

CROSS-CUTTING

SOCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER, AND ENERGY



Energy issues affect women and men differently, as each has different roles and responsibilities in their households, markets, and communities. The World Bank Group works to empower men and women as users of energy and providers of energy services by integrating gender considerations into energy operations, knowledge development, and technical assistance.

The Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) has played an important role in moving gender issues in energy beyond advocacy to produce concrete results in project design and impact. Through the [Gender and Social Inclusion](#) initiative, ESMAP has not only established a foundation of knowledge that shows how gender-informed projects can improve development outcomes, but also spearheads innovative approaches to mainstream gender considerations in those projects.

REGIONAL GENDER AND ENERGY SUPPORT

In 2009, ESMAP began supporting its first regional Gender and Energy program in Africa, with activities in Senegal, Mali, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. The work included engagement with utilities and rural energy agencies to develop their ability to conduct gender assessments and develop gender action plans. In 2014-16, activities were extended to Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Comoros. Currently, the program supports 21 projects in 17 countries and 1 regional project.

In Liberia, for example, different approaches are being piloted in the mini-grid business, including diverse representation on electrification committees, integration of women's productive uses of energy, enhancement of connections to key social services and simplification of connection procedures. In São Tomé and Príncipe, a gender-sensitive commu-

nications and citizen engagement campaign under development will address nontechnical losses (e.g., non-payment of bills, electricity theft, and meter tampering) and female employees are trained as "utility ambassadors" to provide more client-oriented services and improve customer relations.

As ESMAP's Africa gender initiative strengthens its efforts on data collection, analysis, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), a Lead Gender and Energy M&E Specialist has joined the team to focus on operational support, capacity building, and knowledge development in M&E frameworks, indicator development, and impact studies. Technical input during project preparation helps identify gender-specific indicators and improve data collection and monitoring systems, especially around key gender gaps. Currently, an M&E Toolkit focused on practical guidance on gender and energy is being developed.

A similar initiative was developed in the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific region where gender experts are providing support in areas such as surveying male and female customers of energy cooperatives in the Philippines; gender action plans and gender-informed beneficiary schemes for a hydropower project in Solomon Islands; improving outreach mechanisms for ethnic minority women affected by a hydropower project, and baseline data collection and M&E tools in Vietnam; promoting women's leadership and employment in Vietnam's National Energy Company; and supporting clean cooking programs through guidance notes, such as in [Indonesia](#). Based on the practical work that has been done in these two regions, ESMAP is supporting similar gender and energy initiatives in other World Bank regions by providing technical expertise during project design and contributing relevant lessons to inform client dialogue and policy development.



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The Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) is a global knowledge and technical assistance program administered by The World Bank. It provides analytical and advisory services to low- and middle-income countries to increase their know-how and institutional capacity to achieve environmentally sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction and economic growth. ESMAP is funded by Australia, Austria, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as The World Bank.

KNOWLEDGE & OUTREACH

To help share practical guidance, a briefing note on [Integrating Gender Considerations into Energy Operations](#) (2013) highlights entry points across the sector, and is supported by [online resources](#) and [references](#). The forthcoming 2017 publication *Getting to Gender Equality in Energy Infrastructure* is the result of quantitative and qualitative research on gender issues within electricity infrastructure, exploring the gender-specific land and labor impacts of generation, transmission, and distribution projects.

ESMAP also contributes to the global Sustainable Energy for All ([SEforAll](#)) initiative, with its commitment to women's economic empowerment. ESMAP works with partners to help identify

gender data and indicators to inform the SEforAll Global Tracking Framework and continues to focus on strengthening gender M&E within its activities.

To help promote practitioners' awareness of gender-energy linkages, ESMAP offers an e-learning module on specific topics such as energy access, energy infrastructure, and energy policy. Available to World Bank staff, clients, partners, and development practitioners, the course can be customized based on needs and timing. An [online gender and energy forum](#) has also been established to connect experts and to facilitate knowledge exchange.

Gender has been mainstreamed across all ESMAP's global programs and initia-

tives. Going forward, with continued support to the Africa and East Asia and Pacific Gender and Energy initiatives, similar approaches are being established in Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia World Bank regions. Efforts to develop further guidance notes for topics such as energy efficiency, mini-grids, and geothermal energy projects are also under way. Meanwhile, all new ESMAP project proposals are screened for gender-specific support and ESMAP will continue to curate new knowledge and exchange lessons with development partners to deepen our understanding and actions on gender issues within the energy sector.

KEY GENDER ISSUES ACROSS THE ENERGY SECTOR

Energy Access: Household Energy & Rural Electrification	Time poverty due to fuel collection and cooking; gender-based violence related to fuel collection; health impacts, as women and children are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution; and lack of access to information and financing for energy services or technologies
Electricity Infrastructure: Generation, Transmission, & Distribution	Displacement, inequity in ownership or land titling during resettlement; inequitable access to new jobs in areas such as energy, engineering, tourism, or services; inequitable benefit sharing due to lack of land titles or government identification; gender-based violence related to migration, new roadways, and traffic patterns; and exposure (mostly affecting men) to hazardous work on energy infrastructure such as electrical wiring and chemical handling
Clean Energy: Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency	Women and female-headed households having less information on new technologies that can create opportunities for employment and training; lack of access to financing and collateral to purchase such technologies or services; lack of voice in household decision making about energy options and electricity use that can impact behavior change or adoption of improved energy services
Energy Policy Subsidies, Tariffs, & Reforms	Female-headed households are often poorer and may suffer more from rapid tariff increases than male-headed households; men often have power over household budgets and decision making; men may be more affected than women by direct job losses in heavy manufacturing; women may not be included in policy consultations and decision making due to societal norms