

Mainstreaming Gender in Energy

A Way forward to meeting MDGs



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Gender Mainstreaming

What does it mean?

Gender mainstreaming calls for positive action at different levels, and require commitment, capacities and resources.

- ✓ **At the policy level, to ensure that the issue of gender equality becomes a visible and central concern in energy programming and planning.**
- ✓ **At the programme level, to ensure that all energy interventions create opportunities for women's empowerment and facilitate gender equality.**
- ✓ **At the organizational level, to ensure that space and opportunities for learning, growth and contributing to organizational goals are created equally for women and men at all levels.**

Objective

Integration of gender in decision making process and to advocate gender concerns in energy sector to solicit suitable policy making



Key Observations

- **Management, collection and use of fuels falls disproportionately on women and girl child at the household level and SMEs (informal sector of economy).**
- **Lack of energy services directly correlates with many of the elements of poverty (such as: low education levels, inadequate health care, and limited employment possibilities).**
- **Gender issues have a key role in energy management, planning and policies primarily because gender differences and inequalities have consequences for energy needs, use and priorities.**



Key observations

- Lack of gender based data
- Energy in the house and women's concern
- Women run enterprises and their strategic needs
- Recognition of gender differences in energy needs
- Mechanisms for women to participate meaningfully in energy intervention
- Capacity building and awareness raising

Case example of gender variations in rural household energy management


- **Division of labour:** Women shouldered the responsibility of collecting and managing the household energy needs.
- **Access to and control of energy resources:** Women and men have different degrees of access and control.
- **Decision making in domestic energy management:** When energy has to be purchased, men enter the decision-making process.
- **Perception of benefits from energy services:** Women and men have different perceptions about the benefits of energy.





Strengthen work already being undertaken:

- Gender based data (men and women) including women's efforts and time spent to collect fuel for household use.
- Improved statistics on informal sector enterprises (a large source of employment for women)
- Energy in the Home Concerns: developing alternative energy services for household use such as: fuel-efficient stoves; solar cookers; solar water heaters, water warming facility, RO. Health services and preventive health measures to reduce health related to the burning of poor quality and non-hygienic fuels

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- Role of energy in the sustainability of women's enterprises needs to be well researched.
 - institutional spaces and mechanisms for women to participate meaningfully in energy interventions increased and strengthened.
 - Build more network capacities with membership deriving from: women's groups (urban /rural)/ government/ donors/ Ngos/ private sector and media. Aim to give women a voice and connect them with decision making entities
 - Provide user friendly capacity building in improving energy technologies and improve services in: entrepreneurial skills, training, and credit availability etc.



Key Indicators for assessment

Indicators depend on an analysis of existing conditions within the target area and an understanding of the differing roles of men and women within that specific culture. Community participation , involving both men and women is critical for establishing indicators of success.



- Outcome:

- Increase in primary school enrolment rate for girls

- Output:

- Increased access to clean water

- Project Level

- Equal number of men and women in community own micro-hydro systems.

**Together we move forward –
Thank you**

