Gender and cooking energy:
Livelihoods and business opportunities

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POLICY CONTEXT: Gender and Cooking Energy

- **ECOWAS White Paper**: links energy poverty to women; a guiding principle to support gender equality, including welfare and revenue generation for women

- **ECOWAS EE Policy**: WACCA one of the initiatives in EE policy; attention for women’s welfare and entrepreneurship

- **ECOWAS RE Policy**: by 2020 universal access in region to improved stoves; gender mainstreaming with particular attention for women’s productive roles

- **West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance**: by 2030 universal access in region to efficient, sustainable and modern cooking fuels and devices; gender integration in Action Plan; women as end-users and actors in cooking energy value chain

- **SE4ALL**: cooking energy relates to all 3 main objectives of SE4ALL; women implicitly included in 1st objective of access for all; ECOWAS EE & RE Policies and WACCA contribute to SE4ALL initiative
A case for gender in cooking energy

- **Makes development sense:**
  - Achieve impacts on poverty reduction, health, livelihoods and education

- **Makes economic sense:**
  - Women’s enterprises provide a ready springboard for scale-up

- **Makes sense for project effectiveness:**
  - Reach the poor, increased adoption rates and use
Gender, cooking & livelihoods

- Health - 4 million premature deaths every year due to smoke exposure from cooking. Women and children are the most affected.
- Dangers while collecting: e.g. snake bites; physical impact of carrying large quantities of wood; sexual harassment & rape
- Time saving – from collecting fuel and cooking time. This time can be used for productive / household / community activities, or for resting / personal time
- Income generation – use of stove for small catering business from home / from business; selling stoves; producing stoves; working as promoter
Business opportunities for women in the cooking energy sector

- Women as fuel suppliers – charcoal producers, wood collectors (PREDAS has shown women’s crucial role in cooking fuel supply in Sahel)
- Women stove producers – mainly ceramic parts / pottery, but also venturing into metal parts or biogas installations
- Using cook stoves for catering/hotel business
- Women as promoters of clean efficient stove technology
Key barriers in involving women in the cooking energy sector

- Lack of access to formal capital
- Limited business skills, market information, technical knowledge
- Primary responsibility for domestic activities
- Lack of representation in institutions / policy making
20% of women using ICS established their own woodlots
30% of the leaders of Common Enterprise Groups were women
50% of all ICS entrepreneurs trained on business management and marketing were women
Retention rate of women clay moulders who received training increased by 40%
40% of trained stove entrepreneurs who received funds from microfinance were women
Women’s clay mining output increased by 10%
Women made up 20% of participants in training on production rocket stove, previously only given to men
Cambodia ICS programme - GERES

- 2 million ICSs (40% of Phnom Penh market)
- Built on the traditionally women led cookstove sector
- Prioritize women in technical training
- Combine technical training with production management skills (finance/ QA/ promotion)
- Training to take leadership positions, head of the Association, Secretary, Treasurer
Cambodia ICS programme - GERES

- 50% of the 270 entrepreneurs are women
- Largest producer (70,000 stoves per year) is a woman
- Performed well in terms of average sales / quality of stoves and average savings reinvested into business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of entrepreneurs</th>
<th>Stove sales (2012)</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>206,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>205,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## High impact strategies

### Business Development
- Scoping & engaging women operated enterprises
- Targeted training on production and business development
- Appropriate financing mechanisms

### Consumer Interface
- Women to women mobilisation
- Train women users in tech maintenance and servicing
- Gender responsive promotion/communication messages

### Manufacturing/distribution
- Involve women’s associations/ groups/networks to sell, market, maintain cookstoves
- Leadership and confidence building

### Product design/development
- Designs and models tested & approved by women
- Include women in feedback loop

### Policy/programmes
- Monitor adoption and use rather than dissemination rate
- Include gender objective in cooking programmes
- Affirmative action that recognize gender roles
- Social protection for vulnerable groups
Key messages to WACCA

- To achieve a gender-proof policy/action, gender should be integrated from the start in:
  - Policy/strategy – key to have a clear gender objective
  - Activities – specific interventions will be needed to involve women in the sector
  - Budget – some of the specific gender activities may require additional/special budget
  - Reporting & monitoring – gender indicators to be built into the M&E framework to track progress and measure impact

- This also applies when national strategies/policies are being developed
www.energia.org

ENERGIA
International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy