



WEBINAR

RE-Thinking the Role of Energy Technology for Women's Empowerment

Access to Energy Technologies as Entry Point for Women's Socio-economic Empowerment in the Context of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Lessons from UN Women's Support to the Implementation of Mozambique's Strategy and Action Plan on Gender, Environment and Climate Change Strategy from 2011 to 2013.





Transforming clay into a source of energy and women's socio economic empowerment

The Initiative

- 2009 – UN Women supports the Ministry of Coordination of Environment in Formulating a Strategy on Gender, Environment and Climate Change and Action Plan
- 2010 – The Government of Mozambique approves the Gender, Environment and Climate Change Strategy by the Government of Mozambique placing Mozambique as a worldwide pioneer
- 2011 – 2013- UN Women contributes to the implementation of the strategy through institutional capacity building and funding of community initiatives to demonstrate the potential of climate change mitigation and adaptation to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women

The Energy Technology



Key Actions & Beneficiaries

- Creation/revitalization of 131 Community Committees of Natural Resources Management ensuring equitable participation of women through awareness raising advocacy;
- Capacity building of the members of the committees to effectively engage in decision making including in selecting the interventions with potential to enable women's empowerment both at the socio and economic levels;
- Training in 36 communities of 9 localities on environment friendly technologies in the areas of energy (*low consumption firewood stoves and ovens*) and agriculture (*drought resistant crops and low consumption irrigation techniques*) reaching out to 226 women including in Mafuiane, Bela Vista, Gorongosa and Chemba

Observations & Lessons Learned

- Women demonstrated interest in the energy technology because it was perceived as tailored to respond to their constraints and needs in multiple ways: potential to lessen household chore burden worsened by the deforestation, business opportunity with low investment (capital and maintenance), easy access to a market often impaired by limited mobility caused by unfair division of labor and power relations within the family and community etc
- Deliberate and consistent efforts are crucial to harness the potential of the energy technology to contribute to improve women's socio economic status within the community. Having a gender transformative approach embedded in the Gender, Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was fundamental.

Observations & Lessons Learned

- Provisions for investment in technical and business capacity including mentoring needs to be foreseen for the economic empowerment potential of the energy technology to be realized. Similarly, investments in enabling the environment at the household, community and institutional levels are required with a view to unleash the potential of energy technologies to contribute to improve women's social status;
- The leadership of the formulation and implementation of the Gender, Environment and Climate Change Strategy by Minister of Coordination of Environmental Affairs who is a renowned gender equality expert and activist mobilized the institutional commitment to leverage environment technologies and climate change adaptation efforts as a source of socio economic empowerment of women.

Recommendations

- For international organizations and financial institutions that want to scale-up gender equality and women's empowerment:
 - *Get inspiration from [or Adopt the Women's Economic Empowerment](http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2011/10/women-s-empowerment-principles-equality-means-business) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2011/10/women-s-empowerment-principles-equality-means-business> ; <http://weprinciples.org> and start a journey by making gender expertise part of the core team of the developers and implementers of financial solutions with a view to do business with a gender equality perspective: "Gender Equality Means Business".*
 - *Explore development of comprehensive packages of financial solutions to promote women-s access to energy technologies for domestic use and business.*

For young women that would like to work with energy technologies: seek to make technologies to work towards the realization of your rights and the rights of other women to a fulfilling, safe and dignified life.

For Policy Makers on Energy : collect data on gender and energy and use it to inform policy making, for instance introduction of measures to promote equitable access to green energy technologies by women, facilitating access to funding, investing in training especially for young women, promoting participation of women in the related decision making among others.

Closing with a Voice of a rural woman :

“with the knowledge of producing improved stoves we can foresee some improvements, we will save money and time, we will also not be vulnerable to domestic violence because the food will be always warm for our husbands and they will have warm water to bath, we will also sell the stoves and have money to send our kids to school and buy food ” (Post training feedback from a woman in Matutuine) in Training Report, MICOA, 6th July 2012

Thank you!