

Energy 4 Impact

Genderdising energy policies in Senegal

Background and context

Senegal formally engaged in the SE4All initiative in March 2013 and completed its national gap analysis to establish a baseline regarding its three goals, with the support of UNDP. The next step of the process will be to produce the SE4All National Action Agenda and finalise the investment prospectus. At a national level this process is led by the SE4ALL National Focal points, primarily the Ministry of Energy Development and Renewable Energy¹ (MoE) supported by the Senegal's Multi-Sectorial Group for Access to Energy, the CIMES (Internal Ministerial Committee for Energy) and UNDP national office. The WB provides financial and technical support through ESMAP, with focus on Senegal in improving access to electricity and improved cook stoves.

The SE4All gap analysis focuses mainly on the current energy situation in Senegal but provides no information regarding gender issues or barriers to energy access for women. The report indicates that:

- Significant disparities exist between urban and rural areas regarding: electricity access (90% against 23.5% - falling to only 7% for communities with less than 500 inhabitants such as Tambacounda and Kedougou), electrification of health centres (100% against 10%) and education infrastructures (85% against 15%).
- Access to modern fuels stands at 50 % for urban households, against less than 10% in rural areas where 93% of people rely on firewood. Adoption of improved cook stoves remains at less than 6%.
- Share of renewable energy remains at less than 1% in the global energy mix, with biomass as the first energy source (54%) followed by petroleum products (30%).

In Senegal women are most affected by lack of access to sustainable energy. About 82% of women are involved in processing food crops but lack the adequate mechanical equipment which affects productivity. Women and girls spend up to 23 hours per week to collect firewood², and are at risk from smoke from burning wood. Approximately 6,300 Senegalese, mainly women and children, die each year as a result of indoor air pollution (WHO, 2009).

The key gender issues the project will seek to address are:

- The lack of reference to gender issues within the SE4ALL gap analysis. There is a need to conduct a study on barriers to energy access for women in Senegal (as beneficiaries but also actors) and gather more gender desegregated data to inform the development of an adequate gender action plan within the SE4ALL Action Agenda.
- Gender policies and programmes make very little reference to energy as an essential component to enhance women economic empowerment (WEE) and are often narrowed to cooking or housework.
- Women are still rarely considered key stakeholders in energy programmes or policies: even though the current MoE is led by women, the new Energy Policy Letter (2012) does not make reference to women or gender issues. There is a need to promote for the appointment of gender focal points within MoE (as initially specified in the existing National Action Plan for Women (PANAF) with clear recommendations for the development and implementation of a gender action plan.
- Uncertainty and lack of clear methodology at an institutional level on how to incorporate a gender perspective into the energy sector.

- Lack of awareness at an institutional and public level of the different needs, roles, responsibilities and decision making powers of men and women in energy scenarios and the contribution that gender mainstreaming can make in achieving the national SE4ALL objectives.

Project summary

Energy 4 Impact and SEM Fund formed a team, led by Energy 4 Impact, to support women's economic empowerment in the energy access market in Senegal (the Energy Opportunities for Women in Senegal Project funded by Energia Phase 5 programme). They are now joining forces again to deliver an Advocacy and Communication Programme to raise awareness of WEE activities within the energy sector and cross cutting sectors; and to influence gender mainstreaming in energy policies and programmes to achieve the SE4ALL objectives and reduce poverty.

Targets for advocacy interventions include national policy makers and SE4ALL focal points; community practitioners, project implementers and academics; international and regional energy sector decision makers; women group associations and NGOs.

The project overall objective is : To advocate for the integration of clear gender objectives and actions within the se4all national action plan and investment prospectus; and to advocate for Issues related to Women Economic Empowerment within the global campaign on Energy, Women, Children & health, and other key events.

These objectives will be achieved through the 3 outputs:

Via "**Output 1**", the project will influence and contribute to the development and planning of the SE4ALL's national action plan and investment prospectus so that it integrates a gender perspective. This will be done by mapping and building alliances with key stakeholders; setting-up a gender and energy taskforce; develop and disseminate advocacy tools and methodologies.

Via "**Output 2**", the project will increase awareness and broaden perception at a national level on the importance of WEE activities with regards to 3 concrete issues: domestic cooking; energy for productive use; women, children and health. This will be done by implementing a public awareness campaign and showcasing the impact of WEE results and activities implemented within the Energy opportunities for the Women in Senegal project.

Via "**Output 3**", the project will increase awareness and recognition at a regional and international level on the importance of WEE energy activities to achieve the SE4ALL objectives. This will be done by implementing workshops on SE4ALL and gender, participating in related regional events, disseminating communication products and providing training to selected beneficiaries from the WEE initiative to act as spokespeople.

Energy 4 Impact and SEM Fund will collaborate with national, regional and international actors such as ECREEE/ECOWAS, UNDP, Enda or PERACOD to achieve the projects' objectives. Both organisations have expertise in gender and energy access project implementation and have both established relationships with key national and regional government agencies.