



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES' GENDER ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP



Philippines' Rural Power Project (WB-GEF 2004-2012)

- **Description**: Support investments: (a) improving power supply system safety, reliability, efficiency, and power service quality for existing customers, through rehabilitation and capacity upgrades of the existing supply system; removing supply constraints; encouraging institutional development of ECs; and improving productivity, safety, and customer service; and (b) small power generation, decentralized grids and stand-alone RET.
- **Achievement**: (i) Provided loans to 13 ECs for the construction of minihydro projects, construction and upgrading/rehabilitation of lines, acquisition of substations assets; and to one (1) Rural Bank for the Solar Home Systems; (ii) A total of 20,975 new connections/households provided with electricity services through mini-grid electrical connection and individual RET services.
- **Gender Assessment**: No systematic assessment was conducted, but it is possible to observe quality of life improvements for rural households. Anecdotal observations are consistent with studies documenting similar experiences in other countries and surveys carried out in the Philippines, all showing that quality of life and household earnings improve with electrification



Similarly, strong satisfaction with SHS service was reported in *Barangay Mahanan*, which is an islet located northeast of Talibon city. On this islet, 72 households received SHS from BOHECOII under RPP support. About 70% had no access to electricity before receiving SHS.

Box A5.2 – RPP beneficiaries in Barangay Mahanan



The households pay the EC PHP 200 per month per SHS. The SHS recipient households met by the team noted that they were very pleased with the SHS service. The benefits cited by SHS recipient households included access to reliable lighting, which allows women to do household chores in the evening, and children to study longer hours in the evening. In cases where repairs were needed, the EC was reportedly responsive to the needs of the households.

Box A5-1– Perspective of RPP beneficiary households

This story was extracted from the DOE's Completion Report and edited for brevity

In May 2011, Emilia Carreon, a 59-year-old mother who lives in the outskirts of Oroquieta City, purchased a SHS from Gen Diesel an RPP accredited Participating Company that received support from the GEF



Grant and the DOE subsidy. With the help of a loan from the Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Emilia was able to purchase a 30 WP SHS package (which includes a portable TV with DVD player for her small shack in Barangay Dolipus Alto. Gen Diesel and Paglaum are recipients of the RPP incubator program grant. With the GEF and DOE subsidies, she purchased the SHS for P15,000 (~US\$ 375). She noted that this is slightly expensive but once she weighs the overall benefits, it becomes reasonable. She emphasized that the subsidy was essential for making the SHS affordable for her.

Prior to owning an SHS, Emilia depended on kerosene for her lighting requirements. Her household's average consumption is 0.25 L per day and a liter of kerosene costs P55, bringing the household's monthly consumption would amount to P412.50, corresponding to about P4,950 annually (around US\$10 and US\$120 respectively). Emilia's husband receives a monthly pension of P500 apart from the meager income and resources they get from farming and raising a few chickens. With her SHS, Emilia does not need to worry about buying kerosene any more.

She takes pride in the fact that at night, her home brightens up their community. Neighbors come to her house to watch television through the small screen of her portable player. Thus, counting the savings and the added benefits of entertainment, community relationships, and giving hope to others who have no access to energy, the initial investment of purchasing an SHS has guaranteed return. She said that even if her SHS would break down, she is willing to spend for its repair. For the repair needs, she counts on the Paglaum technician to assist her. She mentioned that what is important for her is that she has a good and sustainable energy source, and that her life with the SHS is better than before.

AMORE PROJECT (USAID-DOE 2002-2013)



Description: To strengthen modern rural energy services via public-private partnerships, including household electrification, school electrification for improved basic education, and renewable energy workforce development.

Achievements: (a) Provided solar and micro hydro powered lighting systems to about 9,2405 households in Mindanao; (b) 600 people trained to be solar lighting technicians including 96 women (16%); (c) 20 Entrepreneurs, 10 local companies, and 20 BRECDAs strengthened in solar and micro-hydro technology and business management.



Gender Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs	Outcomes
<p>Involvement of women in planning and project implementation</p> <p>About 77% of households interviewed indicated that women had been consulted during the planning of the Solar Lighting project and 49% indicated that women had been consulted during the planning phase for the WASH.</p> <p>The main regional differences were in Region 12 where 92% indicated that women had been consulted for the solar light planning and Region 4A where only 23% indicated that women had been consulted for the WASH planning.</p>	<p>Increased participation of women</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twenty five percent of BRECDA and BAWASA membership are composed of women. 2. More than six hundred people were trained in solar technology under AMORE 3. Ninety six (16%) were women. <p>Increased productivity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In terms of increased activity produced by solar lighting, women were the main beneficiaries with 15% more activity (2.7 hours/day) than the men (2.3 hours/day).

AMORE 3 demonstrated the importance of involving women in any remote community intervention. Even more, women's involvement may well have made for stronger community organizations due to their involvement and capacity to lead. There was a deliberate effort to integrate gender in project implementation as substantiated by the training of women technicians, data disaggregation by gender, women's participation in organizations, recognition of women's potentials, and support to women's nurturing role.



DOE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The DOE GAD strategic framework is anchored in the mandates of DOE and the gender policy of the Philippine Government, which promotes the twin goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.

GAD VISION

Men and women equally contribute to and benefit from an ideal state of greater energy access for inclusive growth.

GAD MISSION

We, at the Department of Energy, commit to effect institutional change by promoting and providing equal rights, opportunities, and shared responsibilities among men and women through mainstreaming gender and development in the energy sector policies, plans, programs, and projects.

GAD GOALS

1. Enhanced gender mainstreaming at DOE and its attached agencies that will help achieve gender equality and women empowerment in the energy sector.
2. Increased/equal access of women and men to modern energy technology, goods, and services.
3. Increased participation of women in energy-sector consultation processes, community organizations, and decision-making bodies.
4. Gender-balanced employment in the energy sector.



THE GAD AGENDA FOR 2015–2020

Client-focused
<p>Issue 1: Limited capacity of electric cooperatives (ECs) to take advantage of, and promote gender equality in, opportunities and productive assets provided by grid intensification and solar energy technology</p> <p>GAD Strategy: Issue policy memo instructing ECs to increase their intake of female engineers and technical workers, and to provide female engineers with the same opportunities as male engineers to be trained in solar technology</p> <p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity for applying solar technology among female and male engineers in ECs • Improved sex ratio among engineers and technical workers in electric cooperatives <p>Key Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy memo instructing ECs to increase intake of female engineers and technical workers • Inclusion in the National Electrification Administration (NEA) GAD plan and budget of training of EC female and male engineers in solar technology, with application to GAD issues • Training module on solar technology, with application to GAD issues • Female and male engineers trained in solar technology, with application to GAD issues
<p>Issue 2: Low participation of women in associations and in the management and repair and maintenance of community-level energy facilities</p> <p>GAD Strategy: Institutionalize equal participation of women and men in the community organization, and in the maintenance and servicing of Renewable Energy Systems (RES)</p> <p>Key Outcome: Increasing proportion of women among community association members who are capable of and actually maintaining and servicing RES</p> <p>Key Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides to ECs and energy projects on the formation of energy-related community associations to promote better women's representation • Women and men trained in the maintenance and servicing of RES
<p>Issue 3: Lack of focus on women as potential advocates of energy safety, efficiency, and conservation measures, resulting in women's limited visibility in energy-related consultations, training, and information, education and communication (IEC) sessions, and in advisory or decision-making bodies formed through the implementation of energy projects</p>



Issue 3: Lack of focus on women as potential advocates of energy safety, efficiency, and conservation measures, resulting in women's limited visibility in energy-related consultations, training, and information, education and communication (IEC) sessions, and in advisory or decision-making bodies formed through the implementation of energy projects

GAD Strategy: Plan and promote increased participation of women in energy-related consultations, training, and IEC sessions, and in advisory or decision-making bodies

Key Outcomes:

- Increasing percentage of trained women who have become advocates of energy safety, efficiency, and conservation measures
- Effectiveness of trained women in conducting IEC sessions on energy safety, efficiency, and conservation measures

Key Outputs:

- Training program for women developed and implemented
- Women trained in the conduct of IEC sessions on energy safety, efficiency, and conservation measures