

Gender Assessment

FP038: GEEREF NeXt

Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cote d'ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Suriname, Togo, Uganda | EIB | B.16/02



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Gender documents for FP038

GEEREF NeXt Gender strategy

1. Introduction

As part of the EIB Group, GEEREF NeXt will adopt EIB Group's Gender Strategy. The EIB Group Gender Strategy is consistent with international agreements and reflects the principles set out in the European Commission's Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019¹, the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-20 and in the Sustainable Development Goals² as well as in the Lima Work Programme on Gender³.

European Commission's Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019

Promoting gender equality is a core activity for the EU: equality between women and men is a fundamental EU value, an EU objective and a driver for economic growth. The Commission's 2010-2015 strategy for equality between women and men prioritised five key areas for action:

- 1) equal economic independence for women and men;
- 2) equal pay for work of equal value;
- 3) equality in decision-making;
- 4) dignity, integrity and ending gender-based violence; and
- 5) promoting gender equality beyond the EU

According to the European Commission, progress has been achieved in recent years, as witnessed for example, by the highest employment rate ever recorded for women (64 percent in 2014) and their increasing participation in economic decision-making. However, this upward trend is offset by persistent inequality in other areas, e.g. in terms of pay and earnings. The European Commission judges that all five key areas identified in 2010 remain valid today and reaffirms its commitment to them in its 2016 strategy.

EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020

Specifically targeting EU's development cooperation, international development and external actions, the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-20 was adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2015, carrying three (3) thematic priority areas:

- Ensuring girls' & women's physical & psychological integrity
- Promoting the economic & social rights / empowerment of girls & women
- Strengthening girls' & women's voice & participation

In addition, it entails one crosscutting institutional priority:

- Shifting the Commission services' & the EEAS' institutional culture to more effectively deliver on EU commitments.

The first three priority areas apply as per third country context and sectoral priorities determined in each case. The fourth one is mandatory for all third countries and including Member States, promoting a real step change in terms of results focus, accountability, transparency and driving long term institutional change in terms of mandatory gender analysis, quality assurance, mandatory gender indicators and, performance tracking at all levels, including senior management).

The Action Plan is applicable to all Members States, carrying annual reporting requirements for them.

2. GEEREF NeXt Gender Assessment

GEEREF NeXt will be the first fund within the EIB Group to develop and implement its own Gender Assessment and Action Plan and as such will be a pioneer for the Group⁴.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/151203_strategic_engagement_en.pdf

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

³ <http://genderandenvironment.org/keyword/lima-work-programme-on-gender/>

⁴ Examples of gender equality promotion in the context of GEEREF specific Investee Projects are included in Appendix V, provided by DI Frontier.

Introduction

This assessment is premised on the recognition that the current energy divide identified by policymakers is also a gendered one, with women in most developing countries experiencing energy poverty differently and more severely than men. GEEREF NeXt acknowledges gender equality as one of the critical parameters for a successful transition to sustainable energy for all by 2030, whereby access to energy is also a key enabler for economic and social development.

The gender assessment that follows provides an overview of gender inequalities in the access to energy in GEEREF NeXt target countries, identifies gender issues of relevance to GEEREF NeXt activities, and examines gender mainstreaming opportunities for the project. Given the scope and focus of GEEREF NeXt's activities, such gender assessment focuses primarily on the upstream part of the renewable energy value chain (i.e. generation and transmission) and entails both a "do no harm" element, as well as actively striving towards gender gains. It is based on secondary data and studies as well as evidence gathered under the activities of GEEREF, the predecessor of GEEREF NeXt.

In terms of doing no harm, overall, research has shown that existing gender disparities in gendered energy poverty could be aggravated, both on country- and project-level, if access to energy is expanded in a gender blind manner: benefits of on-grid power expansion could accrue disproportionately to men, reinforcing pre-existing gender inequalities on the ground.

In terms of pursuing gender gains in its investment activities, GEEREF NeXt will look at opportunities to promote female entrepreneurship under the green economy; improvements in women's representation in the energy industry work force; and, where possible, the enablement of access to energy for the poorest population groups in the countries of operation.

There is variety of international tools and standards to assist in the assessment and planning of RE projects that recognise gender differentiated impacts. GEEREF NeXt will encourage its Investee Funds to use these and carry out gender assessments for each of the Beneficiary Projects to establish a baseline, identify challenges and opportunities specific to each of the Project contexts. These will serve to avoid and minimize any potential negative impacts and enhance positive impacts of its projects with respect to women. The GEEREF NeXt Technical Assistance Facility financing will be available to cover costs associated with these efforts.

Objective of GEEREF NeXt

GEEREF NeXt will contribute to the expansion of renewable energy (RE), primarily on-grid, and energy efficiency (EE) projects, markets and services contributing to the development of the RE/EE landscape in GCF-eligible developing countries and economies in transition, with the objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, catalyse private sector funding for climate investment and improve energy access for local populations in developing countries. In its activities, GEEREF NeXt will enhance the development outcomes by applying best practices and standards, including those specifically targeting gender equality. GEEREF NeXt will be structured as a fund-of-funds (FoF) that will finance development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets and installation of energy efficiency measures ('Projects', or Beneficiary Projects) primarily indirectly via specialized funds (which in turn would invest equity or quasi-equity into the Investee Projects) or via equity commitments and/or mezzanine financing directly from GEEREF NeXt (co-investments or direct investments). GEEREF NeXt is expected to fund projects in GCF-eligible countries. GEEREF NeXt's modus operandi will be demand-driven. Therefore, the final selection of countries where GEEREF NeXt will operate is currently unknown.

The Beneficiary Projects in GEEREF NeXt's portfolio are expected to be small- and medium-sized and utility-scale, which we define as 10MW or more and grid-connected.

Gender in Developing Countries and Energy Sector

Women and men, girls and boys are ascribed different roles, responsibilities and voice within their households, markets, and communities. They also enjoy different access and use of energy and benefits they derive from energy services. Based on studies carried out, women and girls tend to be more disadvantaged than men and

boys, both across societies and income levels. This position is often exacerbated by poverty, ingrained social norms, unconscious bias, discriminatory legal frameworks, as well as conflicts and socio-economic fragility. It then transpires into them suffering from little access to and/or control over, productive resources, unequal education levels, poor labour force participation in quality jobs, financial and digital exclusion, and inadequate maternal and reproductive health.

In the Energy sector the fact that women tend to be disadvantaged with respect to economic opportunity, land and resource use translates into them not having adequate access to reliable and affordable energy and lack of opportunities in the energy value chain.

Employment

In terms of employment, as a rule female employees are a minority in the workforce of most rural renewable energy enterprises, particularly in managerial and technical positions. Limited capital and mobility, as well as socio-cultural restrictions, preclude a larger role for women in many modern renewable energy technologies. In developing countries, renewable energy employment provides an opportunity to address the disparity in poverty between women and men, especially considering that women represent 70% of the world's 1.3 billion people in extreme poverty.

Income and Financial dependence

Women typically hold agricultural roles that are often considered part of their household duties and, as such, they do not typically get compensated for their work. In addition, women do not have typically control over the distribution and use of land, or distribution of profits from the sale of products/resources (incl. land). As a result of these, women find it difficult to get financial independence. They lack access to collateral or steady income and find it difficult to open bank accounts.

Through our experience in GEEREF, we found this to be the case on our projects in East Africa. In Uganda and Kenya, household finances were managed by men. In our early projects that involved sale of land, we found that women were excluded from the decision-making process and in some cases were not even aware of the sale of the land.

Improving gender equality and social inclusion is critical to fully realizing the development impacts of energy programs.

Benefits and Challenges of On-Grid Renewable Energy

Existing literature and project experience under GEEREF demonstrates that on-grid renewable energy can provide gender-related benefits as well as challenges. While men are affected by these and experience negative impacts in the context, women are more likely to experience negative impacts and be left out of economic and educational opportunities linked to energy projects given existing inequalities that pervade all societies.

There are gender-differentiated considerations across the energy value chain, including:

- Upstream: in the process of generation and transmission there are adverse impacts of land take and resource use;
- Downstream: in the way that benefits from the services are distributed and who makes decisions about how they are distributed.

Benefits

Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to improve gender inequalities upstream through:

- Impact on local economic dynamics because of "construction boom" activities with employment opportunities for supply chain opportunities for local suppliers including women.
- Capacity building - skills strengthening, and exposure to different standards of development,
- Compensatory benefits and long term change in the whole community due to the presence of such a project for a considerable period of time.
- Community development projects that alleviate poverty and increases choices for women

As women and girls often bear the primary responsibility for managing the household energy and water needs, the availability of electricity can help free up women's time and enhance opportunities for other work. For girls, availability of electricity enables them to do homework/read. Indirectly, electricity access can benefit gender equality by improving women's security and opportunity. The numerous positive impacts on country- and local-level include:

- Availability of electricity that benefits all members of communities (women included)
- Street and public space lighting is linked to crime rate reductions and may help reduce violent sexual crimes that are affecting women.

Challenges

However, potential negative effects could be generated during development and construction of the project that could worsen the existing gender inequality. This is due to the fact that access to benefits generated by the project, namely, compensation, employment, access to land and water, etc., is affected by pre-existing social relationships and hierarchies. For example, larger scale on-grid projects, including wind, solar and hydro require a great amount of land, leading to conflicting interests over ownership and land use, typically governed by discriminatory gender and social norms that limit access of women to compensation entitlements, access to information and consultation. Identified negative effects could include:

- Lack of engagement of women and other vulnerable population that would result in no or only nominal engagement in the project process.
- Employment opportunities for a select few only, excluding women to a large extent, thus increasing women's dependency on men as household income providers.
- Inadequate representation in community stakeholder consultations and contribution to local development plans.
- Increase in sexual harassment around construction sites as well as human trafficking.

In addition, further downstream, there could be inequitable participation between women and men in decision-making and benefit-sharing schemes emerging from renewable services.