State of the Art on Gender and Energy
A Global Perspective

Sheila Oparaocha, 12 December 2016
ENGERGIA: International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

- International network set up in 1996
- Creating an institutional base for mainstreaming gender into the energy sector in developing countries
- Members in 22 countries
- Ongoing programmes in 12 countries in Africa and Asia

- Hosted by Hivos Foundation, an NGO based in the Netherlands
ENERGIA Programme Portfolio

- Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
- Women Economic Empowerment
- Gender and Energy Research
- Policy Influencing and Advocacy
- Communication & Knowledge Management

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Progress on made on gender and energy nexus but not enough to reach SEForALL objective of universal access to energy by 2030
Changing gender narrative in energy policy

- SDG 7 on energy recognised as an enabler to SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment
- SEforALL strategic framework & business plan moved from positioning women as victim/beneficiary to leader and change agents in the energy transition and committed to establishing an “gender and energy accelerator”
- “ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access”, 15 ECOWAS countries have committed to address existing barriers that hinder the equal participation of women and men in expanding energy access in West Africa
- Gender strategy required for climate investment funds
- Utilities implementing gender diversity polices for boards

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

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people unlimited
Key Findings, 1

- From a sample of 192 documents from 137 countries, nearly one-third of national energy frameworks include gender considerations to some extent.

- Of the frameworks that include gender considerations, cross-cutting gender issues related to time poverty, lack of electrification in rural areas, women’s health and well-being, and underrepresentation in employment and decision-making across the energy sector are the most prominently found themes.
For the first time cooking set on equal footing as electricity

### SDG7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

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<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.1 Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services</td>
<td>7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity</td>
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<td>7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology</td>
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<td>7.2 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix</td>
<td>7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption</td>
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<td>7.3 Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency</td>
<td>7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and gross domestic product (GDP)</td>
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<td>7a Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology</td>
<td>7.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the $100 billion commitment</td>
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<td>7b Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support</td>
<td>7.b.1 Investments in energy efficiency as a percentage of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services</td>
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More actors engaged in the gender and energy space

- ENERGIA: Scaling up energy Access through Women Economic Empowerment
- SEWA
- TERI Lighting a Billion Lives
- USAID: Promoting Women's Critical Role in Clean Energy Solutions to Climate Change (wPOWER)
- ESMAP Gender: Social Inclusion in the Energy Sector
- IUCN Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities (GECCO)
- GACC Women Empowerment Fund
- EU Women and Sustainable Energy
- UN Women & UNEP joint programme on Women’s Sustainable Energy, Entrepreneurship and Access
- Cavert Foundation- million
- Power Africa – women in power
- MCC – Gender and Social Inclusion
- ADB-Going beyond the meter
Targeted programmes to strengthen women economic development in energy value chains

Engaging women can help generate demand, create appropriate products, and increase adoption.

As producers, women become experts in the products they use regularly and are likely to further help generate awareness and demand among a wider cadre of consumers.

When diverse finance options are available to purchase expensive products, consumer have more purchasing power and are able to consider higher-priced, but better quality options.

Women-led businesses have direct access to consumers and can expand access to a variety of clean cooking products. They are often unable to obtain loans or connect directly with investors, and need training to support their business and its growth.

Women have access to hard-to-reach households, can utilize woman-to-woman marketing techniques, and are trusted promoters of household products among their peers.

Woman-to-woman knowledge transfer in maintenance is often more effective than man-to-woman knowledge transfer, particularly in conservative communities.
Women’s employment in RE sector

- Existing data indicates that although women are underrepresented in the energy sector workforce, renewable energy is showing better than the sector average for women’s employment (IRENA, 2016).

- Women represent an average 35% of the workforce, significant finding, considering women only account for 20 - 25% of the workforce in the overall energy industry (Stevens et al., 2009).

- Yet the percentage remains lower than women’s economy-wide share in employment, which is 40 - 50% for most OECD countries (World Bank, 2016).
Building the evidence of value addition of gender approaches to scaling up energy access

- ENERGIA Gender and Energy research programme
- GACC Gender and Cooking Energy Research
- Gold Standard and World Bank: Monetizing the Health, Climate and Gender Co-Benefits of Efficient, Clean Cooking and Heating
- Ashden Research on Building the evidence on energy access and women
- WHO Monitoring SDG Target 7.1, Indicator 7.1.2
- Shell Foundation gender approaches in energy access supply chain
Gaps still exist: Cooking still left behind

In 2012, 2.9 billion people primarily used solid fuels for cooking.

- **4.3 million deaths** a year from household air pollution—the largest environmental risk factor for disease
- Accounts for **over half of childhood pneumonia deaths** (the largest cause of death in children under 5 years)
- A major cause on NCDs (e.g. **COPD**, heart disease, stroke, lung cancer)
- Exposure linked with other health outcomes including **other cancers** (e.g. cervical), adverse pregnancy outcomes, cataract, & tuberculosis
Gaps still exist: Cooking still left behind

-6% 2010 - 2012
-9%
Significant rural and urban divide on electricity access & of course power cuts

Four times as many people gained access in urban than rural areas

- 80% Share of electrification progress in urban areas
- 20% Share of electrification progress in rural areas

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Very small proportion of ODA to the sectors of energy

Distribution of aid to women's economic empowerment by sector

Chart 3: Sectoral distribution of gender equality focused aid to the economic and productive sectors
% of total bilateral aid commitments, 2013-14, constant 2014 prices

- Agriculture and rural development: 43%
- Banking and business: 17%
- Transport and storage: 12%
- Energy: 9%
- Other: 19%

Aid to women’s economic empowerment USD 8.8 billion
Lack of gender and energy evidence

• Global Tracking Framework has not included gender and energy nexus in its 2016 work portfolio as it claims evidence is still antidotal, conceptual and not robust (communication from GFT to ENERGIA, Nov 2016)

• Most of the research related to gender and energy has focused on energy access with very little specific attention to the other two pillars of SE4ALL energy efficiency and renewable energy (Clancy, 2016)
National energy policy include vague gender objectives

• Gender in energy policy are often formulated as either vague objectives that are difficult to measure or narrow, practical and welfare-oriented objectives, rather than directly promoting women’s rights or empowerment, and are not integrated into a comprehensive gender framework (Karekezi and Wangeci, 2005).

• Gender machinery limited engagement in energy sector (ENERGIA, 2016)

• Interventions have focused away from capacity (ENERGIA, 2016)

• development of energy decision makers & practitioners

• Women association and parliamentarians not targeted as policy makers (ENERGIA, 2016)
Women concentrated in the lowest-paid positions

Both the fossil fuel-based and RE global workforce represents a vertically and horizontally gender-stratified labor market, with women concentrated in the lowest-paid positions, closest to the most menial and tedious aspects, and furthest from the creative design of technology and the authority of management or policymaking (Baruah, 2015).
Going to scale: Action Areas

1. Build empirical evidence to shape policy agenda
2. Build capacity of energy and gender practitioners
3. Scale up we and GM programmes
4. Engage with climate finance instruments
5. Increase ODA to gender equality
6. Enable policies environment

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Thank you