



### Bumbuna Project: Resettlement

- In 1991-2002, the civil war in Sierra Leone prevented the completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric dam that would bring electricity to Freetown and surrounding areas. To this day, human development indicators in Sierra Leone are among the lowest in the world – high rates of maternal and infant mortality, limited access to health, education, water sanitation and energy services; and those indicators worsened since the civil war. The civil war caused the death of thousands of men, the enlisting of child soldiers, and the internal displacement of large numbers of people. Women were left to fend for their families. In 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone requested donors to re-invest in the Bumbuna project. By 2005, works on the dam had resumed, with additional social mitigation and post-conflict measures. The project required the resettlement of 5 villages and livelihood restoration of nearly one thousand people. Donors agreed to the government's request. The project had the following gender features:
- **Women and Youth Participation in Consultations.** Comprehensive public consultations were undertaken for project preparation, and women were included in all of the public consultations. Consultations were held with women farmers and their farming associations; their suggestions were included in project design. Consultations were also held with young people: 50:50 male-female ratio; their ideas were developed into youth skills training programs.
- **Women's and Youths' Participation in the activities of the Bumbuna Trust for Sharing Benefits.** The GoSL, with support from donors and the private sector established the Bumbuna Trust, in which a portion of profits from electricity sales are deposited. The Trust supports the Upper Seli Community Development Initiative, which aims to share benefits with indirectly affected populations in the area around the reservoir and downstream of the dam and with future generations. The Trust has two main activities:
  - 1) Participatory Community Driven Development: Community groups are formed through social mobilization. The sub-projects receive funds from the Trust and implement them. The needs of women and youths were integrated in the design of sub-projects, which include rehabilitation of community infrastructure, such as access roads, water and sanitation; and health and school facilities.
  - 2) Youth Capacity Building. Grants are given to community-based youth organizations. Young men and women were equally offered training in business, trade, and life skills.

**Strategic Gender-Sensitive Interventions for Risk Mitigation** were also included in the project, including:

1. A Food Support Program: to offset the negative consequences of loss of farmland and relocation;
2. Food bundles for families: selected based on interviews and preferences of affected populations

## Gender and Energy



Topic 3: Gender equality and electricity infrastructure

Case study

- (PAPs) and delivered to specified pickup points in towns and villages and with third party monitoring;
3. A Stabilized Agriculture Program (SAP) for women for both farm and off-farm commercial activities; and
  4. Livelihood Assessment and Income Restoration (LAIR) Program for women, to provide women with alternative livelihood opportunities for agriculture, skill and entrepreneurship development, literacy and management training.
    - The Project included actions for the empowerment of women, in particular:
      - I. in the design of compensation mechanisms, providing funding and support directly to women without men's intermediation;
      - II. requiring women to set up Savings groups, and enabling them to access a revolving loan facility and skill training; and
      - III. granting joint titles of lands, houses and assets in the names of both the wife and the husband (as having a title to the house or asset improves women's access to credit). Women were selected or became decision makers in community sub-projects, such as water and sanitation committees, minihydropower, and renewable energy.
    - As a result of this gender-sensitive project design, women are playing key roles as community leaders and have gained in social, economic empowerment and welfare.

**Source: Nilufar Ahmad. [PPT Presentation](#) at Gender and Energy Workshop of May 21-22, 2008 and at Manila Workshop on Gender and Infrastructure on November 10-11, 2008.**