

# ENERGIA

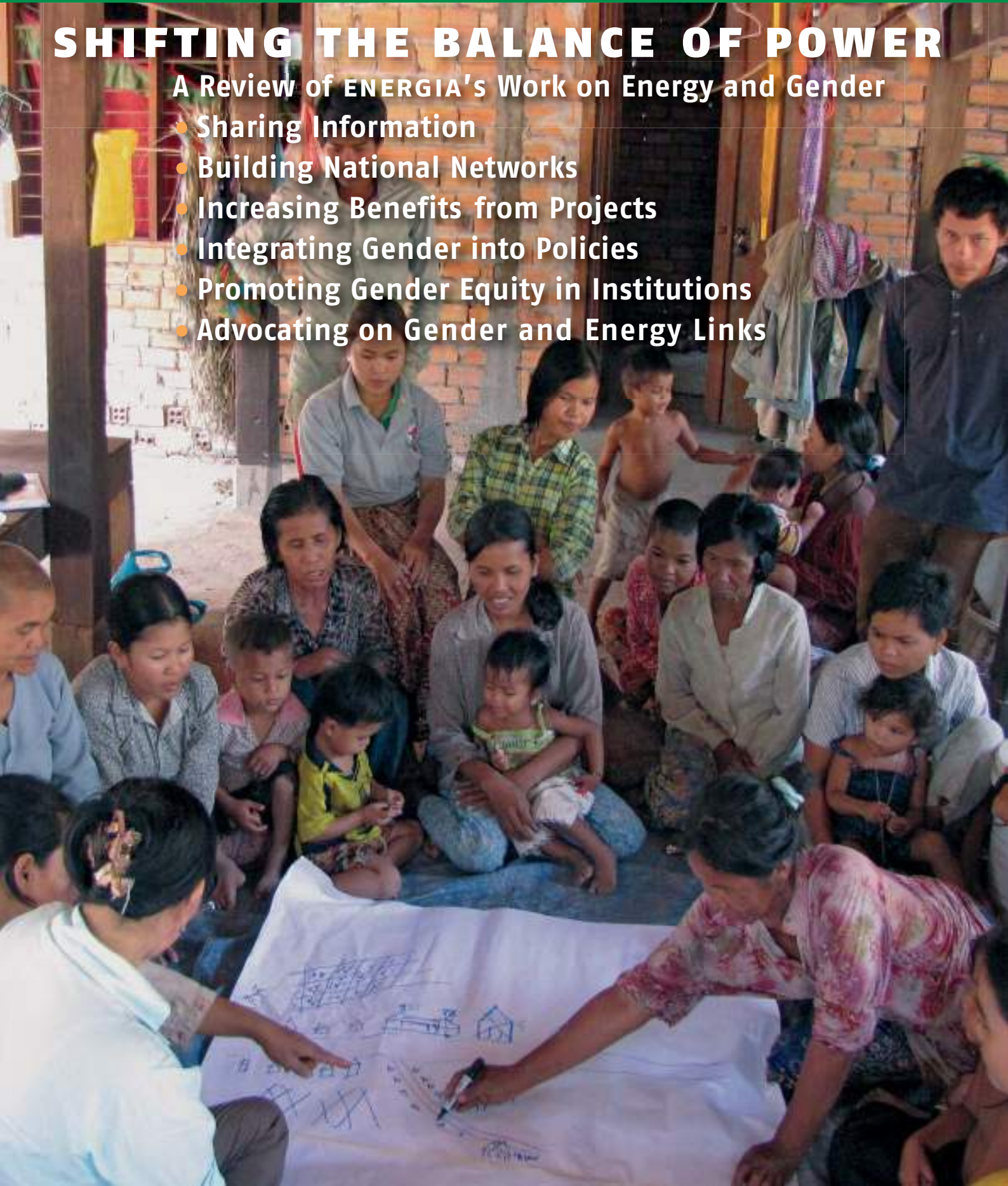
NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

## SHIFTING THE BALANCE OF POWER

A Review of ENERGIA's Work on Energy and Gender

- Sharing Information
- Building National Networks
- Increasing Benefits from Projects
- Integrating Gender into Policies
- Promoting Gender Equity in Institutions
- Advocating on Gender and Energy Links







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**ENERGIA – International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy** ENERGIA was founded in 1995 by a group of women involved in gender and energy work in developing countries. ENERGIA's objective is to 'engender' energy and 'empower' rural and urban poor women through information exchange, capacity building, research, advocacy and action aimed at strengthening their sustainable energy development.

ENERGIA's approach is to seek to identify needed activities and actions through its membership, and then to encourage, and if possible assist, members and their institutions to undertake decentralised initiatives. ENERGIA News is the principle vehicle for this approach. The focus is on practice, with a conscious effort to interpret and learn from this practice.

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**Cover photo** A group of village women in Cambodia making a resource map identifying local natural resources used as supplies for daily needs and income-generating activities.

**Photo** Ana Rojas, ENERGIA

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# Shifting the Balance of Power towards Gender Equity in the Energy Sector

This issue of **ENERGIA News** reviews the network's activities and accomplishments as we prepare to move forward into the next phase of our work.

GAIL KARLSSON

It is a moment of great challenges, and possibilities. Governments are struggling with food and fuel crises, and increased demands for human rights and democracy, while global economic failures threaten the health and prosperity of the earth's growing population - now over 7 billion.

The International Energy Agency's 2011 World Energy Outlook report reminds us that about 1.3 billion people in developing countries have no access to electricity. Meanwhile in industrialised countries, fossil energy use is rising despite the economic recession, and will lead to irreversible and potentially catastrophic climate change by 2017 unless there are substantial changes in energy use.

Since 1995, the **ENERGIA** network has

worked to promote increased energy access, and a transition to more sustainable energy systems and livelihoods that can support social and political empowerment for women.

**ENERGIA's** activities are only one aspect of a much larger movement towards building economies based on social justice and environmental conservation. Yet **ENERGIA's** work is a critical element in making the right decisions about energy policies for promoting social and economic development, protecting human rights, and addressing climate change.

The News from the Secretariat outlines **ENERGIA's** plans for Phase 5 activities, which will focus on:

**a** strengthened national gender and energy networks

**b** expansion of successful country-level gender and energy programmes and

**c** increased advocacy and knowledge sharing on how to promote gender mainstreaming in the energy sector.

Providing support for government policies and large-scale projects, and gathering information on what is most successful, will help **ENERGIA** provide a stronger evidence base for the value of gender-sensitive energy activities in expanding access and promoting sustainability. This information can then be shared with governments, institutions, and **ENERGIA's** partners and network members through research studies, advocacy and training materials, how-to manuals and reports on effective strategies.





From the beginning, ENERGIA has undertaken research and put together facts and arguments for taking gender equity seriously in the energy sector. Some examples of ENERGIA's publications and training materials are presented in the section on Sharing Information and Methodologies, along with plans for additional resources.

As an international network bringing together energy and gender experts, organisations and national networks, ENERGIA's role in sharing information, experiences and examples has been a critical part of its success in influencing energy policies, projects and institutions.

Paul Starkey's article on Empowering Women through National Networks reviews the activities of ENERGIA's network members in 22 countries to help governments, institutions, and businesses understand the different needs of women and men in their specific countries, and the practical and policy implications of meeting those needs. For the future, he emphasises the importance of working with private companies as well as governments and NGOs, and focussing on replicating and scaling up successful projects.

Since 2008, ENERGIA has already been providing technical and financial assistance for mainstreaming gender in specific energy projects through its 'Gender in Projects' programme. Elizabeth Cecelski and Anja Panjwani discuss some of the aspects of the work in the article on Increasing Benefits to Women from Energy Projects. They outline the steps in developing and implementing a gender action plan for a specific project, with clear goals, indicators and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Reporting on specific indicators in the gender action plans helps provide evidence of the benefits to women from greater attention to gender issues in energy projects, including time saved, improved health, income generation,

and increased roles in decision-making. In Pakistan, for example, a gender-mainstreaming plan for the Domestic Biogas Programme convinced project managers to include women in user training sessions, and to make special efforts to open up new employment opportunities for women as well as men in building, marketing and financing the new biogas plants.

In a review of experiences and methodologies for Integrating Gender Awareness into Energy Policies, Joy Clancy looks at ENERGIA's development of gender tools and training workshops that have enabled network members and government officials to conduct gender audits of energy policies. Reviewing energy policies to see if they take into account differences in the daily activities and roles of both men and women can help determine whether 'gender-blind' policies inadvertently discriminate against women. In Botswana, an audit revealed that there was little or no input from women in preparing the Draft Energy Policy, even though women are the major users and managers of domestic energy sources there, as they are in many other developing countries.

ENERGIA has successfully used training materials and workshops to help energy professionals and organisations understand the relevance of gender considerations, and apply these concepts in their own energy projects and work environments. In her article on Guiding Energy Institutions towards Gender Equity, Soma Dutta describes some important elements in influencing organisations, such as including staff members in training courses who can actually implement gender and energy plans, and building a 'critical mass' of individuals within the organisation who recognise the importance of gender sensitive approaches.

The article on Building an Effective Advocacy Strategy looks back at ENERGIA's emergence as a leading advocacy organisation, through a strategy that has created new links between grassroots

and national women's organisations, energy experts, governments and international institutions. It also looks forward, discussing ENERGIA's ongoing engagement in the 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Environment and Development and possibilities for contributing to plans for the 2012 UN campaign to support the 'International Year for Sustainable Energy for All'.

Currently, ENERGIA is one of the leaders of the Women's Steering Committee coordinating preparations for Rio+20. ENERGIA is focusing particularly on women's energy roles in the context of promoting a 'green economy', sustainable livelihoods, and food security. ENERGIA is also a member of the Global Gender & Climate Alliance advocacy team, emphasising women's contributions to effective sustainable energy initiatives and climate change responses, and the need for gender mainstreaming in the Climate Investment Funds, including the programme on Scaling-Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries.

We are excited about the opportunities for strengthening the network by scaling up current activities, exploring new avenues, and also working with new partners and institutions in Phase 5 of our work.



**Gail Karlsson**, ENERGIA Senior Policy Advisor, is an environmental lawyer and consultant on energy and development. She has represented ENERGIA and facilitated the participation of network

members in a number of UN conferences and other international advocacy activities. In addition, she has written many articles and reports on gender, energy and environmental issues, and has edited and produced several ENERGIA publications, including Where Energy is Women's Business: National Reports from Africa, Asia, Latin American and the Pacific. She can be contacted at [gkarlsson@att.net](mailto:gkarlsson@att.net) or [gkarlsson@igc.org](mailto:gkarlsson@igc.org)





Over the past 15 years, ENERGIA has been effective in establishing the importance of gender issues in the energy sector. As a result, ENERGIA is now responding to a growing demand for its programmes and services.

Some of ENERGIA's achievements in advocacy, networking, research, project guidance and policy influencing are outlined in this issue of ENERGIA News. Perhaps most important, instead of responding to questions about 'why gender and energy?', ENERGIA is now being asked to provide advice to practitioners and policymakers on how to integrate gender sensitivity into their policies, projects and institutional operations.

**'The relevance of the network and the usefulness of its work are unquestionable. ENERGIA's most noteworthy accomplishment has been to place gender on the energy map... ENERGIA has established itself as the place of first choice for advice on gender and energy in developing countries. It is clearly meeting a strong need as evidenced by the demand for advice and training on how to raise women's roles in energy activities.'**

*Finding from the External Evaluation of ENERGIA in 2010.*

## ENERGIA Phase 5 Programme Proposal

Building on its successes, ENERGIA is now entering Phase 5 of its activities (2012-2015). In developing plans for Phase 5, ENERGIA has consulted with its Advisory Group and partners in order to identify appropriate future directions and strategies for action.

One clear challenge that needs to be addressed is the continued lack of access to reliable and sustainable en-



**ENERGIA National Focal Points from Asia and Africa at strategic planning meeting develop the ENERGIA Phase 5 proposal.**

ergy services in the developing countries. There is a real need for ENERGIA and others to step up to this challenge, including through a renewed focus on advocacy activities while the 2012 UN International Year of Energy Access for All is focussing attention on this issue.

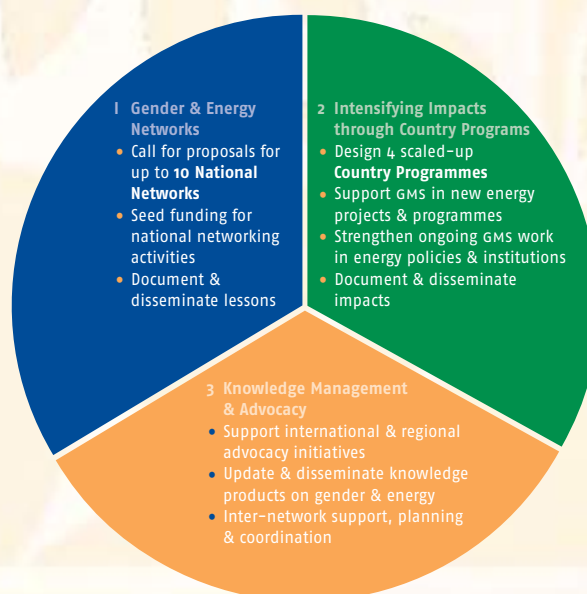
ENERGIA has a unique niche in the energy sector, integrating an emphasis on social equity and women's rights with a very practical focus on energy technology - an area that has been traditionally male-dominated as well as gender-blind. It is the leading institution guiding actions to introduce gender sensitivity into energy policies and projects worldwide. As part of its contribution to scaling up activities to improve energy access, ENERGIA needs to compile and share additional, specific evidence about how attention to gender contributes to energy access efforts. The network also needs to build up a critical mass of men and women com-

petent to lead and implement large-scale gender-aware energy access strategies at the national level as recommended in the 2010 external evaluation.

The resulting proposal for Phase 5 sets three priority areas: additional support for the national gender and energy networks; intensified country-level gender and energy programmes; and increased advocacy and knowledge sharing on how to promote gender mainstreaming in the energy sector.

Potential supporters for this phase of ENERGIA's work include the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland.

Component 1 **Gender & Energy Networks** will strengthen the national networks in Asia and Africa to help them further integrate gender into the energy access agendas of developing countries. New seed funding will be provided to networks in up to 10 coun-







tries for activities that contribute to ENERGIA's mission of empowering women and engendering energy. This approach allows ENERGIA to build on its existing network structure and collect and share critical information and feedback about what approaches are most effective. This evidence about results is essential for advocacy and outreach, and for the success of national activities, thereby strengthening the ENERGIA international network as a whole.

Component 2 **Intensifying Impacts through Country Programmes** seeks to consolidate and scale up ENERGIA's successes through intensive interventions in four selected countries. The idea is to trigger a multiplier effect in countries where gender mainstreaming in the energy sector has already had some impact, and build towards larger scale results. Key features of these Country Programmes are that they build on past efforts and combine policy influencing, programme development and national level advocacy in a 'sector-wide approach' over a period of at least three years.

Component 3 **Knowledge Management and Advocacy** will build a broader general understanding of energy, gender and sustainable development linkages, and a stronger flow of information among network members, energy practitioners and policy-makers, and institutions.

This is a crosscutting initiative, as research and information resources support international and regional advocacy initiatives, advocacy and training materials build awareness and develop competence on gender and energy, how-to manuals and reports on effective strategies strengthen gender integration in projects, and a stronger evidence base supports all ENERGIA's activities.

Implementation of Phase 5 is supported by a results-based management approach that provides for both strategic planning and management based on learning and accountability. This approach is particularly suitable for ENERGIA as it operates in a largely decentralised context.

ENERGIA has also developed a monitoring approach that focuses on

changing the behaviour of key energy sector actors and institutions. By focussing on behavioural outcomes, ENERGIA will be able to track how well Phase 5 delivers changes in attitudes and actions of key stakeholders.

### *ENERGIA's Role in Norway's Energy and Development Activities*

In 2012, ENERGIA entered into a three-year agreement with Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, to provide technical advice and support on gender mainstreaming in Norway's programmes on 'Oil for Development' and 'Clean Energy for Development'.

Norway places a strong emphasis on women and gender equality in its foreign policy and development cooperation. With respect to gender and energy linkages, Norad's Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, which was launched in 2007, emphasised the importance of gender sensitivity in energy as one of the five priority areas for Norwegian development cooperation:

- 1 ensuring that both women and men participate at all levels in the management of natural resources in partner countries;
- 2 contributing to the creation of jobs and livelihoods for both women and men;
- 3 supporting sustainable, safe energy solutions that ease women's work burdens and improve their access to health services and education;
- 4 supporting the development and use of clean energy solutions, such as solar energy; and
- 5 promoting the active participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes.

To implement the Norad agreement, ENERGIA has pulled together a consortium of experts representing some of the best available knowledge and experience on gender, clean energy and petroleum fuels (internationally and in specific countries).

The consortium is managed by ETC, the ENERGIA network's host organisation. The services expected to be provided to Norad, Norwegian Embassies

and development partners in priority countries include:

- developing and implementing Gender Programmes, with gender-responsive baseline data and results frameworks
- conducting gender audits and gender budgeting of energy policies, and reviews of legal and contractual frameworks, environmental regulations and guidelines
- facilitating organisational assessments and developing gender strategies and training workshops for development partners
- contributing to international, regional and national conferences and gender-aware communications strategies
- developing a body of **best practices** that demonstrate how gender-specific impacts and outcomes can be generated in clean energy and petroleum projects.

ENERGIA started off with a gender analysis of Norwegian development assistance to the energy sector and a gender and energy training seminar targeted at female professionals from partner institutions of the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate.

At the country level, so far ENERGIA and Norad have worked together with governments on integrating gender sensitivity into Norwegian development assistance initiatives in Mozambique and Timor-Leste, putting together a gender action plan for rural electrification projects in Uganda, and designing an action plan for the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate's programme in Liberia.

In terms of knowledge sharing and advocacy, ENERGIA has provided Gender and Energy Background Paper Case Studies for the World Development Report 2012, and presented a gender report for the Energy for All Conference in Oslo in October 2011.

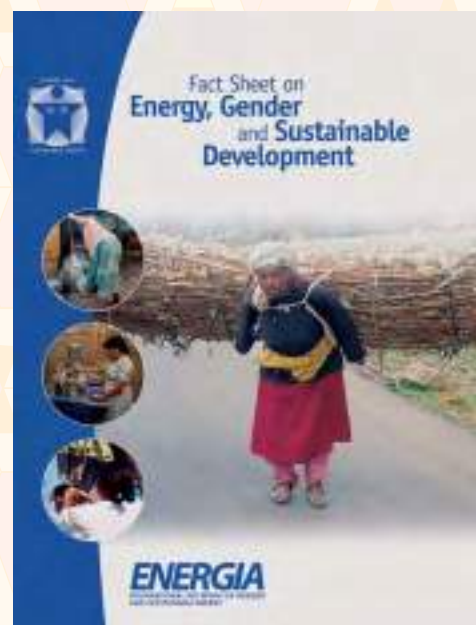
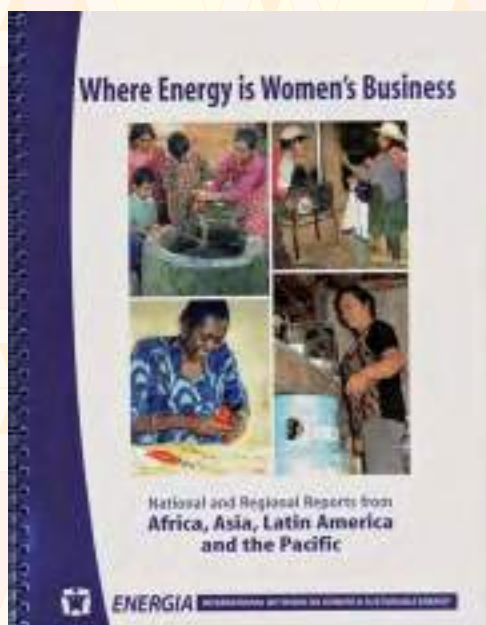
At the High-Level Energy for All Conference, Norway repeated its commitment to work through its foreign policy and development activities to empower women in the energy sector, and sought partners who see the benefits of a gender-responsive approach to financing energy access for all.





# Sharing Information, Research and Methodologies

Sharing information and experiences has been at the core of ENERGIA's networking, advocacy and gender mainstreaming activities right from the beginning. During the early years, the main objective was explaining why gender issues are relevant in the energy sector – through articles and fact sheets, as well as collaboration with UNDP on producing a book of case studies: *Generating Opportunities: Case Studies on Energy and Women*. During this period, ENERGIA News was the main product and 'backbone' of the network.



As capacity building, research, and policy influencing became important activities of the network, ENERGIA produced training materials and an e-learning course, as well as reports on gender and energy, such as:

- Gender & Energy for Sustainable Development: A toolkit and resource guide (produced with UNDP in 2004)
- Turning Information into Empowerment: Strengthening gender and energy networking in Africa (2007)
- Where Energy is Women's Business: National and Regional Re-

ports from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific (2007)

Later ENERGIA materials have been less focussed on showing why gender is a crucial aspect of energy policies and programmes, and more targeted towards demonstrating how to mainstream gender into energy projects and policies, as well as the climate change agenda.

Some materials produced in this context were:

- Gender Mainstreaming Guide for Africa Biogas Partnership Pro-

gramme, developed by ENERGIA for Hivos in 2010

- Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change (Module 5 - Gender sensitive strategies for climate change mitigation actions), IUCN, GGCA, UNDP, 2008
- An Integrated Approach to Gender, Energy and Environmental Challenges, prepared by ENERGIA for High Level Gender Forum at 2009 UNEP Governing Council
- Factsheet on Gender, Energy Technology and Climate Change (prepared with WEDO for UNFCCC Con-



ference of the Parties 2010)

- Tapping Climate Funds to Expand Renewable Energy Access, Empower Women and Build More Resilient Communities, for World Renewable Energy Congress XI Workshop on Energy and Gender Equitable Development, ENERGIA, 2010
- Biofuels for Sustainable Rural Development and Empowerment of Women, a joint publication by IUCN, ENERGIA and SANERI (2009)

Additional knowledge products include:

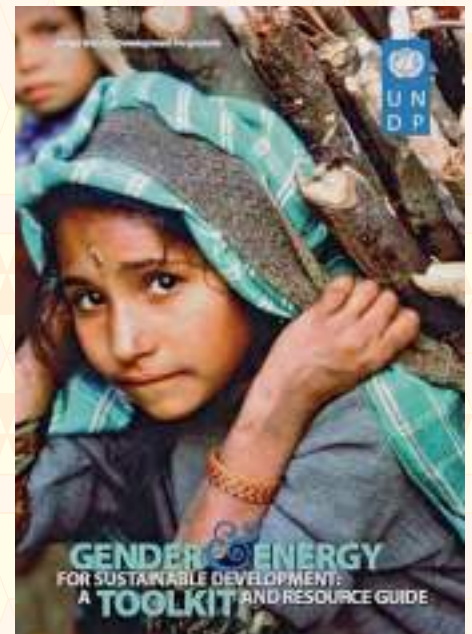
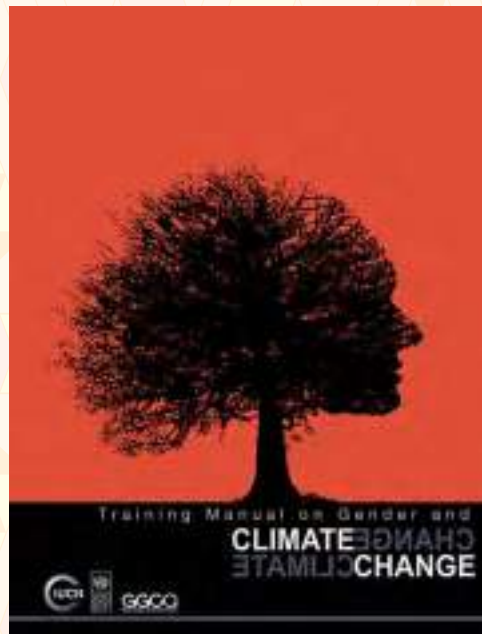
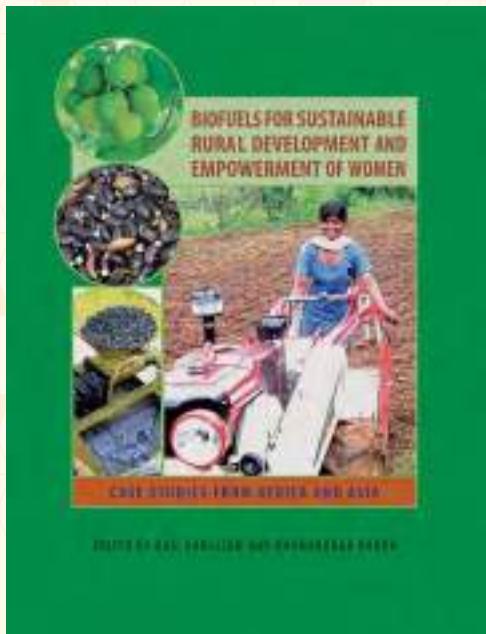
- A practical handbook on how to

mainstream gender into energy projects, documenting the methodology that was developed, tested and proven in seven existing energy projects in Africa and Asia, together with case study reports for each of the projects

- A 15-20 minute video that will showcase how gender mainstreaming can enhance the quality of energy projects
- Five technical briefs on gender mainstreaming in the energy sector, focusing on the following areas:
  - gender mainstreaming in biogas programmes

- gender mainstreaming in rural electrification programmes
- gender mainstreaming in improved cookstove programmes
- institutionalising gender mainstreaming in the energy sector
- methodology to mainstream gender in energy projects.

ENERGIA has also made use of the opportunities offered by e-discussion forums, and used social media resources for training, e-learning, knowledge exchange and advocacy activities.





# Building National Networks



**ENERGIA** has national networks in 22 countries: 9 in Asia and 13 in Africa. These autonomous networks have received 'seed funding' to further **ENERGIA's** mission of empowering women and 'engendering' energy for sustainable development. Paul Starkey, an **ENERGIA** consultant on networking, reviews their accomplishments.

**PAUL STARKEY**



### Why are these national networks needed?

In an ideal world, national networks to empower women and engender energy would not be necessary because the energy sector would be gender-balanced at all levels. Government departments, international agencies, private companies and non-governmental organisations involved in energy policies and programmes would all understand the different energy needs of women and men, and the practical and policy implications of meeting these needs.

However, in the real world, the energy sector is generally dominated by men and they assume that energy is gender neutral. As their planning data is not disaggregated by gender, it does not show the gender distinctions that could disprove this assumption. Energy ministries and power companies generally do not have the time, vision, experience or trained staff to consider the specific energy needs of women and evaluate the range of options that could be implemented to meet their needs - or to promote women's participation in energy sector decisions.

ENERGIA's networking approach is based on the belief that national networks can help overcome such problems by publicising the importance of gender issues and enabling people and organisations working on energy to exchange information and experiences that promote effective gender-sensitive strategies.

### How are the networks structured?

The ENERGIA International Secretariat has encouraged the formation of autonomous networks with distinct identities. How they are governed and managed has been left to the local stakeholders. In practice, the host organisations, in consultation with network members, have determined the structure, management and focus of the national networks depending on national conditions and the interests of the members.

The networks in Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe are managed by international NGOs, while those in Nepal, Nigeria, Swaziland and Uganda are led by national NGOs. Others networks are led by one key individual, as in India, Lesotho, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. 'Independent' networks, like those in Indonesia, Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania, are managed by a group rather than one organisation.

### What types of work have the different networks undertaken?

#### • Influencing national energy policies

The India network, coordinated by Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADE), successfully advocated for a national policy mandating the provision of fuelwood plantations within one kilometre of all habitations of people without access to affordable clean fuels. In this network, the members are mainly high-level researchers or government officials who work on influencing policies through publications, website contributions, and reviewing and commenting on documents.

In Pakistan, ENERGIA's national focal point, the Alternative Energy Development Board, saw an opportunity to influence a new national policy document on Alternative and Renewable Energy. It arranged stakeholder workshops and hired a consultant to help modify and engender the draft policy document.

The Gender, Energy and Water Network in Nepal collaborated with other organisations to develop a report on Gender Issues in Renewable Energy Policies of Nepal, with recommendations for gender-sensitive policies and data collection. As members of government departments were involved in the discussions, and a national workshop, it is likely that these recommendations will be incorporated into future energy policies.

#### • Advocacy and local development planning

In Senegal, the network includes some large federations of rural development groups, and is hosted by ENDA, a development NGO focusing on energy and appropriate technologies. Exchanging information and learning about gender and energy issues have helped the rural development groups integrate gender issues into local development plans and work more effectively at the village level. The Mali network, led by the Mali Folkecenter Nyetaa NGO, used ENERGIA funds to arrange village exchange visits for 20 rural women. The women saw and considered possibilities for adopting alternative cooking stoves, solar drying systems and tree-planting programmes in their own villages. Some were also invited to participate in the annual national environmental forum to discuss their energy needs.



*The mill operator Garalo seeks credit for another mill. With greater capacity, he can buy his stock wholesale for reprocessing.*

#### • Working with energy companies and projects

The ENERGIA Bangladesh Network invited local managers of the Rural Electrification Board to participate in workshops, which were followed up by training programmes at three local rural electrification cooperatives. Case histories were used to focus on the practical implications of



## The Indonesia Gender and Energy Network

The Indonesia network is known as Jaringan Kerja Gender & Energi Indonesia (JKGEI). It has grown rapidly over the past four years and now includes 57 organisations and 14 individuals.

The network is coordinated by Yayasan Dian Desa, an NGO that works on appropriate technologies, and serves as the ENERGIA national focal point. The JKGEI network has a steering committee that includes three key government institutions (on women's empowerment, energy and electricity supply), a private sector enterprise, and organisations that help coordinate network activities in the different parts of Indonesia. Network members are involved in cook stoves, biogas, micro-hydro and solar energy activities.

The JKGEI network has held workshops, reviewed policies, and carried out gender training in collaboration with many governmental and nongovernmental organisations, including the ministry for women's empowerment, the department of energy, the micro-hydro programme and a large biogas project. The network has its own website and has produced brochures, training materials (in Indonesian and English), DVDs and a book on best practices in gender mainstreaming. It has disseminated some of its training materials in collaboration with UNESCO's e-learning programme.

The inclusion of academics and researchers in the network has increased the breadth and depth of network expertise. The network views concrete and culturally relevant case histories as vital materials for training and workshops, as these allow participants to focus on specific gender concepts that they can understand.

The reputation of the network has attracted more organisations wishing to be active members and arrange local activities. At the same time, JKGEI is being treated as a specialist professional organisation by government and aid agencies and this should increase potential funding for future activities. This has been assisted by face-to-face meetings during workshops and training, as the network believes that personal encounters are vital for conveying feelings of network ownership.

The JKGEI network wishes to expand its influence within the institutions involved in energy project planning and implementation, and in new and renewable energy projects.

[www.energiindonesia.org](http://www.energiindonesia.org)

► *Water diversion for village micro hydro project in Indonesia established by IBEKA People Centred Economic and Business Institute.*



PHOTO: GAIL KARLSSON





PHOTO: ZGEN

**Banner of the Zambia Gender and Energy Network (ZGEN) on the streets of Lusaka to create awareness about the network, its goals and activities.**

gender mainstreaming, and there was a high level of interest among women employees, as well as cooperative authorities.

- **Working with women and small projects**

The Gender and Energy Network in Botswana is working to assist small energy projects, such as a women's vegetable growing business using a biogas plant as an energy source. In Lesotho, the network used seed funding to develop a pilot project in which local women produced bio-fuels for heating, lighting, cooking and entrepreneurial sales, and also led a village tree planting initiative.

- **Strengthening capacities through training, research and documentation**

Other activities undertaken by different networks included capacity building for their members, collaboration with other networks and organisations working on energy-related issues. Some networks have carried out research on various aspects of rural energy and gender issues, including the energy needs of households (Botswana, Tanzania) and gender issues in energy micro-enterprises (Uganda). Most networks have produced information materials, and several have used public media (papers, radio, television) to publicise gender and energy.

### **How can the impacts of the ENERGIA national networks be expanded?**

- **Working with government officials to influence policies**

National networks can provide a common context for member organisations to develop highly influential policies on gender and energy. One key success factor for this is involving government decision-makers in network discussions on ways to engender energy policies and prac-



tices. Other strategies for influencing public sector departments include capacity building, training, workshops, gender audits, research papers, media reports, and collaboration with other networks.

- **Engaging more strongly with the private sector**

The networks have mainly concentrated on the public and NGO sectors. Under-representation of the private sector is a common situation in national and international networks concerned with equitable development. However, it is something that ENERGIA should endeavour to address in the coming years.

- **Scaling up local initiatives**

One challenge for the national and international ENERGIA networks is how to use the lessons from grassroots initiatives to encourage or facilitate other stakeholders in replicating or emulating successful projects. To maximise the impact of the seed-funded work, ENERGIA should make conscious efforts to ensure that good, small initiatives are not simply reported and forgotten. ENERGIA and its national networks have many members and good communication systems, and so are well placed to share the lessons and encourage others to follow 'best practice' examples.



**Paul Starkey** is an international consultant on integrated transport, networking and animal power. He works worldwide and uses participatory approaches to raise the profile of 'disadvantaged' sectors including intermediate means of transport and rural women. He is an honorary senior research fellow at Reading University and can be contacted at

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# Increasing Benefits to Women from Energy Projects

Adapted from ENERGIA thematic paper by Elizabeth Cecelski and Anja Panjwani, and Gender Mainstreaming in the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme Final Report October 2011

ELIZABETH CECELSKI AND ANJA PANJWANI

*This biodiesel and diesel operated water pump in Sri Lanka has helped to drastically reduce the number of trips and time taken for women to fetch water.*





In Pakistan, a national programme is promoting biogas as a clean, safe and convenient cooking fuel for household use. However, although women do most of the cooking, a 2010 survey revealed that in 62% of the homes, the male head of the household made the decision about whether or not to use a biogas system. Women were only included in the discussion in 33% of the homes, even though the major benefits of biogas are seen to be better cooking conditions for women, as measured by time savings, convenience and healthier working conditions.

This sort of information about the participation of men and women in decision-making only became available after the Pakistan programme started including gender-specific questions as part of its biogas user surveys.

Members of the ENERGIA network have been working with a number of project managers in developing countries, including Pakistan, on plans to identify ways of engaging women in energy initiatives and ensuring that women benefit from improved energy access opportunities. Collecting information about the different roles of men and women is just one aspect of these plans.

### Developing a Gender Mainstreaming Plan

The managers of the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme requested assistance from ENERGIA in designing a formal 'Gender Mainstreaming Plan' to help them achieve their goal of building a commercially viable biogas sector to serve households and small businesses. They started with the goal of installing 14,000 bio-

## Objectives of the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme's Gender Mainstreaming Plan

- 1 Ensure the inclusion of gender-specific concepts, activities and outcomes, including gender-specific research and development, in successive projects
- 2 Identify the points at which donor funding for biogas links with all government policies that concern energy
- 3 Try to ensure that at least one 'gender and energy' expert is a member of the National Biogas steering committee
- 4 Recruit and train 'gender-intelligent' professional staff
- 5 Establish links with Rural Support Programmes and service providers
- 6 Provide information to women household members so they are able to use and maintain the biogas plants efficiently.
- 7 Contribute to knowledge on energy and related issues affecting women
- 8 Enable women to use time saved in entrepreneurial activities

Our Implementation Partners (SNV & Winrock), have knowledge, experience and a proven track record of constructing hundreds & thousands of this type of biogas plants in various countries (in Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia & Vietnam) at a success rate of 95%.

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Plant Size	Daily Required Qty. Dung	Water	Gas Production (M <sup>3</sup> /day)
4m <sup>3</sup>	30kg	30L	4 Hours
6m <sup>3</sup>	45kg	45L	5-6 Hours
8m <sup>3</sup>	60kg	60L	6-8 Hours
10m <sup>3</sup>	75kg	75L	8-10 Hours

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- 4 years guarantee of the Plant
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**Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme  
Rural Support Programmes Network**





gas plants in the Punjab area. In providing this assistance, ENERGIA applied a set of tools and methodologies the network has developed on gender mainstreaming. There are also a number of trained national network members who are available to provide guidance to energy practitioners and institutions.

Gender mainstreaming involves assessing proposed activities in terms of their differing implications for men and women. It is a strategy for integrating the concerns of both women and men into project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that they are more likely to benefit equally, and so that gender inequality is not perpetuated.

### Informing women about potential benefits

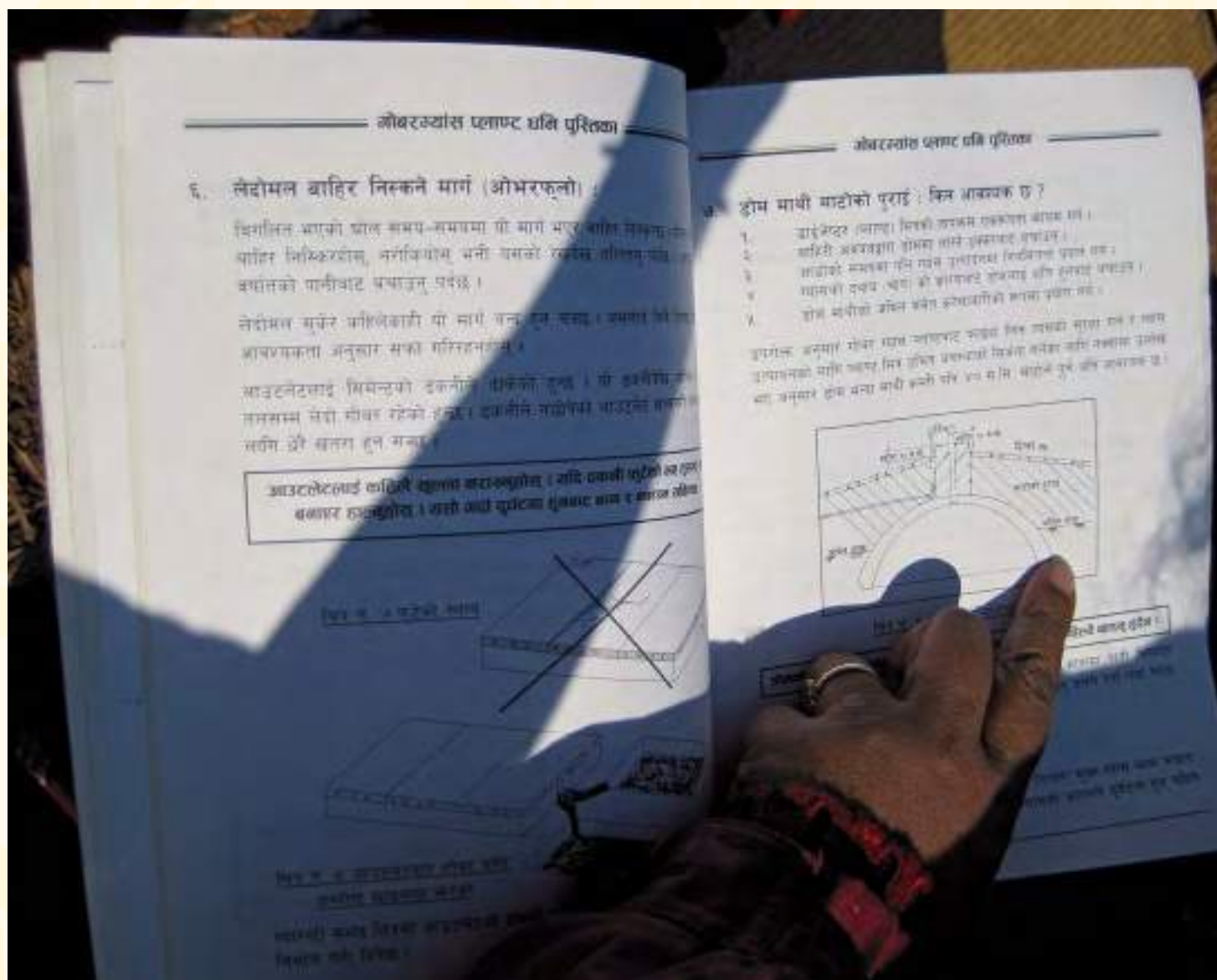
One important element of the Pakistan programme was building awareness about the benefits of biogas. Since women were expected to be the main beneficiaries, it was important for them to understand how biogas systems work and how to manage them properly.

Like women in many other developing countries, rural Pakistani women spend a great deal of time gathering fuel and managing cooking fires. Firewood is 'free' if no economic value is attributed to the time spent by girls and women in collecting it. However, in reality, the implications and social costs of collection are huge. In addition, women cooking indoors are exposed to smoky conditions on a daily basis that damage their eyes and lungs.

Biogas systems provide an alternative, less polluting source of cooking fuel. They produce methane and carbon dioxide from animal dung in airtight underground tanks. The gas can then be piped directly into nearby households.

### Including women in training activities

The biogas plant user training sessions initially only included men, but as a result of the Gender Mainstreaming Plan the strategy changed, and now at least one man and one woman from each user household is being trained. So far, 113 women and 251 men have







been trained, and accommodations have been made to encourage attendance by women.

### Opening up new employment opportunities

Besides providing fuel to meet the daily needs of households and businesses, the Pakistan biogas programme provides new employment opportunities in building biogas plants. As of July 2011, 1,128 biogas plants had been constructed in central Punjab, and there were 17 biogas construction companies operating there.

The Gender Mainstreaming Plan considered ways of involving women as well as men on the supply side as owners or promoters of biogas construction companies, and on the demand side as trainers, community organisers, income-generation facilitators, and financiers, primarily as microfinance lenders. The employment opportunities are limited in Pakistan for both women and men, as there are few viable business and industrial sector initiatives to create new jobs. It is even more difficult for Pakistani women, however, because of their lower social status and limited roles.

### Some challenges in implementing a Gender Mainstreaming Plan

- *Existing inequalities*

Efforts to mainstream gender in the Pakistan biogas programme have been affected by the overall societal position of women. The Pakistani cultural value system is patriarchal; men hold the decision-making power, and most men are reluctant to provide any rights to the women. In the biogas programme, significant efforts are required if the project is going to win the trust of the local communities to engage women equally.

- *Practical and cultural constraints*

The low literacy level in rural areas, especially among women, is a major impediment in outreach and training for women. Further, due to social cultural values and mobility problems women are reluctant to work as activists, supervisors or masons. Following adoption of the Gender Mainstreaming Plan, the programme trained three women health workers to help generate interest in and demand for the biogas plants. They succeeded in obtaining two orders for biogas plants, but after that they stopped due to mobility problems.

- *Lack of resources*

The evaluators observed that it is not enough only to identify the gender issues. There is a need for adequate resources to address those issues within the programme.

- *Assignment of responsibility*

The monitoring and evaluation plan identified outcomes, measureable gender-disaggregated indicators

and scheduled data reports, but did not determine who would be responsible for these activities.

### Other energy projects working with ENERGIA on gender mainstreaming

In addition to cooking projects that target women, there are many other types of energy projects that can benefit from gender approaches designed to increase benefits for women, as well as project effectiveness. For example, rural electrification programmes that make special efforts to reach women can help them undertake new income generating enterprises.

Since 2008, ENERGIA has been actively engaged in providing technical and financial assistance for mainstreaming gender in energy projects through its Gender in Projects programme, which was designed to help show that gender mainstreaming does make a difference in energy access projects, and that energy access projects also make a difference in gender equality. Earlier research had found positive impacts from attention to gender issues in terms of time saved, drudgery reduction, income generation and social and economic empowerment, but much of the evidence for gender as a key variable in energy was anecdotal and drawn from small pilot projects.

After soliciting proposals from large-scale energy projects interested in gender mainstreaming assistance, ENERGIA has so far worked with more than 22 projects in Africa and Asia, including, in addition to the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme:

- Practical Action Sri Lanka - Enhanced Renewable Energy Options Project, which has a strong emphasis on value chain analysis in jatropha production and use, and micro-hydro
- TATEDO in Tanzania - the Multifunctional Platform and Productive Use Containers project, which has a strong emphasis on energy entrepreneurship
- the Botswana Power Corporation - on and off-grid Rural Electrification Programme
- SIBAT in the Philippines - community-based renewable energy systems project using micro-hydro power, photovoltaic water pumps and small wind energy systems, with a strong focus on community management
- the Rural Electrification and Biomass for Household Energy Project in Senegal - rural electrification: activities and improved cookstove programme
- SCODE (Sustainable Community Development Services) in Kenya - marketing and dissemination of improved cookstoves in its Clean Household Energy Dissemination and Enterprise Development Project
- the UN Development Programme's Cambodia Country Office - six projects under their Environment and Energy Portfolio, all of which have a strong climate change component
- Africa Biogas Partnership Programme, six national



## PERACOD programme in Senegal

The Government of Senegal has undertaken a 'Programme to promote rural electrification and a sustainable supply of domestic fuel' (PERACOD) with support from GIZ, the German government's international development agency. PERACOD is partnering with several Senegalese agencies, including the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Department of Water and Forests and the Senegal Agency for Rural Electrification (ASER), and has added components on climate change and energy policy to the gender mainstreaming effort.

In order to extend the reach of rural electrification, ASER is awarding concessions to private power suppliers. For more remote areas, they are encouraging electrification based on local initiatives, with a short-term goal to set up 980 solar home systems and 120 village mini-centres.

PERACOD also supports the production of energy-efficient stoves and alternative fuels made from waste materials and reeds. This lightens the workload of women, who as a result spend less time gathering firewood and cooking.

PERACOD has set clear objectives for the promotion of women's groups in its development approaches. ENERGIA worked with PERACOD to develop and adopt a Gender Plan of Action for the programme, which is already being implemented. The main components of their plan are to:

- Organise training sessions for field staff
- Disaggregate energy data for gender analysis
- Facilitate access to finance for women to develop income generating activities through microfinance institutions and the climate change treaty's Clean Development Mechanism
- Enhance traditional marketing systems implemented at the local level by women to buy improved stoves
- Analyse the system of decision-making and the gender profile of households regarding the purchase of improved stoves or access to electricity
- Integrate gender indicators in the regular monitoring system for the project
- With respect to the improved stoves initiative, PERACOD is measuring the economic profitability and viability of women's engagement in the production of improved stoves in rural areas.



*Women's group in Senegal shows ceramic liners for improved cookstoves that the group has produced.*





biogas programmes in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda

ENERGIA has selected projects based on the commitment of the project managers to adopt and implement a gender action plan and to support the process with sufficient staff and resources. ENERGIA provides technical advice on gender methodologies, tools and techniques, and financial assistance for development of the gender action plan, including for local gender consultants to work with project staff.

### Project outcomes to date

Most of the projects have already developed Gender Action Plans with clear gender goals, indicators and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The ability of the team members to mainstream gender in energy projects has been enhanced. Some of the organisations are now also addressing gender issues in other energy projects and proposals.

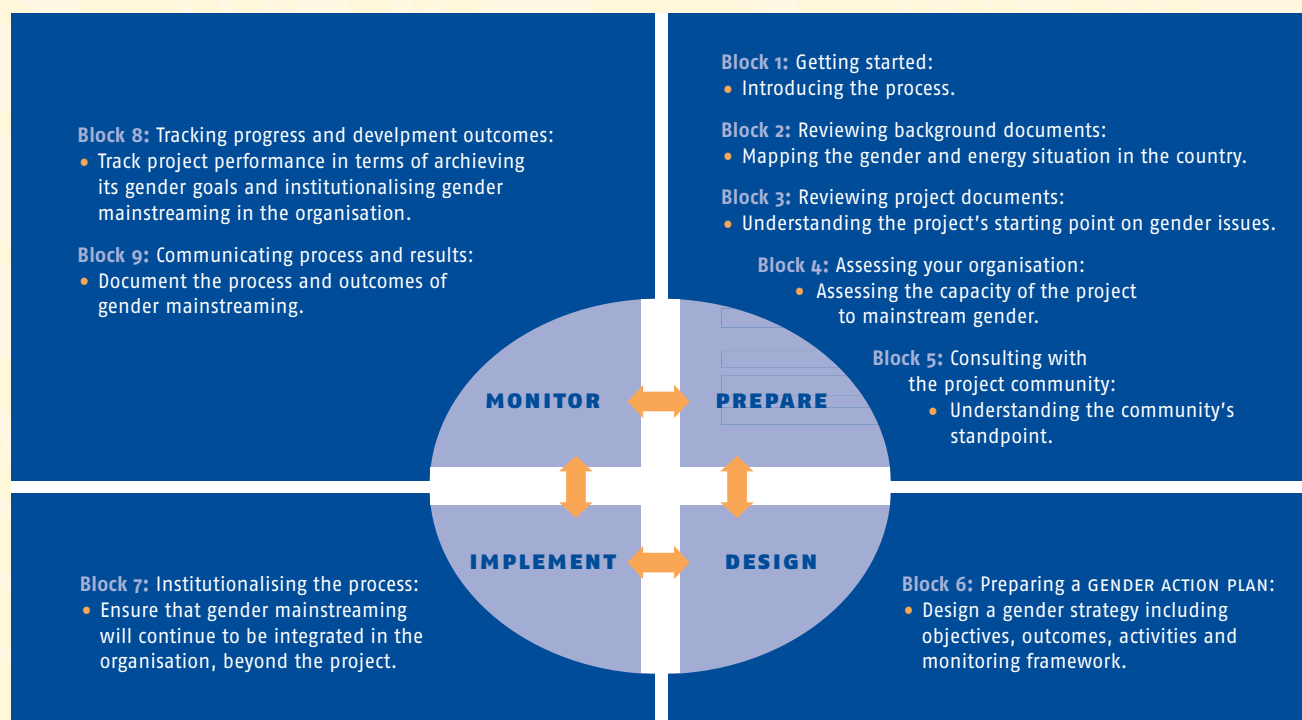
In some projects, gender mainstreaming has already contributed to reaching gender goals in the welfare, in-

come generation and empowerment spheres. Indicators for this are time saved, improved health, gender-friendly technologies, saving of money and income earning, increased capacities of women to manage and sustain technologies, women taking on non-traditional roles, and women's roles in decision-making increased.

Most of the project activities are still in progress, but over time it is expected that more evidence of benefits to women will become available as a result of the institutional mechanisms put in place under the Gender Action Plans, and the data produced from monitoring and evaluation incorporating key gender indicators.

Meanwhile, ENERGIA has received additional requests for an expansion of activities in gender mainstreaming in energy projects, and has also prepared a Practical Handbook on its gender mainstreaming methodology and approach, so this information can be shared more widely.

### Steps in developing and implementing an energy project Gender Action Plan



**Elizabeth Cecelski** is a founding member of ENERGIA and a Technical Adviser to the ENERGIA programme on 'Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Projects', especially the projects in Botswana, Senegal and Tanzania. Her recent work includes advising the Rural Electrification Agency of Uganda on gender mainstreaming in six Norwegian-supported projects. She has

served as a member of the ESMAP Technical Advisory Group and is currently a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.



**Anja Panjwani** is the Africa Programme Officer at the ENERGIA International Secretariat. As such, she is responsible for managing and monitoring progress of the ENERGIA Phase 4 programme activities in Africa together with the Regional Network Coordinator Ms Nozipho Wright. Anja has been closely involved in the Tanzania and Senegal 'Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Proj-

ects (GiP)'. In addition, she is involved as project manager and technical advisor for gender mainstreaming in a number of energy projects in Africa. Anja has 15 years experience working with gender and energy issues.







### The Gender-aware Energy Policy Matrix

	Dimensions	Political	Economic	Environmental Sustainability	Social Equity and Empowerment
	Issues				
Access	Availability	Instruments to provide wide choice of energy forms for household and informal sector (e.g., biomass and LPG are part of supply mix)	Mechanisms to stimulate suppliers to enter the market supplying household energy (e.g., women are trained and supported to establish their own ESCOs)	Promotion of clean energy sources and technologies (e.g., incentives for developing household energy supplies around modern biomass forms)	Equal distribution and access to energy services (e.g., women are involved at senior level in energy sector decision-making)
	Affordability	Mechanisms to reflect women's incomes and cash flows in the cost of fuels (e.g., requirement for LPG suppliers to provide different size cylinders)	Pricing policy reflects women's incomes and cash flows (e.g., in electricity connection tariffs and payment methods)	Mechanisms stimulate switch to renewable energy sources and technologies (e.g., women have access to credit sources sufficient to purchase solar home systems)	Increased purchasing power through reduced energy bills for households and informal/small businesses
	Safety	Safety regulations apply to household labour-saving equipment	Pricing policies and tariffs encourage switch to safer fuels and technologies (e.g., from kerosene to LPG or biogas for cooking)	Promotion of non-polluting technologies (e.g., information campaigns about the benefits of smokeless biomass stoves or solar cookers)	Promotion of increased wellbeing and personal safety (e.g., through street lighting enabling women to participate in events after dark)

From *Gender & Energy for Sustainable Development: A Toolkit and Resource Guide*, UNDP and ENERGIA, 2004

Because of male dominance, including in decision-making institutions, gender-blind policies can inadvertently overlook women's needs. For example, in Botswana, as in many other developing countries, women are not just important energy users, but also energy suppliers. In rural areas, household activities require huge investments of time in gathering firewood and water. The audit showed that women are the ones most involved in collecting fuel, with some women in rural villages spending more than three hours per day on this work.

The audit also revealed that the development process for the Draft Energy Policy of Botswana did not include consultations with household residents, so there was no input from women as the major users and managers of domestic energy sources. About 80% of the people involved in the formulation process were engineers. The rest were planners, with little gender expertise, and there was no input into the draft policy from the Botswana Women's Affairs Department.

The action plan resulting from the audit included requests for ENERGIA to organise targeted training activities for the Energy Affairs Division within the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources, which is responsible for the national energy policy, and to prepare case studies analysing the benefits from access to different energy fuels for both women and men.

Following the audit, the Botswana Power Corporation's rural electrification officers became more aware of the significance of women's energy roles. This ultimately led them to adopt a gender-mainstreaming programme for their rural electrification activities (both grid-based and off-grid investments).

The audit also led to a pilot study collecting gender-disaggregated data. The purpose of the study was to document the use of energy fuels and technologies by men and women, as a basis for responding to some of the gaps identified by the gender audit.

One key concern was that the government's financial data did not reflect gender differences. Expenditures and budgets considered how to build energy sources to support socio-economic development, but there was little financial data available on women's economic status, or the impacts of energy investments on their income generating potential. The audit's action plan called for public budgets and expenditures that include gender allocations, and a funding strategy to support gender-responsive programmes, as well as a targeted monitoring and evaluation system.

The audit was led by the Botswana Technology Centre (BOTEC), in close consultation with Botswana's Energy Affairs Division, supported by ENERGIA and the East African Energy Technology Development Network in Uganda.

### ENERGIA's role in national gender and energy training and audits of policies

ENERGIA has sponsored a number of national training workshops over the years that explain gender analysis concepts and techniques designed for use in the energy sector. One training package, which builds on the original work by Joy Clancy and Margaret Skutsch at the University of Twente, includes an explanation of what is meant by gender-sensitive energy policies (see table above.)

In the audit process, national data are analysed using gender tools and indicators, some of which were specially developed by ENERGIA. The audits may consider energy statistics, communication channels, policies and development strategies, plus the objectives and pri-



orities of key institutions. They examine energy links with national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and gender policy documents, and identify critical gender gaps in existing national energy policy formulation and implementation. In addition to official data, the analysis also generally covers information gathered from civil society organisations and other actors linked to the energy sector, as well as those working on poverty, gender equality and women's empowerment. The ENERGIA network is currently developing a manual to serve as a step-by-step guide for conducting gender audits in the energy sector.

Since the first audit in Botswana in 2006, ENERGIA members have led additional audits in the energy sector at the request of government officials in Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and Zambia.

Each country chose to focus on specific aspects considered relevant to its own situation. For example, Ghana looked particularly at gender in organisations, while Pakistan undertook a gender review of the draft rural electrification policy. The audit in India included a gender budget analysis, but was limited to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, since a complete audit of the energy sector in a country as large and complex as India was not feasible.

Follow-up policy level actions as a result of the gender audits include:

- **Kenya:** Integration of gender in Kenya Rural Electrification Plan and Biofuels Strategy (ethanol for household use); gender desk officers employed in Ministry of Energy; gender policy and strategy developed for the Kenya Power and Lighting Company
- **India:** Integration of gender issues and priorities in the Integrated Energy Policy, India; the Ministry of Power and UNDP launched a study to assess and increase the gender component in access to energy under the largest rural electrification programme in India; integration of gender in the 'National Mission for a Green India' as part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change; closer interaction between the Ministry of Women and Child Development gender budget cells and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- **Ghana:** Gender impact assessment of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) market; integration of gender in the Ghana Oil and Gas Policy Framework; analysis of gender gaps in employment within the energy sector and approaches to incorporating women into a sector normally seen as a man's preserve
- **Nigeria:** Establishment of gender desk officer in the Energy Commission of Nigeria; gender and energy policy training workshop for directors of energy departments and Ministry of Women Affairs in Nigeria; inclusion of gender-disaggregated energy statistics in the Gender Statistic Book produced by Ministry of Women Affairs in Nigeria; inter-ministerial collaboration between Ministry of Women Affairs and the Energy Commission of Nigeria.

An important element of the audit process is to involve the ministries responsible for energy at every stage, so that there is a sense of ownership of the audit findings

within those ministries. At the end of the audit process, validation by energy sector officials ensures the participation and involvement of key political actors in the future. Based on the findings from the audits, officials agree on actions with specific targets and timeframes needed to engender their policies.

ENERGIA's research, advocacy and training efforts have been instrumental in building a critical mass of individuals sufficiently senior in their organisations to be able to influence these changes in energy policies to create gender-sensitive goals.

In Kenya, the national gender and energy audit was a significant factor leading to ENERGIA's engagement in the development of a gender-mainstreaming policy and plan for the country's electricity utility - the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) in 2010.

KPLC is a public company that transmits, distributes and retails electricity to customers throughout Kenya. However, with the Government of Kenya as majority shareholder, KPLC takes its direction from government policy.

The Gender Mainstreaming Policy adopted by KPLC includes the following elements:

- KPLC will endeavour to seek out and appoint women to senior management and executive positions so that the 30% target is reached for all senior-level management appointments by 2015
- KPLC's senior leaders will provide proactive leadership and commitment to gender mainstreaming
- Women will be represented on all panels and groups with powers relating to governance and decision-making
- The capacity of all staff engaged in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy will be strengthened through training
- KPLC will continue to seek ways to include households and small businesses, particularly those headed by women, in its connection plans
- KPLC will communicate its gender mainstreaming policy and progress to key stakeholders
- Contractors who provide services to KPLC will be encouraged to include women employees within their workforce in the execution of their contracts
- KPLC will retain the services of an independent gender expert in order to support and maintain the gender mainstreaming momentum and processes.



**Joy Clancy** is a Reader (Associate Professor) in Technology Transfer at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. She is a founder member of ENERGIA, and is currently a Technical Advisor. Joy is a co-convenor of the Gender and Development Working Group of the European Association of Development Institutes (EADI). Joy's research has focused, for 30 years, on small-

scale energy systems for developing countries. Gender and energy has been an important factor addressed in this research. Joy is currently a Technical Advisor on gender and energy to the World Bank AFREA Programme. For more information: [j.s.clancy@utwente.nl](mailto:j.s.clancy@utwente.nl)





Energy businesses, ministries and organisations are typically focussed on technical issues. Although some may recognise the importance of energy in improving women's lives, few energy projects or institutions have explicitly adopted gender-sensitive approaches. ENERGIA offers tools, training and guidance to help energy sector organisations and professionals integrate gender considerations into energy projects, policies and work environments. **SOMA DUTTA**

Adapted from a paper by Soma Dutta, ENERGIA Regional Coordinator for Asia.

# Guiding Energy Institutions towards Gender Equity



ENERGIA began its 'capacity building' efforts by producing a set of basic training modules on gender and energy, and providing training workshops for energy practitioners.

Here is an excerpt from a sample case study and exercise in Module 1 that explores the relevance of gender in implementing energy programmes:

## **Case Study: Community Biogas Plant, India**

A government-sponsored community biogas plant was installed to provide cooking energy. Technologically this plant was a success, but socially it was a failure. The organising committee, which was composed entirely of men, decided that the gas supply would be limited to two hours in the morning (8am to 10am). The male community leaders were not really interested in energy for cooking - they would have preferred a project providing energy to power irrigation pumps, chaff cutters and milling machines. Meanwhile the women were unhappy with the project because the organisers ignored the fact

*Participants to the National Gender and Energy Training Workshop held in Ghana, July 2006.*

that most of the women were already working in the fields by 8am. The gas was not available when the women needed it most, and the dung cakes they had been using for fuel now went into the biogas plant, so they had to spend time looking for wood to use as a substitute fuel (Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, India, 2001).

## **Questions**

- As an energy planner you want to promote the use of the biogas plant and you decide to visit the village. Who would you talk to? Why?
- Would you address the men and women separately or at the same time? Why?
- What arguments would you use to promote the use of the biogas plant in the village? Would you use the same arguments for both the men and women?





Some of these training modules have now been adapted for use in an e-learning course that people can use to get familiar with the basics on gender and energy linkages on their own, or as preparation for attending a training workshop.

Between 2005 and 2011, over 500 energy practitioners in Africa and Asia (about 280 of them women) attended training workshops that used the materials in ENERGIA's manuals. ENERGIA subsequently decided to add follow-up coaching and guidance as part of its capacity-building programme in order to help participants in the training workshops apply what they had learned in their own work activities and organisations.

The content of the training materials was also expanded to include topics of interest to more than just energy practitioners. For example, policymakers and senior management officials are usually less interested in the specifics of project implementation than in data demonstrating the overall economic and social benefits of gender-sensitive policies.

Approximately 75% of the energy project practitioners that participated in ENERGIA's national training programmes have reported on subsequently incorporating gender considerations into their work. These include:

- **Zambia:** Training of men and women in the production of improved stoves, home energy conservation and efficiency, and use of improved cookstoves
- **Kenya:** Assessment of organisational policies to determine levels of gender sensitivity; review of solar cooker projects with a view to mainstream gender and train staff to be gender-aware
- **Zimbabwe:** Gender mainstreaming in micro-hydro projects built to provide electricity to rural households
- **Indonesia:** Training of women and men in rural communities to use, maintain and repair solar home systems, micro-hydro plants and improved cookstoves. Training of women's groups in rural communities on installation of biogas energy systems
- **Philippines:** Integrating gender and energy into the curriculum of the MMSU College of Engineering and University Training Center, vocational training for social workers
- **Laos:** Mainstreaming gender into the national biogas programme. Supporting the disaggregation of data by gender in the statistics used by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Lao Women's Union. Raising awareness of gender issues through national media campaigns
- **Vietnam:** Gender included in the national baseline surveys on Access to Energy and Measures to Boost Up Electricity Access among the Poor in Urban Areas.

## ENERGIA's approach to gender and energy training

ENERGIA's gender and energy training programmes reach many different countries in Africa and Asia, so country-specific activities, materials and trainers are needed. It is also important to provide support to ensure that the participants are able to apply what they have learned. This is done using the following steps:

- **Step 1: Training of trainers and practitioners:** ENERGIA provides gender and energy training to experienced gender trainers at regional workshops. They in turn organise training workshops in their respective countries, thus making this expertise available in the many developing countries where ENERGIA is present.
- **Step 2: Creating national training packages:** The national trainers develop materials with country-relevant content, and then match appropriate training content and local case studies to the needs and expectations of the target group.
- **Step 3: National training workshops:** Through the workshops, energy practitioners gain an analytical and conceptual understanding of the gender/energy/ poverty nexus, as well as practical tools they can use to design and implement gender sensitive rural energy access projects and national energy policies (including problem definition, needs assessment, design of intervention, and evaluation).
- **Step 4: Action planning and coaching:** Following the workshops, participants may receive coaching and exchanges of ideas and experiences within 'communities of practice' to help them integrate what they have learned into their work.

In 2007, ENERGIA organised a five-day training course in Thailand with the UN Development Programme that introduced a new innovation: matching energy project practitioners with energy and gender trainers from the same country to work as teams. On returning to their countries - Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Philippines - the trainers worked with the energy practitioners on adapting the ENERGIA training materials to fit their country context, and then conducted national level training workshops. This approach enabled the trainers to benefit from field-level project experience, while the practitioners were drawn into a deeper understanding of gender and energy linkages.

The workshop participants also developed individual and national action plans to serve as vehicles for putting their newly acquired skills and knowledge into practice. Participants from Nepal put together an action plan for the national Biogas Support Programme. An excerpt from the action plan is shown on the following page.

Today, BSP boasts of nine women-owned biogas companies and a large number of women masons. It is heartening to note that supply-side functions in the biogas industry (as masons, supervisors and community mobilisers) are all viable and practical career options for rural Nepalese women today, and this can largely be attributed to the efforts made by the 'gender champions' within BSP.





*Excerpt from gender action plan developed for the Nepal Biogas Support Programme at an energia training workshop*

**BSP-IV-Output:** Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Practices are applied in the programme.

Activities	Responsible	Time Frame
<b>1</b> Incorporating gender goals in Annual Biogas User's Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welfare-Time Survey – drudgery reduction etc.</li><li>• Productivity- Improvement of economic status by using bio-slurry</li><li>• Empowerment-Participation of females in awareness programme/decision-making</li></ul>	BSP/N SNV, AEPC	July 2008
<b>2</b> Stakeholders (Biogas Companies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a</b> Increasing number of female staff in biogas companies.</li><li><b>b</b> Capacity building training to female staff</li><li>• Management skills to women for running companies.</li><li>• Repair/maintenance – Female masons +supervisor( by giving extra incentives to encourage females)</li><li>• Award for female masons</li><li>• Increase participation of females in users training which has to be conducted by companies to improve their operation &amp; maintenance knowledge</li><li>• Gender-based instructions</li></ul>	BSP/N + Biogas companies BSP/N	Dec 2007 – 2008
<b>3</b> Inclusion of gender indicator in annual work plan (2008)	BSP/N ENERGIA SNV	End of 2007
<b>4</b> Gender-sensitive awareness focusing for stakeholders of the biogas programme	BSP/N/SNV	Mid 2008

In addition to organising training workshops, ENERGIA also provides direct guidance to national focal points and network members on influencing energy policies, and to energy project staff working on integrating gender concerns into their activities.

Over the past few years, ENERGIA members have provided technical support services to a range of international development organisations, including Hivos (the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the World Bank and the UN Development Programme in Cambodia. Participating in these assignments and working in new countries as consultants has provided opportunities for network members to enhance their skills and expand their horizons.

**Challenges in working with institutions:**

- **Targeting the 'right' participants:** It is important to target staff members at the level of management to be able to influence organisational policies, as well as those who can actually implement gender and energy strategies and plans. In Kenya, for example, staff members from the Ministry of Energy who participated in ENERGIA training programmes later went on to conduct a gender audit of the national energy policies and influence government policy.
- **Building critical mass:** ENERGIA has found that institutional change requires a number of individuals within the institution to become convinced about the need for gender approaches, and to be sufficiently trained to be able to apply those approaches. Reaching critical mass can lead to a multiplier effect in terms of institutional recognition of the importance of gender and energy issues. This requires a long-term relationship with the institution, and significant engagement with different individual staff members.
- **Establishing long-term relationships:** The countries and programmes where ENERGIA has been successful in

terms of bringing about institutional changes are the ones it has been engaged with over a period of years, providing long-term mentoring. For example, in Indonesia, a number of senior staff members from the national electricity and energy authority, DJLPE, have participated in ENERGIA's activities for several years. As a result, they have taken collective responsibility for moving the gender agenda forward within the organisation. At the same time, they also support the national gender and energy network.

- **Scaling up and expanding institutional change:** Through its training and capacity building programme, ENERGIA has created a large pool of professionals sensitive to gender issues in the energy sector. The majority of these individuals are now capable of applying gender approaches in projects and programmes within their own work spheres. Several of them, especially those who have received one-to-one coaching, have also built their competencies to a level where they can adapt and introduce these concepts and approaches to other projects, and provide capacity-building services to others.

If ENERGIA is to expand its impacts on projects and programmes at a scale that matters, however, the network needs to step up its efforts and bring many more people up to a high level of gender and energy awareness and competency.

This requires **reinforcing individual capacities** by mentoring professionals to take lead roles and supporting others (as trainers and technical advisors) in applying gender approaches in energy and other sectors. At the same time, it also requires **strengthening the commitment of energy sector organisations** to gender mainstreaming.

ENERGIA can achieve this by extending its tailor-made mentoring and backstopping support to projects through ongoing engagement, including site visits, gender review workshops, evaluations, monitoring, and documentation of results.





### Capacity-building needs for Mainstreaming Gender in Energy

Target Group	Capacity-Building Needs	Means
National policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitisation towards openness to try out new methods and tools</li> <li>Willingness to make space and strengthen women staff in organisation's set up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy through sharp media and print messages</li> <li>Well-structured and focused interaction with researchers and NGOs</li> </ul>
Implementers of energy programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitisation towards gender issues</li> <li>Practical tools and techniques to incorporate women's role in planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field-level workshops in local language</li> <li>Exchange visits and interaction with local organisations working on gender issues</li> </ul>
Village communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For men, sensitisation and assurance that women can meaningfully participate in programmes while respecting their traditionally accepted space and roles</li> <li>Willingness to participate in social empowerment process of women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposure visits</li> <li>Focus group discussions</li> </ul>
NGOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tools and techniques to incorporate women's role in planning orientation towards new methodologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local-level workshops</li> <li>Interaction with researchers and policymakers</li> </ul>

*From Gender & Energy for Sustainable Development: A Toolkit and Resource Guide, UNDP and ENERGIA, 2004.*



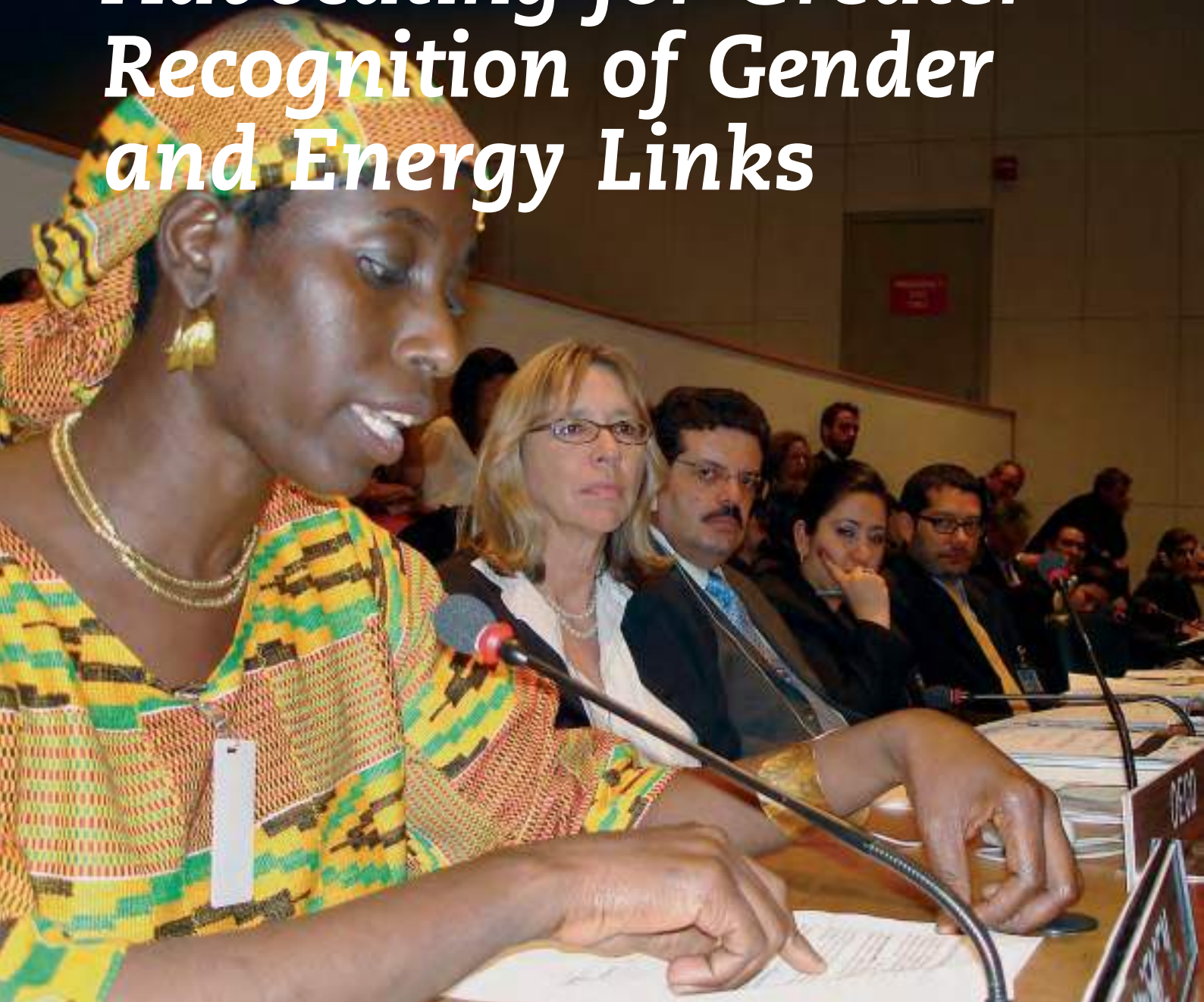
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# Advocating for Greater Recognition of Gender and Energy Links



The ENERZIA network was formed in 1995 by a group of energy experts involved with the World Conference on Women in Beijing. Due in part to their lobbying efforts, the Beijing Platform for Action called on governments to support equal access for women to sustainable and affordable energy technologies. However, most governments did not have a strong understanding of why women particularly needed energy technologies, or what to do about it, so ENERZIA needed to find ways of explaining the problem and advocating for changes in government energy policies and programmes.

GAIL KARLSSON

*Sheila Oparaacha, ENERZIA International Coordinator, speaking at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development*





ENERGIA has developed an innovative approach to advocacy based on bringing together experts from different countries to work in teams. In preparation for international and regional negotiations, members of the teams have compiled country-specific evidence and recommendations on gender and energy issues through consultations with members of the national networks, energy experts, NGOs and government officials. This has provided valuable opportunities to explain gender and energy linkages and establish strong relationships with decision-makers.

At official meetings, the ENERGIA teams have worked together with other organisations, and with supportive government delegates, to include recommended text in international decisions and plans of action. Then, after the meetings, team members have been able to follow up with the government officials on ways to implement specific recommendations at the national level.

This advocacy strategy has created new links between grassroots and national women's organisations, energy experts, government officials and international institutions. It has developed over time through engagement with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the UNFCCC climate negotiations. It has also created strong links between ENERGIA and other partners in advocacy, including the Women's Environment and Development Organization, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Global Gender and Climate Alliance.

One of ENERGIA's key advocacy roles was as an organising partner for the Women's Major Group at the 2006-2007 UN Commission on Sustainable Development meetings, which focused on energy and climate change. Through effective management of this coordinating role, ENERGIA gained recognition as a leading advocacy organisation on gender and sustainable development. This led to requests for ENERGIA to become in-

*ENERGIA Network advocacy team members preparing a statement.*





volved in other international processes, including climate change negotiations and the preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Currently, ENERGIA is one of the leaders of the Women's Steering Committee that is coordinating preparations for Rio+20, with Voices of African Mothers, Women in Europe for a Common Future, and the Women's Environment and Development Organization. ENERGIA is focusing particularly on women's energy roles in the context of promoting a 'green' economy, sustainable livelihoods and food security.

In addition, ENERGIA is engaged with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance advocacy team for the December 2011 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Durban, South Africa. In that context, ENERGIA is emphasising women's contributions to effective sustainable energy initiatives and climate change responses, and the need for gender mainstreaming in the Climate Investment Funds, including the programme on Scaling-Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries.

At the regional level, ENERGIA members have been actively involved with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) review of the Beijing Plan of Action, the African Union's NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment, and the African Development Bank's Workshop to Mainstream Gender Equality in Infrastructure Policies and Projects.

### ENERGIA's Advocacy Strategies

- a** Building an adequate evidence base to support specific policy recommendations.

ENERGIA has compiled specific and concrete suggestions for government action based on national consultations, network experiences, analyses of projects, case studies, toolkits, and training materials on gender and energy.

- b** Increasing representation of women from developing countries.

ENERGIA saw that there were few women from developing countries at international meetings, either among civil society groups or on government delegations. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development provided an important opening for advocacy because it has formal provisions for participation by major civil society groups, including women. Being able to obtain funding for travel costs has been a key element for effective lobbying and also building relationships with government delegations.

- c** Developing capacity for effective engagement in international meetings.

After identifying entry points for participation in international meetings and developing plans for



*ENERGIA member Khamarunga Banda from South Africa speaking behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency at a climate change meeting in Bonn, Germany.*

bringing network members into these processes, it is also important to provide them with sufficient background for them to be able to work effectively. This includes building expertise in how to prepare fact sheets, position papers, suggested text, draft statements and interventions. It also involves mentoring advocates on how to lobby government representatives, make oral statements and presentations, collaborate with caucus groups, organise side events, secure invitations to serve as expert speakers, speak with reporters and get media attention.

- d** Strengthening links with government officials.

Adoption of gender-sensitive energy policies requires action by governments, both in national and international processes. Building ongoing relationships with government delegations provides openings for ENERGIA members to work with responsive national governments on adoption and implementation of gender and energy policies.

For example, as a result of their active involve-





**ENERGIA** advocacy team members made presentations at a UNDP event on gender, energy and the Millennium Development Goals.

ment in the CSD planning processes, ENERGIA members from Botswana, Senegal and South Africa were included as part of their national delegations to the meetings in New York. These representatives were well positioned to present suggested language for governments to include in the negotiated texts, and to follow up with their governments at home on integrating gender and energy into national policies, projects and programmes.

- *Integrating gender and energy issues into a broader context of sustainable development, climate change responses, and building a 'green' economy.*

Discussions about energy policies are not confined to narrow sectoral considerations, but are key elements in negotiations about development, sustainable economies, human rights, and plans for addressing the global threats related to climate change. In order to advocate for gender-sensitive energy policies more effectively, ENERGIA had to consider how to make its work relevant within a broader context without losing its focus.

The network responded by collaborating with oth-

er organisations to address these broader issues, including through joining the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, along with UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, WEDO, and a number of other agencies and organisations. In 2010, ENERGIA members were invited to serve on the Gender Coordinating Committee for the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.

### Results from **ENERGIA's** advocacy

The most important outcomes from ENERGIA's advocacy work are that there is much greater awareness of the links between gender and energy issues, and that ENERGIA's recommendations are being implemented by some governments and institutions.

Following up on ENERGIA's recommendations about gender mainstreaming in energy projects, more than 20 governments or project managers have sought ENERGIA's guidance in designing, implementing and evaluating their activities. In response to ENERGIA's call for gender audits of government energy policies, ENERGIA





has been asked to lead ministries in undertaking these audits and reformulating their energy policies.

Another important result is the incorporation of gender-sensitive text and provisions in official national, regional and international plans and decisions. These documents are influential in raising awareness about women's roles and rights, and promoting greater gender equity in energy sector programmes and investments.

For example, the 2007 UN Commission on Sustainable Development outcome document highlighted the importance of mainstreaming gender, and the participation of women in management and decision-making on the interlinked actions needed on energy for sustainable development and climate change responses. Due to the prior national consultations sponsored by ENERGIA, the travel support that allowed network members to attend the meeting, and the alliances

*Nozipho Wright, ENERGIA member from Botswana, making a statement at the October 2011 NEXUS meeting in Bonn on water, energy and food security.*

formed between the advocacy team and supportive government delegates, the text on women and energy was much more specific about women's concerns and appropriate government actions than previous documents such as the Beijing Plan of Action.

As a result of collaborative lobbying by members of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, including ENERGIA, the Cancun Agreements adopted at the 11 December 2010 Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change emphasised that gender equality and the effective participation of women are essential for effective action on all aspects of climate change. In addition, the Climate Change Adaptation Fund's Operational Policies and Guidelines on investments recognise the importance of gender equity.





# Next Steps in Advocacy

## *The UN 2012 International Year for Sustainable Energy for All*

In support of the General Assembly's designation of 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, the UN Secretary-General has initiated a global campaign to help define the fundamental policy and investment decisions needed to put countries on a more sustainable energy pathway.

Gender mainstreaming is an essential aspect of those policy and investment decisions. Engagement in this global campaign presents opportunities for pursuing ENERGIA's gender and energy advocacy and policy influencing strategies. For example, in October 2011, ENERGIA representatives made a presentation on Gender Equality in Financing Energy for All at a conference in Oslo sponsored by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

## *The UNFCCC*

The climate convention meetings provide ongoing opportunities for ENERGIA members to pursue advocacy and policy-influencing activities and to participate in the continuing work of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance advocacy team. ENERGIA will continue to work with government representatives to promote gender-sensitive renewable energy policies, climate investment funding mechanisms, and national mitigation and adaptation plans.

## *Women's Steering Committee for Rio+20 Conference*

ENERGIA's leadership role in preparations for Rio+20 - the UN Conference on Environment and Development that will be convened in June 2012 - offers a broad range of possibilities for highlighting women's contributions to 'green' and sustainable economies, including women's roles



PHOTO: WEED

*Team members of Global Gender and Climate Alliance reacting to a new negotiating version at a climate change convention.*

in the transition to low-emission energy technologies, conservation of critical ecosystems, food security and adaptation to changing climate conditions.

ENERGIA will be working with partner organisations and governments to ensure that women's interests are included in the outcome document from Rio+20, and that women's sustainable development initiatives receive proper attention, funding and support.

The November 2011 Women's Major Group recommendations for the Rio+20 outcome document included the following text:

**'Close to 2.4 billion people in developing countries still depend almost entirely on traditional biomass fuels (wood, charcoal, dung and agricultural residues). It is mostly women who are tasked with collecting and managing these fuels, which limits their time and opportunities for education and income-generating activities.'**

Investments in access to modern energy are needed for improved livelihoods, education, health services, water and sanitation, education, and transportation.

Women need increased access to cleaner, more efficient energy sources and technologies for household use and productive activities, as well as training and education for business development - including designing, producing, marketing and managing new energy products and services.'

[www.uncsd2012.org](http://www.uncsd2012.org)