



# Energy for Development Conference: Promoting a Gender Inclusive and Pro-Poor Sector

*September 10, 2015*

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## Session 1 Presentations

**Title: Promoting a Gender Inclusive and Pro-Poor Energy Sector: An Overview**

- **Session Chair: Michelle Adato**, Gender & Social Inclusion (MCC)
- **Elizabeth Cecelski**, Gender & Energy Advisor (ENERGIA)



# ENERGIA

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

## **Energy for Development: How energy can contribute to gender equality and social inclusion**

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**Energy for Development Conference  
Millennium Challenge Corporation  
10 September 2015**



# Outline

- 1 Energy for development: SDGs & SE4All
- 2 What do we mean by gender & social inclusion?
- 3 Why do gender & social inclusion matter in the energy sector?
- 4 Success examples: Biogas in Nepal and electricity agencies in Africa
- 5 Lessons from experiences and questions for today



# ENERGIA: International network on gender and sustainable energy



- ◆ Gender mainstreaming in energy projects and policies
- ◆ Women's economic empowerment
- ◆ Gender & Energy Research Programme
- ◆ Advocacy/policy influencing

- Vision: To engender energy, and to empower women
- Since 1996, based in the Netherlands, networks in 22 countries in Africa & Asia



# Gender & social inclusion in the energy sector



- Gender equality: intrinsic human right & core development objective in itself
  - Also an instrument for development, so energy sector can increase productivity, help meet development goals, make institutions more inclusive & representative
  - Inclusive of BOTH women and men
  - Differing roles of women & men within markets, communities & households
  - Developing projects & policies that provide space for both men & women to participate & benefits
- Social inclusion: Women & men in all social groups: Ethnicity, caste, economy, age, disability, geographic locations



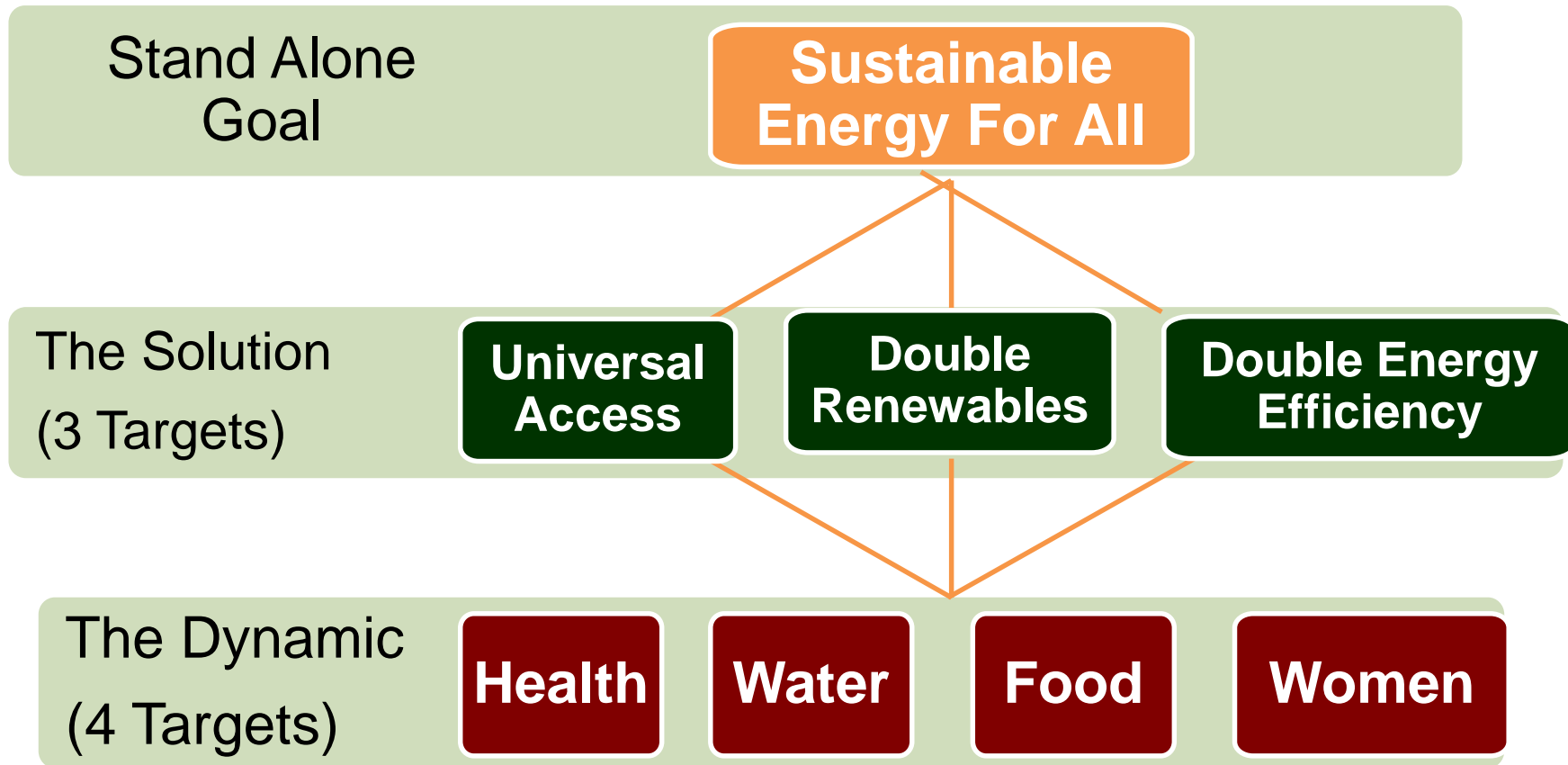
# The Global Goals

(aka the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda)

- The Global Goals are 17 goals and 169 targets that set the development agenda for the next 15 years.
- UN Member States will adopt the Global Goals this month.



# Global Framework



# Why do gender & social inclusion matter in the energy sector?



- **Maximize overall development benefits of energy** – why leave benefits on the table? Eg equalize access to credit for connection, appliances; opportunities to address gender inequalities; improve both women’s and men’s livelihood opportunities
- **Minimize negative impacts linked to women’s and men’s different roles** and responsibilities and to poverty: we do not want to INCREASE inequality Eg equitable way leaves compensation; and we do not want community unrest to block and delay infrastructure construction
- **Increase project/policy effectiveness and efficiency** Eg women do better in communicating and selling to women consumers, designing products to meet women’s needs. From victims to agents of development – by recognizing women’s strengths and addressing their weaknesses (gender barriers), women’s empowerment can contribute to SE4All
- **Make gender and social inclusion visible** in the energy sector: planning, decision-making, mitigation, monitoring and evaluation. Often welcomed by policymakers & agencies, but resources/capacity needed to make inputs
- **Address under-investment in cooking energy** - @2015 Global Tracking Framework, cooking energy is NOT on track to meet targets; Copenhagen Consensus \$14/\$1 benefit cost compared with \$5/\$1 for electricity



# Understanding Gender-Poverty-Energy Interactions ACROSS the Sector



## Energy Access

(Cooking Energy and Rural Electrification)

- Time poverty due to fuel collection and cooking; gender-based violence related to fuel collection; health impacts due to indoor air pollution; decision roles on improved technology.
- Poorer female HH or SMEs ability to connect and pay for grid or off-grid technology

## Electricity Infrastructure

(Generation, Transmission and Distribution)

- Displacement, inequity in land ownership during resettlement or loss of livelihood, benefit sharing, land title; inequitable access to new jobs eg engineering, tourism, services; influx of migrant workers with social & health impacts; (mostly) men's exposure to hazardous work (wiring/chemicals).

## Clean Energy

(Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change)

- New tech can create opportunities for employment & training; women & female-headed HHs having less info on energy tech: lack of access to financing & collateral to purchase energy tech or services; lack of info on RE options; women HH managers can improve EE behavior; Youth school programs can be targeted for EE campaigns; Women's groups are vehicles for DRM

## Energy Policy

(Subsidies, Tariffs and Reforms)

- Subsidies/Price changes can impact the most vulnerable hardest (eg women); men often have power over HH budgets and decision making; men may be more affected by direct job losses in heavy manufacturing; women may not be included in policy consultations & decision making due to societal norms



# Cooking Energy Access

▪Target 1 Universal Energy Access under SE4All – and now under SDG Goal 7 on sustainable energy – includes two indicators, one on access to electricity and a second one on access to cooking energy. For the first time, cooking energy is placed on an equal footing with electricity.

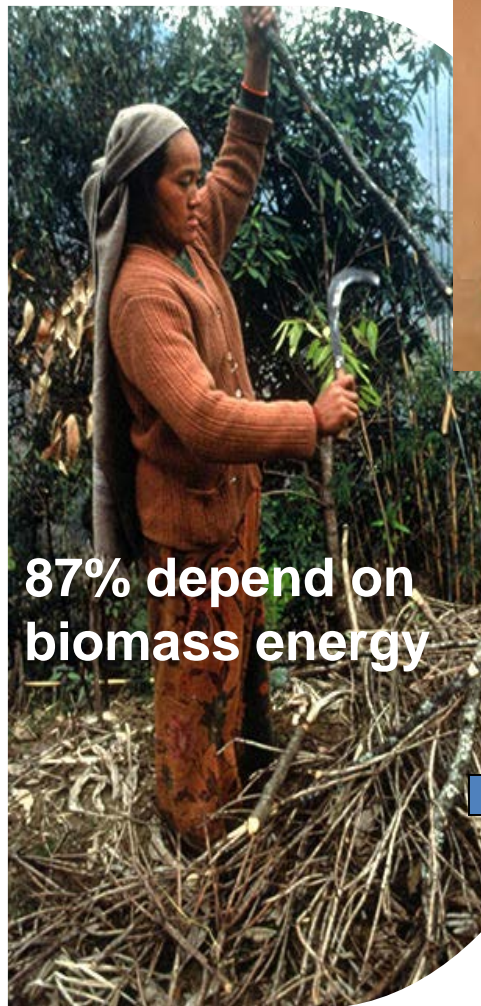
## KEY STATISTICS ON COOKING AROUND THE WORLD

3 billion	Number of people in the world using polluting, inefficient stoves and fuels to cook each day
4.3 million	Number of people who die prematurely each year from exposure to household air pollution
Up to 25%	Percentage of black carbon emissions attributed to cooking smoke
Up to 5	Number of hours a day that women spend collecting fuel for cooking

▪Copenhagen Consensus: reducing indoor air pollution is one of the higher value targets in the SDGs, according to cost-benefit analysis to prioritize 69 targets: providing modern cooking fuels to 30% of the unserved at cost of \$11billion annually, for every dollar spent, \$14 benefits (electricity \$5 benefits). One of the 19 best value-for-money targets.

▪Global Tracking Framework established to define and monitor the three targets, World Bank leading. In July the 2015 GTF report found that while electricity access target is on track, ***THE COOKING ENERGY TARGET IS FALLING BEHIND.***

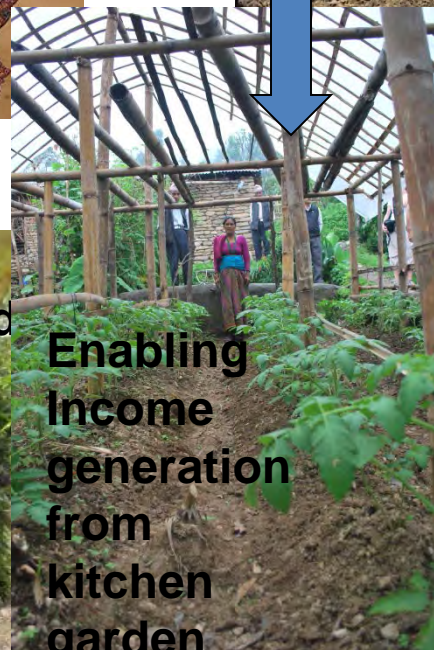
# Nepal Energy Situation and Biogas Intervention



**87% depend on biomass energy**



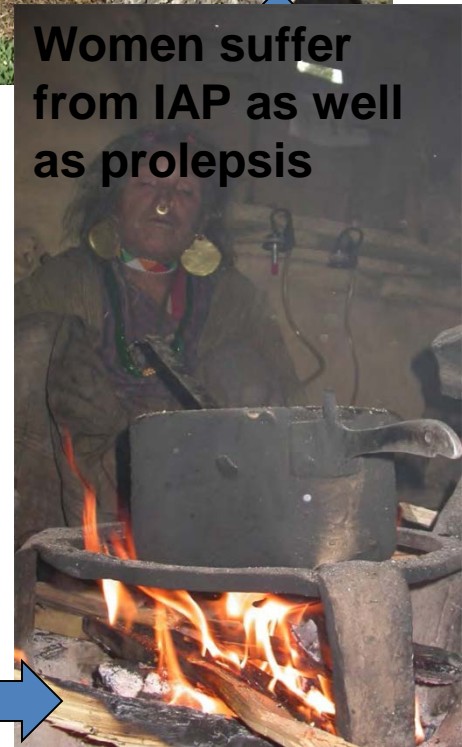
**Clean and smoke free kitchen leading to better health and reduced drudgery**



**Enabling income generation from kitchen garden**



**Women collect and manage biomass fuel spending 4-5 hours a day**



**Women suffer from IAP as well as prolepsis**



# Achievements of the Nepal Biogas Support Program (BSP)



- 250,000 biogas plants for cooking & lighting, 94-98% operational, 91% user satisfaction
- Reduced women's and girl's workload 3 hrs/day, saved time used for agriculture & income generating activities
- 70% constructed toilets after introduction of biogas
- Kitchen smoke reduced and reduction in respiratory problems, eye infection and cough (nearly 100% in user survey)
- Women own 23% of biogas plants installed
- Women own 6 construction companies/107, 8 women masons and 44 supervisors in work force



# Some options for engaging with cooking energy

- Utilities offer cooking/electricity connection packages or promotion eg ESKOM, REA
- Support research/reviews on eg low-cost electric cooking appliances, electricity/cooking fuel transition
- Leverage Global Alliance on Clean Cookstoves (GACC) programs in target countries eg Tanzania, Ghana
- Support scaling up of existing national cooking energy programs eg BSP Nepal



# Electricity Access and benefits

- 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity
- Background: Supply constraints and unsustainable financing of utilities, emergence of private sector and off-grid as key suppliers
- Well known and substantial benefits of electrification for women and poor:
  - positive effect on women's & men's micro-enterprises and trading (e.g. street/market lighting, thermal energy, motive power)
  - Increases female labor force participation more than men's (through time-saving?)
  - Builds human & social capital, a precondition for women's empowerment: education for both boys & girls, reduction in fertility (TV), maternal health (clinics), safety, "modern behaviors"

# Botswana Power Corporation wants to achieve these outcomes from the gender mainstreaming project:



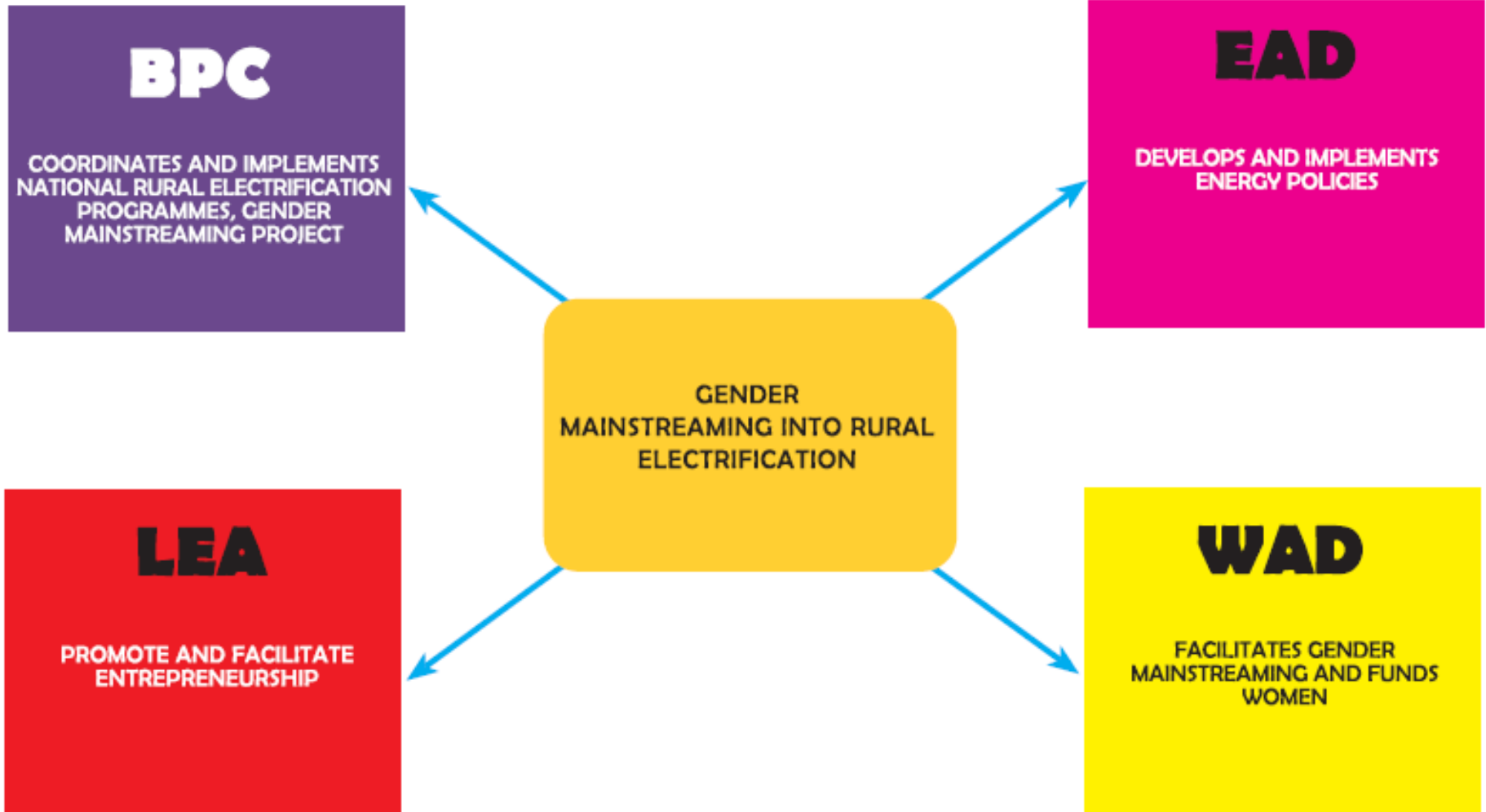
- Inclusion of gender aspects in the Botswana rural electrification program (grid & off-grid)
- Increased connection rates & access levels by women
- Increased women's income-generating opportunities
- Increased women's participation in energy decision making & energy management
- Increased understanding of different energy needs of men and women



Photo: B.P.C., Botswana

*Rural Electrification Department  
Botswana Power Corporation  
GENDER ACTION PLAN*

*Roles of partner institutions in the gender  
mainstreaming project*







# Gender actions identified by REA, Uganda



- Construction
  - Local employment in RE works, with gender targets
  - Equitable way leaves compensation
  - Gender-sensitive HIV/AIDS prevention
- Implementation
  - Promotion of RE connections/targets for women & men
  - Ensure equitable access to subsidies and connection credit
  - Improved access to social infrastructure
  - Promotion of productive uses of electricity to women & men
- Planning & monitoring
  - Baseline studies to identify electricity uses, needs & access constraints of households (female-headed & male-headed) and businesses (women-owned & male-owned)
  - Use of gender-informed M&E for project design



# UETCL (Uganda transmission agency) identifies gender issues



- Gender policy commitments exist but need to be implemented in the electricity sector
- Mitigation planning includes stakeholder engagement, but
  - resources limited for gender/poverty analysis and inclusion actions;
  - consultative meetings dominated by men, relegating women to mere escorts or passive participants;
  - effect on land mostly felt by women who are cultivators, but compensation is to men who own the land.
  - Women & child headed households affected by projects but decisions on compensation options taken by wider clan members
  - Youth provide most of labor for subsistence are usually passive or uninterested during scoping, needs neglected
  - Property rights registered to individuals, mostly men, while women are ignorant of family and inheritance laws
- Human resources:
  - Limited representation of women in management (3/30),
  - little regard to gender-specific roles and requirements (female employees including with babies under six months deployed as full time field officers)



# UETCL suggests solutions

- Change of strategy from superficial consultations to more long lasting stakeholder engagement (Project Affect Committees, Grievance Resolution committees)
- Legal sensitization in the pre-compensation engagement phase on spousal consent, tenancy rights (land or buildings), family law, inheritance provisions, customary marriages.
- Positively discriminated interventions for livelihood restoration/enhancement eg
- Specific actions for inclusion in affected areas:
  - Reproductive health & sanitation awareness programs targeting both men and women
  - Insistence on spouses to be witnesses to disclosures and agreements
  - Community Development initiatives : roads, water sources, health centers, community resource centers

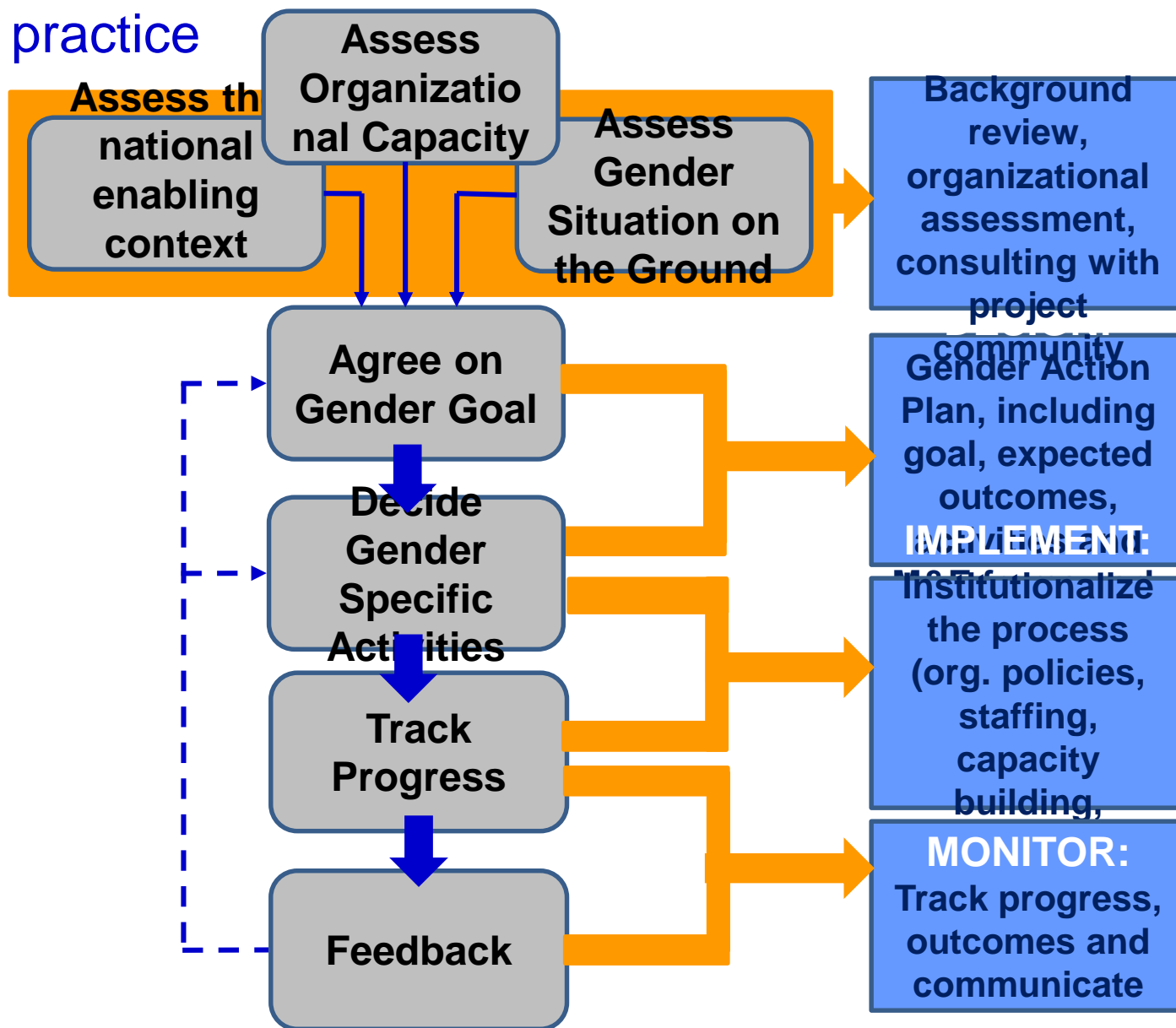
# Gender Mainstreaming by Kenya Power & Lighting Company



- Adopted a Gender Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy
- Implement a interest free loans over 24 months repayment targeted at women SMEs and FFH to off set high cost of connection  
- Stima Loan Special Fund for
- Affirmative action to attract women technician, engineers, members of board – 30% by 2015
- Training and gender sensitive PBT for all technical and management staff
- Include targets for women’s employment for contractors engaged by KPLC for on and off grid RE programs
- Gender disaggregation of customer satisfaction report and reporting on gender results to MoG and MoE



# Gender mainstreaming approach in practice





## Good practice and lessons learned from ENERGIА's experience in gender & social inclusion mainstreaming

- Align with existing energy, poverty and gender commitments in the country and agency - Commitment and felt need from management to include gender & poverty is crucial - the project/policymakers must lead the GM process
- Work as a team (organisation, local expert, ENERGIА)
- Bring in methodology and experiences to give options (other countries, other sectors)
- Integrate within the entire project cycle: Integration of baselines, indicators, and disaggregation into existing frameworks
- Targeted investments for women enterprise development, technical/vocational education and employment in the energy sector are key – partner with other organisations
- Need safe guards for most vulnerable groups – social protections mechanisms
- Peg expectations realistically: Use a flexible/ adaptable approach - Realizing impact is a long-term goal
- Follow-up and monitoring based on targets and results



# Questions going forward today

- What difference does a gender-responsive and pro-poor approach make in outcomes & results?
  - Why not just supply electricity eg gender-blind, automatic? Are we leaving co-benefits on the table and/or ignoring negative costs? How do we measure this/make accountable?
- Can gender equity and community approaches be scaled up effectively eg subsidies? Can they be sustainable and profitable?
  - Are there trade-offs between efficiency and equity? Instrumental vs transformational - should energy supply directly contribute to gender equality?
- What do we mean by women's empowerment in the energy sector?
  - Employment? Income? Human/social capital? Agency? Transformation of gender roles? Safety? Human dignity...?

A group of people, including women and children, are seen carrying large coils of black cables up a grassy hillside. The background is a dense forest of tall trees. The scene is bright and sunny.

# ENERGIA

*Thank you!*