



Original: English

ECOWAS REGIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP
FOR THE
ECOWAS POLICY FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN ENERGY ACCESS
Dakar, Senegal, 4 – 5 June 2015

FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The ECOWAS Department of Social Affairs and Gender and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (ECREEE) organized a regional Gender and Energy workshop to validate the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access. The workshop would take place from 4 - 5 June, 2015, at the Radisson Hotel, in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop was organized in partnership with the Government of Senegal, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

The workshop brought together over 80 energy and gender experts from the Ministries of Energy in the ECOWAS region, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and research institutions, development partners, and representatives of other relevant stakeholder institutions.

Specifically, it featured:

- A technical session to present and review the draft ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access;
 - An ECOWAS Member States' session to present the status of gender mainstreaming in energy access in their respective countries; and
 - A learning and experience exchange session, on the operationalization of the ECOWAS Gender and Energy Policy.
2. The following Member States were represented:
 - Republic of BENIN
 - Republic of BURKINA FASO
 - Republic of CAPE VERDE
 - Republic of COTE D'IVOIRE
 - Republic of The GAMBIA
 - Republic of GHANA
 - Republic of GUINEA
 - Republic of GUINEA BISSAU
 - Republic of LIBERIA
 - Republic of MALI
 - Republic of NIGER
 - Federal Republic of NIGERIA
 - Republic of SENEGAL
 - Republic of SIERRA LEONE
 - Republic of Togo

3. The following regional and international institutions and specialized agencies were represented:

- Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- UN Women
- World Bank
- ENERGIA/ABANTU
- SNV Netherlands Development Organizations
- SEN World Services
- Energy Commission, Ghana
- Malian agency for the Development of Household Energy and Rural Electrification (AMADER)
- Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) International
- Action Solidaire International
- Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA)
- ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC)
- Practical Action
- EOL Senegal
- People's Rural Education Movement (PREM)
- GREEN'ACT
- ENERGIER
- Organisation internationale des droits de l'homme (ONDH)
- LNER
- ENED Group, and
- the Media

4. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

The Workshop started at exactly 9:00 am with Mrs. Marie-roger Biloa as Master of Ceremony for the session. She welcomed participants, who had travelled far and near to be part of the validation of the policy document on mainstreaming gender in energy access. She introduced the personalities at the high table, who were billed to speak during the Opening Session.

A. Welcome addresses were made by:

- **Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director, ECREEE**, thanked the host nation, Senegal, for supporting the Workshop to take place in Dakar and their hospitality. He welcomed participants and commended the high turnout at the Workshop which he said indicated the importance being attached to the Gender and Energy Policy by Member States. Mr. Kappiah said this also goes to show that there is a clear recognition of the existence of gender inequalities that

requires the region to intensify collective efforts to address the problem. He thanked all those connected with the development of the Policy document and applauded Energy Ministries of the ECOWAS Member States for timely data submission and called on the various countries to take ownership of the policy through their actions. He called for inclusive approaches for energy interventions and said barriers that impede gender equality should not be condoned.

- **Mrs. Victoria Healey, Project Manager, NREL**, noted that the US – based laboratory focuses on working with governments to develop creative solutions to address energy challenges and recalled the worthwhile experience of having worked with ECREEE in the early stages of developing the National renewable energy and energy efficiency action plans. She noted that the decision to support the project on developing the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access was based on recognition of the Policy as special and significantly important for the ECOWAS’s region’s development. Mrs. Healey noted that by embarking in this project, ECOWAS is leading by example and breaking new ground. She announced that she had received enquiries from such countries like Pakistan and Porto Rico which are also interested in the development of gender policies in energy access. She is sure such countries will be happy to take lessons from this experience. She called on ECOWAS to recognise that energy access is a basic human right for both men and women; extend energy to the remotest areas and develop markets where women can benefit by developing businesses. She thanked all those who worked to see this project through.
- **Mrs. Khady Gassama, Country Economist, AfDB**, thanked ECOWAS and ECREEE for leading the initiative. She noted that the Bank has a special gender unit created in 2013 with the objective of ensuring that gender is recognized as an important aspect of development, and which must be made more visible. She added the Bank has also worked to mainstream gender across the operations of the Bank.
- **Mrs. Olga Martins, Gender Expert, AECID** commended ECOWAS and ECREEE and said the Government of Spain has paid special attention to gender equality as a way of combating poverty and the realisation of sustainable human development as a fundamental human right. She said while gender mainstreaming has been applied in many sectors including agriculture, health and education, energy sector has been slow in recognizing the linkages between gender and access to energy. She noted that AECID has supported ECREEE in projects such as the establishment of the ECOWAS Women’s Business Fund to help alleviate financial barriers to the development and implementation of women-led business initiatives in the energy sector. She remarked that although mainstreaming gender in energy interventions can play an important role in sustainable development, a lot remains to be done in the area of women’s empowerment. She ended her remark urging development partners to work with ECOWAS governments to operationalize the Policy. She extended her congratulations for a job well done.

- **Mr. Victor Djemba, Country Representative, UNIDO**, recollected the long standing cooperation between UNIDO and all stakeholders. He thanked ECOWAS and ECREEE for this initiative and recalled UNIDO's own recognition of the importance of gender inclusion in such documents as the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and the UNIDO Gender Policy.

He said UNIDO recognizes that by systematically mainstreaming gender into their interventions, UNIDO can ensure equal opportunities for women and men and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 development framework, as well as the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) objectives. He emphasized on the long collaboration between ECREEE and UNIDO and the need to support this initiative. He concluded that mainstreaming gender should not be viewed as a barrier but an added value.

- **Dr. Josephine Odera, Regional Director, UN Women**, thanked ECOWAS and ECREEE for showing foresight in initiating this project. She said there are links between energy, women, children and health. Each year, 4.3 million deaths, mainly women and children, are killed from breathing fumes and exposure to smoke from fuels such as wood used for cooking. Women experience energy poverty differently and more severely than men, she said. Women are often associated with household activities and without access to modern energy services, women and girls spend time-consuming periods collecting fuels, which affect children's educational opportunities while other safe sources of energy would make life easier for women and girls. She remarked that energy access can also provide safety and freedom from violence for women and girls who are in danger of rape and other forms of violations while collecting firewood.

Dr. Odera gave examples of how clean energy has drastically reduced violence in such countries as Darfur and transformed lives in Guinea, Sudan, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Opening remarks were made by:

- Mr. Morlaye Bangura, ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy expressed his appreciation for the strong presence of women in the Workshop.

He noted that Senegal was selected to host the Workshop for the following reasons that the Senegalese Minister for Energy is a woman and the President of Senegal, Macky Sall was been elected as the new Chairman of ECOWAS. He noted that as the Community turns 40 two important issues for sustainable development: gender equality and access to energy, must be brought to the fore.

He stressed the importance of an inclusive approach to addressing the region's energy challenges, highlighting that the ECOWAS region has among the lowest consumption rates of modern energy, adding that energy access is critical if development is to be achieved. This reinforces the importance of this policy. Many people in the rural areas are still suffering from the energy deficiency and women bearing the brunt of the burden. Mr. Bangura noted that women are on the margins completely outside the range of providing solutions and it is imperative that women be empowered and included in national processes. For sustainable development to occur, men and women should be involved for nations to make full use of their human capital.

Noting, that women are on the margins completely outside the range of providing energy solutions and it is imperative that women be empowered and included in national processes. He stressed that for sustainable development to occur, men and women should be involved for nations to make full use of their human capital.

Mr. Bangura paid tribute to the ECOWAS Commissioner for Gender and Social Affairs, Dr. Fatima Diaw Sow for the tremendous work she is doing and extended his gratitude to the Senegalese Minister for Energy, Mrs. Maimouna Ndoye Seck, for the technical support given to ECREEE in the organization of the workshop. The Commissioner commended the Executive Director of ECREEE, and staff, for the role played in the development of the Policy. This is a Revolutionary Policy, he concluded.

- **Ms. Aminatou Toure, Ministry of Energy, represented Senegal's Minister for Energy**, extended the profound apologies of the Minister for her inability to grace the occasion. However, adding that she was glad that Senegal could host this very important workshop, as the nation considers it a duty to promote gender equality.

Ms. Toure spoke of the 2010 Senegal gender parity law which came into force, and viewed by many as a necessary step to force change in equity and social cohesion. The change in access to energy has remained low especially in the rural areas. Firewood collection continues to affect women's health and children's education.

She noted that the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access must take priority in Member States' plans to bring development, adding that in order to achieve universal access to sustainable energy by 2030 gender considerations must feature significantly in the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative.

C: Setting the context

Setting the Context was presented by Ms. Monica Maduekwe, of ECREEE. Ms. Maduekwe made the following presentations:

- i. Introduction of the Workshop: Scope, Objectives and Outcomes

Ms. Maduekwe stated with a presentation on the process that has led to the validation workshop of the Policy, highlighting the different stages of conception; development (Policy Inception Workshop hosted by the AfDB, and the drafting stage); deliberation. She noted that the workshop will create a platform to deliberate on the gender and energy issues and barriers that hinder the equal participation of men and women in the expansion of energy access in the region, and to review and provide input on the draft Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, with a critical assessment of the adequacy of the measures proposed to address the issues and barriers identified by the Member States.

- ii. Overview of the ECOWAS Programme for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN)

Ms. Maduekwe explained that ECOW-GEN is a flagship programme of ECREEE that works to steer Member States towards the direction of mainstreaming gender in policy formulation, legislative drafting, energy project and programme design and implementation, with the intention to promote equality in energy development through equal access to resources, opportunities and equal contribution to the decision-making processes that shape and influence energy expansion in West Africa. She highlighted the three action pillars of the programme, the four strategic areas of intervention, the ECOW-GEN 5 high impact initiatives, and the key accomplishments to date.

II. ELECTION OF BUREAU

The following bureau was elected;

Day 1

- Chairman - Senegal
- Rapporteurs- Niger and Sierra Leone

Day 2:

Chairman – Senegal

Rapporteurs – Ghana and Cabo Verde

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

The following agenda was adopted:

- I. Opening Ceremony
- II. Adoption of Draft Agenda and Work Programme
- III. Election of Bureau

ITEMS FOR DECISION

IV. Presentation and Consideration of the Situation Analysis Report

The Situation Analysis Report was presented by Mrs. Catherine Diam, of the Sustainable Energy Solutions (SES), and Mrs. Rose Mensah-Kutin, ENERGIA/ ABANTU.

The key components of the presentation include:

- 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)

The session was facilitated by Dr. Bolanle Adetoun.

V. Presentation and Consideration of the Status of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in the ECOWAS Member States

Country presentations on the status of Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access were made by country delegates, representatives from the Ministries of Energy, from each of the 15 member countries.

Their presentations covered issues relating to: Gender expertise, competence and capacity building requirements, gender and energy programs and projects in their respective countries, challenges faced by female energy entrepreneurs, equal participation of men and women in the energy sector as employees, policies and legislative frameworks relating to gender equality.

The presenters also highlighted the main challenges and barriers to gender mainstreaming in energy access in their respective countries and the external support needed to put the policy into action.

The presenters are as follows:

- Benin – Mrs. Angele Alapini Ayi
- Burkina Faso – Mrs Desiree Bere Yamba
- Cabo Verde – Mrs. Eduarda Radwan
- Cote d’Ivoire – Mr. Norbert N’Goran
- The Gambia – Mr. Kemo Ceesay and Mrs. Adama Gassama
- Ghana – Mr. Kofi Agyarko
- Guinea – Mrs. Hawa Dioubate
- Guinea Bissau – Mrs. Adareluce Lopes Fati
- Liberia - Mr. Sylvester Massaquoi and Mr. Edward M. Konneh
- Mali – Mr. Moussa Ombotimeb and Mrs. Kaltoumi Ali Beidari

- Niger – Mrs. Mariama Hamidou Kouloukoye
- Nigeria – Mrs. Toyin Obiniran
- Senegal – Fatou Thiam
- Sierra Leone – Mustapha Sannoh
- Togo – Mrs. Peace Adiho

VI. Presentation and Consideration of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and Implementation Plan

The presentation on the draft ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and its Implementation Plan was presented by Mrs. Diam. The panelist for the presentation comprised of, Mr. Mahama Kappiah (facilitator), Mrs. Victoria Healey, Ms. Monica Maduekwe and the Mrs. Diam.

VII. Validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

The Validation of the Policy was chaired by Mrs. Fatou Thiam and the session facilitated by Dr. Bangura.

The session started with a minute of silence for the lives lost as a result of the petrol station explosion in Ghana.

All presentations are attached as Annex B of this document.

OTHER ITEMS

- VIII. Presentation of the Resolutions on the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
- IX. Adoption of Workshop Report on the ECOWAS Regional Validation Workshop For the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
- X. Closing Ceremony

IV. OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

Items for Decision

Item 4:

Presentation and Consideration of the Situation Analysis Report

- The lack of adequate and appropriate education, training and sensitization to address the gender dimensions of energy access is an underpinning factor sustaining the issues of gender inequalities in the energy sector, and is a wide-spread issue in the region.
- It is important to break the stereotype that well trained women are a thing to be feared, and, therefore an undesirable quality.
- Some so-called gender mainstreaming projects do not take into consideration women's needs. There is a difference between gender mainstreaming projects and women's economic empowerment projects.

Item 5:

Presentation and Consideration of the Draft ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and Implementation Plan

- The Policy document needs to state when the targets will be reassessed.
- The implementation plan needs to take into consideration the differentials (particularly in terms of capabilities, etc.) among the countries.
- It is important to establish a strategy to retain female employees in the energy sector.
- ECREEE may be needed to provide support in the establishment of gender focal units (GFUs).
- ECREEE lead the process of establishing and strengthening multisectoral committees in the Member States.
- ECREEE's assistance will be needed to raise funds.

Item 6:

Validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and Implementation Plan

- Additional information from the situation analysis should be included in the Policy document, providing statistics to support the challenges identified.
- Additional Ministries (e.g. Ministry of Planning) should be included in the institutional arrangements for implementation.
- The structure of the document needs to be rearranged, and should, as much as possible, adopt the format of other ECOWAS policies such as the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy.

Item 7:

Validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and Implementation Plan

- Civil society organizations (CSOs) should be given clear roles in the Implementation Plan.
- In their 2016 national budget, Member States should take into consideration the activities of the Policy Implementation Plan.
- ECOWAS and ECREEE will provide some support towards mobilizing funds for operationalizing the Implementation Plan.

Other items

Item 8:

Presentation of the Declaration on ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

For the French version, synonyms for ‘recognizing’ should be used to avoid excessive repetition of the word.

Item 9

Adoption of Workshop Report on the ECOWAS Regional Validation Workshop for the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

The motion to adopt the Policy document was moved by Mr. Benjamin Kamara, Director of Energy, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, Sierra Leone, and approved by the Chair. The decision to adopt the Policy was approved by all participants. The Policy document was adopted, upon inclusion of all relevant comments made.

Item 10

Closing Ceremony

A vote of thanks was given by Ms. Maduekwe.

The workshop was closed by Dr. Morlaye Bangura. He thanked the Members States for taking ownership of the Policy and for the hard-work done towards the validation of the Policy.

With the request of Dr. Bangura, Mrs. Fatou Thiam Sow made closing remarks congratulating the participants for a successful workshop.

DONE AT DAKAR THIS 5th DAY OF JUNE 2015

Chaired by

Mrs. Fatou Thiam Sow