

Gender, Energy, Poverty and Sustainable Development

The Importance of Including Gender in Energy and Poverty Related Policies

Do you want to ensure that both men and women benefit from policies and projects that aim to increase access of sustainable energy services and thus improve livelihoods?

Do you want to increase the likelihood that energy services will contribute to meeting the MDGs and thus reduce poverty?



Incorporating gender aspects into energy policies / programmes and poverty reduction programmes can help you to achieve these objectives. Gender analysis of policies and programmes is a recipe for success!

	Female Headed	Male Headed
%Households (HHs) below poverty line	41%	34%
%HHs in lowest income bracket (P1500) in urban areas	56%	32%
%HHs in lowest income bracket (P500) in rural areas	78%	70%
%HHs connected to electricity supplies in rural areas	8%	15%
%HHs that took a loan to buy a Solar PV system	N/A	62%

Females are most involved in fuelwood collection in Botswana's rural villages, spending over 3 hours a day on average.

More female headed households use a mix of fuels for cooking. Using a mix of fuels is often associated with instability in incomes.

About 20% of females (spouses and daughters) are involved in deciding to connect to grid electricity.

Women are more amenable to adopting energy efficient technologies especially if the technologies can assist to reduce labour intensive household chores.

72% of the households that adopted a locally made efficient stove were females.

Both income and poverty levels affect affordability of energy services, thus making provision of energy in Botswana a gender issue.

Surveys also show that women in male headed households have little to say in deciding to connect to electricity, join a loan scheme, pay deposits or make loan repayments and yet they are the main users of energy in the households.

Females are also the most affected by HIV/AIDS and bear the brunt of caring for the sick, a situation that has special needs for energy.

The number of female professionals in the four energy organisations in the country is insignificant (<5%).

Introduction

BOTEC, in collaboration with the Energy Affairs Division coordinated a gender audit of the energy policy and related programmes in Botswana. The audit exercise was supported by ENERGIA and the East African Energy Technology Development Network (Energy Network-EAETDN) in Uganda.

Issues audited were:

1. Availability of gender-related energy statistics.
2. Organizational management and awareness, and mainstreaming in energy related programmes.
3. Gender perspectives in the Botswana Draft Energy Policy.
4. Resource mobilization for gender and energy related policies and programmes.
5. The role of gender and energy in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

What is a Gender and Energy audit?

A gender and energy audit aims at identifying gender gaps in energy/poverty policies and making gender and energy issues visible to a wide audience. An audit can support national and international networking as well as advocacy initiatives to influence energy policies and programmes. The audit exercise includes training of the audit team members as well as stakeholders who participate in the exercise. Such training contributes to building the capacity of women and men in ways that would enable them to acquire skills and information on how to advise policy planners towards making gender-responsive policies and programmes.

- ◆ The national energy policy, energy and poverty reduction programmes must recognize the importance of women as the major stakeholders in household energy use and the role they can play in the policy formulation.
- ◆ There is a need for policy makers and planners to recognize the importance of different gender and energy needs of men and women when planning and implementing energy programmes, e.g. for households.
- ◆ Gender differences and inequalities have consequences for energy use, needs and priorities.
- ◆ Men and women are affected differently by energy policies in their homes and work places as their community roles differ.

Study Findings

Raising Awareness and Mainstreaming Gender

- ◆ There is general gender awareness regarding roles of women and men in Botswana.
- ◆ Many people recognize the need to promote gender transformation.
- ◆ There are more women in positions of power and decision making in the public, private and civil society sector compared to a decade ago.
- ◆ There is limited knowledge on the relationship between gender, energy and poverty.
- ◆ Progress on gender mainstreaming in most of the energy related organizations has been very slow.
- ◆ Most officials interviewed did not relate their organizational mandates and policies to gender issues and do not use gender as a critical planning or policy variable.
- ◆ Many Government policies and programmes are gender blind.

Energy Policy

Women are the major users and collectors of household energy fuels which predisposes them to environmental problems brought on by exposure to traditional fuels, including indoor pollution. 'There is need for integration of women and gender issues into all facets of the energy service provision process'. To achieve this goal, the Botswana energy policy contains a specific objective on gender: *To facilitate gender equity*. The Policy also acknowledges that women travel long distances to collect fuelwood for cooking. Analysis of the policy formulation process showed that:

- ◆ The process lacked consultation with households' residents, in particular, women who are the major users and managers of domestic energy fuels.
- ◆ 80% of the stakeholders involved in the formulation process were engineers and 20% were planners, with little involvement of gender experts.

Resource Mobilisation

- ◆ Financial resource data are not disaggregated at the higher levels of decision and policy making in terms of gender.
- ◆ There is lack of availability of financial resources in terms of loans and grants to support gender programmes and policies.
- ◆ Expenditures and budgets are utilised to promote development of energy sources for socio-economic development and social equity, and not purposely to address gender specific needs.

Use Data and Case Studies

1. Government, NGO/CBOs, private sector, international organizations and financing houses to generate disaggregated data for planning and decision making by ensuring that energy studies provide critical indicators on gender.
2. EAD to learn through pilot projects and case studies on how best to address the energy needs of women and men.
3. Civil society, local authorities and private sector to identify programmes that can address gender and energy needs.
4. Provide human resources for drawing up and implementing gender responsive programmes.

Practice Gender Budgeting

1. Establish monitoring and evaluation systems to show progress in terms of how gender groups are specifically catered for in budgets.
2. Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources/EAD and WAD to promote gender responsive budgeting.
3. Provide financial resources to meet the gender budget items.

Energy Services Can Help Achieve MDGs

1. Target energy services for achieving MDGs, starting with the health sector.
2. Incorporate an action plan in the agenda of the Rural Development Coordination Division in MFDP.
3. Create awareness of links between poverty, energy and MDGs, international organisations such as UNDP could assist.
4. Current Government resources should be coordinated and integrated to achieve the MDGs.

If you would like more information or would like to give feedback please contact the following:

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Energy and the MDGs

- ◆ There is a lack of association between energy services and attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at institutional level.
- ◆ Participation of both men and women in provision of energy services is not being addressed at strategic levels such as organizational policy on Affirmative Action.
- ◆ Three out of eight MDGs, MDG 4, 5 and 6 are related to health. Poverty and Health are also interrelated, particularly with regard to HIV/AIDS (MDG 6).
- ◆ Since energy is a basic necessity for human life, its availability will reduce barriers to attaining the MDGs.

Action Plan

A participatory approach was used to develop the action plan below. Stakeholders from the gender, energy and poverty related organisations contributed to the Action Plan.

Mainstream Gender in Energy Policies and Programmes

1. Mainstream gender into energy policies and programmes of energy related organizations to achieve gender equality.
2. Energy organizations to create positions within their structures for gender experts.
3. Organizations to balance proportions of women and male staff particularly professionals and decision makers, and increase gender sensitivity in staff.
4. Women's Affairs Department (WAD) and NGO/CBOs should be strengthened to support gender mainstreaming in other stakeholder organizations, starting with EAD.
5. Government Ministries to provide resources for restructuring organizations, and for strengthening WAD and civil organizations.
6. Engineers, planners, policy analysts, and gender experts to participate in policy formulation process in order to achieve a balanced implementation of the policy.
7. Establish a strategy that can support gender responsive programmes.
8. Government to provide financial resources for capacity building at Energy Affairs Division (EAD) to generate planning indicators.

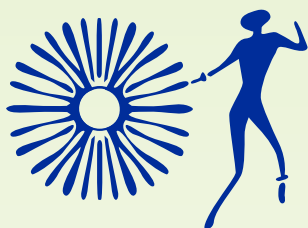
About ENERGIA, EAETDN and BOTEC



ENERGIA is an international network on gender and sustainable energy which links individuals and groups concerned with energy, sustainable development, and gender. ENERGIA's goal is to contribute to the empowerment of rural and urban poor women through a specific focus on energy issues. Founded in 1995, ENERGIA is now active in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania, as well as in Europe, North America and Australia.



The East African Energy Technology Development Network (Energy Network-EAETDN), is a regional network, established in 1998 by 25 organisations and individuals from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The goal of the Network is to reduce poverty among communities in the East African region through the use of appropriate energy technologies. The activities undertaken include: improving organisational capacity of energy related organisations; increasing information documentation and networking among organisations working in energy; increasing capacity for energy policy planning; and, improving gender responsive planning, monitoring and evaluation in the energy and other sectors.



Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC) is a national research and development institute established in 1979. BOTEC specialises in adaptation, research, development and application of technologies appropriate for the needs of Botswana. Areas of focus include renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable architecture, water and environment technologies, ICT, technology transfer of BOTEC products, etc.



Botswana Technology Centre

The TIE-ENERGIA Programme

The Gender and Energy Audit is part of the TIE-ENERGIA project that aims, in 12 countries in Africa, at raising the awareness of planners, policy makers and practitioners to the gender aspects within energy. The project is supported by the European Commission COOPENER Programme with co-funding from the Swedish Government. Besides Botswana, Gender and Energy Audits are planned in two other African countries: Senegal and Kenya.

TIE-ENERGIA builds on the existing network, ENERGIA-Africa, a regional network on energy and gender that is part of ENERGIA, the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy. For more information and resources on TIE-ENERGIA and ENERGIA please visit the website www.energia-africa.org or contact May Sengendo, African Regional Coordinator, ENERGIA Africa Gender and Energy Network. Email: coordinator@energia-africa.org.

Training modules, manuals and other resources from TIE-ENERGIA are available at www.energia-africa.org.

TIE-ENERGIA programme: Turning Information into Empowerment: Strengthening Gender and Energy Networking in Africa.



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