

How Gender Audits can Improve Kenya's Policy Impacts

How do we make sure that both men and women benefit from sustainable energy services?

Can this be achieved by policy initiatives that deliver that deliver sustainable and affordable energy services for the nation?

Find out how gender analysis of policies and programmes can help reach energy gender and development targets!



Gender Audit Results

What is a gender audit?

A gender analysis of energy policies and related programmes and projects can provide substantial benefits, both for the direction of existing policies and for future planning. This is because a gender analysis determines who has access, control and who is positively or negatively impacted by the policy or programme and how the situation can be improved.

The objectives of a gender audit are to:

- Identify gender gaps in energy related policies and to formulate strategies to address these gaps at national level; and
- Make energy and gender issues visible to a wide audience through networking and advocacy initiatives in order to influence energy policies, programmes and projects.

The audit used a participatory approach for data collection with literature reviews, checks, interviews, gender analytical tools, case studies, focus groups, and workshops in order to conduct a comprehensive gender audit of energy policy, institutions and programmes in Kenya. The analysis and results assess gender issues in five thematic areas:

- a) Organization, management, programme and project issues;
- b) Gender and energy situation in Kenya;
- c) Energy policy;
- d) Energy access as crosscutting to achieving the MDGs and;
- e) Resources mobilization.



Why do we need a Gender Audit?

Recent experience has shown that women and men obtain, use and pay for energy in different ways:

- Domestic production and use of biomass is the main domestic cooking fuel.
- Commercial biomass activities such as charcoal and firewood trading are male activities.
- Some social structures, such as the land tenure system, inhibit access to biomass fuel for women.
- Indoor air pollution, due to inefficient cooking energy technologies, poses a serious health threat to women and children.

The gender audit of energy policies, programmes, institutions and projects in Kenya has helped stakeholders to understand the linkages between energy, gender and poverty and how gender mainstreaming in different energy needs and assets of men and women.

What did we learn from the Gender Audits?

The gender audit has shown some interesting and relevant findings:

Gender structuring and gender mainstreaming

- At a macro level there is political will in the mainstream gender as seen in the establishment of a Ministry of Gender, a Gender Policy, and inclusion of gender in Development Plans and a Bill of Rights.
- However, macro level gender intentions are not being translated into actions at the sectoral level.
- Institutional support for engendering energy policy is increasing but awareness of gender issues is still low.
- There are a few women in the top management positions in the energy sector.



and Action in Kenya

- There is a Gender Office in the Ministry of Energy but the position requires more focused activities and deliverables.
- The example of the Ministry of Agriculture is one that should be adopted as successfully mainstreaming gender into its activities.
- The limited availabilities of gender disaggregated data on energy development and use is a major factor against engendering the Energy policy.



Policy

The audit found that there is limited achievement in energy and gender mainstreaming in the Energy Policy, programmes and activities and concluded that the policy measures in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2004 on energy are “gender blind” because:

- The gender perspectives are not articulated in the policy document so it would be unlikely that gender issues would be considered relevant when planning small-scale rural and urban energy projects.
- There is no mention about what is to be done to eliminate gender disparities with respect to each policy measure.
- The vision statement, “To promote equitable access to quality energy services at least cost while protecting the environment” is unlikely to achieve equitable access if the historical gender biases are not explicitly addressed at a policy level.
- The property rights system, income disparities between men and women and household decision-making power, negative impact on women with respect to access to and control over productive economic resources including energy.
- Strict adherence to least cost criteria for energy supply while ignoring the socio-cultural dynamics can only increase energy poverty already experienced by women.

Resource Mobilization

- The energy budget (1998) includes ‘social dimension’ projects that are a top priority.
- Absence of gender disaggregated data to inform national energy budgets.
- Investment funding mainly goes to conventional energy projects and not the non-conventional services used by the majority of rural women.

What will we do now?

Recommendations and Actions

The Ministry of Energy will work towards:

- **Data:** creating a relationship with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to start establishing database of necessary gender disaggregated data.
- **Policy:** ensure that the action and implementation plans for the policy included activities to start mainstreaming gender.
- **Impact Assessments:** establishing criteria for Impact Assessment of programmes and project and monitor their effects on different gender groups.
- **Budget/ resources:** using gender budgeting tools in the energy sector.
- **Structuring/ Mainstreaming:** establishing clear mandate and terms of reference for the Gender Officer.



- **Energy and Gender Linkages:** coordinate information gathering and analysis to establish links between energy and gender policies/institutions/individuals/; set-up forums of stakeholders to encourage the engendering energy agenda.

What can you do?

The audit team who carried out the gender audit in Kenya are from the Ministry of Energy and the University of Nairobi, and were trained in gender analysis before starting work. Comments from the team as a result of the exercise, were: 'I realize that gender is not just about shouting that life is unfair for a woman but is about improving the situation for both men and women'

Implementing the recommendations arising from the audit will help deliver effective energy policy, programmes and projects and therefore increase and improve energy access to vulnerable men and women.

Gender Audit for other sector and policies should also be carried out order to gender mainstreaming in the Kenya.

For more Information:

For copies of the report and more information please contact:

Daniel Theuri and Lydia Muchiri

Practical Action-Eastern Africa

P.O. Box 39493-00623 Nairobi, Kenya

AAYMCA Building, Along State House Crescent, Off State House Avenue

Tel: +254(0)20 2713540/ 2715299 / 2719413. Fax: +254(0)20 2710083

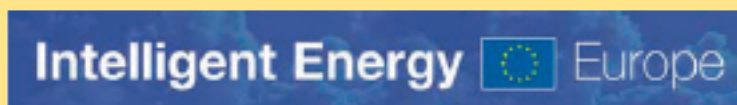
E-mail: kenya@practicalaction.or.ke

The TIE ENERGIA programme

The Gender and Energy Audit is part of the TIE-ENERGIA project that aims, in 12

Countries in Africa, to raise the awareness of planners, policy makes and practitioners to the gender aspects within the energy, through building skills including conducting gender audits and mainstreaming in the energy sector. Beside Kenya, Gender and Energy audits have been implemented in tow other African countries: Senegal and Botswana.

TIE-ENERGIA builds on the existing network, ENERGIA-Africa, a network on energy and gender that is part of ENERGIA, the International Network on Energy, Gender and Sustainable Energy. For more information and resources on gender please visit the website www.energia-africa.org or contact the ENERGIA Secretariat on co-ordinator@energia-africa.org.



The sole responsibility for the content of this flyer lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made for the information contained therein.