

Appendix A: Gender Analysis Report

I. Primary gender issues relevant to target sector/context

Climate change impacts men and women differently due to differences in their traditional roles, societal expectations, and livelihoods. Women, who make up the majority of the developing world's 1.4 billion poor, generally have lower incomes, less access to credit and decision making authority, and minimal control over resources, limiting their capacity to adapt to climate impacts. The different societal roles and responsibilities of men and women also present different opportunities for incorporating clean energy alternatives into their lives.

Many of the inequalities we see in climate change adaptation and mitigation programs are based in pre-existing gender inequalities such as disparities of land ownership, division of labor, traditional household roles, levels of and access to education, decision-making input, access to support systems, control over natural resources, and responsibilities/access related to health services.

The interplay between existing gender inequalities and climate change results in a number of broader areas of gender-differentiated impacts which are generated by and have implications for the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. These include gender-specific effects of sustainable landscapes (forestry) and clean energy projects.

a. Sustainable Landscapes

The sustainable landscapes pillar focuses on forests as a key component of USAID's global climate change mitigation strategy. To support its commitment to forests, USAID works along the frameworks of the REDD+, LEDS, and SilvaCarbon programs to monitor and manage the climate change effects from forests and forestry projects.

Poor rural households are known to have particularly high levels of forest dependence, including dependence on extraction, consumption, and sale of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which may provide a crucial livelihood safety net. As the main providers of household NTFPs, women and girls spend from two to nine hours per day collecting firewood and other biomass products.

Because, in rural areas, female livelihoods are disproportionately linked to forest products and services, the interaction between forests and climate change has serious implications for the sustainability of their means of support and well-being. For example, close to 80% of rural women in Asia, 60% in Africa and 40% in Latin America are affected by a shortage of firewood. As women have to walk longer and longer distances to gather wood they are seeing health effects. In Nepal, women suffer from bladder problems associated with carrying large amounts of firewood for long distances after they become pregnant and in Uttarachal, India, a woman is 30% more likely to have a miscarriage than the national average due to the very heavy weights they have to carry to collect water and firewood.

Although a local understanding of women's roles in forest management is critical to ensure good forest governance in each region, a general trend emerges from the heavy

burden of domestic and income generating responsibilities, as well as socio-cultural factors that limit women's mobility and participation in community activities. Women are kept politically and culturally marginalized from decision making structures that affect their access to the very forests upon which they depend. They may participate in, and even benefit from forestry related projects, but they are often minimally involved in the planning and decision making processes. Compared to men, women have less involvement in and influence over decision-making processes that define their access to forest rights, resources, and assets, including land and other property. Even where women do have equal rights on paper they often do not know their rights to assets, land and other property, so do not exercise those rights.

b. Clean Energy

USAID's clean energy programs and activities reduce climate change by promoting the sustainable use of renewable energy technologies, energy efficient end-use technologies, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting. Illustrative activities include supporting the development and implementation of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), supporting legal and policy frameworks necessary for energy efficiency, enabling the transfer and adoption of renewable energy technology, such as solar and wind, reforming energy markets to ensure more transparency and encourage investment, and building national and private sector capacity to monitor and manage GHG emissions. One example of USAID's support for the development and adoption of clean energy technologies is the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) partnership.

The PFAN is a multilateral, public-private partnership supported by USAID. The program helps bridge the gap between investments and clean energy businesses. Clean energy projects often encounter difficulties in attracting private financing because project developers and sponsors do not know how to give the right "pitch" for resources. PFAN helps developers overcome this difficulty by bridging the gap between a good idea and sources of private clean energy finance by assisting project sponsors to develop comprehensive, bankable project proposals.

In FY 2011 USAID clean energy activities are focused on expanding the PFAN support to regions outside of RDMA including broadening access to financing for climate friendly and clean technology transfer projects in the clean energy/renewable energy sectors.

Gender issues exist where financing and credit are unequally distributed among men and women. Women are often legally or socially prohibited from having credit while men, who may have access to credit, are more likely to spend their money on goods and services not aimed at bettering the quality of lives of their families.

In relation to renewable energy financing and development, a critical matter for women is the enormous technological and financial disparity they face when they have to deal with starting a renewable/clean energy business or when buying/using/installing a renewable/clean energy product.

Below are some of the gender inequality issues that play a role in USAID's FY 2011 Sustainable Landscapes and Clean Energy activities:

- Unequal access to land, credit, education, information and training, employment and income generation support services
- Unequal control of land and natural resources
- Unequal decision-making authority
- Unequal dependence on the forest for either Non Timber Forest Products (women) and industrial timber extraction (men)
- Unequal levels of education resulting in women having lower rates of basic literacy and formal skills such as computers, finance, or proficiency in a second language,

II. Gender Analysis

a. Expected impact of gender relations on the program

- Promoting reduction of GHG emissions without considering the livelihoods of the men and women who use the forest as a means of support could result in leakage as men emigrate to un-protected areas to continue their logging practices
- Given women's unequal voice in political and decision-making processes, programs may end up being biased toward the side of male stakeholders
- Given women's lower education levels, programs that include the dissemination of information to the public or to women's groups may fall short of communicating that information effectively especially when confronted with women's high illiteracy rates and limited access to news and information.
- Women's limited access to finance and credit could exclude half of the population from participating in the CE/RE market making it more difficult for the PFAN partnership to disseminate clean/renewable energy technologies

b. Expected impact of the program on gender relations

- Program-support of the views expressed by only men who have the formal education necessary to interpret data needed to make decisions and the political and societal power to voice those views, could serve to strengthen men's position of sole decision making power.
- Once SERVIR is able to classify land use and practices more precisely, it may help to increase the number of concessions for NRM given to women (currently only 5% of such concessions are given to women). Seeing photographic evidence of women's successful work managing resources may convince policy makers to change land-tenure laws allowing more women access to land rights.
- Computer based tools can help USAID programs better quantify their impacts and eventually promote more sustainable development, but software will only respond to the inputs it is given. Women, whose livelihoods are most closely linked to forest products and services, are often valuable sources of information about forest management practices and histories and the information gathered from them can strengthen the software effectiveness.
- Men, who are more likely to be associated with timber industries, may find that when a more rigid accounting of the GHG impacts of their industries is taken into consideration on a government scale, they may be pushed out of the industry. In these cases they will have to find work either in other sectors or may have to emigrating away from their family.

- Increasing access to women's credit and finance through the PFAN partnership could disrupt gender roles within the house where women are making money. This may result in a positive shift toward empowerment or a negative shift toward harsher regulation against women and increased domestic violence.

c. Recommendations for how to address the issue with the program

- Involve women in vulnerability assessments, to ensure that the evaluations do not focus solely on sectors dominated by men.
- Involve both men and women in the prioritization and design of climate change adaptation projects, and build on their indigenous knowledge.
- Reach men and women through industrial as well as household clean energy interventions.
- Make information, training, and technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation accessible and relevant for all stakeholders.
- Take advantage of women's skills and knowledge – such as natural resources management and social networks – in community-based adaptation.
- Incorporate gender considerations into national climate change strategies and regulations.
- Ensure that the burdens and opportunities created by climate change work are equitable
- Improve women's access to resources needed to take advantage of new employment opportunities stemming from sustainable landscapes and clean energy development. These include land title and ownership, credit and other financial services, technology and market information.
- Provide capacity building opportunities for women to adjust to a new type of clean energy and forestry development in their area. These include affordable and accessible child care, parental leave rights, adequate sanitary facilities, and improved transportation to provide economic assistance during adjustment periods.
- Support the development and inclusion of women's organizations in decision making discussions.
- Support measures to bring discriminatory legislative provisions (particularly related to land ownership, access to information, and power in decision-making processes) into line with gender equal development practices.
- Implementing a comprehensive portfolio of clean energy programs that involves both men and women by targeting both industrial and domestic energy use.
- Improve women's access to credit but take careful steps when doing so. Get buy-in from significant male leaders, governmental officials, famous figures, host forums, trainings, and buy media coverage to publicly support the empowerment of women in relation to clean/renewable energy financing to ease the transition of gender roles to a more equal footing.

III. Sources

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