

# ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access: **Draft Policy and Implementation Strategy**

## **Regional Validation Workshop**

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

Sustainable Energy Solutions and ECREEE

# Features of the Draft Policy and Implementation Strategy

## 1. High Level Policy Declarations

## 2. Context

- Energy situation
- ECOWAS policies and programmes to build upon
- Recognition of key decisions taken and programmes
- Current challenges in energy access and gender to be addressed
- Recognition of the need for a gender mainstreaming policy

## 3. Current Situation of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

## 4. Vision and Rationale of the Policy

- Vision
- Rationale

## 5. Policy Goal and Purpose

- Goal
- Purpose

## 6. Five Strategic Objectives

## 7. Implementation Strategy

- Guiding Principles
- Institutional Arrangements for Implementation
- Strategic Axes for Implementation
- Implementation Plan

# High Level Policy Declarations

1. Recognition that sustainable energy for all is a prerequisite for economic development
2. Declaration that access to energy is a right, regardless of gender
3. Acknowledgment that achieving sustainable energy for all requires the participation of both men and women
4. Affirmation that all citizens, men and women, are custodians of the region's energy resources and are responsible for producing different energy forms
5. Declaration that representation in policy making and implementation will be gender-balanced
6. Calls on all citizens to adopt and participate in sustainable energy solutions

# Context: Energy Situation

- 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 Member States; electricity more expensive in rural areas than urban areas
- The ECOWAS region depends heavily on traditional biomass
  - 85% of people still cook with charcoal and firewood
  - Biomass represent 57% of final energy consumed
- Women are disadvantaged compared to men, especially in rural areas
  - Less influence on decisions regarding energy purchases and uses at the household level
  - Less access to transportation
  - Less access to technology for productive use

# Context: ECOWAS Policies and Programmes to Build Upon

- The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
- The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies
- The Vienna Declaration
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- The Millennium Declaration
- The Millennium Development Goals
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- ECOWAS Gender Policy
- The Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights Between Men and Women for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region
- CILSS Gender Policy
- African Union Gender Policy
- African Development Bank Gender Policy
- African Development Bank Gender Strategy
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)
- ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy
- ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy
- ECOWAS/UEMOA White Paper for Increasing Access to Energy Services for Rural and Peri-Urban Areas
- ECOWAS Bioenergy Policy
- The West African Power Pool Revised Master Plan
- UEMOA Initiative Regionale pour l'Energie Durable (IRED)
- ECOWAS Rural Electrification programme (ERuReP) 2015-2020

# Context: Key Decisions and Programmes in ECOWAS

- ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN)
- Mano River Union (MRU) Framework Action Plan
- West African Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA)
- ECOWAS Federation on Business Women and Entrepreneurs (FEBWE).

# Challenges to be addressed with the Gender Mainstreaming Policy

- Gender inequality in the energy sector originates almost entirely from the lack of gender considerations in the planning process at 3 levels:
  - Political
  - Energy supplier (public or private sector)
  - Energy consumer
- The challenges can be addressed by:
  - Accounting for and attending to gender-differentiated energy needs, both welfare needs and strategic ones
  - Acknowledging and rectifying the legacy of pervasive, society wide, gender-based discrimination and its implications in the energy sector
  - Cementing progress on the new, more inclusive approach to the energy sector by firmly establishing the connection between gender mainstreaming, expansion of the economy and development outcomes.

# The need for a Gender Mainstreaming Policy

- Satisfy the needs of all ECOWAS citizens for modern and sustainable energy services
- Address gender based discrimination and lack of inclusion that simultaneously limits the choices and capabilities of women and men
- Ensure that all ECOWAS citizens are entitled to enjoy and benefit from sustainable energy access



# CURRENT SITUATION OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN ENERGY ACCESS

- A growing number of Member States have incorporated references to gender equality in their energy policies
- Many Member States have a gender focal unit or a gender focal point
- Several Member States have conducted a gender audit in the energy sector
- Some projects in the region are already mainstreaming gender in their planning, implementation and monitoring processes

# Policy Vision and Rationale

- **Vision**

“ A world where men and women enjoy equal access to modern energy services that is easily available, affordable and contributes to high levels of standards of living and economic development”

- **Rationale**

“The gender aspects of energy poverty in the ECOWAS region limits opportunities for strengthening capacities of women and men to implement actions towards regional integration and socio-economic development.” A policy is needed to:

1. Enhance equal access to modern energy services in all Member States as a right regardless of gender, age or socio-economic status
2. Accelerate and harness different energy forms through inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development practices that promote equal access to energy
3. Harmonize legislation and practices across Member States with regards to gender equality and energy
4. Increase women and men's equal participation and involvement in energy value chains

# Policy Goal and Purpose

- **Goal**

“To address existing barriers that may hinder the equal participation of women and men in expanding energy access in West Africa”

- **Purpose**

“To provide policy-makers with instrumental and human rights based indicators and rigorous arguments to align energy policies, programmes and initiatives with principles of gender equality [...]; achieve energy access goals in a way that leverages the role of women as energy users, community members, business owners, and policymakers”

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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# Objective 1

## Achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society

### Target:

- 100 percent of energy sector government employees will have received some relevant training by 2020
- 50 percent of citizens will be exposed to some form of relevant public service announcement by 2020 growing to 90% by 2030
- At least 50 new scientific articles about gender and energy in West Africa published in peer-reviewed scientific journals by 2020, and 20 per year after that.

# Objective 2

**Ensure that all energy policies, programmes and initiatives are non-discriminatory, gender-inclusive, gender-balanced and directed towards addressing inequalities, particularly energy poverty, differentially affecting men and women in the region**

Target:

- 50 percent of energy policies by 2020 and 100 percent by 2030 will be gender-sensitive
- 50 percent of energy projects, programmes, and initiatives with government participation will include gender dimensions in planning, implementation, analysis, and evaluation by 2020, rising to 100 percent in 2030

# Objective 3

**Increase women's public sector participation in energy-related technical fields and decision-making positions**

Target:

- At least 25 percent women in the public sector energy workforce by 2020
- Equal (50-50) gender balance by 2030.

# Objective 4

**Ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to enter and succeed in energy-related fields in the private sector**

Target:

- At least 25 percent women participation in energy-related fields in the private sector by 2020
- Equal (50-50) gender balance by 2030



# Objective 5

## Establish and maintain a gender-responsive monitoring and accountability framework

### Target:

- 100 percent compliance by 2017 in the monitoring, accountability and review framework

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

# Guiding Principles

- **Principle 1: Gender responsiveness**  
Member states and development actors are cognizant about gender needs, concerns and experiences and are held accountable to their commitments in the energy sector
- **Principle 2: Open, democratic, and inclusive participation**  
Participation of marginalized groups, Gender Focal Units and civil society in programme elaboration, planning, validation and implementation
- **Principle 3: Clear responsibility**  
Member states should assign responsibilities to stakeholders according to their strength and do so in a collaborative way.
- **Principle 4: Transparency**  
Maintain transparency in policy implementation and result reporting; make information available to interested stakeholders
- **Principle 5: Collaboration**  
Collaboration with other ministries, agencies and organizations whose involvement is crucial to the success of the policy
- **Principle 6: Appropriate, Adapted, and Achievable**  
Alignment with regional and national development priorities and accurate reflection of local constraints and opportunities
- **Principle 7: Data driven, evidence based, verifiable and results oriented**  
Implementation should be scientifically driven and based on facts

# Institutional Arrangements for Implementation

- **ECREEE**
- **ECOWAS Department of Social Affairs and Gender**
- **National Energy Ministries from the 15 Member States of ECOWAS**
- ECOWAS Department for Energy and Mines
- National Gender Ministries
- National Finance Ministries
- National Bureaus of Statistics and Census Bureaus
- Donor Organizations
- Civil Society Groups, Community-based organizations, youth organizations, academic institutions, professional organizations and other beneficiaries of the policy.
- ECOWAS energy related agencies
- National Ministries with supporting roles

# STRATEGIC AXES OF IMPLEMENTATION

# Strategic Objective 1

## Achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society

- Official recognition of gender and energy considerations
- Promotion of increased scientific understanding and
- Widespread awareness of issues among non-state actors including the private sector, international financial institutions, civil society and the general public

### Activities

- Conduct a gender assessment of the energy sector (i.e., gender audit) in each Member State
- Collect gender-disaggregated data on energy usage, energy production and provision of energy services
- Sensitize Energy Ministry staff on gender
- Conduct public awareness campaigns
- Enable scientific research on gender and energy in West Africa and publication of articles in peer-reviewed journals
- Conduct ECOWAS regional conferences to exchange results and promote learning across Member States
- Provide technical support and oversight for achieving this objective

# Strategic Objective 2

**Ensure that all energy policies, programmes and initiatives are non-discriminatory, gender-inclusive, gender-balanced and directed towards addressing energy poverty, differentially affecting women and men in the region**

- More precise, regular, timely and results-oriented data collection and evaluation methods that promote disaggregation by sex, age and socio-economic background;
- Enhanced profiles and capabilities for Gender Focal Units in the National Energy Ministries;
- Agency-wide sensitization and adoption of new and gender responsive practices; and
- Strengthening of the feedback mechanisms from a gender-inclusive electorate.

## Activities

- Include “gender assessment” as a step in the document that describes policy and programme development process
- Create a Gender Focal Unit (GFU) in the Ministry of Energy with a clearly defined role and resource allocation that is in line with its function
- Develop a gender assessment checklist that agencies can use when elaborating programmes
- Include gender dimension in procurement announcements and terms of references with implementing partners
- Adopt a gender assessment toolkit for implementing partners
- Implement one pilot-project on gender and energy
- Mainstream gender in all subsequent energy projects
- Encourage equal participation of men and women in public consultations during project planning
- Include gender consideration in the next revision of energy policies
- Invite feedback from external gender experts and women groups during policy validation
- Provide technical support and oversight for achieving this objective

# Strategic Objective 3

## Increase women's public sector participation in energy-related technical fields and decision-making positions

- Education and training for women in STEM fields
- Specific pre-career pathways created at educational institutions, energy ministries and other public sector agencies
- Creating incentives (monetary and programmatic) to increase the number of women pursuing energy-related careers

### Activities

- Conduct awareness raising campaigns on energy-related studies for women by making them more socially relevant
- Incorporate gender and energy issues in school curriculum from primary through the university level
- Create scholarships for young women pursuing studies in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field
- Create an internship programme in Energy Ministry and related government agencies for young women pursuing studies in STEM
- Create career-advancement programmes for women within the Energy Ministry
- Encourage female application for open technical positions
- Provide technical support and oversight for achieving this objective



# Strategic Objective 4

**Ensure women and men have equal access to and opportunities to enter and succeed in energy-related fields in the private sector**

- Advertising and promoting business, employment, and contract opportunities for women in the energy sector
- Establishing and supporting programmes that offer relevant technical/vocational training, entrepreneurship/management training, and gender-aware finance.

## Activities

- Advertise business opportunities in the energy sector with a particular target on women
- Profile and showcase energy businesses led by women
- Build the capacity of existing women entrepreneurs on energy businesses/technologies and energy-finance
- Create gender-sensitive financing mechanisms
- Sensitize the private sector to reach out to women candidates for employment and contracting opportunities
- Promote vocational training in energy
- Provide technical support and oversight for achieving this objective

# Strategic Objective 5

## Establish and maintain a gender responsive monitoring, accountability and review framework

- Monitoring plans and reporting procedures set forth in the accompanying implementation plan and any successor documents
- Identification of designated Parties responsible for oversight, distribution of incentives, and administration of sanctions
- Establishment of clear gender goals and indicators as part of the monitoring and accountability framework

### Activities

- Review and understand the monitoring and reporting requirements of the policy
- Identify resources needed to perform the tasks
- Assign data collection and reporting role to members of the GFU
- Create data collection tools such as short surveys and questionnaires that implementing actors can fill out
- Provide annual reports to ECOWAS Department of Social Affairs and Gender
- Provide technical support and oversight for achieving this objective

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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# Implementation Framework

- Tied to Each Strategic Objective, including:
  - Activities
  - Responsible Actors
  - Implementing Actors
  - Deadline
  - Estimated budget
- Tailored to each Member State
- Regional support activities led by ECREEE

# Sample Implementation Framework

Activities	Responsible Actors	Implementing Actors	Deadline	Estimated budget per Member State (EUR)
Conduct Gender assessment in Energy Sector (Gender audit) in each Member State	Ministry of Energy	Gender Expert from Gender Ministry or Consulting Community	December 2016	25,000
Collect gender-disaggregated data on energy use, energy supply and provision of energy services	Ministry of Energy	National Statistics Bureau,  Census Bureau,  Research Centres or Consulting Community	December 2016	30,000
Sensitize Energy Ministry staff on gender	Ministry of Energy	Gender Ministry or Gender Focal Unit within Ministry of Energy	December 2016	15,000/year

# Monitoring Framework

“If you can’t measure it, you can’t track it”

- Tied to Each Strategic Objective, including:
  - Indicators to measure the progress of each activity
  - Baseline values of the indicators
  - Expected results for the indicators
  - Monitoring frequency
  - Responsible party for collecting and reporting data

# Sample Monitoring Framework

Strategic Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Expected Results	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible party for collecting and reporting data
<p><u>Objective 1:</u> Achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 100 percent of energy sector government employees will have received some relevant training by 2020 (and routinely thereafter); 50 percent of citizens will be exposed to some form of relevant public service announcement by 2020 growing to 90% by 2030; at least 50 new scientific articles about gender and energy in West Africa published in peer-reviewed scientific journals by 2020,</p>	Conduct Gender assessment in Energy Sector (Gender audit) in each Member State	Number of gender audits conducted	0	1	once	GFU
	Collect gender-disaggregated data on energy use, energy supply and provision of energy services	Number of surveys that include gender disaggregated data on energy	0	1	Annually	GFU
	Sensitize Energy Ministry staff on gender	Proportion of Energy Ministry staff that attended gender workshops or other gender-related events	1%	100%	Annually	GFU

# Reporting Template

- Member State Name
- Ministry Name
- Name of person responsible for filling out the report
- Date of report
- For each activity:
  - Indicators
  - Baseline value of indicators
  - Expected result for indicators
  - Achieved result for indicators during the reporting period
  - Comments



# Sample Reporting Template

Country Name:						
Ministry Name:						
Name of person filling out the report:						
Date:						
Strategic Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Expected results	Achieved this year	Comments
Achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society	Conduct Gender assessment in Energy Sector (Gender audit) in each Member State	Number of gender audit conducted		1		
	Collect gender-disaggregated data on energy use, energy supply and provision of energy services	Number of surveys that include gender disaggregated data on energy		1		