

Online Resources for Integrating Gender into Energy Operations

Step 1: Gender Assessment Resources | Desk Review/Screening

Available on www.ESMAP.org

GENDER RESPONSIVE RAPID SOCIAL ASSESSMENT¹

A gender responsive rapid social assessment helps project teams to identify social and gender issues of the proposed project area. It can help to develop monitoring indicators of project impact. This tool involves a review of existing data sources, but it may also incorporate fieldwork, depending on time and budget availability, and is best conducted by a gender specialist or social scientist.

Approach

Desk study; Field data gathering (depending on resources)

Possible sources of data

The Project Concept Note (PCN); Output of Energy Policy Analysis (Quick Scan)

Method

This checklist helps to identify the different constraints and risks women and men face. It consists of gender related questions in five categories:

1. Social diversity and gender
2. Institutions, rules and behaviour
3. Stakeholders
4. Participation
5. Social risk

1. Social diversity and gender

- 1.1. Will the proposed project benefit both women and men? What are the specific benefits both will receive?
- 1.2. Does the project seek to identify and respond to needs and priorities of the various subgroups of the project community (the poorer members of the community, ethnic and religious minorities etc.)? Are there common community needs that can be used to reconcile differences of interest?
- 1.3. Will the project enhance the capacity of institutional and organizational structures to respond equitably to the needs of women and men?
- 1.4. How do local cultural traditions and social expectations define gender roles for women and men? In what ways do these roles differ?
- 1.5. What differences exist between the daily activities and responsibilities of men and women? Are women as well as men involved in the different sectors of production, and in the various aspects and stages of productive activities (such as crop raising, processing and marketing)?
- 1.6. Do gender-based disparities exist in areas such as power relations, decision-making and the ability to influence others?
- 1.7. What is the proportion of households headed by women? Are these households significantly poorer than male-headed households?
- 1.8. Are there differences in gender relations between subgroups of the community (indigenous groups, religious or ethnic affiliation, socioeconomic strata) that should influence project design?

• ¹ Adapted from: World Bank (2005) *Gender-Responsive Social Analysis: A Guidance Note*

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1.9. What contributions do men's and women's activities make to development goals?

2. Institutions, rules and behaviour

- 2.1. What institutional arrangements, organizational structures and social norms support or constrain the productive activities of men and women, particularly in sectors of production that will be involved in the project?
- 2.2. Do women participate equitably in leadership and decision-making processes in institutional and organizational social structures (such as legislative and governmental agencies at the national, regional and local levels)?
- 2.3. How can the project strengthen or modify existing social structures and processes, and utilize existing organizational resources (such as grass-roots women's community organizations) to increase gender equity and project sustainability?
- 2.4. Can the project provide opportunities to create new organizations that promote gender equity?

3. Stakeholders

- 3.1. Who are the male and female stakeholders in the project? Do they support or oppose the project?
- 3.2. What degree of influence are they likely to have on the project?
- 3.3. Are there gender issues of specific relevance or importance to social subgroups (ethnic minorities, the extremely poor) that should be addressed?
- 3.4. Does the project threaten the interests (actual or perceived) of either men or women?
- 3.5. How can the project avoid or minimize potential male-female conflicts of interest, and promote social cohesion?
- 3.6. Are there stakeholders (NGOs that work with women, all-male work unions) that might be expected to actively further or hinder the gender-related goals of the project? How can their contribution be secured?

4. Participation

- 4.1. Will both women and men participate fully in the project, not only as beneficiaries but also as leaders in project design, planning and implementation?
- 4.2. What specific project components will ensure this?
- 4.3. How can "project capture" by elite subgroups (all-male community councils, better-off women whose priorities differ from those of poorer women in the community) be avoided?
- 4.4. Are the costs of participation (forfeiting income-earning opportunities, increased workloads due to labor contributed to self-help projects) different for women than for men?
- 4.5. How can the project be designed to strengthen the individual capabilities of both men and women? (by providing experience in leadership roles, project management, opportunities to work with governmental and administrative bodies and community-based groups)
- 4.6. In what ways is the project likely to alter gender relations within the community?
- 4.7. Does it offer opportunities to create more equitable intra-household relationships, for example?

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5. Social risk

- 5.1. Does the local, regional or national environment pose threats to project success in terms of addressing gender issues? (Such threats may include socioeconomic crises, physical disasters, civil conflict or unrest and so on). If they exist, how can gender issues specific to the crisis situation be addressed?
- 5.2. Does the project pose potential threats to either women or men by altering gender relations (the balance of power or decision-making patterns within the family, access to resources etc.)? Can these changes lead to an increase in gender-based violence? What measures can be taken to minimize or avoid these risks?