

Status of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in Ghana

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

Theme: Promoting Social Inclusion for Sustainable Energy for All

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Issues	Status
Gender expertise, competence and capacity building requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry of Power has a gender focal point/unit• Professionally competent . However need to strengthen energy and gender competency.• Gender concerns not consistently taken into account during energy planning of programmes and projects.• Some capacity exists to implement regional and national policies and strategies. However this needs to be strengthened.
Gender and energy programs and projects in your country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Woodlot cultivation in the northern parts of the country. Project is ongoing.• Specific efforts to involve women in cook stove programmes• Information dissemination campaigns e.g. The energy efficiency lighting, refrigeration and LPG programmes, mostly target women• The inclusion of women on Technical Committees, e.g. EC technical committee on regulations.

Issues	Status
Challenges faced by female energy entrepreneur	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to loans, especially in the rural areas• Inadequate access to technology• Lack of support for up scaling
Equal participation of men and women in the energy sector as employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ratio is about 3:1 in favour of men in the Commission• The Commission is science biased and until recently, women shy away from science in school.• Affirmative action on the girl child education is helping bridge the gap.
Policies and legislative frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PNDC Law 111 gives and protects women's rights to inheritance when their husbands die interstate. Currently this law is being reviewed to give broad protection to women with regard to addressing inequalities among women and men in accessing resources• Gender budgeting is not directly undertaken by the Energy Commission but there is a consciousness that both women and men must benefit from programmes

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Main challenges and barriers to Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in Ghana

- Insufficient investments in energy infrastructures
- Inadequate competency in energy and gender
- Lack of financing for the implementation of energy and gender policies because no gender budget is in place
- Inadequate utilization of competencies in energy & gender
- Need for more professional women with science based backgrounds
- Need for a multidisciplinary approach in energy planning, implementation and evaluation
- Need for tools and techniques on gender issues for the energy sector
- Inadequate opportunities for learning and sharing among ECOWAS countries on energy and gender mainstreaming efforts

External support needed to put the ECOWAS Gender and Energy Policy into action in Ghana

- Major effort at the regional level on enhanced energy infrastructures that can benefit women and men in a fundamental way
- Specific financial packages for policy implementation with specific components targeted at women
- Strengthening of coordination mechanisms between energy sector institutions and others specifically working on gender issues
- Support for the recruitment and retention of women with science backgrounds to work in the energy sector
- Capacity strengthening on energy and gender
- Support for accessing tools and techniques on energy and gender
- Promotion of synergy with other ECOWAS countries on energy and gender

Thank You

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