

Linking gender, energy access and mitigation

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Content

- Why Gender and energy access?
- Taking a different look at energy demand through a gender lens
- Women in energy value chain –examples
- Resources available



WHY GENDER AND ENERGY ACCESS?



Gender in energy access

Practical reasons:

Women and men have different roles and needs, so they require different policy and project approaches.

European Commission (1998):

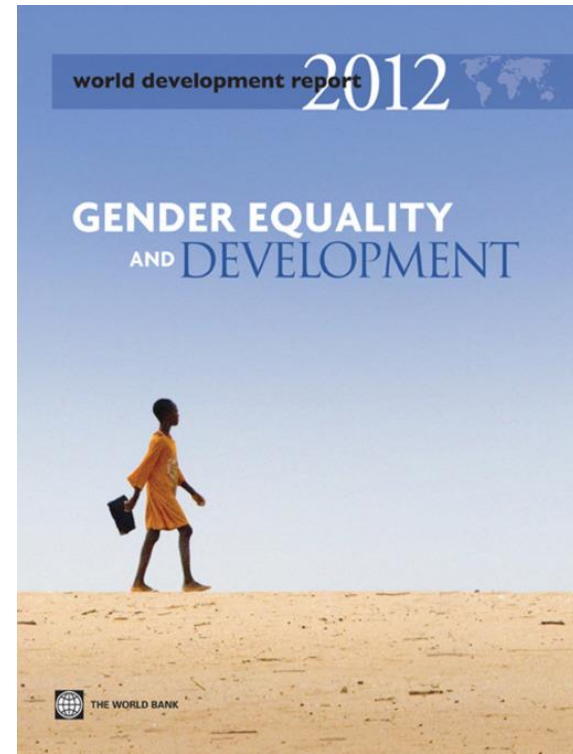
“Policy decisions that appear gender neutral may have a differential impact on women and men, even when such an effect was neither intended nor envisaged.”



Gender in energy access

Sustainability:

Long-term development is only possible, if all parts of a society are empowered to improve their livelihoods. Gender equality is central to sustainable development.



Gender in energy access

Identification of national priorities:

By understanding the different needs of women and men, countries can identify their national development priorities with regards to new low carbon technologies support to economic sectors, transport sector, etc.



Photo: Ana Rojas



Gender mainstreaming in energy initiatives helps to:

- Assess the project's relevance for women and men (diagnostic)
- Agree on the gender perspective a project wants to achieve (objective and gender strategy)
- Design specific activities to achieve these objectives
- Create consensus among different stakeholders about the methodology to be used
- Design a gender sensitive M&E strategy
 - ... so that both women and men can benefit from the projects and reduce or eliminate inequalities



TAKING A DIFFERENT LOOK AT ENERGY DEMAND THROUGH A GENDER LENS



Energy use in different sectors



- Household energy access
- Women economic activities (informal sector) rely on cooking/heating energy
- Electricity is not necessary the most affordable source
- 50% of MSEs are owned by women. Many of them lack access to energy, or rely on 'bad' energy sources.

Example: Uruguay's basic services basket program



Affordability –female headed households are most impacted



- Female headed households tend to have more difficulties to afford and sustain connection
- Energy efficiency as a tool to ensure affordability

Photo: B.P.C., Botswana

Examples:

Botswana electrification project and identification of special tariffs
Argentina pre-paid meters



Infrastructure –large energy projects



- Expropriation, relocation: need for having a gender responsive compensation/ reparation plan

Example: Adivasi women and Suzlon's wind farm



WOMEN IN ENERGY VALUE CHAIN –EXAMPLES



Visualizing women in the value chain

- Women have an important role to play in the energy value chain besides being users of energy sources

What is the role of women/men in obtaining energy sources?

Are women and men already involved in the energy sector?
In the production of energy technologies?

Are women/men involved in the maintenance and repair of renewable energy technologies?

Are women/men involved in the marketing and selling of renewable energy technologies?

Which are the end-use activities of this energy?
Are these different for women and men?



Gender mainstreaming in electrification projects



Photo: PELNICA/ENATREL, Nicaragua

- Sensitization of field teams to understand and identify gender considerations in the field
- Invest in recruiting of women staff
- Invest in women's inclusion as technicians, including line installation
- Establishment of credit lines/revolving funds to support [new] entrepreneurships
- Special tariffs for poor/women headed households



Gender mainstreaming in household solar technologies

- Training of women as solar technicians: assembly, installation, repair
- Supporting women as sales agents: group shops, retailers, etc.
- Linking women with micro-credit opportunities or pre-financing their initial stock
- Leadership, training skills and peer coaching/support



Photo: S. Huque, P.S.L., Bangladesh



Gender mainstreaming in the biogas sector

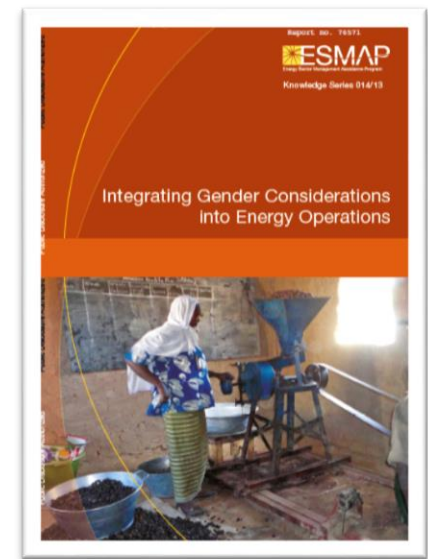
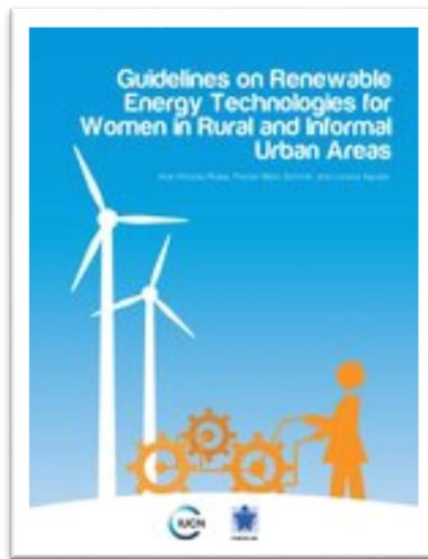
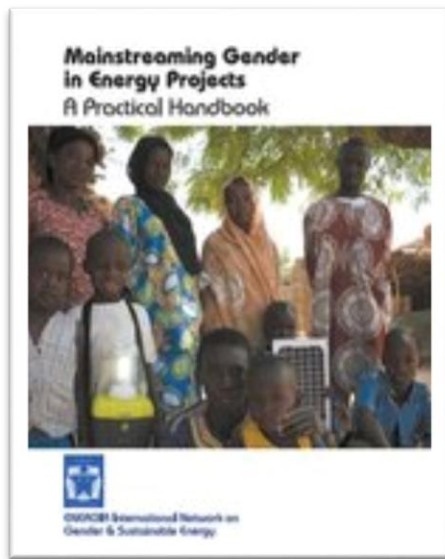


Photo: Ana Rojas

- Ensuring women are trained as users (both energy and use of bio-slurry use)
- Train women and men to construct and manage biogas constructing companies
- Include women as community promoters and sell agents
- Additionally:
 - Link women with adult literacy projects
 - Support families to invest in girls education
 - Support women's entrepreneurship



Resources available



THANK YOU!

For additional information:
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