
Gender Assessment

FP106: Embedded Generation Investment Programme (EGIP)

South Africa | DBSA | B.22/07

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DBSA EMBEDDED GENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME:

GENDER ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Country	South Africa
Sector	Energy

1.1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the gender situation and key gender matters in South Africa. In addition the assessment also discusses gender issues that are relevant to the programme. This report used data collected from various sources, and the cited material can be provided upon request. In addition to the gender assessment, a gender action plan is also included in this assessment document.

1.2. Existing Gender Inequality

The World Bank's South Africa Economic outlook report (2016), revealed that South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world, and that currently there is insufficient economic growth. The share of national consumption between the richest and poorest remains stubbornly stable: 20% of the richest population accounted for over 61% in consumption in 2011 down from a high of 64% in 2006. Meanwhile, the bottom 20% have been seen remaining fairly constant at below 4.5% (Statistics South Africa 2014).

According to the World Bank report, access to finance is a major challenge for small businesses, and the main reason for this is the lack of suitable financial products offered by banks, and inadequate capacity of small business founders to present their funding needs to financial institutions. (World Bank South Africa Economic outlook, 2016). For women owned companies and organizations, access to finance is even more difficult to attain. As such the proposed credit enhancement mechanisms in EGIP should ensure that women led organizations and companies are effectively included in the process. The following section provides a synopsis of the breakdown of key societal issues in South Africa, in terms of gender split.

a) Poverty

The last decade has witnessed a marked increase in the number of people who are classified as poor across the world, including South Africa, where three –quarters or 71% of the rural households were found to be poor. Over three in five (61%) of African households are poor compared to 38% of coloured households, 5% of Indian and 1% of white. Poverty has placed the greatest stress on family units but also on women, children and young people. Statistics SA in their Vulnerability Indicator report (2016) indicates that approximately 10.3% of males in South Africa are vulnerable to hunger, as compared with 13.8% of females. So more females are likes to experience hunger than men.

Inequalities still exist among men and women, even though the South African national government has put in place some measures and programmes to allow for the empowerment of women. Women continue to experience the increasing deepening of a phenomenon called the feminization of poverty because of various other socio-economic factors such as the

gendered division of labour in the household, the low value accorded to women's work, and the concomitant clustering of women in low-paid jobs.

b) Education

The Vulnerability Indicator report (2016) by Statistics SA indicated that 86.7% of South African males are functionally literate, whereas only 84.1% of women in South Africa are functionally literate. 57.8% of women have education up until Matric level, as compared to 55.7% of men. As thus women still lack behind in terms of basic literacy levels as compared to men, even though the gap in this case is not significantly big.

c) Income and Labour force

The table below indicates that more men than women participate in the South African labour force, and the information obtained from Statistics SA indicates that this disparity is in both the formal and informal employment sectors. This then indicates the importance of uplifting women and capacitating them, thereby enabling them to be in a position to participate meaningfully in the economic and employment sector.

Region	Economic structure, participation and access to resources													
	labour force participation rate (% of population ages 15+)		labour Force participation rate, Youth (% ages 15-24)		Employment to population ratio (% ages 15+)		Unemployment rate (% of labour force ages 15+)		Account at financial institution (% ages 15+)		Mobile account (% ages 15+)		Saved any money last year (% ages 15+)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sub-Saharan Africa	64	77	51	56	58	71	9	7	25	33	10.3	12.8	58	62
South Africa	45	61	24	29	32	47	29	22	69	69	13.9	15	66	67
World	50	77	39	55	47	72	6	6	57	64	1.6	2.5	54	59

Source: World Development Indicators (2016). The little data book on Gender. World Bank group.

1.3. Legal and Administrative Framework Protecting Women and Protecting Gender Equality

South Africa achieved democracy in 1994. Central to this democracy was a commitment to equality, including gender equality and the empowerment of women. The founding principles of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa include human rights, equality and freedom for everyone in South Africa. Chapter 2: Section 9 of the South African Government's Constitution (Act 108 of 1996), emphasises the need for equality for all mankind within the country. According to this section of the constitution, there shall be no unfair discrimination against anyone on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc.

After 1994, the principle of gender equality influenced policy and legislation formulation in economic and development related areas such as access to employment, land, housing, water, health care and public works programme among others. Furthermore, the South African government developed and implemented key domestic development programmes with an overarching focus to address the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. These included inter alia, the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP); Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) Shared Growth Initiative –South Africa (ASGISA) and many others. These programmes have culminated in the master development plan for the country, namely the National Development Plan (NDP). Although these programmes, were meant to advance the country, they did not specifically focus on women, resulting therefore in the challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality continuing to impact negatively on women in particular.

Additional programmes such as the Presidential Infrastructure Coordination Commission (PICC) and Operation Phakisa and the Green Economy have been put in place with the sole aim of providing the much-needed jobs and grow the South African economy.

At an international scale, the South African Government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The South African Government also recognises the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and of the areas of concern under the Beijing Declaration, South Africa has prioritised the following:

- Women and poverty
- Women and education
- Women and economic empowerment
- Women in power and decision-making, and
- Improving the conditions and situation of the girl child

At a regional scale, South Africa is a signatory to the SADC Declaration on Gender

However, there is a concern that even with the various programmes and strategic plans and documentation in place, the advancement and upliftment of women across various sectors in South Africa is still lacking.

1.4. Gender issues in response to EGIP

In tackling the challenge of poverty and inequalities, the South African government has put in place several programmes that are aimed at development and participation of SMEs in the economy. Such programmes span across all sectors of the green economy. Programmes are particularly meant to encourage participation of previously disadvantaged (PDA) communities including women and youth organizations.

As already mentioned in this report, the World Bank report (2016) has indicated that access to finance is a major challenge for small businesses, and the main reason for this is the lack of suitable financial products offered by banks, and inadequate capacity of small business founders to present their funding needs to financial institutions. This gender guide is aimed at ensuring that this trend of lack of specific targets for participation of women is curbed. Through following this guide, the participation of organizations that are owned and led by different women groups will be improved.

1.5. Proposed Gender Action Plan

The following is the proposed Gender Action Plan for the Embedded Generation Investment Programme (EGIP) that are to be created, to allow for non-sovereign PPAs in South Africa. The proposed Gender Action Plan should be for the projects that will fall under the proposed programme. The programme shall apply a gender mainstreaming approach in line with the DBSA gender requirements described in the Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards and Gender Policy. In addition the programme shall apply a gender mainstreaming approach in line with the GCF requirements for gender mainstreaming. Each project would be expected to devise and submit its own gender mainstreaming plan. As such, there is no DBSA gender budget allocation implied under the programme.

The table below provides a high level gender action plan for the programme.