
Gender Assessment

FP105: BOAD Climate Finance Facility to Scale Up Solar Energy Investments in Francophone West Africa LDCs

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BOAD Climate Finance Facility to Scale Up Solar Energy
Investments in Francophone West Africa LDCs

**Annex 3: Gender
Assessment**

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1. Introduction

Within the context of the six target countries, issues relating to gender equality remain an on-going challenge, even more so when it comes to energy access, poverty and affordability. While regional and national policy frameworks have existed for some time, the incorporation of women's needs and demands into energy development is absent or incomplete, and the sector remains largely male-dominated at the technical and decision-making level. While issues with regards to energy access and affordability impact the lives of both men and women, women are disadvantaged compared to their male counterparts and disproportionately suffer from low electricity access, energy insecurity and climate change. This is exacerbated in the context of women-headed households, where women miss out on the opportunity to contribute to their community because of their obligation to the household energy supply. Women in rural and isolated contexts incur even greater personal and social costs, spending several hours a day fetching wood for their cooking needs while having no or little access to electricity. Further, within the energy sector, a significant gender gap exists between men and women, with women not being seen as on par with men, resulting in fewer women technicians. The consequences of low or no electricity access, energy insecurity and unaffordability for women broadly include, but are not limited to:

- Limited capacity for professional development and fewer opportunities to be competitive in the job market, due to fewer numbers of girls enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- Inability to progress from traditional roles of women, particularly in the household where women are responsible for fetching wood for cooking
- Negative impacts on women's health: cooking fumes, inaccessibility of health care without electricity etc.
- Lower income and welfare compared to men and men-headed households
- Lower education levels
- Marginalisation of women from political and social life

The six countries targeted by the proposed programme show low to very low rankings in terms of both the Gender Inequality Index (GII) and the Human Development Index (HDI), as seen in Table 1 below. As of 2017, Mali scored the lowest of all target countries for Gender Inequality with a ranking of 157, while Togo scored the highest with 140, although this ranking is still among the lowest in the world. With regards to human development, all target countries are ranked very low, from 163 for Benin to 189 in Niger. These poor rankings show that social development inclusive of gender considerations will help advance human and economic development as a whole. Adversely, low social and gender development levels will hamper economic and human development. Indeed, as women represent around half of the total population in target countries (See Table 2), it is economic and political non-sense not to include them at every step of project development, and in particular in the context of energy interventions.

Table 1: Gender Inequality Index and Human Development Indicator by country

Country	Gender Inequality		Human Development	
	Index (GII)	Ranking	Index (HDI)	Ranking
Benin	0.611	146	0.515	163
Burkina Faso	0.610	145	0.423	183
Guinea-Bissau	N/A	N/A	0.455	177
Mali	0.678	157	0.427	182
Niger	0.649	151	0.354	189
Togo	0.567	140	0.503	165

Source: UNDP data, 2017

Data for women-headed households in the targeted countries is scarcely available, but the data that is available shows quite an important share of households with a woman head in Burkina Faso (11.8% in 2014), in Mali (5.3%) and a significant share of women-headed households in Togo (27.5% in 2014)¹. Households with a woman head must be taken into account in energy interventions because they have different needs and challenges than men-headed households. For example, the woman head will be responsible for the household's energy supply as well as the income, as opposed to men-headed households where the man will be in charge of bringing an income to the household. This means that the lack of energy access and/or energy insecurity impacts women-headed households disproportionately compared to men-headed households, as less time is available for them to generate an income, which is further hampered in the event of energy/electricity deficiency. Women-headed households are therefore more at risk of poverty than men-headed households, with fewer means to alleviate their situation.

Table 2: Total population disaggregated by sex

Country	Total population	Population, male (% of total)	Population, female (% of total)
Benin	11,175,692	49.9	50.1
Burkina Faso	19,193,382	49.9	50.1
Guinea-Bissau	1,861,283	49.2	50.8
Mali	18,541,980	50.0	50.0
Niger	21,477,348	50.1	49.9
Togo	7,797,694	49.8	50.2

Source: World Bank, 2017

In the six target countries, gender inequalities evidently affect more women than men. For example, when analysing key indicators on gender inequality (See Table 3), the results show that women are socially, economically and politically more disadvantaged than men. Maternal mortality ratios are high in all target countries, ranging from 368 deaths per 100,000 live births in Togo to 549 in Guinea-Bissau. Across all gender inequality key indicators, Togo has the most favourable scores, while scores from Mali show the greatest gender disparities.

On average in all six target countries, one-quarter of seats in parliament are held by women, while as little as 10% of all women have some secondary education. The share of the male population with at least secondary education is around 20%, which is twice that of women but still low in light of the region's developmental challenges. Labour force participation rates also show important disparities, with the greatest difference recorded in Mali with female labour force participation showing a 21.7 point low compared to a male labour force participation of 82.5. These results derive from the traditional roles culturally assigned to women, who lack opportunities to go to school and later are responsible for providing the household with an energy supply for cooking. Similarly, adolescent birth rates over the period 2015-2020 represent around 120.8 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 on average in the target countries. These rates adversely impact women's access to secondary and tertiary education, which explains the significant differences in the share of population with at least some secondary education. For example, in Togo, which scores the highest compared to other target countries, the share of men with at least some secondary education is 52.5%, double that of women with 26.3%.

¹ World Bank data

Table 3: Key indicators on gender inequality in target countries

	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	Share of seats in parliament (% held by women)	Population with at least some secondary education (% ages 25 and older)		Labour Force participation rate (% ages 15 and older)	
	2015	2015-2020	2017	Female 2010-2017	Male 2010-2017	Female 2017	Male 2017
Benin	405	86.1	7.2	18.2	32.7	69.7	73.1
Burkina Faso	371	104.3	11	6	11.7	58.2	75.2
Guinea-Bissau	549	84.5	13.7	N/A	N/A	65.6	78.1
Mali	587	169.1	8.8	7.3	16.4	60.8	82.5
Niger	553	192	17	4.3	8.9	67.5	90.7
Togo	368	89.1	17.6	26.3	52.5	75.8	79.4
Average target countries	472	120.8	25.7	10.3	20.3	66.2	79.8

Source: UNDP data

Therefore, gender equality remains an ongoing challenge in West Africa. In addition, as energy poverty affects men and women differently, mainstreaming gender in energy development is necessary to accommodate for the differences in the energy needs of men and women at the community and household level. For energy interventions to be effective, the programme must be tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries. Therefore, women need to be actively engaged in the processes of intervention to produce effective and inclusive results.

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Regional strategic context

Promoting gender equality and incorporating gender considerations has become a key objective of the ECOWAS region in recent years. The region, in cooperation with ECREEE and developmental partners, has drafted the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOWGEN), which was launched in 2013 and effectively implemented in 2015. This marks the recognition of women's different needs and challenges in terms of energy access, affordability and security and the region's commitment to reducing the gender gap both in general and specifically in the energy sector. The policy framework was conceived on the basis that the integration of a gender dimension into energy access challenges will enable the region to achieve both the SE4ALL and SDGs objectives by 2030. A specific gender policy framework for the WAEMU region is currently under development². Fig. 1 below shows the 5 selected SDGs that are linked to gender equality and clean energy development in the target countries.

Figure 1: Selected SDGs linked to gender equality and clean energy development



BOAD also highlights the necessity to strengthen women economic empowerment as a key element of sustainable development (BOAD, 2012), with a word of caution. The Bank recognises that differences between women's groups must be carefully taken into account in the formulation and implementation of energy projects. Although women as whole face the same difficulties in terms of energy access and how society defines them, the extent of the impacts of such difficulties can vary across different women's groups based on factors such as social status, race, or the socio-cultural group women belong to. As BOAD puts it, "activities oriented toward a non-differentiated "women" category can serve the cause of some women and, at the same time, harming others" (BOAD, 2012, p. 19)

The ECOWAS Program on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access was accompanied by the ECOWAS Gender Strategy 2010-2020, developed in close cooperation with ECREEE. The strategy has the objective to promote favourable policy environments and to support institutional frameworks and resource mobilisation in order to more fully engage women in all areas of the energy access equation, including as energy suppliers, planners, financiers, educators and customers (ECOWAS, Situation Analysis Report on Energy and Gender Issues, 2015). The Strategy lays out five strategic objectives to be achieved by 2030, according to its vision of a world where men and women shall enjoy equal access to modern energy services that is easily available, affordable and contribute to high levels of standards of living and economic development (ECOWAS, 2015, p. 7). The table below lays out these five strategic objectives.

² According to <http://www.oecd.org/swac/topics/gender.htm>

Table 4: ECOWAS strategic objectives for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

Strategic objectives	Targets
1. Achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of energy sector government employees will have received some relevant training by 2020 (and routinely thereafter) 50% of citizens will have been exposed to some form of relevant public service announcement by 2020 growing to 90% by 2030 At least 50 new scientific articles about gender and energy in West Africa published in peer-reviewed scientific journals by 2020, and 20 per year after that
2. Ensure that all energy policies, programmes and initiatives, including large energy infrastructures and investments, are non-discriminatory, gender-inclusive, gender-balanced and directed towards addressing inequalities, particularly energy poverty, which affects men and women in the region differently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of energy policies by 2020 and 100% by 2030 will be gender-sensitive 50% of energy projects, programmes, and initiatives with government participation will include gender dimensions in planning, implementation, analysis, and evaluation by 2020, rising to 100% in 2030
3. Increase women's public sector participation in energy-related technical fields and decision-making positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 25% women in the public sector energy workforce by 2020 and an equal (50-50) gender balance by 2030
4. Ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to enter and succeed in energy-related fields in the private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 25% women participation in energy-related fields in the private sector by 2020 and an equal (50-50) gender balance by 2030, as determined through statistically rigorous random sampling
5. Establish and maintain a gender responsive monitoring, accountability and review framework for objectives 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% percent compliance by 2017 in the monitoring, accountability and review framework

Source: ECOWAS (2015) Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

The Framework constitutes a benchmark and guideline for member states to incorporate gender considerations and safeguards in energy Ministries and overall country policy frameworks. Although target countries have made progress in terms of energy access as a whole, much remains to be done to incorporate the gender dimension in national policy frameworks. Table 5 below provides an overview of energy and gender linkages in country policies in target countries.

Table 5: Energy and Gender linkages in national policy frameworks in target countries

	National Energy Policy	Renewable Energy Policy	Energy Efficiency Policy	Gender Dimension in Energy Policies	National Gender Policy	Energy Linkage in Gender Policy	Gender Focal Point or Unit in Ministry of Energy	Gender Focal Point or Unit at Agency Level	Gender audit of Energy Sector
Benin	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Burkina Faso	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Guinea-Bissau	N/A	✗	✗	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mali	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Niger	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Togo	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

Source: ECOWAS (2015) Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access

Other key initiatives supporting and complementing the ECOWAS Programme on Gender and Energy Access include: the Mano river Union (MRU) Framework Action Plan, the West African Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA), the ECOWAS Federation on Business Women and Entrepreneurs (FEBWE), the Gender and Energy Program of the Africa Renewable Energy Access Program (AFREA) and the UNDP Multifunctional Platform Program. This array of frameworks and institutions show the region’s commitment to bridging the gender gap in energy access, and fulfilling women’s potential as energy suppliers, purchasers and producers. Ultimately, an energy programme or project which does not take into consideration the differences in gender roles as constructed by the society cannot effectively meet the needs of both men and women and will, ultimately, not lead to sustainable energy for all.

2.2 National strategic context

Inclusive participation in target countries remains an ongoing challenge. Gender inequality persists, as women are under-educated and generally have a lower socio-economic status, with inadequate access to basic social services and reduced economic opportunities compared to men (ECREEE, 2018). Female participation in education, particularly higher education, remains disproportionately low, as seen in Section 1. While gender discrimination is widespread, these issues tend to be more pronounced in rural areas. The following table summarises key aspects of gender inequality and inclusive participation in relation to the energy sector in each target country.

Table 6: Gender and Energy linkages in the target countries

Country	Gender and Energy linkages
Benin	<p>The Government has adopted several policies and action plans to promote gender equality and has signed on to key international and regional framework agreements protecting women’s rights. In 2007, the GoB adopted the National Gender Policy promoting gender equality, women’s empowerment and improved social protection, including improvements to gender inequality in education and training. The National Policy for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2009–2016) included specific targets for gender equality by 2025. Like many countries in the region, Benin has two parallel and overlapping judicial codes – one based on Western, mainly French, systems and one based on traditional systems. Under the Western system, women’s rights are reasonably protected, and Benin is a signatory to most of the major international conventions on women’s rights. Under the traditional code, however, while there is variation among ethnic groups, women often do not share the same freedoms as men.</p> <p>In the energy sector, efforts have been made to implement measures under the regional framework, ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, as well as at the national level. Gender mainstreaming in the country’s energy policy requires capacity building of staff and the implementation of gender management systems at the institutional level to provide guidance on gender responsive leadership and decision making. As part of this process, the Government has established a gender focal point at the Ministry of Energy to promote inclusive participation for women in the energy sector.</p> <p>Under its newly developed off-grid regulatory framework (EHR), Benin has emphasised gender mainstreaming and social inclusion, encouraging project developers eligible to receive funding under the OCEF facility to take gender and social impact aspects into account in their project design. This includes an analysis of the project’s implications for each target population group (men, women, youth, disadvantaged) at each stage of the project lifecycle along with corresponding corrective measures that will be implemented if the project does not benefit all groups fairly. Developers receiving assistance from OCEF are required to (i) commit to implementing certain gender and social measures; (ii) assess these issues in the project’s area; and (iii) include indicators in the system operation monitoring plan.</p>
Burkina Faso	<p>Burkina Faso has adopted several policies to promote gender equality. In 2009, the Government established a National Gender Policy (Politique Nationale De Genre), a dedicated ministry – the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family – as well as a National Council (Conseil National pour la promotion du Genre) to promote gender equality</p>

	<p>and develop several action plans and related programmes to advocate for gender inclusion. The existing national plan is the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Développement Durable, “SCADD”), which was adopted in 2010. The SCADD recognises the importance of gender in the country’s development and promotes gender mainstreaming and inclusive participation for women in the public and private sectors. As a result, FDE/ABER has considered gender aspects in all the projects implemented.</p> <p>In the energy sector, efforts have been made to implement measures under the regional framework, ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, as well as additional gender policies at the national level. The Government has included references and linkages to gender in its energy policies and has established a gender focal point at the Ministry of Energy. Despite these efforts, gender mainstreaming in the country’s energy policy remains insufficient and requires capacity building of staff and the implementation of gender management systems at the institutional level to provide guidance on gender responsive leadership and decision making. Across the energy sector, there are very few women-led businesses and women professionals in senior-level positions. In the off-grid space, NGOs like the Women Environmental Programme are working to promote gender equality.</p>
Guinea-Bissau	<p>Under the Guinea-Bissau Constitution, men and women are equal before the law. The Government has even adopted a National Gender Policy (Política Nacional para a Promoção da Igualdade e Equidade de Género 2012–2015) to promote gender equality and economic opportunities for women. The Strategic and Operational National Action Plan “Terra Ranka” within the Strategy for Poverty Reduction Document (DENARP II, 2013) also includes gender equality measures. Among other initiatives, the Government has also established an Institute for Women and Children, IMC (Instituto da Mulher e Criança), the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Cohesion, and the Peace Building Fund’s “Gender Promotion Initiative.” Unfortunately, gender inequality persists throughout the nation especially in rural areas where customary and religious practices tend to supersede state policies and laws.</p> <p>In the energy sector, efforts have been made to implement measures under the regional framework, ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, as well as at the national level. Gender mainstreaming in the country’s energy policy requires capacity building of staff and the implementation of gender management systems at the institutional level to provide guidance on gender responsive leadership and decision making. As part of this process, the Government has established a gender focal point at the Ministry of Energy to promote inclusive participation for women in the energy sector.</p>
Mali	<p>The Government has adopted policies and action plans to promote gender equality. Mali has signed on to several key international frameworks and regional agreements related to gender equality. The GoM has established a Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and the Family as well as a National Gender Policy that endorses gender equality and the improvement of rights for women. The National Policy also includes gender-mainstreaming provisions and actions to be taken by 15 government ministries, including those involved in the management of public employment.</p> <p>The Government has also made attempts to address gender equality in the energy sector. The National Director of Energy is a woman; moreover, AMADER has created a joint Gender and Energy Program in partnership with the UN and the World Bank called ‘SHER’ (Hybrid Rural Electrification Systems), aimed at increasing access to productive energy for women in rural areas. The Government has also established a gender focal point at the Ministry of Energy and has taken additional measures under the regional framework, ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, to further improve inclusive participation for women in the energy sector.</p>
Niger	<p>Niger has adopted several policies and action plans to promote gender equality and has signed on to key international and regional framework agreements protecting women’s rights. According to available data, Niger has ratified both the Convention on the</p>

	<p>Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Optional Protocol on violence against women (2004). They signed but have not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. In 2008, the Ministry of the Advancement of Women and Child Protection (le Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Protection de l'Enfant) developed and implemented a National Gender Policy that promoted rights and economic opportunities for women.</p> <p>In the energy sector, efforts have been made to implement measures under the regional framework, ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, as well as at the national level. Gender mainstreaming in the country's energy policy requires capacity building of staff and the implementation of gender management systems at the institutional level to provide guidance on gender responsive leadership and decision making. As part of this process, the Government has established a gender focal point at the Ministry of Energy to promote inclusive participation for women in the energy sector. The ECOWAS Federation on Business Women and Entrepreneurs (ECOWAS/FEBWE) is an initiative open to national federations/associations of business women and entrepreneurs from within the Community as well. Other initiatives such as the WAPP Master Plan includes provisions to address gender disparities in Niger's energy sector. The Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) includes four high level objectives pertaining to gender equality.</p>
Togo	<p>Togo has adopted several policies and action plans to promote gender equality and has signed on to key international and regional framework agreements protecting women's rights. These include ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. A General Directorate for the Advancement of Women has existed since 1977, a Ministry for the Promotion of Women was established in 2010, and a National Policy on Gender Equality and its corresponding Action Plan were adopted in 2011. Despite these policy initiatives, the level of participation among women remains very low, especially in rural areas where customary and religious practices tend to supersede state policies and laws.</p> <p>In the energy sector, efforts have been made to implement measures under the regional framework, ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, as well as at the national level. Gender mainstreaming in the country's energy policy requires capacity building of staff and the implementation of gender management systems at the institutional level to provide guidance on gender responsive leadership and decision making. As part of this process, the Government has undertaken a Gender Audit of its energy policy and established energy linkages in its gender policy. The GoT has also established a gender focal point at the Ministry of Energy to promote inclusive participation for women in the energy sector.</p>

Source: ECREEE (2018) *Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project, Regional Off-Grid Solar Market Assessment & Private Sector Support Facility Design, Country Reports, August.*

3. Objectives of the Programme

3.1 Gender and the energy sector

As access to affordable and clean energy is a prerequisite for economic empowerment and poverty reduction, gender inequalities limit economic opportunities for women and subsequently have significant negative impacts on their families and communities. Women's and men's needs and priorities for energy and access to energy resources often differ based on their roles and responsibilities in societies. This results in gender-differentiated impacts at the individual, household, community and project levels. Women and men enjoy different access and use of energy and benefits that derive from energy services. As explained above, women and girls tend to be disadvantaged compared to men and boys, and this can be exacerbated by poverty, intrinsic social and cultural norms, bias, discriminatory or blind policy frameworks, as well as political conflict and fragility. As a result, women and girls have little or no access to and control over how energy is accessed and/or used, their educational and professional opportunities and their own maternal and reproductive health. In 2018, ECREEE partnered with AfDB to launch a regional workshop to advance the participation of women in the renewable energy sector. The programme intends to address the lack of inclusion of women in the energy value chain as only 2% of energy sector entrepreneurs in West Africa today are women (ECREEE, 2018). The joint initiative ultimately seeks to develop a pipeline of investment-ready, women-owned energy businesses across the region.

Regarding women's employment in the energy sector, in the target countries and overall in West Africa, women suffer from gender occupational segregation, which means that women who are employed are often assigned to roles in the sales and service sector in roles covering retail, administration and HR, with lower salaries and fewer benefits than men. They are unable to integrate into more competitive and higher-paid jobs in the energy and construction sectors. The fact that women are disadvantaged compared to men with regards to economic opportunity and resource use results in them not having due access to energy and a lack of opportunities in the energy sector. Overall, males and females are not encouraged in equal measures to pursue studies, and eventually careers, in the energy sector. Specific constraints with regards to women's employment in the energy sector include but are not limited to:

- Insufficiently resources initiatives to promote female education in STEM fields
- Little targeted marketing of energy sector jobs and business opportunities for women
- Too few resources dedicated to gender sensitive adaptation of vocational, management and entrepreneurial training and outreach
- Gender equal capital flows to female entrepreneurs in the energy sector are too small and too concentrated in just a few sub-sectors
- Few incentives for the private sector to create a gender-balanced workforce (ECOWAS, 2015, p. 20)

At the consumer level, the challenges for gender equality are twofold: one is awareness about product availability, costs, benefits and maintenance; the other is ability to pay. The lack of female agency in households poses difficulties for the adoption of improved and cleaner energy in some settings. Gender equality at the consumer level requires that women be fully recognised as consumers, be economically empowered, and have equal agency. Specific constraints include:

- Many supply side agents still lack market intelligence about demand composition and gender aware sales techniques
- Remaining inefficiencies in the application of end-user finance and targeted subsidies, along with continued market impediments, affecting affordability
- Incomplete progress on achieving gender equality in household budgets, including earning power and agency in decision making

3.2 Gender and energy access

Improved access to modern, sustainable energy services can significantly reduce the time and labour burdens women are traditionally subject to, as well as improve the health conditions and opportunities for enterprise and capacity building in communities³. The provision of lighting in the household, for example, provides an opportunity for extended and/or flexible working hours, and therefore increases the time available

³ UNIDO (2014) Guide on Gender Mainstreaming

for income-generating activities, particularly for women who are time-constrained due to their household obligations (UNIDO, 2014). Similarly, labour-saving technologies such as power water wells, drip irrigation systems for agricultural production and post-production, such as grinding and milling, can result in significant time saved for women and enhance productivity. With electricity access, both men and women can engage in other income-generating activities, while boys and girls are free of household chores and can attend school. Without energy access, rural women and girls have to spend long hours performing subsistence tasks, such as collecting wood for cooking and heating, which constrains them from accessing decent employment, educational opportunities and livelihood-improving options. This also limits their opportunities for social and political interaction and involvement outside the household sphere (UNIDO, 2014).

Improving gender equality and social inclusion is therefore critical to fulfil the development impacts of energy projects. Tables 6 and 7 below lay out the various linkages between energy access, health and education.

Table 6: Selected energy access and health linkages

Energy services and end uses	Health outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incubation facilities for infants • Cold chain for vaccine, medicine, and blood bank refrigeration • Laboratory and diagnostic equipment • Powering medical equipment • Lighting surgery and examination rooms • Electricity for prevention and cure • Indoor lighting for examination, surgery, reading, ambient light and outdoor, including security lighting • Clean water supply • Water heating • Sterilisation • Energy services for health clinics and for housing doctors, nurses and clinic staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced child and adult mortality and morbidity • Improved maternal health • Reliable access to clean/safe drinking water • Enhanced communications (especially for emergencies) • Technologies and education for health data and information • Combat HIV, malaria and other diseases • Improved life expectancy • Improved health service delivery (staff retention, motivation and training, lab services and end uses) • Evening health training for local communities • Reduced fertility rates • Night birthing and safety • Cleaner living conditions at home

Source: ECREEE (2015) Situation Analysis Report on Energy and Gender Issues in ECOWAS

Table 7: Selected energy and education linkages

Energy services and end uses	Education outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity for lighting • Computers • Radios/TV • Telecommunications • Thermal energy for cooking (students and staff) • Water pumping • Energy efficient lighting and appliances • Electricity and modern fuel services both for schools and for teachers' housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty reduction • Income generation • Improved quality of education • Improved grades • Enhanced school enrolment/retention rates • Improved ability to attract and retain teachers and staff • Improved sanitation • Gender/balance equity • Facilities for evening classes and adult education

Source: ECREEE (2015) Situation Analysis Report on Energy and Gender Issues in ECOWAS

Lastly, improved electricity access, especially in rural and remote areas, can enhance security at the individual and community level. One example is street lighting, or lack of same, which results in increased violence (physical and/or sexual) against women and girls. Illuminated night markets, streets and other evening activities will have the potential to enhance women's participation in social contexts outside of the household while improving their security. Telecommunications in the event of political and social unrest or natural disasters can also be used to send alerts and information.

3.3 Benefits and challenges of on-grid renewable energy development

Benefits

The proposed programme will result in increased solar capacity in the target countries and improved affordability of energy services, which will enable energy access to a larger number of people, including women. Additionally, jobs in the operating, maintenance and support areas will be created during the construction and operation of solar power plants. Women's and children's health will be improved as a result of the use of cleaner and sustainable energy in the household, for cooking and lighting needs. Complementing Tables 6 and 7 above, the benefits of improved energy/electricity access through the development of on-grid renewable energy include, but are not limited to:

- Improved energy access will disproportionately benefit women as they are traditionally responsible for household tasks i.e. collecting wood
- Reduced gap in employment opportunities for men and women
- Positive impact on local economic dynamics due to the "construction boom", with increased number of employment opportunities for women
- Exposure to different standards of development, capacity building and skill strengthening
- Long-term change at the community level and spillover benefits due to the presence of the project for a long period of time
- Community development projects derived from increased clean energy access that alleviate poverty and increase choices for women
- Improved learning conditions for children and adults: extended reading hours, to enable children to do their homework
- Affordable electricity for a larger number of households, including women-headed households
- Positive impact on health thanks to the electrification of local health centres, and eliminating toxic fumes at the household level
- Overall availability of electricity that will benefit all members of the community, including women
- Street and public space lighting will result in reductions of violence against women and crime rates
- Possibility of training in solar energy for both men and women

Challenges

There are, however, potential negative effects that could occur during the development and construction of the projects, which could worsen the existing gender disparities and inequalities. This could be caused by the fact that access to benefits generated by the project i.e. compensation, employment, access to land and water etc, is subject to existing social relationships and hierarchies. For instance, as large-scale solar projects require an important land area, this could lead to conflict of interests over ownership and land use, governed by norms which typically limit women's access.

Indeed, existing gender disparities in energy poverty can be aggravated at the country, regional and local level, if energy access is expanded in a gender-blind manner. The benefits of on-grid expansion could apply disproportionately to men, thus reinforcing gender inequalities.

The project must therefore pursue gender gains in its investment activities and look at opportunities for female entrepreneurship, improvements in the representation of women in the labour force, and energy access for the poorest population groups – particularly women-headed households – in the target countries.

Other negative impacts could include:

- Lack of engagement of women that would result in no genuine engagement in the project development process
- Employment opportunities benefitting a selected few, excluding women to a large extent, thus increasing women's dependency on men as household income providers
- Inadequate, non-reflective representation in stakeholder consultations and contribution to local development plans
- Increase in physical and sexual violence against women around construction sites
- Risk of human trafficking
- Inequitable participation between men and women in decision-making and benefits flowing from the newly operating renewable services.

For each of the projects, stakeholders will ensure that thorough gender assessments will be carried out in order to establish a baseline and identify challenges and opportunities specific to the concerned communities. These will help avoid and/or minimise the potential negative impacts and enhance the positive impacts of the project with regards to women and women's groups.

4. Applicability of the Gender Assessment at the project level

The Gender strategy of the programme consists of this document (the Gender Assessment) and the accompanying Gender Action Plan. The Gender Strategy is consistent with international standards on gender equality and reflects the safeguards set out in BOAD's Gender Policy⁴. BOAD's Gender policy is designed with the dual objective of promoting the mainstreaming of gender issues in the operations of the Bank and to support the action undertaken by the member countries of the Bank for the achievement of equality between women and men. This dual objective entails:

- The integration of gender analysis in all projects, projects and policies of the Bank;
- The strengthening of cooperation relationships between men and women;
- The strengthening of women empowerment economically: a key element of sustainable development;
- The taking into account of the differences between women groups in the interventions of the Bank and
- Targeted interventions in the implementation of the strategy for the integration of gender issues.

The different needs and priorities of women and men in each individual project will also be assessed and taken into account within project-level Gender Assessment and Action Plans. The present Gender Assessment acts as an overview of the current gender situation in targeted countries, while the Programme's Gender Action Plan constitutes a safeguards benchmark laying out procedures, timings, and aspects which must be incorporated and mainstreamed in project design. Each project funded as part of the Programme will comply with the safeguards laid out in the present Gender Assessment and will follow the procedures specified in both the Gender Assessment and the Gender Action Plan, in addition to that of BOAD's Gender policy and national safeguards. Annual Monitoring and Evaluation requirements will ensure the sound application and mainstreaming of both frameworks at project-level.

At a project level, thorough Gender Assessments will be carried out using inputs from stakeholder consultations in order to incorporate and ensure the mainstreaming of needs and priorities of men, women and youth impacted by the project. As a result of stakeholder consultations and the assessment of gender-specific needs and priorities, a project-level Gender Action Plan will be developed to specify the specific interventions and/or activities that will be implemented in the project to address the identified vulnerabilities and enhance the mainstreaming of gender issues at every step of project planning and implementation.

4.1 Guidance on conducting stakeholder consultations, gender assessment and developing gender action plans

The general purpose of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) at project-level is to ensure the involvement of men and women in discussions about the project's activities, objectives and measures, in order to assess and analyse their respective roles and responsibilities as main actors and beneficiaries of the project. Stakeholder consultations must be carried out early on at the project design stage. The SEP constitutes a benchmark framework that sets out all relevant Grievance Response Mechanism and resettlement procedures, along with a project-level stakeholders matrix presenting all stakeholders and their affiliated roles, responsibilities, risk potential and level of impact by the project.

Based on the mapping of relevant stakeholders at project-level, and using the present Gender Assessment, field-based data collection and documentation must be conducted to define the specific risks and gender mainstreaming opportunities at project-level. Below is a non-exhaustive list of questions that can be asked to ensure knowledge gaps are appropriately bridged:

- How women, men and youth are differently affected by the project?
- Are project developers taking into account the different roles and responsibilities of women, men and youth?
- Are indicators in the Risk Mitigation Framework disaggregated by sex?

⁴ West African Development Bank (2012) Policy of the West African Development Bank in terms of Gender

- Are plans and procedures for resettlement gender sensitive?
- Are women included both as organisers and beneficiaries of the awareness-raising, training and capacity-building activities?
- Are men and women equally able to participate in decision-making processes?
- Are consultations and stakeholder's involvement gender sensitive?

To efficiently bridge those gaps, the hiring of a local gender expert and reaching out to local women groups and organisations is highly recommended. The affiliated costs must be mainstreamed in the project-level implementation budget.

The project-level Gender Action Plan sets out the targets, inputs, outputs and outcomes of each of the project's activities by component. It is derived from the project-level logical framework and must include all relevant indicators, targets, timelines and costs disaggregated by gender.

4.2 Designing the Gender Action Plan at project-level

As previously mentioned, the programme-level Gender Action Plan constitutes a framework of reference for designing monitoring and evaluation targets and milestones in order to determine true progress in mainstreaming gender considerations at the project-level. The design of the project-level Gender Action Plan must be done jointly with the monitoring and evaluation framework. The table below outlines five indicative key steps to be followed for the development of project-level gender action plans:

1. Provide a detailed breakdown of project activities to be monitored and evaluated for gender considerations	To design a gender action plan, the first step is to identify and design the phases of the intervention applying a gender-sensitive lens. The project team will have to ensure that all project activities include consultations with women's groups and other relevant stakeholders, that data collection is disaggregated by gender and that all pre-assessments incorporate relevant gender issues and considerations
2. Identify relevant indicators, data sources and tools to be used and/or develop, decide on the frequency of data collection	The focus of this step is for the project team and all relevant stakeholders to agree on the specific indicators to be included in the project-level results framework, the different data sources and the tools that would need to be developed/used to collect data as well as the frequency of data collection. A gender-sensitive The GAP would be developed to include indicators, outputs, outcomes and impacts of the project, aligned with the project-level log frame
3. Decide on evaluation methods	Evaluations methods should be based on project's priority areas and the data collected. A combination of quantitative and qualitative should be used, since some key dimensions cannot be captures using only quantitative data. Such qualitative data will be collected through stakeholder consultations.
4. Develop effective communication channels for monitoring data, and identify resources, constraints and opportunities with regards to monitoring	Monitoring and reporting requirements must be defined at project design phase to ensure data flows directly from the field to the project team. These requirements include the definition of responsibilities pertaining to data collection, documentation, checking and reporting.
5. Compile and combine the data gathered	The Monitoring and Evaluation framework and the Gender Action Plan outline the gender aggregated data to be used to determine the projects' impacts on men and women. Both frameworks should be integrated in the workplan and revised/updated if the projects' activities or objectives change. Progress should be reviewed regularly to make the necessary adjustments.