

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



RURAL ENERGY AGENCY (REA)



*Rural Energy Agency Initiatives in Mainstreaming
Gender in the Delivery of Modern Energy Services to
Rural Areas of Tanzania*

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Background on REA



- Projects promoted & supported by the REA:
 - Grid Extension;
 - Off-grid;
 - ✦ Small hydropower
 - Mini grid;
 - Grid/Mini grid
 - Green field
 - ✦ Solar Packages/
Solar lanterns;
 - ✦ Wind;
 - ✦ Biomass; and
 - ✦ Energy efficiency.
 - Technical Assistance to project developers

Key issues to address throughout:

- Affordable connection costs
- Promotion of low cost design for rural electrification
- Energy regulation
- Promotion of efficient cooking solutions

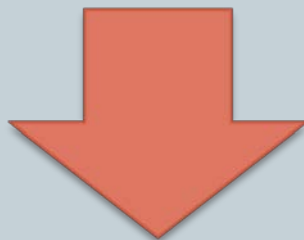
Why gender matters in rural electrification projects?

- Men and women have different roles in the home and community, and different energy uses, varying among groups.
- Who are the primary users of the following energy services
 - ❖Cooking
 - ❖Lighting
 - ❖Heating
 - ❖Television
 - ❖Local brewing
 - ❖Ironing
- Women's work is often biomass and metabolic energy intensive:
 - Time consuming to gather firewood and water
 - Often unhealthy (i.e., indoor pollution – inferior energy type fires caused by use of kerosene and weak lamps, candles etc)
- Men are often the decision-makers when it comes to purchasing/changing domestic energy use and access
- Gender mainstreaming in REA focuses on the 3E's: Equality, Equity and Empowerment
- Strategies: gender specific, gender neutral and gender transformative

REA's Progress on Gender



- **INFORMAL:** In the past, REA has been working informally on gender issues in but not in a very systematic manner (i.e. no clear objectives, plans or targets) through training on improved stoves, kilns, etc



- **SYSTEMATIC:** Currently, REA is embarking on a comprehensive gender and energy assessment process in fulfilment of its mandates as required by national policies on gender, energy, among others

The Approach



Part I: Organizational Assessment

Carrying out a gender assessment of REA as an organization, including a needs assessment for capacity building and training

- Comprehensive review of the key and strategic documents of REA from a gender perspective
- Gender survey of REA management and staff
- Focus group discussions and interviews

Part II: Project Assessment

Conducting a gender and energy needs assessment within selected villages and REA-supported projects

Field Visits



**GENDER
ACTION
PLAN**

Summary of Progress to date



- **The Study:** launched October 2011 with meeting with all members of REA staff and management, chaired by REA DG
- Staff enthusiastic to participate in assessment, including support from highest levels of REA management
- A review of strategic plan and other key documents in-progress
- **Early findings:**
 - REA strategic plan 'SP' (2009/10-2011/12) has 5 objectives, one of which (objective 4) covers gender
 - ✦ it identifies gender as critical and cross-cutting issue and calls for its mainstreaming

Early findings....



- However, critical gaps in SP:
 - ✦ It adopts a **weak definition** of gender (e.g. focuses on the number of women participating in energy activities).
 - ✦ It also **fails to provide empirical solutions and recommendations** for how to mainstream gender in REA policies and practices.
 - ✦ **Indicators are rather general and quantitative**, e.g. % of women participating in energy project.

Early findings....



- REA Mandates that provides entry points for mainstreaming gender
- **The National Energy Policy, (2003)**
 - Calls for efforts to address gender imbalance by undertaking deliberate gender considerations at all levels of the energy sector including electricity (e.g. demand/ supply chain, planning and decision making) (sections 2.1, 2.2)
 - Section 5.6 sets 4 policy statements geared to promoting gender equality, facilitate training, promote awareness and advocacy on gender issues

Early findings...



- **Rural Energy Act 2005**

- Section 16 (c) of the Rural Energy Act 2005 requires REA to prepare application procedures, guidelines, selection criteria, standards and terms and conditions for grants and submit to the Board for approval. *Using this mandate REA can opt to include a criteria on gender considerations by all project proposals*
- 16 (d) requires REA to select projects for evaluation and contract suitably qualified persons to evaluate their social and economic impacts. *As previously using this mandate REA can introducing a gender-sensitive criteria in selection, appraisal and of energy (electricity) projects*
- 16 (e) Requires REA to recommend to the Board projects for approval. *Same as above*

Expected Outcomes



- Gender and Energy Strategy developed for REA based on evidence and findings of assessments and supported through detailed gender action plan
- REA program and activities have integrated gender components and activities through support of gender sensitive indicators and M&E
- Capacity developed within REA to provide sustainable gender responsive expertise and guidance and contribute to gender integration at the national level
- Policy Dialogue for gender sensitizing national energy policy programs

In summary, a systematic approach of integrating gender into policies and programs for the Government of Tanzania's energy sector.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION