time employees but hold only 8% of senior management positions
- In Energy Ministries there are very few women in technical and managerial positions
- In the private sector, one study found 6 women managerial positions out of 77 small and medium clean energy companies

Barriers for Women (and Men)

- Financial
 - Access to credit difficult for both men and women entrepreneurs
 - However more so for women due to structural and gendered inequalities
- Awareness, Education and Technical Capacity
 - Women are not well informed on business opportunities in the energy sector
 - Women lag behind men in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
 - Women, on average, are less likely to adopt advanced technology
- Social
 - Classification of some work activities as “women’s work” and “men’s work”
 - Family pressure and family obligations fall onto women
- Regulatory
 - In some countries, land ownership and property rights limited for women
 - Marital laws that compel married women to seek their husband’s permission for some activities or that give the husband sole control over common property

Situation Analysis guiding the Draft Policy and Implementation Plan

Barriers Identified in Situation Analysis

Solutions Proposed in Draft Policy

