

SOCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER, AND ENERGY



Energy issues affect women and men differently, as men and women have different roles and responsibilities in households, markets, and their 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 work and technical assistance.

ESMAP PROGRAM ON SOCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER, AND ENERGY

Since 2010, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) has supported a gender and energy program through the Africa Renewable Energy and Access program (AFREA), with activities in six countries—Senegal, Mali, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. Work has included engagement with utilities and rural energy agencies to develop their institutional capacity to carry out gender assessments and develop gender action plans. To help share practical guidance, a briefing note on [Integrating Gender Considerations into Energy Operations](#) was published in 2013, highlighting entry points across the sector, supported by [online resources and tools](#) that can be found on the [ESMAP website](#). Through these efforts, ESMAP has contributed to a better understanding on gender issues and energy access.

Under its FY 2014-16 Business Plan ESMAP has developed a new US\$1.5 million global program on **Social Inclusion in the Energy Sector**, with an initial focus on gender.



The primary objective of the program is to establish a core body of evidence to demonstrate that promoting gender considerations in energy projects improves development outcomes. Research activities include ongoing quantitative and qualitative research on gender issues within electricity infrastructure to explore the gender-specific land and labor impacts of generation, transmission, and distribution projects.

To help promote practitioners' awareness of gender-energy linkages, an e-learning module is being developed on gender issues within specific topics such as energy access, energy infrastructure, and energy policy. The course will be offered to World Bank staff, clients, partners, and development practitioners starting in 2015. An [online gender and energy forum](#) has also been established to connect experts in this field and facilitate knowledge and exchange.



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, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as the World Bank.

ESMAP is also continuing to support World Bank teams on integrating gender considerations into energy programs through screening all ESMAP funded activities and providing direct financial and technical support across various programs. Examples include a gender assessment for Bolivia's Rural Electrification Program; a regional gender assessment in India, Nepal, and Pakistan; the second phase of the AFREA gender and energy program; a gender and energy subsidies research program in the Europe and Central Asia region; a technical assistance program on social accountability in the energy sector in Egypt; and the development of a new

East Asia and Pacific Gender and Energy Program.

This work will also contribute to the global Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, with its commitment to women's economic empowerment. ESMAP is working together with partners to help identify gender data and indicators to inform the SE4ALL Global Tracking Framework, which tracks progress towards the three SE4ALL goals of universal energy access, doubling renewable energy as a proportion of global energy use, and doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

KEY GENDER ISSUES ACROSS THE ENERGY SECTOR

Energy Access | Household Energy and Rural Electrification

Gender issues: 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, and Distribution

Gender issues: 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 and Energy Efficiency

Gender issues: 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, and Reforms

Gender issues: 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