Gender mainstreaming in Energy Sector

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This presentation

- Gender-energy-poverty nexus
- Why does gender and energy not appear in poverty programmes?
- How can we promote women’s issues in the energy sector?
- Achieving gender goals
- Getting the policy environment right counts

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Poverty and Energy
Poverty and Energy

- Poverty is the focus of development
- What are the energy dimensions of poverty?
  - Poor households use more biomass in low efficiency equipment
  - Collection is often by human physical effort
  - Health implications (eye & lung disease; spine damage; hygiene)
  - Little access to modern clean energy forms
Energy access situation in developing countries

Population without access to modern fuels

Share of population in developing countries without access to modern fuels (2007)
Energy access situation in developing countries

Population without access to electricity

Share of people without electricity access for developing countries, 2008
Poverty and energy has a gender dimension
Why gender matters in energy

- Women & men have different energy needs linked to their gender roles
- Women bear the main burden of biomass collection
- Women’s invisible human energy crisis
- Women are time poor
- Women are general disadvantaged compared to men from same group:
  - Women have less access to credit etc.
  - Women & men have different knowledge
  - Women & men experience energy poverty differently
Energy as opportunity

Energy as a constraint

- Increased income/wellbeing/sustainable resource use
  - Community sustainable management of forests
  - Energy entrepreneurship – community services and income
  - Increased energy efficiency increases income
  - Energy as stimulus to new businesses

- Increased vulnerability and food insecurity

- Threatens wellbeing
  - Lack of transport and storage for crops
  - Impedes development of services
  - Insufficient fuel for cooking and boiling water

- Women are recognised as key to family and community well-being and food security (cf MDGs)
Four important reasons for focusing on women in energy

- Women’s role to provide household energy for cooked food, boiled water and warmth
- Impacts of biomass collection & use on women’s health
- Women’s income generation needs clean energy which contributes to their empowerment and family well-being
- Women are recognised as key to family and community well-being and food security (cf MDGs)
Indoor Air Pollution

Premature deaths per year associated with kitchen smoke

- Malaria: 1.2 million
- Smoke from biomass: 1.3 million
- Tuberculosis: 1.6 million
- HIV/AIDS: 2.8 million

Source: WHO (2006), and World Energy Outlook 2006
The other health implications of biomass collection and use

- Skeletal effects as result of lifetime’s daily headloading of 20kg fuelwood?
- Sexual harassment?
- IAP & HIV/AIDs?
- IAP & malaria?

There is virtually no data on any of these!

(PhD research in South Africa – M Matinga)

Despite links with MDGs
Energy, health & MDGs

- Indirect positive health affects linked to adequate energy (although causality difficult to establish due to many other contributing factors)
- Proper cooking of food (nutrition)
- Boiling water or pumping from safe sources - diarrhoea and parasites
## Improving women’s wellbeing through energy & links to MDGs

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Why do these issues receive so little attention?
Energy policy is gender neutral in theory
Energy policy is gender blind in practice

- Why?
  
  *There’s no gender mainstreaming into energy policy*

- Why?
  
  *No data - no visibility; no visibility – no interest*
  
  *No interest – no ownership*
  
  (Ministry for women? Energy? Finance (PRSPs)?)
Why?

- There’s a lack of understanding from both energy and gender specialists on how to mainstream gender into energy policies and programmes.
- Botswana’s Energy Policy was referred back from cabinet because there was no gender component.
An example of top-down energy policy formulation

- Over 35 energy sector actors consulted, 50% - government, 25% - parastatals; 25% private sector entities.
- Mainly male, technical background
- Women’s Affairs Department not involved – even though invited
- Only “women’s need” identified was IAP
Why?

- Lack of understanding “how to do it”
- There is no local level representation min of energy – although decentralisation policies changing this eg Uganda
- No participatory data gathering
- Lack of women’s voice at all levels
What bottom-up energy planning can show

- 6 villages in Sudan in different ecological regions using PRA found considerable gender variations in basis of livelihoods, needs & priorities
  eg ♂ (tractors): ♀ (mobile phones)
- Fuel was not always main priority – household water
- Variation in LPG availability
What bottom-up energy planning can show

Case: Gender, energy, small scale production
- El Ga’a (North Kordofan) – produces salt
- Traditionally ♀ evaporated salt using biomass
- Earned considerable income, influential status in household
- Energy engineer introduced solar evaporator to solve smoke issue
- Result: ♂ have displaced ♀; ♀’s status declined
What bottom-up energy planning can show

- Variation
- The unexpected
- The unintended
- Energy isn’t always first priority

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Solutions?

- Cross-sectoral collaboration (e.g., energy, water, health)
- Involvement of gender specialist in project identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring & energy
- Participatory process to increase women’s voice – but has to be more than a numbers game
  - Reserved seats for women (India, Bangladesh) – needs ♂ and ♀ capacity built for ♀’s self-confidence and space to speak
  - Separate ♂ and ♀’s committees (Nepal)
How can we promote gender mainstreaming in the energy sector?
Getting the policy environment right counts

Engendering institutions

Identifying entry points in projects
Engendering Energy Policy
Engendering energy policy: enabling environment

Findings from commissioned research for ENERGIA (S Africa & Uganda) key components:

- Political commitment *translated into financial commitment*
- Gender legislation in place
- Institutional support
Next steps: institutions
Engendering institutions

- Too few women graduates with appropriate backgrounds
  

- Critical mass of gender sensitive women and men

- Gender sensitive employment policies beginning to emerge in private sector eg Ghana (evidence from ENERGIA Gender audit)
  
  Toyola – cookstoves – target 300,000 per year
  
  Aim to recruit - 40 female agents
  
  Took time to get ♀ and ♂ to work together
Engendering institutions: approaches

- Awareness-raising of different stakeholders
  - Capacity-building
  - Advocacy
  - Networks
- Representation/Participation in policy making
- Data gender disaggregated
- Gender organisational audits
Next steps: projects
Energia’s experience identifying viable entry points for gender mainstreaming in energy projects

1. A deliberate gender strategy (Uganda);
   The policy and/or institutional environment supported energy policies and programmes favourable to women’s needs (South Africa, Himachal Pradesh, eastern and southern Africa);

2. A community-based organization in which women already actively participated was involved in the project (Philippines, microhydro site; Sri Lanka, decentralised site); Past experience

3. Existing or changing gender relations in the society leading to high value for women’s labour and favoured women’s equal participation in the energy intervention (Philippines, PV battery-charging site; Mosuo, Yunnan);

4. Industry objectives coincided with women’s interests (US rural electrification). Serendipity
Energy for micro-enterprises

- Many of women’s informal sector activities are energy-intensive: food processing, fish smoking, baking, beer-brewing, restaurants, pottery, salt extraction...
- Labour- and effort-intensive, tiring, unhealthy & dangerous.
- Critical source of income to families, even when part-time & seasonal.
- Women need improved clean energy access to increase profitability, improve safety/health and save labour in income-earning activities.
Energy impact on micro-enterprises

- Severely affected by rising energy costs & fuel shortages.
- Affects costs of inputs including energy
Gender, energy, urban areas

- Nigeria Abuja 2005
  10kg fuelwood bundle increased from 80 naira (≈35cent) to 100 naira (≈44cent)

- Brazil – Salvador
  ♂ income – making food at home – take by bus to business district to sell – diesel price increased – reduced frequency of trips
Supporting women entrepreneurs with clean energy access

- **UNDP & APPROTEC: Ambulant Food Vendors: Energy-Efficient Stoves and Hygienic, Healthy Food – A Pilot Project for the Urban Entrepreneurial Poor in the Philippines**
- Training business skills, such as record keeping and auditing; loans for new carts
- City Health Office Health Card – clear of transmittable diseases eg tuberculosis. Boosts customers
- Efficient charcoal stove – up to 70% saving (equivalent daily minimum wage)
Women can also be energy entrepreneurs: Overcoming prejudice

- Women can do maintenance and repair; meter reading – they can enter women’s spaces where men can’t (Bangladesh – helped increase utility income)
- Women can run technical companies (technical education isn’t necessary – think of CEOs of big energy companies!)
  - S Africa policy to encourage black women to become involved in oil sector
  - ♂employ ♀(Solar Sisters in Nepal assemble solar systems)
  - ♂employ ♂(Mali multifunctional platform)
- If issue of physical strength is raised – think about the daily loads of fuelwood and water women carry!
Giving the energy sector a female face
Overcoming prejudice

- Building a critical mass
- Promoting technical education – why did “socialist countries” have higher percentage women engineers?
- Working with schools – special workshops; science days for girls
- Champions – role models - mentors
- Offering scholarships – university education (Norway); conversion courses
- Conscious policy to recruit women (utilities El Salvador, Argentina, S Africa) – seeing benefits to organisation of employing women
- EU Electricity Industry & Canada – strength in diversified workforce - contributions people make as capable individuals rather than as members of designated groups
Giving the energy sector a female face
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Keeping them there

- Childcare provision (change in demographics; change in aspirations)
- Practical provision eg toilets
Closing remarks

- Gender mainstreaming in the energy sector is late developing because stakeholders are not aware of the need and benefits – even if they are they don’t know how to.
- Capacity building is the key – the tools and experience are available.
- Three entry points: policy environment, institutions and projects.