

Concept note and Agenda



ECOWAS Gender and Energy Workshop

For

Validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

Theme: Promoting Social Inclusion for Sustainable Energy for All

4 - 5 June, 2015

Radisson Hotel

Dakar, Senegal

Co-organized by:



With the support of:

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Under the framework of:



1. Introduction

The ECOWAS Department of Social Affairs and Gender and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (ECREEE) are organizing 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 is being organized in partnership with the Government of Senegal, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

The workshop will bring together 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.

The 2-day event, which is being organized under the framework of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative and Beijing Platform for Action will aim to provide an opportunity for critical review, improvement, and validation of the draft ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access. Specifically it will feature:

- 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.

The envisaged outputs from the workshop will include:

- The validated and endorsed draft of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and ;
- The validated situation analysis report on the status of gender mainstreaming in Energy Access in the ECOWAS region; and
- A preliminary draft of the Implementation Strategy for the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access.

2. Background

Lack of access to clean and modern forms of energy is affecting the ECOWAS region's economic growth and development, and the ECOWAS region is facing an energy crisis. The ECOWAS region, with a population of around 300 million people, has one of the lowest modern energy consumption rates in the world (ECREEE, 2012).

The lack of access to clean and modern forms of energy including electricity, motive power, and cleaner cooking options are placing serious constraints on productive and household activities. Over half of the population do not have access to electricity and access to modern fuels is even lower. Low energy access rates is especially affecting rural areas, where 60% of the population lives and 11 out of the 15 countries in the ECOWAS region are classified as Least Developed countries (LDCs) and Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

The nexus between energy and poverty explains how energy poverty is a function of poverty, and poverty is a function of energy poverty. In other words, the absence of modern energy services for productive and household activities put limits on income generation, improved health, educational opportunities, and environmental protection. Consequently, in the midst of income poverty, the capacity of men and women, and households in general, to purchase and use modern forms of energy is limited.

It is important to note that although, at a global level, poverty is prevalent in most countries in ECOWAS, when observed at a disaggregated level, women are generally poorer than men, with a larger population lagging behind their male counterparts in most socioeconomic development indicators, such as income levels, literacy rate and employment status. This explains, in part, why most women who lack energy access primarily lack it because they are poor and living in poor settings, and not because they are women.

This, however, begs the question: why are women poorer than men? The underlying factors behind the low socioeconomic status of women in the region can be explained through an assessment of the socio-cultural perceptions, norms and practices prevalent in most societies¹ which gives rise to unequal access to opportunities and resources, as well as participation in decision-making processes. The results are manifested through a poorer performance in the aforementioned socioeconomic development indicators, which is made worse in a context of energy poverty.

In rural and peri-urban households where traditional biomass is the main fuel for cooking, women, given their traditional roles of being home-makers, are mainly responsible for procuring and using wood-fuel. The time spent by women and girls in fulfilling this time-intensive activity incurs both high personal and social costs as women and girls are deprived of opportunities for self-advancement and to contribute to the social, cultural, political, and economic development of their communities.

¹ These underlying factors reinforce barriers and challenges related to: Awareness, education and technical capacity; financial; Technological; Policy and Regulations.

Moreover, social norms and perceptions that limit women's role in the decision-making processes that influence energy expansion, as those listed in the box 1, affects the likelihood of designing and implementing energy programs and projects that incorporates, equally, the needs of both men and women. This also limits women's capacity to contribute to and benefit from the business of expanding access to modern energy services and technologies.

This condition affects the region's goal of achieving universal energy access and transitioning to inclusive economic growth and development. Development interventions, for energy in particular, must be tailored to the needs of all beneficiaries. Thus, when women and girls, who represent a large part of the society, are not actively engaged throughout the process, the interventions can rarely produce effective results.

Addressing the energy challenges in the region will require the ECOWAS region to systematically 1) mobilize both its human and financial capital, 2) create investment opportunities for all 3) create an enabling environment for inclusive dialogue and engagement². Given, the unequal standing between men and women to contribute to and benefit from this process a gender-blind approach to energy development cannot be afforded by the region.

BOX 1: Comments on the impact of Social norms and perceptions on women's participation in the energy sector

- *"Our culture considers certain occupations as men's business, and people tend to have more confidence in male technicians and technologists, as opposed to females in those lines of work. The result is a lack of interest, by women, to be educated in the energy field"- Mrs. Angele Alapini, Ministry of Energy, Benin.*
- *"Where there is no infrastructure, women become the infrastructure." – Mrs. Dominique Lallement, former Director of the World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program.*
- *"Social norms view modern energy technology businesses as "men's work", and, thus, limit women's opportunities to engage in sustainable energy entrepreneurship"- Mrs. Adama Jallow, Ministry of Energy, the Gambia.*
- *"In the energy field, there is a shortage of women in decision making roles; this is due to a lack of women technical employees in the energy sector. Persistent social factors are behind this" – Mrs. Désirée Yamba, Ministry of Energy, Burkina Faso*

2.1 Rationale for the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

The ECOWAS region recognizes the importance of pursuing a development strategy that is based on social inclusiveness and equality. This is evident in the policies and Acts adopted by the Member States, particularly the ECOWAS Gender Policy and the Supplementary Act Relating to Equality of Rights between Men and Women for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region.

To promote gender equality in energy production and consumption, the region, through its ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and ECOWAS

² SE4ALL Global Action Agenda

Department of Social Affairs and Gender is developing the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access.

The rationale for the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access is three-fold: (1) Energy access is a basic human right that should be available equally to men and women. Currently women are bearing an undue burden related to the production and use of low quality energy products and fuels; (2) Gender mainstreaming is necessary for success of the range of energy policies, programmes, and initiatives in the ECOWAS region. Both women and men need to be part of the solution in order to enable creative approaches and maximize the benefits of access to modern energy; and (3) Markets can operate more effectively only if women are given equal opportunity and encouragement to contribute to the local and national economy. This includes support for women in designing and launching a business or delivering higher-value products to market.

The goal of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access is to address existing barriers that may hinder the equal participation of women and men in expanding energy access in West Africa and, by the extension, the success of the SE4ALL initiative and the ECOWAS Regional Policies on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

The Policy is being developed under the framework of the ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN) a flagship programme of ECREEE with the overall objective to contribute towards increased access to modern, affordable, and reliable energy services, energy security and environmental sustainability by tailoring national and regional policies, projects and programmes to the energy needs of men and women.

Through the programme, Member States are supported to mainstream 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.

3. Scope and Purpose

The ECOWAS Gender and Energy Workshop is being organized with the objective to present and discuss the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access. The workshop will promote collaboration and cooperation among the Member States through the establishment of enabling frameworks to support the region in harnessing and utilizing both its male and female human capital in addressing energy poverty.

Specifically, 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.

- 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.
- Examine the practicality of the draft Implementation Strategy for the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, with a focus on the activities, budget and timeline proposed at the regional and national levels.
- Facilitate exchange of experience and knowledge on operationalizing the Gender and Energy Policy, at the regional and national level.

4. Participants

The workshop will bring together a select number of international and regional experts on gender and energy from the Ministries of Energy, Ministries of Gender, development organizations, and academia, as well as stakeholder groups representing the beneficiaries of the Policy.

Specifically, this will include:

- The Directors of Energy and the Ministries' representatives on the ECOW-GEN Technical Advisory Group (TAG),
- Civil Society Organizations, particularly women groups and youth organizations;
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
- Academia and research institutions,
- Development partners; and
- Representatives of other relevant stakeholder institutions.

5. Outcomes

The expected outcome of the Workshop is the validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access and its Implementation Strategy, at the ECOWAS Energy Ministries' technical/operational level.

It is also envisaged that the workshop will result in the endorsement of the Situation Analysis Report as an appropriate reflection of the local realities as it pertains to gender and energy in the ECOWAS Member States.

Lastly, the workshop will lead to a clear understanding of the methods and instruments to put the Policy into operation.

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Agenda		
Day 1 of Workshop		
08:30		4 June 2015 Registration of participants
Opening session		
09:00		Welcome remarks by: • ECREEE, Mr. Mahama Kappiah • NREL, Mrs. Victoria Healey • UNIDO, tbc • ADA, tbc • AECID, tbc Opening Speeches by: • AfDB Special Envoy on Gender, Mrs. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi • ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy, Mr. Morlaye Bangura • Minister for Energy, Senegal, Mrs. Maimouna Ndoeye
Setting the Context Facilitator (tbc)		
10:00		• Introduction of the Workshop: Scope, Objectives and Outcomes ECREEE • Overview of the ECOWAS Programme for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access ECREEE
10:30		Group picture Coffee break
11:00		• Presentation of the Situation Analysis Dr. Ellen Morris and Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin
11:30		Country Presentations I : [5 minutes per country] • Benin • Burkina Faso • Cape Verde • Cote d'Ivoire • Gambia

		• Ghana • Guinea • Guinea-Bissau • Liberia • Mali • Niger • Nigeria • Senegal • Sierra Leone • Togo
12:45		Questions and Discussions
13:00		Lunch
ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access Facilitator (tbc)		
14:15		• Presentation of the draft Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access ECREEE
15:00		Questions and Discussions
15:45		Coffee break
ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access: Break-Out Sessions: Participatory exercise and action agenda for Country Working Groups: Facilitator (tbc)		
		• Introduction of Country Working Group Session ECOWAS Department of Social Affairs and Gender, Dr. Bola Adetoun
16:00	Country Working Group 1 - Benin - Burkina Faso - Cape Verde - Cote d'Ivoire - Guinea	Country Working Group 2 - Gambia - Ghana - Liberia - Nigeria - Sierra Leone
		Country Working Group 3 - Guinea-Bissau - Mali - Niger - Senegal - Togo
17:30		Key Messages from Country Group Discussions [10 minutes/group with one spokesperson] • Country Working Group 1 • Country Working Group 2 • Country Working Group 3
18:00		Closing

Agenda

		Day 2 of Workshop
		5 June 2015
08:30		• Recap of Day 1 • Introduction and expectations for the day
		Validation Process of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access: Facilitator: ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy, Mr. Morlaye Bangura
09:00		• Validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
10:30		<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00		• Validation of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
12:30		• Follow-up actions and timeline at the national and regional level • Closing of Validation Workshop ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy, Mr. Morlaye Bangura
13:00		<i>Lunch</i>