Session 7: Gender and Energy
Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP)
Outline

• Why work on Gender AND Energy
• Introduction ENERGIA
• Evidence and lessons learned incorporating gender in energy projects, programmes and policy
• Recommendations for ROGEP
Why work in Gender and Energy & Introduction ENERGIA
Energy poverty is gendered!

- Poorest of the poor
- Household Air Pollution
- Time poverty

1 billion people lack access to electricity

3 billion people lack access to clean fuels for cooking

Photo: Sven Torfinn/ENERGIA
• An international Network
• Established in 1996
• To create an institutional base for mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment into the energy sector in developing countries
• Hosted by Hivos in the Netherlands
Current program of work

Bangladesh, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States

18 countries, 36 partner organisations
ENERGIA’s Programme Approach

Women’s Economic Empowerment: last mile entrepreneurship development, access to finance, markets & supply chains

Enabling policy environment: enhanced awareness and gender-responsive energy policies and institutions

Thought leadership: robust evidence base that informs energy policy and practice

Networking: facilitates alliances & strategic partnerships to act as global voice for change
Gender and Energy Research Programme

- 5-year research project (2014-2019) funded by DFID

  **Aim**: Provide robust evidence on the interactions between energy, access and gender

- 9 teams, 12 countries, 29 partners

  **Five thematic areas**: (i) electrification, (ii) productive uses of energy, (iii) energy sector reform, (iv) the role of private sector in scaling up energy access, (v) energy and related sector policy dynamics
Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) Programme (2012-18)

4,153 women entrepreneurs

- 70% recorded a positive profit margin in each quarter
- >95% who had taken loans not defaulted
- 82% involved in major household purchase decisions
- 72% taking business decisions for their enterprises.

2.9 million poor people in difficult-to-reach locations with energy access

Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Uganda, Nigeria
Gender mainstreaming

- >40 medium/large scale energy access projects in Africa and Asia
- Assisted through a process of background assessment, gender action planning, and institutionalisation of GM processes
Key Findings of the Research
1. Universal energy goals are unlikely to be met unless energy policies account for women’s specific energy needs

- Men and women have different energy needs
- Gender-neutral projects often reflect & reinforce gender roles in society
- Achieving gender equality requires a transformation in energy policy AND a change in processes, and changes within energy sector organisations.
2. Involvement of women in energy supply chain is good for business, their families and communities

- Women perform just as well if not better than men in enterprises charging small LED-lights
- Development impacts are seen at multiple levels

Source: University of Cape Town, IPA (2019)
3. Modern energy services for women's productive uses contribute to women's empowerment

- Men are more likely to benefit from PUE interventions
- Women are involved in businesses that require more fuels
- PUE contributes to women’s empowerment
- PUE for women needs a number of complementary inputs
Five lessons ENERGIA has learned in working with women in energy sector

• Universal energy access = both women and men, as full participants in energy access interventions
• Strategy should combine mainstreaming and a targeted approach
• Women entrepreneurs (WEs) have a comparative advantage in last mile energy access
• Supporting WEs requires comprehensive, long term support
• An ecosystems approach is central to women’s enterprise development
Recommendations for ROGEP
1A. Enabling environment (I)

To increase equal access to and benefit of energy access projects:

- Engage both women and men in the design, implementation, and M&E of energy policies & programs
- Align project interventions with national policies
- Use gender assessment, targeted interventions, and gender-responsive M&E to overcome gender norms and barriers
1A. Enabling environment (II)

To support women’s businesses in renewable energy:

Overcome structural barriers that create bias against women within policy

• Enabling fiscal policies for off-grid clean energy products
• Industry standards and certification of products
• Improved ease of doing business for women, i.e. registration
1B. Entrepreneurship technical support

- Women entrepreneurs are unlikely to join on their own
- Type of support that enhance women’s businesses:
  
  **At the individual level,**
  - Business education and skills development
  - Training to foster Leadership and personal agency

  **At the business level,**
  - Access to finance (investment and working capital)
  - Access to coaches, mentors and networks

- Local institutions are a good route to reaching new markets
- Ensure complementary inputs through linking with other players
1C. Entrepreneurship financing support

Access to finance is important, but must be accompanied by a combination of other measures.

• Barriers go beyond finance: linked to legal, regulatory context AND to socio-cultural norms

• Providing complementary services makes finance more effective

• Consider innovative models that take into account the cultural context: actively linking entrepreneurs with financial institutions, leasing models
1 D: Barrier Removal for Challenging Markets

- Women’s enterprises provide a ready springboard for energy access interventions
- Women and their networks are well positioned to reach poor, difficult to reach markets
- Complement the private sector
Gender in the transition to sustainable energy for all: From evidence to inclusive policies

Supporting last-mile women energy entrepreneurs: What works and what does not
THANK YOU!

https://www.energia.org/