



Economic empowerment of excluded groups in the COP26 Energy campaign

Key issues to consider in applications to the Rapid
Response Facility

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Date: April 12, 2021



Query Question:

1. What are the key issues that proposals on clean energy transition to the Rapid Response Facility should consider in relation to the economic empowerment of women, people with disabilities and other excluded groups?
2. How can energy transition applications to the RRF meet a 'minimum standard' on inclusion, and, where relevant, meet empowerment and transformative change levels?

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CTF	Clean Technology Fund
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties
DPO	Disabled Persons' Organisation
ENERGIA	International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
ETC	Energy Transition Council
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
HMG	Her Majesty's Government
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
OPD	Organisation for Persons with Disabilities
RRF	Rapid Response Facility
TA	Technical Assistance
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WOW	Work and Opportunities for Women

Executive Summary

The UK will host the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1-12th November 2021 to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement to Climate Change (2015) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)(1992). The HMG COP26 Energy campaign set up a grant-based, demand-led Technical Assistance (TA) Facility – the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) to the ETC’s response to requests for support arising from the ETC-country dialogues.

This WOW Helpdesk query provides the findings of key issues around the economic empowerment of women, people with disabilities and other excluded groups. This rapid desk-based research will support interventions of the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) - drawing on what is publicly available from online searches. The findings show that there is very little published evidence around people with disabilities and the energy transition, but many points stated on WEE also apply to the economic empowerment of people with disabilities.

Big gaps remain in ensuring no one is left behind in the clean energy transition. Globally, more than [3 billion people](#) lack access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking. [One in five people in Africa and South Asia](#) do not have access to electricity, and close to 3 billion people (40 percent of the global population) burn solid fuels such as wood, charcoal, animal waste or crop residues in open fires or inefficient stoves for their daily cooking and heating.

Addressing inclusion, gender and energy issues [offers potential gains across a number of SDGs](#) in addition to SDG 7, notably those linked to poverty (SDG 1), health and well-being (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), and climate change (SDG 13). Progress towards [target 7.1 of SDG 7 addresses the negative impact on persons with disabilities of exposure](#) to harmful pollution from traditional sources of energy. Gender cuts across distinctions of income, disability, age, and class - while all women may share similar disadvantages relative to men, [disparities between rich and poor women](#) in the same country may be larger than those between men and women of similar incomes in that country. The RRF should not view women and girls as a [monolithic](#) group.

The gender differentiated roles in society, access to resources, responsibilities and obligations determines the adaptive and mitigative capacity of women, men and people with disabilities’ - [which plays a key role in influencing the outcomes of climate strategies](#). One billion people, or [15% of the world’s population, experience some form of disability, or between 110 million and 190 people experience significant disabilities](#), disability prevalence is higher for developing countries. The critical link between energy and the well-being of persons with disabilities, has also been [invisible in the major international frameworks on disability](#) even though energy may be essential to their implementation. The CRPD specifically references the importance of international development in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities. Despite strong evidence on the links between energy, gender and society, dedicated research and knowledge on the [gender and social equity \(GSE\) implications of low-carbon energy transitions is](#) only slowly emerging.

Climate finance is a valuable opportunity for implementing actions towards inclusion in the energy transition. It can be understood as funding which supports activities that [reduce emissions](#)

[\(mitigation\)](#), or which supports countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change ([adaptation](#)). Only an estimated [15% of climate-related Official Development Assistance](#) identified gender equality as a primary objective, and 34% identified gender equality as an important but not principal objective.

The [creation of market incentives to promote the distribution of modern fuels that respond to women's energy demands](#) and reform of laws and regulations that prevent women from owning land, controlling productive assets or accessing credit facilities, can provide a basis for shifts in social expectations about roles of men and women. Gender-aware energy access programmes in [post-conflict contexts](#) can help rebuild communities and support women, who often comprise the majority of the population, to play a key role.

Beyond household energy consumption, there are many examples of [women as producers, technicians and entrepreneurs in sustainable energy](#). There are opportunities to directly [employ women in the electricity sector](#) along the entire value chain, from installation and maintenance to distribution to billings and collections. The benefit of engaging women in the sales and distribution network is widely recognized by both Solar Home Systems and mini-grid companies alike. This is validated by research, which shows that in rural communities [women play important roles as entrepreneurs, social networkers, influencers, and leaders, making them suitable salespersons](#).

Energy poverty can prevent women [from pursuing other income-earning opportunities](#) and is exacerbated by other household duties, such as cooking, which also exposes them to health risks as a result of inhaling burning solid fuels. Affordability is an important determinant of how poor people – [especially women – are able to access and](#) benefit from modern energy sources. Access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy is crucial for persons with disabilities because longer periods at home may also lead to higher electricity consumption, which results in higher energy bills.

Research established that energy policies that do not explicitly target women and people with disabilities often result in [inequitable access to energy services](#) between women and men. The reasons include differences between the energy needs of women and men – which are a function of [societal norms and resulting differences in responsibilities](#). Thus, local policies and regulations, and awareness of social norms are crucial to ensure gender-responsive energy services. Historically, government policies have tended to be based on “individual” models of disability (medical and charity), based on premises that [limitations arising from impairments are managed solely through medical treatment](#) and long-term welfare support (paternalistically-defined).

The inclusion of women and people with disabilities in apprenticeships and skills training for environmentally sustainable jobs is seen as [essential for overcoming skills shortages in certain occupations and gender disparities](#) in the labour market. Both public and private suppliers can [benefit from pursuing proven strategies to promote women's entrepreneurship in the energy sector](#), including business education and skills development, training on personal agency and initiative, access to finance and capital, and access to coaches, mentors, and networks. The provision of energy transition infrastructure is also an opportunity to include persons with disabilities as employees of companies who deliver the changes.

Leaving no one behind through meaningful participation and local ownership. Research found that low-income urban groups in Southeast Asia already recognise the need to be [inclusive and use different tools and approaches](#) to make sure no one in their community is left out. Community-led

approaches offer considerable potential as a means to ensure inclusive action. Disability movements around the world advocate that persons with disabilities are in the best position to understand their own situations and [be part of seeking solutions to the problems they face](#).

Policy makers and market actors lack sex-, disability-, income- and geographical-disaggregated data for the energy sector. They also lack data on the [finance and business case for a greater focus on gender equality and social inclusion](#). Inclusion is a core aspiration of the 2030 Agenda, adequate financing for inclusion in the clean energy transition is required, as well as [efforts to improve data availability](#). The inclusion of persons with disabilities in the formal economy continues to be low globally – data on the energy sector is not available. Persons with disabilities’ lower rates of [economic and labour market participation impose a higher welfare burden on](#) governments, highlighting the costs of exclusion, which are estimated to range from [3% to 7% of GDP](#).

1. Introduction

The UK will host the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1-12th November 2021. The COP26 Summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement to Climate Change of (2015) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992). One of the five key campaigns of COP26 focuses on supporting a set of priority low- and middle-income countries to eschew coal and transition to clean energy. An Energy Transition Council (ETC) has been convened to support countries through a process of strategic dialogue. The other campaigns are adaptation and resilience, nature, clean road transport, and finance.

The HMG COP26 Energy campaign has set up a Rapid Response Facility (RRF) which is a grant-based, demand-led Technical Assistance (TA) Facility. The RRF can supplement the ETC’s response to requests for support arising from the ETC-country dialogues. The RRF will rapidly procure the additional deep and specific technical expertise that countries need to move forward with their energy transition. It has been estimated that demand for these services in the lead-up to COP26 could be up to £20m. The Facility could be made operational at a lower level of funding, with a likely minimum threshold of around £2-3m.

This report provides the findings from rapid desk-based research drawing on what is publicly available from online searches. Key issues in relation to economic empowerment of women, people with disabilities and other excluded groups have been prioritised, and an attempt has been made to balance qualitative and quantitative evidence. Evidence from priority countries for the energy transition campaign - India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, China, Laos, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – have been prioritised. The findings show that there is very little published evidence around people with disabilities and the energy transition, but many points stated on WEE also apply to the economic empowerment of people with disabilities.

The report highlights key issues around the economic empowerment of women, people with disabilities and other excluded groups to ensure no one is left behind in the energy transition. These issues will be grouped in the following sub-headings: energy poverty – affordability and access to the energy value chain; policy and regulation; skills development and use of technology in the energy transition; meaningful participation and local ownership; and data, monitoring and evaluation. The query will conclude with a checklist – an assessment tool for Rapid Response Facility to assess whether

applications account for the situation of women, people with disabilities and other excluded social groups. It has been structured around the three levels of ambition: minimum standards, empowerment and transformation. To ensure that disability issues are not diluted, an additional checklist has been produced with additional issues that are pertinent to people with disabilities.

2. Key Issues in the Economic Empowerment of Women, People with Disabilities and other Excluded Groups

Despite global gains made in the clean energy transition, gaps remain in ensuring that no one is left behind and that the SDGs are met. Energy is a key enabler for development and the aims of [Sustainable Development Goal 7](#) – universal energy access by 2030. Globally, more than [3 billion people](#) lack access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking. [One in five people in Africa and South Asia](#) do not have access to electricity, and close to 3 billion people (40 percent of the global population) burn solid fuels such as wood, charcoal, animal waste or crop residues in open fires or inefficient stoves for their daily cooking and heating. In 2017, the share of renewables in [total energy consumption was 17%, and the energy efficiency rate falls short of the 3% target of that year.](#)¹ There is neither single internationally accepted nor internationally adopted definition of modern energy access. Commonality [exists across definitions](#) including household access to a minimum level of electricity; access to modern energy for productive economic activity; and access to modern energy for public services.

The global energy transition is an opportunity to transform the [energy sector by creating social and economic benefits](#). The diffusion and increased uptake of [renewable technologies, coupled with the spread of energy-efficient household practices like](#) the use of improved cookstoves, benefits women and people with disabilities on many levels. It is not the technology that determines the outcome of a transition, but rather the ways with which the [technology interplays with the existing socio-cultural, socio-economic and institutional context](#). Access to energy reduces drudgery in energy collection, and it has the potential to [promote social progress in low-income](#) communities – it enables ‘green job’ opportunities that would allow women and people with disabilities to work as energy managers in their communities. Solar and water for example [tend to exist in areas where low-income people live, and the technologies do not require much maintenance](#).

The majority of women in [Africa and Asia are smallholder farmers](#) rely on rainfed agriculture. The value addition of modern energy services can increase income by [enabling women to grow and process cash crops](#) such as mechanised grain processing. Solar powered irrigation schemes [increase food and nutrition security and access to water](#), sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues at household and community levels. Solar powered irrigation schemes/gardens bring [water for domestic use and watering livestock nearer to women and girls](#), thereby reducing time spent in fetching water. Energy

¹ [Energy Efficiency is defined](#) as the ratio of output of performance, service, goods or energy, to input of energy. Benefits include reduced energy demand, leading to lower energy bills for consumers, lower emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, reduced need for energy infrastructure, and increased energy security through a reduction of imports.

is therefore an enabler for improved water, sanitation and hygiene that directly [reduce water borne diseases such as typhoid and cholera that disproportionately affect women and children](#) in terms of mortality rates.

Equity of access is crucial - One billion people, or [15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability, or between 110 million and 190 people experience significant disabilities](#), and disability prevalence is higher for low- and middle-income countries. Energy is required for the provision of clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, health care and for [economic development and social progress – all of which can improve the lives of persons with disabilities](#). Longer periods at home may also lead to [higher electricity consumption, which results in higher energy bills](#). Access to reliable, affordable and clean energy is crucial for persons with disabilities - many of whom require electricity to operate assistive technologies for independent living. Greater access to energy services can improve [women's health and well-being, free up their time and enable economic empowerment](#). Electricity access allows women to [adopt new livelihood activities](#), such as agricultural processing, sewing, or managing cell phone charging stations, diversifying household income generation and thereby reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change on agricultural income.

Key aspects of inclusion should be [embedded into programme implementation, from planning and design to delivery and evaluation](#) – to recognise those who are at risk of being left behind. Achieving the energy transition is a human right issue that enables women and men to enjoy other rights. The needs of [persons with disabilities in accessing sustainable energy are overlooked](#) in the global discourse on energy and development. Globally, [clean and modern forms of energy can bring benefits to many persons with disabilities](#), especially as they may spend more time at home due to mobility challenges; may need more time for self-care at home; or because they are kept hidden due to discrimination based on stigma or “shame”, and may thus suffer higher exposure to indoor pollution caused by the use of solid fuels for cooking or lighting. Household air pollution may be a problem in [sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia](#), where in [2013 more than half of the population](#) used solid fuels for cooking and heating. To address both goals of scale and inclusion that are often viewed as mutually exclusive, a [holistic approach and integrated planning](#) are required to deliver a mix of programmes involving grid, off-grid and clean cooking solutions. The RRF should ensure that energy transition applications demonstrate a component addressing the [gaps between economic and social exclusion and decision-making power](#).

Addressing inclusion, gender, and energy issues [offers potential gains across a number of SDGs](#) in

addition to SDG 7, notably those linked to poverty (SDG 1), health and well-being (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), and climate change (SDG 13). Ensuring that no one is left behind requires an understanding that gender inequality overlaps or intersects with other forms of [vulnerability to compound the disadvantage experienced by the most marginalized groups](#).

Box 1 highlights a good example of a climate financing mechanism incorporating vulnerability is the Green Climate Fund – where a contextual approach including issues like [age, income, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and \(dis\)ability](#) are addressed in the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS).

Box 1: The [Green Climate Fund's Environmental and Social Safeguards \(ESS\)](#)

are a blueprint for integrating environmental and social issues into decision-making and outcomes with requirements and responsibilities for effective delivery. The ESSs consider vulnerable populations, groups and individuals (including women, people with disabilities, and sexual or gender minorities), and other marginalised groups of people or individuals that are affected or potentially affected by GCF-financed activities.

Inclusion encompasses policies that promote equality and non-discrimination by improving the access of all people, [including persons with disabilities, to services and benefits](#). Progress towards SDG7, [Target 7.1 addresses the negative impact on persons with disabilities of exposure](#) to harmful

pollution from traditional sources of energy. The planned inclusive outcomes of RRF actions for the energy transition should include services and benefits such as education, health, social protection, infrastructure, affordable energy, employment, financial services, and productive assets. The country proposals should embrace actions aimed at removing [barriers that exclude persons with disabilities](#) and women from the development process. [Strong partnerships with governments, financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral development banks](#), the private sector and civil society foster aid in fostering disability-inclusive development, in particular disabled persons' organizations (DPOs)/ organisations for persons with disabilities (OPDs). South Africa is attempting to bridge the gap. For example, its National Planning Commission is organising a [stakeholder engagement process to support a transparent and participatory process for designing](#) a just energy transition plan that will determine the future of the national coal industry.

Climate financing instruments, mechanisms and processes should recognise the [gendered implications of their activities and decisions and actively promote](#) the achievement of inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment goals. Support for entrepreneurship opportunities for women in the energy sector must tackle [policy, capacity and financing barriers, and promote women energy entrepreneurs and women's productive](#) use of sustainable energy - particularly in agriculture and microenterprises - and reduce their time dedicated to unpaid domestic and care work. This should be taken into account when reviewing applications to the RRF – countries should demonstrate (according to the proposed checklist) proposals embedding inclusion across the project cycle. Adaptation and mitigation efforts— [from design to implementation](#)—that forego an inclusive knowledge base and fail to utilize women's diverse talents and abilities cannot reach maximum effectiveness. Climate finance needs to also ensure that the strengths and vulnerabilities of people with disabilities are represented in all key international, national and local forums, and strategies.

Climate finance is a valuable opportunity for implementing actions towards inclusion in the energy transition. It can be understood as development of financial products for women and persons with disabilities that support activities aimed at [reducing emissions \(mitigation\), or which supports countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change \(adaptation\) as well as](#)

Box 2: Climate Investment Funds – Inclusive Energy Actions in Africa and Asia

[Morocco – Ouarzazate CSP Power Plant Project \(Phase II\)](#) funded by numerous entities including the African Development Bank, Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Clean Technology Fund, World Bank, and European Investment Bank. Planned training programmes will enable the significant participation of women, with the aim of strengthening their professional skills to make them more employable and empowering them socially and economically. [Women will be included in different stages of the project by placing them in decision-making bodies.](#) The project will work with Ouarzazate-based women's organisations and other gender-focused organisations.

[India – Asian Development Bank \(ADB\) and Climate Investment Funds \(CIF\) Clean Technology Fund \(CTF\) Rajasthan Renewable Energy Transmission Investment Program.](#) The expanded transmission network will transmit renewable energy to over 1 million households and local industries. The environmental and social sustainability framework includes gender targets to guide future solar projects in Rajasthan. The management committee comprising [25% female membership](#) will decide on the funding of community-based development projects. At least [40%](#) of all community development fund initiatives will be intended for women and girls. Gender-responsive components include piloting community models for renewable energy-based water supply benefiting households headed by women; and technical and management skills training for women members of self-help groups and community-based organizations (including training in bookkeeping and accounting, animal husbandry, and embroidery).

[capacitate women and persons with disabilities as professionals, decision makers, entrepreneurs and consumers in the energy sector](#). Thus, inclusive climate financing for the energy transition can create opportunities to ensure that actions at the national and regional level increase the participation of women, persons with disabilities and other excluded groups at all stages of the programme lifecycle. Globally, most funds focus on large-scale investments rather than [local community](#) projects; sub-national priorities remain on the decision-making fringes. Best practice examples of the effect of gender-responsive large-scale investments in Morocco and India are highlighted in Box 2. Only an estimated [15% of climate-related Official Development Assistance](#) identified gender equality as a primary objective, and 34% identified gender equality as an important but not principal objective.

2.1. Energy poverty - affordability and access to the energy value chain

As decentralized sustainable energy technologies increasingly become the most cost-effective energy options for the poor, people with disabilities and women entrepreneurs have enormous potential to [create distribution and service networks in rural areas](#) - helping to lower the cost of customer acquisition and increasing access to sustainable energy. The gender and disability inclusive dimensions of access to services, access to benefits, and exposure to risks and benefits, are increasingly recognized as important elements that should be considered for effective policy making and project design. Limited access to modern energy services forces a [triple burden](#) on women – limiting their time on more productive activities – Box 3 highlights the positive correlation between energy access and gender equality in Brazil. “Time poverty” can prevent them [from pursuing other income-earning opportunities](#) and is exacerbated by other household duties, such as cooking, which also exposes them to health risks as a result of inhaling fumes from burning solid fuels. Women in rural areas need readily [available and affordable energy](#) for lights, processing of food and crops, and water pumping. They need energy for their [traditional income-generating activities \(for example, small-scale farming, food processing and informal production and marketing activities\)](#) as well new types of entrepreneurial activities. Affordability is an important determinant of how poor people – [especially women – are able to access and](#) benefit from modern energy sources at the household level, and in their income-generating activities.

Box 3: [Brazil – Energy Access and the Global Goals](#)

Research on rural women in Brazil found that household appliances positively impact female labor force participation rates. Girls in rural areas with access to electricity were also found to be 59% more likely to complete primary education by the time they are 18 years old than those without. The data reveals a striking gap in income for women with and without energy access - the income of self-employed rural women with access to energy is over twice that of their counterparts without access to energy. For rural female wage/salary workers, access to energy is correlated with 59 percent higher wages. Similar trends hold for men. These gaps are even more pronounced in urban settings—148% to 322% higher incomes for those with electricity.

A just and inclusive transition needs to understand the ways in which gender norms influence [access and control over energy services](#) between communities. It also needs to take into account (as highlighted in Box 4) the interaction between persons with impairments and [attitudinal, institutional and environmental barriers](#) that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. A study in [South Africa](#) during the mass rollout of electrification found that rural electrification raised female employment in [electrified communities by 9.5%](#), likely because it released women from home production and enabled microenterprises, while having an indeterminate impact on male labour rates in the same communities. Gender-sensitive climate-related funds and

investments could help transform women’s current fuel collection work into sustainable energy enterprises that simultaneously [promote women’s economic and social development, reduce emissions](#) and help build community resilience to climate change. They could also help provide [sustainable energy sources](#) to improve essential social development services such as health care, schools, and communications.

Ensuring people with disabilities and women’s participation in key-decision making positions in both [energy](#) and [climate change](#) actions will guarantee attainment of the SDGs. Involving women in energy-system supply chains as entrepreneurs and employees – especially in non-traditional roles – requires overcoming prevalent social and cultural barriers. These include [lower literacy, lower access to finance, education, land, and mobility](#); and burden of care work. Under-investment in overcoming these barriers is likely to perpetuate poverty and reinforce gender inequalities.

[Article 14 \(2\) of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) notes that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications”. Affordability prevents access to energy services – [tariff levels should reflect women’s lower incomes to avoid constraining women’s energy access](#).

Access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy is crucial for persons with disabilities. In many countries, households with [persons with disabilities are less likely to have access to electricity](#) than those without people with disabilities. A study found that between 2001 and 2015, in [37 out of 44](#) countries, households with persons with disabilities had lower access to electricity than households without persons with disabilities. This may be partly due to limited employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and/or additional costs due to disability. In 17 of these countries, fewer than 50 per cent of households with persons with disabilities had access to electricity.

Box 4: [The East African Community Policy on Persons with Disabilities](#) stipulates that the participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities should go beyond membership of boards and committees but to the design and efficiency of energy products. They should also contribute and track progress on the achievement of SDG5, SDG 7, and SDG8. Thus, gender mainstreaming can be in terms of identifying women with or without disabilities as champions who can design and deliver energy access solutions; integrate gender energy needs into energy programmes and policies as well as documenting best practices. This is because women can be energy producers, end users and entrepreneurs that sell energy services and therefore influential in design of energy products. “Usually women and their children are the main beneficiaries of clean energy and therefore represent the most logical entry point in creating and sustaining local energy enterprises”. The policy highlights a regional approach to inclusive actions towards the energy transition – the onus is now on member states for sustainable implementation leaving no one behind.

Numerous measures can be taken to integrate persons with disabilities into the energy transition. Financial assistance and disability friendly designs of energy technologies can [contribute to improved energy access](#) for persons with disabilities. Depending on whether the benefits consider the [additional energy costs faced by persons with disabilities](#), these benefits may not be enough to help with increased energy bills. Globally, [clean and modern forms of energy can bring benefits to many persons with disabilities](#), given that they may spend extended periods at home due to mobility challenges; may need more time for self-care at home; or because they are kept hidden due to discrimination based

on stigma or “shame”, and may thus suffer higher exposure to indoor pollution caused by the use of solid fuels for cooking or lighting. Household air pollution may be a problem in [Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia](#), where in 2013 more than half of the population used solid fuels for cooking and heating.

2.2. Policy and Regulation

The [intersecting relationship of gender, class, age, and disability](#) plays an important role in determining which parts of the population benefits from renewable energy services. [Research has found that non-gender-responsive energy](#) policies often result in inequitable access to energy services. The reasons include differences between men and women in their energy needs, which are a function of societal norms and resulting differences in responsibilities, as well as differences in men’s and women’s capacities to access energy services. The frequent institutionalisation of such differences results in [differential access to energy, to appliances, and to the potential benefits of energy services](#). Paying attention to these differences can help achieve more inclusive outcomes – Box 4 showcases the East African Communities’ inclusive policy. Sustainable modern energy infrastructure and technology is vital for [relieving women’s disproportionate share](#) of unpaid care and domestic work and enhancing their economic opportunities. A concentrated focus is required to reach the people in the “last mile” - measures of programme success should reflect not just actual numbers reached, but factors of geographical remoteness, poverty, gender, disability and social inclusion.

Access to energy has long been discussed in the context of sustainable development and the well-being of individuals, but [particular disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities have been invisible](#) in the discourse. The critical link between energy and the well-being of persons with disabilities, has also been [invisible in the major international frameworks on disability](#) even though energy may be essential to their implementation. The CRPD promotes the full integration of persons with disabilities in societies. The CRPD specifically references the importance of international development in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities. The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) clearly states that disability cannot be a reason or criteria for lack of access to development programming and the realization of human rights. The SDGs framework includes seven targets, which explicitly refer to persons with disabilities, and six further targets on persons in vulnerable situations, which include persons with disabilities. Principle Two of the 2030 Agenda – Leave No One Behind – not only involves reaching [the poorest of the poor, it also includes combating discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion](#), reducing inequalities. The [rights of people with disabilities have received limited attention](#) in the context of the UNFCCC. Persons with disabilities tend to be included alongside other excluded groups and are not given special consideration. The [United Nations Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\) Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy \(SAFE\) 2014–2018](#) considers special measures to include and provide access to persons with disabilities in the integration of energy needs into emergency planning.

Research found that energy policies that do not explicitly target women often result in inequitable access to energy services between women and men. The reasons include differences between the energy needs of women and men – which are a function of [societal norms and resulting differences in responsibilities](#). Local policies and regulations, and awareness of social norms are crucial to ensure gender-responsive energy services – the Mozambique PRIORIZE initiative (Box 5) is an illustration of a successful attempt at climate adaptative social protection. Research found that in cases with an existing gender-aware energy policy (where gender gaps are highlighted but not necessarily included in the actions) the implementation may lag behind – mainly due to [approaches adopted and processes](#) within the organisations implementing the policy. Reaching gender equality outcomes requires transformation in energy policies, and a change in processes and changes within the organisations that drive the processes – which should be reflected in RRF proposals. Subsidies are one of the tools

most commonly used to help low-income households gain access to modern energy services, primarily for cooking and lighting – with limited attention paid to appliances.

Challenges persist in developing effective policies to address the energy needs of women and persons with disabilities. Historically, government policies have tended to be based on “individual” models of disability (medical and charity), based on premises that [limitations arising from impairments are managed solely through medical treatment](#) and long-term welfare support (paternalistically-defined). These approaches do not address societal and discriminatory barriers faced by persons with disabilities – thereby hindering their human rights. The advent of the widespread ratification of the The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (see further down) should lead governments to change this. At the national level, [government bodies with mandates relating to disability, assistive technology and energy are almost always different](#). Disability tends to be under the responsibility of a ministry or a department of health or social welfare, while assistive technology tends to be under the mandate of the ministry responsible for health, and energy issues fall under the mandate of a ministry or a department of energy.

Box 5: [Mozambique PRIORIZE Initiative: Climate Adaptive Social Protection](#)

The Embassy of Ireland partnered with the Government of Mozambique to design and implement a local level, gender sensitive prototype testing innovative approaches of merging social protection and climate adaptation.

The program is a collaboration with government authorities at different levels (national, provincial and district), NGOs, academia and the private sector. Learning and generation of evidence of the potential bottom-up approaches to linking district level provision of social protection and local planning and implementation of climate adaptation. This work has led to the establishment of a prototype initiative in the district of Mabote in Inhambane province.

- Leadership and coordination are by the local authority (District government).
- The process of actions to deliver climate resilience are integrated into the district development plan.
- Technical support is provided by civil society stakeholders – University, NGO.
- Financial resources are channelled to and managed by both the local authority and to the technical support agencies.
- A local community-based organisation supports the district government agencies to deliver the climate resilience actions and supports the collation of monitoring and evaluation information.
- Private sector organisations provide technical support on climate resilience actions related to local value chains.

The Government of [Kenya’s Energy Act \(2019\)](#) exemplifies a country committed to inclusion in key decision-making positions in the energy sector through legislation. The Act stipulates that equal opportunities for persons with disabilities should be ensured in selecting, nominating, approving, or appointing the members of the Energy and Petroleum Tribunal, a body composed of experts to determine energy disputes and appeals. [The creation of market incentives to promote the distribution of modern fuels that respond to women and persons with disabilities’ energy demands](#) and reform of laws and regulations that prevent women from owning land, controlling productive assets or accessing credit facilities, can provide a basis for shifts in social expectations about roles of men and women. The percentage of the [budget allocated to the improvement](#) of household energy technologies or to decentralised renewable energy solutions can be indicators of gender-aware energy

policy. Poor women tend to participate in the informal economy (for example, the food sector), which relies [strongly on biomass as its main energy source](#), which, in turn, does not feature heavily in national energy policies and priorities. In rural areas, many women engage in informal, energy-related economic activities and those working in more formal energy sectors face [challenges with accessing financing and energy services](#), growth in technical and leadership positions, and they are left out of decision-making processes regarding energy policies.

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) requires understanding the context of gender inequalities, [how they arise](#), what their underlying structural causes are, and how their [manifestations can be tackled](#). Gender-responsive budgeting does not mean elaborating a separate budget for women and men (50/50) – but to [integrate gender issues into the resource allocation \(budget\)](#). Research found that the most frequently used [gender budgeting tools are ex ante and ex post gender impact assessments](#). GRB mechanisms can support the [monitoring and measuring of inclusive outcomes](#) in the short and long-term.

[Inclusive budgeting ensures that government revenue generation and expenditures](#) involve and benefit all people in their diversity. People with disabilities are included and attention is given to the impact of revenue generation and expenditures on gender equality and the most marginalized groups. All stakeholders are meaningfully consulted in the budget processes. [Disability budgeting and disability responsive budgeting](#) concepts are similar to gender-responsive budgeting. It might be more inclusive of all groups but may not be specific enough. These offer an entry point for stakeholders to engage with budget processes and public financial management (PFM), but inclusive or disability responsive budgeting might not provide the comprehensive guidance required to [ensure that maximum available resources are used to implement the CRPD](#).

Proposals to the RRF should depend on the national context and may include: focusing on [labor-intensive sectors such as energy](#) efficiency with high potential for job creation per investment, while also including energy savings; [cash transfers](#) to poor households and those in the informal economy; [utility subsidies](#) for poor households; promoting gender equality in green investments with [high potential for jobs creation such as renewable energy and energy](#) efficiency while acknowledging and responding to the gender gap in the energy sector; and support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to [retain and create green jobs, and address legal and regulatory barriers](#), particularly to startups and women led enterprises. Such policies can also aim to formalise previously [informal enterprises and workers](#) with improved access to [stimulus packages and social welfare](#).

Box 6: [International Finance Corporation Energy2Equal Programme](#) – Increasing Access and Building Knowledge

The Energy2Equal programme aims to help leading renewable energy players in Sub-Saharan Africa to power the next generation of female renewable energy leaders. IFC works with large and small firms across the region to increase women’s access to jobs, leadership positions and entrepreneurial opportunities in corporate value chains within the renewable energy sector. The programme will build on the growing body of evidence that makes the business case for investing in women and helping companies increase women’s participation in leadership, the workforce and as entrepreneurs in corporate value chains. IFC expects more companies to gain the [requisite knowledge and tools to integrate women](#) into their workforces and that more women will have opportunities as leaders, employees and entrepreneurs in the renewable energy sector by the end of the programme.

2.3. Skills Development and use of Technology in the Energy Transition

Beyond household energy consumption, there are many examples of [women as producers, technicians and entrepreneurs in sustainable energy](#). There are opportunities to directly [employ women in the electricity sector](#) along the entire value chain, from professionals, policy makers, installation and maintenance to distribution to billings and collections – the same applies for people with disabilities. Each aspect of the sector has a particular value proposition for women’s involvement. The standpoint of consumption, the design, production, distribution and sales of sustainable energy technologies (for example, clean cooking stoves and lighting devices) would benefit from having [women contribute to shaping the clean energy value chain](#). The [private sector](#) can potentially accrue a range of benefits from gender aware business practices such as expanded markets, a more diverse and sector-relevant workforce and fuller access to knowledge of the market to develop more appropriate products and services. The benefit of engaging women in the sales and distribution network is widely recognized by both Solar Home Systems and mini-grid companies alike, and is validated by research, which shows that in rural communities [women play important roles as entrepreneurs, social networkers, influencers, and leaders, making them suitable salespersons](#).

Box 7: Skills Development and Use of Technology in the Energy Transition – Best Practice

Examples

The [WaterAid Compendium of Accessible WASH Technologies](#) is designed for use by people working directly with communities in Sub-Saharan African rural areas – such as health workers and community volunteers. It presents low-cost technologies for improving accessibility to household WASH facilities. The technologies presented in the compendium enable families to adapt to suit their [needs and budgets](#).

[BURN Manufacturing in Kenya](#) is producing clean cook stoves and has a business model prioritising employment for women in the local distribution and servicing of its products. It found that a focus on training for [women and women’s leadership as an integral part of business models can accelerate](#) social impact. Social impact includes time savings due to the stoves for cooking and fuel procurement led to other income-generating activities, and financial savings being used for education and healthcare. Investing in energy infrastructure that involves [education and training for women to build businesses or be employed](#) in the design production, marketing, sale and maintenance of new technologies and services can reduce energy poverty and build women’s assets, opportunities and capabilities.

[Solar Sister](#) recruits, trains and mentors women. It builds women-to-women networks of trust to achieve last-mile distribution for solar devices and clean cookstoves in sub-Saharan Africa. Solar Sister has a network of over 5000 entrepreneurs that provide services to over 1.7 million people

Barriers to [women executives, entrepreneurs and employees in the energy industry must fall](#), and their representation on national and global energy bodies grow. Studies from sub-Saharan Africa, for example, show that [women-headed businesses](#) generally face more impediments than men in accessing grid electricity. Experiences in [Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia suggest](#) that women entrepreneurs also face greater discrimination than men in the form of delays in obtaining electrical connections and the expectation that they will pay bribes for these services. Involving women in energy-system supply chains as professionals, board members, entrepreneurs and employees – especially in non-traditional roles – [will lead to positive outcomes](#). The energy supply chain offers women an opportunity to earn an income which can enhance their own welfare, as well as the welfare of their families. Engagement in renewable energy technologies may be an important

factor for [success, increasing the participation of women and people with disabilities in the labour force](#) – towards a development path that relies on more sustainable energy sources and consumption patterns.

The inclusion of women in apprenticeships and skills training for environmentally sustainable jobs is seen as [essential for overcoming skills shortages in certain occupations and gender disparities](#) in the labour market. The IFC's Energy to Equal Program (see Box 6) is powering the next generation of female renewable energy leaders. Both public and private suppliers can [benefit from pursuing proven strategies to promote women's entrepreneurship in the energy sector](#), including business education and skills development, training on personal agency and initiative, access to finance and capital, and access to coaches, mentors, and networks. Women would be able to train as installers of solar and biogas as well as entrepreneurs - thereby challenging gender social norms - that women can also do the work that men do as installers and technicians. For private sector actors - women can champion products being developed because they are able to use these products and can market the products such as cook stoves to other women. This will address reputational risks surrounding solar and cook stoves and will increase the uptake of renewable technologies through consumer awareness by women and persons with disabilities.

Women's energy-intensive food preparation businesses need modern energy and can be supported within [cooking energy programmes or through women's entrepreneurship programmes](#) as evidenced below (Box 7) with the example of BURN Manufacturing in Kenya, and Solar Sister. Additionally, improved cookstoves can reduce cooking time by [50% and increase fuel efficiency by 30%](#) – high efficiency cookstoves lead to even larger benefits in time and energy savings, hence also contributing to emissions reductions. Increased attention to [skills and increasing investments in overcoming social and cultural barriers](#) – lower literacy, lower access to finance, education, land, mobility, and burden of care – will help lead to poverty alleviation and gender equality.

A study on the [street food sector across Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa in addition to using energy](#) for cooking appliances, [male street vendors](#) were found to be using a wider range of energy types than women. The production and distribution of cleaner and small-scale energy technologies is an emerging market that provides [opportunities for women to engage as sales agents, employees and entrepreneurs within the energy value chain](#). Demand for energy saving stoves could [create additional jobs for women and reduce the amount of time women](#) spent on collecting more traditional sources of fuel for cooking, and provide health benefits. Fostering the participation of women and persons with disabilities as end users in the energy transition will ensure sustainable adoption of clean cooking technologies. On average, [53% of households with persons with disabilities versus 46% of households](#) without persons with disabilities use traditional forms of energy for cooking. The complexity of stove [design factors and diversity of consumers mean that universal design innovation must remain at the forefront of efforts](#) to increase and clean improved stove demand. A best practice example of human-centred design innovation for improving accessibility in the WASH sector is the [WaterAid Compendium of Accessible WASH Technologies](#). Extensively researched, the compendium is a highly practical and user-friendly publication, available in several languages, outlining a menu of accessible, low-cost designs in a range of WASH installations for persons of different impairment types. Low-cost technologies are presented for use by people directly working with rural communities in sub-Saharan African, such as health workers and community volunteers.

Modern energy services can positively impact women's health (for example, by reducing smoke related health hazards from biomass) - [they can support the functioning of health clinics in rural areas](#) which is crucial to improving women's health rights. Especially their sexual and reproductive rights, for example birth delivery using clean energy as opposed to candles and kerosene, and use of energy for vaccine storage. Electric lighting – in schools, streets and homes – can have a positive impact on girls' schooling but there are no definitive conclusions can be drawn on the impact of this form of [energy interventions on women's literacy skills and reading](#) time. Street lighting also increases the

feeling of personal and community security. Modern energy services facilitate access to [information and communication technologies, for example](#), TV and radio, thereby potentially positively impacting women and other excluded groups' empowerment and political engagement, depending on the programming and content. [Training and other opportunities](#) provided by energy programmes can be linked to an increase in women's voice. Gender-responsive energy access programmes in [post-conflict contexts](#) can help rebuild communities and support women, who often comprise the majority of the population, to play a key role. Post-conflict situations offer opportunities to redress gender inequitable social institutions such as laws and policies governing issues such as land tenure and distribution.

The provision of energy transition infrastructure is also an opportunity to include persons with disabilities as employees of companies who deliver the changes. For example, **in 2017 in Egypt persons with disabilities were employed in the construction of one of the world's largest solar power plant sites**. A range of measures were implemented to ensure persons with disabilities were appropriately supported in their work – including:

- Adapted work task selection, induction, and supervision processes to suit the skills and capacities of the employees with disabilities.
- Location of physical work site, accessible toilet and accessible rest facilities taking into account impairment requirements for accessibility and enhanced supervisory support.
- Placing employees with disabilities on the same pay scales as employees without disabilities for fair and equitable remuneration.

The employment of local people with disabilities helped in strengthening the relationship between the power-plant site and the local community.

2.4. Meaningful Participation and Local Ownership

Despite the remarkable progress made in Asia in the last few decades, it is the region with many of the world's energy poor, over [1 billion people lack access to electricity](#) – majority of which women. Research found that low-income urban groups in Southeast Asia already recognise the need to be [inclusive and use different tools and approaches](#) to make sure no one in their community is left out. Community-led approaches offer considerable potential as a means to ensure inclusive action).

Nothing about us without us. This long-held maxim of disability movements around the world promotes that persons with disabilities are in the best position to understand their own situations and [be part of seeking solutions to the problems they face – it can also be applied to women and other excluded groups](#). Four critical issues need to be considered when [implementing SDG 7 for persons with disabilities](#): (i) access to energy for development; (ii) access to electricity to charge or operate assistive technology; (iii) access to modern forms of energy which are less polluting for the households where persons with disabilities stay for longer periods of time; and (iv) access to affordable energy as many persons with disabilities live in low-income households.

2.5. Data, Monitoring and Evaluation

Policy makers and market actors usually do not have sex-, disability-, income- and/or geographical-disaggregated data for the energy sector. They also lack data on the [finance and business case for a greater focus on gender equality and social inclusion](#). Inclusion is a core aspiration of the 2030 Agenda, adequate financing for inclusion in the clean energy transition is required, as well as [efforts to improve data availability](#). Data collection on skills for a green transition remains limited – although Box 6 highlights the IFC's attempts at remedying that issue. Low-level of awareness of [environmental sustainability and weak institutional mechanisms for policy-making and social dialogue prevent skills development](#) from playing a stronger role in a just transition.

Proposals to the RRF should include gender and inclusion analysis and action plans clearly stating gaps and opportunities for inclusive outcomes, including a roadmap with a budget for sustainable implementation. The [gender and inclusion analysis](#) would (i) identify key gender/inclusion issues and determinants directly relevant to the intended energy services to be provided by the project; (ii) inform inclusive project designs by identifying opportunities to maximize benefits to women, people with disabilities and to other excluded groups, and minimize and mitigate adverse impacts or risks through the proposed project; and (iii) collect baseline disaggregated data to be used for monitoring project outputs, outcomes, and impacts during project implementation.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in the formal economy continues to be low globally – data on the energy sector is even more rare. The [employment rates of persons with disabilities are substantially lower than](#) the rates for persons without disabilities in high-, medium- and low-income economies. Persons with disabilities' lower rates of [economic and labour market participation impose a higher welfare burden on](#) governments, highlighting the costs of exclusion, which are estimated to range from [3% to 7% of GDP](#). Persons with disabilities and women in rural areas are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes such as [less education, poorer health outcomes, lower levels of employment, and higher poverty rates](#). They are [typically among the most 'resource poor' within a community](#), due to poor education, lack of income, social exclusion and limited access to decision-making authorities. Therefore, as for other marginalised groups, they will have little access to or control over those resources which would be made available for the energy transition.

Our evidence search suggests little has been tried and tested about disability inclusion in the energy transition, therefore RRF applications should highlight a commitment to disability-inclusive measures. Other Goal 7 targets call for promoting investment in clean energy technology (Target 7.a), and for expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to supply modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries (Target 7.b). These targets can accelerate [access by persons with disabilities to cleaner forms of energy](#) and to avoid the harmful exposure to pollution that comes from traditional forms of energy.

Numerous measures can be taken to integrate persons with disabilities into the energy transition. Financial assistance and disability friendly designs of energy technologies can [contribute to improved energy access](#) for persons with disabilities. Depending on whether the benefits consider the [additional energy costs faced by persons with disabilities](#), these benefits may not be enough to help with increased energy bills. Bridging the data gap on the disability – energy nexus is crucial for inclusive implementation of SDG 3, SDG5, SDG7 and the other Global Goals. More studies on disability and energy need to be conducted. [Few studies exist on fuel poverty and disability and on the energy needs of persons with disabilities](#). National data collection activities can provide relevant information. Comparable studies and evidence on energy consumption and access to energy for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities may also help fill-in the gaps. [Barriers to full social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities](#) include inaccessible physical environments and transportation, the unavailability of assistive devices and technologies, non-adapted means of communication, and discriminatory prejudices and stigma in society. Initiatives targeting persons with [disabilities in programmes to enhance access to clean energy](#) include the Dadaab refugee camp (see Box 8) in Kenya, a settlement of more than 350,000 refugees, where energy-efficient stoves were disseminated to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Girls with disabilities also face challenges accessing formal education systems due to limited menstrual hygiene facilities in schools and education buildings. Inaccessible latrines means disabled people who cannot [stand or see often have to crawl, or sit on dirty latrine seats](#). For women with disabilities this would need to be done when changing menstrual pads or cloths.

Box 8: [Solar Energy and Energy Efficiency: Dadaab Refugee Camps, Kenya](#)

The settlement of more than 350,000 refugees faces complex energy access challenges for pumping of water, cooking and lighting. The area in which the five camps are located is remote and not connected to the national power grid. Dadaab is relatively windy and characterized by hot and dry weather and therefore has potential for the use of renewable energies.

UNHCR implemented pilot projects aimed at harnessing solar energy for water management, street lights, cooking, household lighting, charging of cell phones and powering of cooling facilities for storage of medicine and perishable product

Women at risk were selected as the main recipients of solar lanterns with a special focus on female headed households and survivors of gender-based violence. This was a way of addressing risks arising from poor lighting systems in the camps coupled with lack of male partners to offer them protection. Energy efficient stoves were disseminated to people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Small solar lamps have impacted very significantly on the welfare of beneficiaries - by increasing the safety of women and girls in the camps and enable school children to improve their academic performance.

Annex 1: Checklists for Women's Economic Empowerment and Disability Inclusion in Applications to the RRF

A generic checklist for women and persons with disabilities has been developed for the Rapid Response Facility (RRF). To avoid disability issues being diluted, an additional checklist with additional issues that are pertinent to persons with disabilities is provided. Both checklists serve as tools for assessing whether applications account for the situation of women, persons with disabilities and other excluded social groups.² The checklists have been structured around three levels, that is, minimum standards, empowerment and transformation. They will be used by the RRF Programme Management Unit and Governance Board which comprises representatives from the Energy Transition Council, HMG and philanthropies to strengthen WEE/disability inclusion aspects of the Technical Assistance.

Annex 1 Checklist is divided into three different levels of ambition, according to the Moser Gender and Inclusion Framework. The three levels are:

1. Minimum Standards (basic needs and do no harm): Programmes address due diligence, risks, basic needs and vulnerabilities of women, persons with disabilities and other excluded groups;
2. Empowerment (practical needs): Programmes build assets, capabilities and opportunities for women, persons with disabilities and other excluded groups; and
3. Transformation (practical and strategic needs): Programmes address unequal power relations and seek systemic institutional, legal and societal changes.

Annex 2 Checklist covers the following focus areas:

1. Referencing of disability in the proposal.
2. The underpinning conceptual model.
3. Barrier analysis.
4. Mitigation plans.
5. Construction/infrastructure budgets.
6. Accessibility budget.
7. Impairment types.
8. Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities; and
9. Disaggregated data.

² These include sexual and gender minorities, rural populations, indigenous groups, racial/ethnic minorities, religious minorities, migrants and youth. Excluded groups will depend on a context-by-context basis, and the checklist is purposely general enough to be applicable to the situation in most countries.

#	Criteria	Yes	No	Not relevant
MINIMUM STANDARDS (BASIC NEEDS AND DO NO HARM)				
1	Risks and Mitigation			
1.1	Risks of project activities on women and persons with disabilities are listed.			
1.2	Appropriate mitigation measures to address risks on women and persons with disabilities.			
1.3	Has strategies (compensation and grievance handling) to mitigate negative impacts on women and persons with disabilities.			
1.4	Compensation schemes for women and persons with disabilities who will be involuntary displaced and resettled because of energy projects.			
1.5	Micro-insurance and saving schemes to mitigate risks associated with defaults and non-repayment of loans by women and persons with disabilities.			
1.6	Creates platforms/ forums for open discussion of problems and challenges faced by women and persons with disabilities, and how they can be fixed.			
2	Sharing information			
2.1	Information desks and kiosks for women and persons with disabilities that are conveniently located.			
2.2	Information is in accessible format to cater for diverse women and persons with disabilities			
2.3	Start-up packages for women entrepreneurs and farmers, including persons with disabilities, with information on access to credit, technical advice and support.			
2.4	Plan to hires and train staff at office and field levels who are familiar with WEE and rights-based disability inclusion issues.			
2.5	Representation of women and persons with disabilities within body of staff at office and field levels.			
3	Impact Assessments			
3.1	Project is informed by impact assessments of potential benefits and negative impacts on women and persons with disabilities			
3.2	Project refers to gender equality/women's economic empowerment issues.			
3.3	Project promotes disability rights.			
3.4	Project is committed to achieving positive outcomes for women and persons with disabilities and there is no indication that design will reinforce inequalities, exclusion or discrimination.			
3.5	Project is aligned with sustainable energy for all (SE4ALL) agenda.			
3.6	Complies with international human rights and labour standards, and national laws on labour and environmental protection.			
3.7	Gender and disability analysis are incorporated in project design.			

3.8	Adopts intersectional approach in addressing multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination among women and persons with disabilities e.g. women with disabilities, women living with HIV, indigenous women, disabled youth etc.			
3.9	Assess extent to which the RRF will benefit women and persons with disabilities and will address inequalities and discrimination			
4	Action Plans (See additional checklist on disability for specifics)			
4.1	Objectives respond to gender and disability inclusion issues, and addresses energy poverty of these groups.			
4.2	Evidence that women and people with disabilities were consulted in project design and their needs and concerns are reflected in the objectives.			
4.3	Activities, services and resources ensure that different needs of women and disability are addressed, and barriers faced by these groups in access to energy services and technologies are to be overcome.			
5	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning			
5.1	Collects sex- and disability-disaggregated data, and data according to other forms of identity as appropriate.			
5.2	Monitors data according to gender and disability inclusion indicators, including on livelihoods.			
5.3	Adjusts project design and approach according to collected data.			
5.4	Evaluates and lists lessons learnt from the impact of the project on women and persons with disabilities, which are used to strengthen the programme.			
5.5	Creates a platform for information exchange and learning for women and persons with disabilities in energy services.			
5.6	Develops and disseminates appropriate knowledge products/case studies on women and people with disabilities on energy access and services, including women/people with disability role models.			
5.7	Develops appropriate training materials and manuals on energy for women and persons with disabilities.			
EMPOWERMENT (PRACTICAL NEEDS)				
6	Practical needs			
6.1	Promotes practical needs of women and persons with disabilities in the access and affordability of energy services (e.g. solar pumping, milling and grinding, lighting for home, cook stoves, water and sanitation).			
6.2	Promotes clean energy for health-related (vaccine storage & maternity wards) issues for women and persons with disabilities.			
6.3	Promotes clean energy for education-related issues for women and persons with disabilities.			
6.4	Promotes clean energy for agriculture/irrigation (use of drip irrigation, solar pumping) and water harvesting techniques for women and persons with disabilities.			
6.5	Promotes clean energy for refrigeration of food production and sales for women and persons with disabilities.			

6.6	Promotes clean energy for income generating activities for women and persons with disabilities.			
7	Voice and Agency			
7.1	Encourages meaningful consultations and engagement of women's organisations and organisations for persons with disabilities (DPOs/OPDs) in design, implementation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of clean energy projects.			
7.2	Results in power and agency for women and persons with disabilities to make decisions and control over energy technologies, incomes and profits so that they benefit from clean energy services.			
7.3	Promotes full economic participation of women and persons with disabilities in clean energy-related projects (agriculture, WASH and SME development)			
7.4	Contributes to WEE and disability inclusion by identifying and utilising role models, champions and mentors in clean energy sector.			
8	Business environment			
8.1	Support to companies that are women and disabled owned or led, and strengthening their competitiveness.			
8.2	Promotes skills development for women and persons with disabilities in the energy sector.			
8.3	Encourages innovative incentive schemes for women and persons with disabilities such as competitions and prizes.			
8.4	Promotes trade and access to clean energy market opportunities for clean energy enterprises for women and persons with disabilities.			
8.5	Provides matching funds for clean energy projects for women and person with disabilities.			
8.6	Promotes joint ventures with women, persons with disabilities and other excluded social groups.			
9	Employment in clean energy sector			
9.1	Promotes employment of women and persons with disabilities in the clean energy sector.			
9.2	Promotes organisation practices and policies that promote employment of women and persons with disabilities.			
9.3	Advertises jobs through women's associations and organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs/OPDs).			
9.4	Promotes access to clean energy services in the formal and informal economy for women and persons with disabilities.			
10	Other			
10.1	Addresses harmful social norms that women and persons with disabilities face among employers.			
10.2	Promotes safer environment (e.g. through street lighting) for women and persons with disabilities.			
10.3	Contributes to infrastructure design that is responsive to needs of women and persons with disabilities.			
	TRANSFORMATION (PRACTICAL AND STRATEGIC NEEDS)			
11	Legal, Policy and Institutional changes			

11.1	Promotes representation and meaningful participation of women and persons with disabilities in clean energy infrastructure, planning and decision-making bodies of the government and private sector, including in the formulation of clean energy policies and programmes.			
11.2	Contributes to changes in budgets, policies, laws, and social norms in favour of women and people with disabilities			
11.3	Participation of women and persons with disabilities in governance structures of company energy boards			
12	Other			
12.1	Provides for benefits for businesses owned by women and persons with disabilities in the clean energy sector.			
12.2	Promotes universal/accessible designs of all infrastructure, energy technologies for water and cook stoves, including appropriate budgeting included to accommodate the (usually up to 5% additional costs in construction – retrofit can be 25%+) accessibility measures.			
12.3	Promotes increased energy efficiency and water use in commercial buildings (water and energy efficient equipment, building practices and codes) for women and persons with disabilities.			
12.4	Promotes climate adaptation and mitigation among women and persons with disabilities using renewable energy technologies.			
12.5	Supports mobile banking platforms and other support services have accessibility measures available/applied for women and men with different impairment types (e.g. communication support for hearing impaired women, take place in physically accessible places for women with physical impairments) to pay for pay-as-you-go clean energy services and receiving remittances.			
12.6	Promotes accountability to women and persons with disabilities by involving them to actively participate in the decision-making process in projects/programmes and policies as well as creating accountability mechanisms for monitoring, complaint and feedback.			
12.7	Recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid work among women			

SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION

Key Questions –Disability Inclusion	Answer(s) and reviewer remarks	Key point(s) to look for/feedback on
<p>1. Is disability referenced in the proposal to RRF? Yes/No</p>		<p>If yes, go onto question 2.</p> <p>If no, feedback on the lack of disability inclusion considerations – give pointers to relevant input, starting with UNCRPD obligations and key issues raised in the query research paper.</p>
<p>2. If disability is referenced, what is the underpinning conceptual model is it premised on? United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)/social model/rights-based inclusive model or individual models (medical and/or charity models)?</p>		<p>If yes/clearly based on UNCRPD principles, go to question 3.</p> <p>If not clear, ask clarifying questions to establish what “disability inclusion” is conceptually premised on in the proposal – it should be UNCRPD principles (NB 182 Governments have ratified and are committed to following these re. disability inclusion).</p> <p>If it is clearly based on individual models – feedback that disability inclusion in the proposal should be based on UNCRPD principles. Points covered in questions 3 – 8 (barrier analysis, budgeting for access and inclusion, participation of persons with disabilities, data disaggregation) should be considered and included.</p>
<p>3. If disability inclusion is premised on UNCRPD-principles, have barriers across <u>all</u> categories (environmental, attitudinal, institutional) been identified, or just some?</p>		<p>Look for referencing of specific barriers in all categories (environmental, attitudinal, institutional). Most are likely to focus just on environmental (access) barriers – if at all. Attitudinal barriers are the biggest. If a Government proposal, then note Govts play a key role in eliminating institutional (legal and policy) barriers.</p>
<p>4. If barriers have been identified, what plans are included to mitigate/eliminate the barriers identified? Are the plans realistic? Have they been budgeted for?</p>		<p>Look at how many identified barriers have associated specific action plans. Ideally, all barriers need specific, associated plans to reduce/eliminate them. Are they realistically budgeted for?</p>
<p>5. Construction/infrastructure budgets – will all new proposed buildings and facilities constructed be accessible? Have the</p>		<p>All proposed constructions should be accessible in design (ref Article 9, UNCRPD). Retrofitting buildings, toilets etc for accessibility generally eight-nine times more expensive (typically 25%+ of the total</p>

additional costs for accessibility (typically 3-5% of the total cost) been included?		original cost) than when included in construction (typically add 3-5%)
6. Accessibility budget – is there a generic “accessibility” budget line included for “draw-down” use for all planned meetings/key consultations etc?		This should be approx. 5% of the whole budget (depending on the number of meetings and consultations) to cover access issues re. accessible venues, personal assistants, transport, communication support etc. It can also be used for non-disabled people with access needs and support (e.g. older people, pregnant women).
7. Impairment types – has the full breadth of impairment types been referred to and considered in the proposal (physical, visual, hearing, intellectual, mental health)? Have only some been mentioned? Has “disability” been referenced generically, rather than referring to different impairment types, and some of the different access issues they may have?		“Disability” tends to be referenced collectively (if at all) but much diversity exists within. Different impairment types have different access requirements. Many tend to focus on physical impairments only and/or possibly visual impairments – and those with mild impairments. People with hearing impairments, intellectual impairments and mental health conditions are often excluded/ignored.
8. Participation of persons with disabilities – have persons with disabilities been consulted in the proposal development? Yes/No		If yes - what level of consultation/participation happened – tokenistic or meaningful? If not – suggest meaningful participation of persons with disabilities as part of proposal revisions NB “Nothing About Us Without Us” is a key slogan of the disability rights movement. Most channel consultations through DPOs/OPDs (organisations of persons with disabilities/disabled people).
9. Disaggregated data – is/will data be disaggregated for disability? Yes/No		If yes – will the “Washington Group” questions be used? This is increasingly the “benchmark” for disability disaggregated data. If no – data disaggregation should be considered and incorporated.

About WOW Helpdesk reports: The WOW Helpdesk is funded by the UK Department for International Development (FCDO). WOW Helpdesk services are provided by the Work and Opportunities for Women (WOW) Programme alliance. For any further request or enquiry, contact enquiry@WOWHelpdesk.org.uk

Suggested citation: Ngum, S., Mushayavanhu, D. and Coe, S. (2021) *Economic empowerment of excluded groups in the COP26 Energy campaign: Key issues to consider in applications to the Rapid Response Facility*, Work and Opportunities for Women (WOW) Helpdesk Query No. 59.