



# ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access *Lessons on Creating an Enabling Policy Environment*

Side event on Gender, Energy and Clean Cooking Solution  
At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop on advancing SE4ALL country action in Africa  
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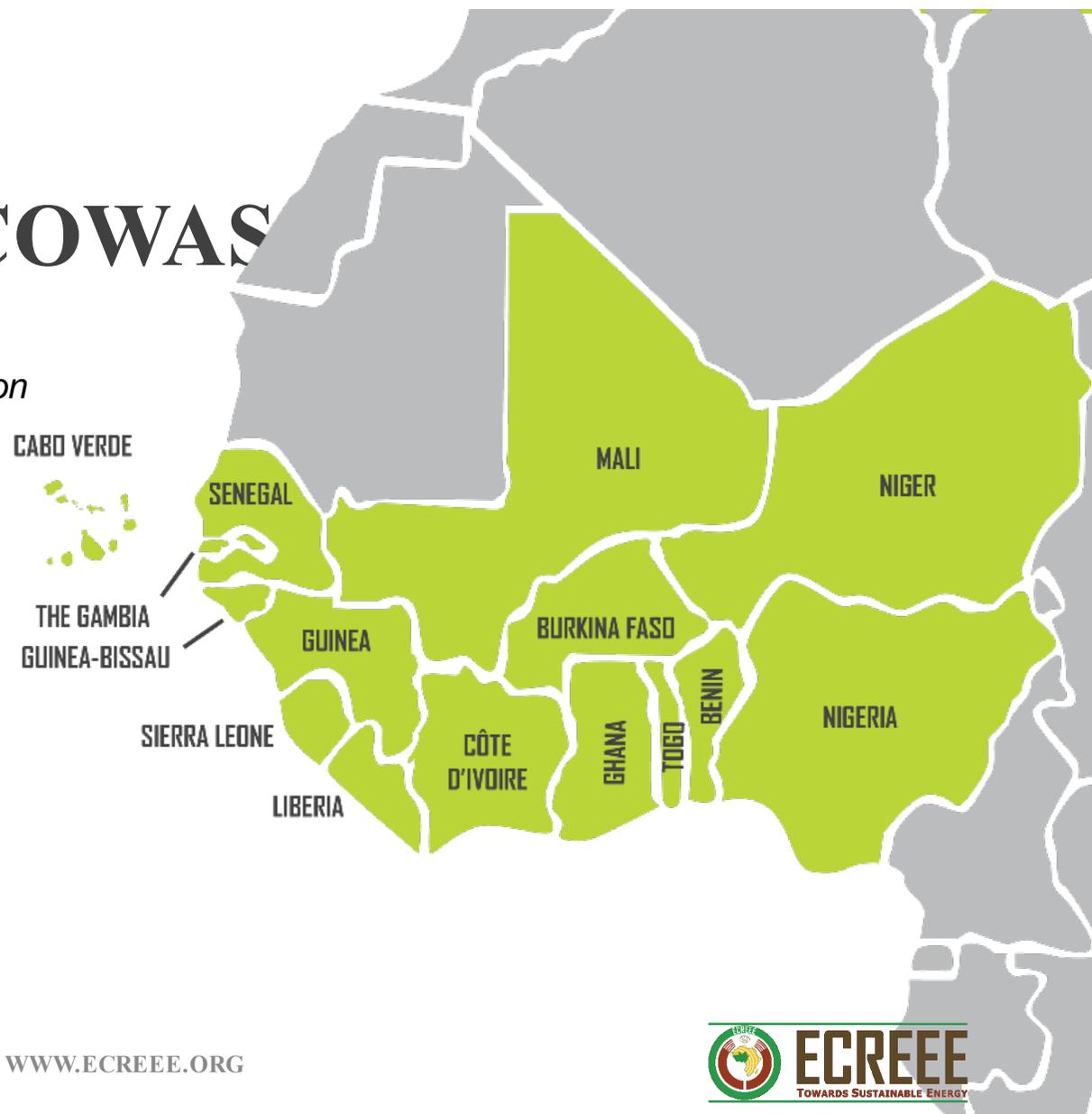
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# Energy Access in ECOWAS

- 15 countries with a population of with 300 million people.
- 60% of population live in rural areas.
- Almost 176 million people have no access to electricity (52%)
- 11 of the 15 countries are LDCS and HIPIC



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*Why gender in energy access?*

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# Gender Dimensions of Energy Access

- **Electrification**

The findings are that women may access grid electricity in lower numbers than men. Preferences and time of use of electrical appliances differ. The design of rural electrification project affects how men and women benefit.

- **Cooking**

Women are mostly responsible for cooking (largely non-remunerated cooking).

- **Transportation**

In Burkina Faso and Ghana found 87% of rural trips are on foot, with women completing 65% of the total (or 71-96% of all domestic-related trips) and carrying an average daily load equivalent to 20 kilograms over a distance ranging from 1.4 to 5.3 kilometers.

- **Mechanical Power and Productive Uses**

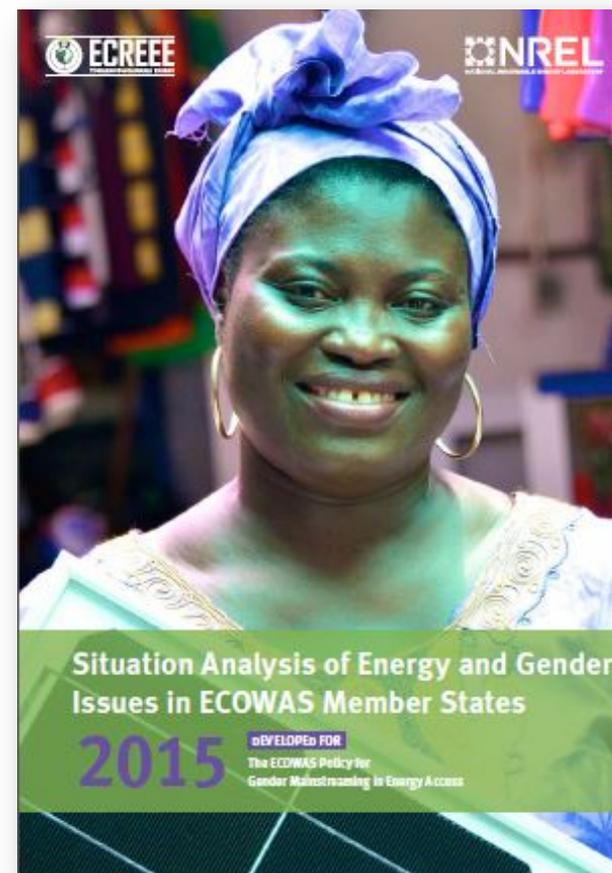
Women provide much of the agricultural labor, producing up to 80% of basic foodstuffs for home consumption and sale in SSA.

Men perform much of the land clearing while women primarily process crops, transport them, hoe and weed . About 65 percent of the power for land preparation in SSA is provided by humans.

- **Resource availability**

Generally women take greater responsibility for natural resource collection given their traditional role as home makers and the few options available to them in terms of modern energy services.

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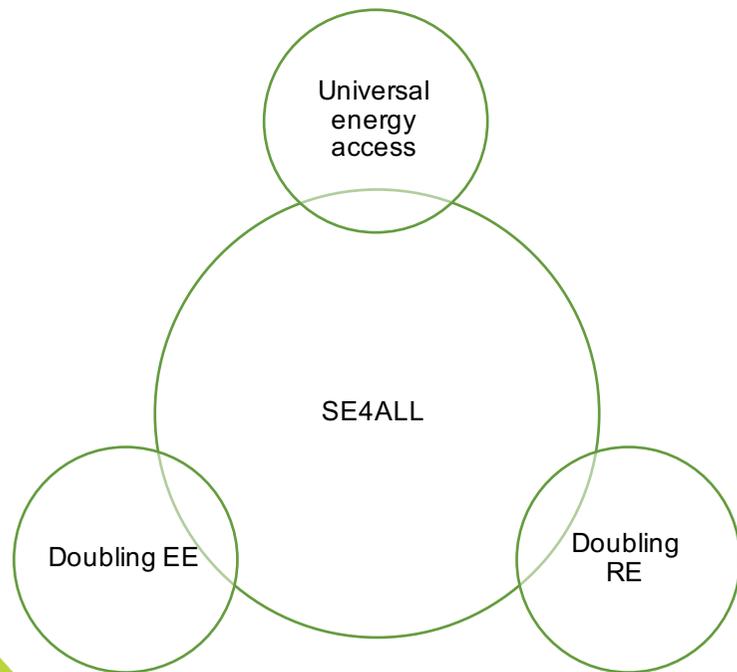




*Why do we need to provide an  
enabling environment for  
mainstreaming gender in energy  
access?*

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# Gender & SE4ALL Goals



Rationale for a regional policy

Energy access is a basic human right that should be available equally to men and women.

Markets – local, national, regional – can operate more effectively only if women’s contributions in all spheres are actively solicited and accurately valued.

Both women and men need to be involved in designing and executing solutions in order to enable creative approaches and maximize the benefits

# ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (1)

- The **vision**: A world where men and women shall enjoy equal access to modern energy services that is easily available, affordable and contributes to high levels of standards of living and economic development.
- The **goal** of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access is to address existing barriers that may hinder the equal participation of women and men in expanding energy access in West Africa.



# ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (2)

- ECOWAS , through the Policy, recognizes the main challenges and constraints for gender equality in energy access at three levels:
  - the political level,
  - the level of the energy supplier, be it a public-purpose or private market actor, and
  - the level of the energy consumer.
- **Policy objectives**
  - Achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society
  - Ensure that all energy policies, programmes and initiatives are non-discriminatory, gender inclusive, gender-balanced and directed towards addressing energy poverty differentially affecting women and men in the region
  - Increase women's public sector participation in energy-related technical fields and decision making positions to a level of at least 25 per cent in the medium term and 50 per cent in the long term.
  - Ensure women and men have equal access to and opportunities to enter and succeed in energy related fields in the private sector
  - Establish and maintain a comprehensive monitoring and accountability framework.

# Policy Targets

2017	2020	2030
100 percent compliance by 2017 in the monitoring, accountability and review framework.	100 % of energy sector government employees trained  At least 25 percent women in the public sector energy workforce	100% energy projects, programmes, and initiatives with government participation will include gender dimensions in planning, implementation, analysis, and evaluation  50-50 gender balance in the public sector energy workforce

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# The Policy Development Process

## Guiding principles

1. Gender responsiveness
2. Open, democratic and inclusive participation
3. Clear responsibility
4. Transparency
5. Collaboration
6. Appropriate, Adapted and Achievable
7. Data driven, evidence based, verifiable and results oriented



# Results so far...

- **Country ownership-** SE4ALL Action Plans – requested by representatives of the Member States to make gender (clearly) integrated in SE4ALL Country Action Plans.
- **More ambitious regional initiatives** - Regulation on Gender Assessment in Energy Infrastructure Development.
- **New Partnerships** - CTCN/ECOWAS Project: Mainstreaming Gender for a climate resilient energy system in ECOWAS – Ministry of Environment.

# Key Messages...

- Energy poverty affect men and women differently, not because of their sex but because of the inequalities in social standing and economic capability.
- “Women are not just victims but active agents of change and possess unique knowledge and skills that should be acknowledged and tapped into” (Fofana Kaddy)
- Mainstreaming Gender is **smart economics** - if countries are to harness and utilize, to the fullest potential possible, their human capital; mobilize investment and accelerate the establishment of energy businesses by both female and male entrepreneurs; encourage inclusive dialogue to ensure that no one is left out or behind in the region’s development process.
- A regional framework is needed for a coordinated action towards achieving the SDGs.
- Don’t lose sight of what is key – development, for all.

# Partners



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