Engendering Power Sector Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa

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Background

• Policy makers have often failed to recognise gender inequalities and that gender-neutral energy policies discriminate against women

• This is particularly true of the electricity sector

• Power sector reforms are ongoing or being planned for in Eastern and Southern Africa

• This presents a window of opportunity of engendering power sector policies

• Key Research Question:
  How best can gender research influence power sector policy in Eastern and Southern Africa?
Participating Countries & Researchers

- **4 country studies**
- **Botswana**
  - Nozipho Wright, Botswana Technology Centre
  - Matthew Wright, Central Bank of Botswana
- **Kenya**
  - Pauline Kathambana, Kenya Power & Lighting Company (KPLC)
- **Tanzania**
  - Florence Gwang’ombe, Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO)
- **Zimbabwe**
  - Dorcas Kayo, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA)
- **Regional study**
  - Emma Crewe, UK/India
  - Joy Dunkerley, USA
  - Stephen Karekezi, AFREPREN
  - Jennifer Wangeci, AFREPREN

Methodology

- Review power sector policy documents and identify the gender component/dimension
  - Identify number of gender explicit power sector policy measures
  - Highlight the frequency of the term gender or women in the power sector policy document
- Assess the power sector policy formulation process
- Highlight stages in the process that provide ideal entry points for influence by gender research
- Identify key research inputs that influenced the process
- Propose an approach that can be used to strengthen impact of gender research on power sector policies
Key Questions Informing Analysis

• Is gender mentioned in the national energy policy? *If yes, in what context*

• Is gender mentioned in the national power sector policy? *If yes, in what context*

• Are there mechanisms in the national power sector strategy for stakeholder input and participation?

• What is the gender composition of the power sector policy making body (if one exists)?

• Are gender experts or women’s organisations involved in the power sector policy making process?

Findings: Review of Power Sector Policy Documents

• There’s a growing awareness among policy makers in power sector of importance of gender

• But, gender references in policy documents are mostly either:
  □ Vague objectives that are difficult to measure
  □ Narrow, practical and welfare oriented rather than strategic and integrated into a comprehensive gender framework
## Findings: Review of Power Sector Policy Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and summary of gender policy</th>
<th>Number of Times Gender/Women is Mentioned</th>
<th>Number of Gender Specific Policy Statements/Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Botswana</strong></td>
<td>Gender (5) Women (14)</td>
<td>Policy statements (1) Policy measures (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong statements of commitment to gender equity. Acknowledges women’s roles and problems but no framework to address them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kenya</strong></td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Policy statements (0) Policy measures (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong statements of commitment to redressing gender imbalance. Limited educational and welfare goals planned.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tanzania</strong></td>
<td>Gender (11) Women (16) Female (1)</td>
<td>Policy statements (5) Policy measures (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong statements of commitment to gender equality. Welfare measures planned. Participation of women encouraged but not required.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zimbabwe</strong></td>
<td>Gender (0) Women (0)</td>
<td>Policy statement (1) Policy measures (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mention of gender issues in energy documents. No explicit policy measures to address gender issues or women’s interests.</td>
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## Findings: Review of Power Sector Policy Making Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Botswana</th>
<th>Kenya</th>
<th>Tanzania</th>
<th>Zimbabwe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Driver</strong></td>
<td>Department of Energy</td>
<td>Ministry of Energy</td>
<td>Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Minerals</td>
<td>Department of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation Tools</strong></td>
<td>Consultation with stakeholders Mini workshops Major stakeholder workshops</td>
<td>Taskforces appointed by the Ministry of Energy Stakeholder workshops Public consultative forum</td>
<td>Stakeholder workshops Inter-ministerial discussions</td>
<td>Taskforces National stakeholder workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Findings: Review of Power Sector Policy Making Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Influences</th>
<th>Botswana</th>
<th>Kenya</th>
<th>Tanzania</th>
<th>Zimbabwe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Need to have a document that would guide and facilitate proper planning &amp; management of the energy sector</td>
<td>• Deficiencies in Electric Act</td>
<td>• Transformation in energy sector since 1992 necessitated revision of energy policy document</td>
<td>• Changes in global power sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consultancy work</td>
<td>• Need for consistent policy on energy</td>
<td>• Energy specialists and consultants</td>
<td></td>
<td>• The World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electricity rationing and outages</td>
<td>• Adverse effects of oil importation on economy and balance of payments</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Findings: Research Influences on Power Sector Policy**

- **Direct influence of research, and especially gender research, on power sector policy formulation has been limited**
  - **Kenya** – market research to understand electricity use
  - **Botswana** – consultant studies
  - **Zimbabwe** – research used to design sector efficiency goals rather than goals
  - **Tanzania** – policy document contains various recommendations made by researchers
4 Clusters of Influences

External Influences
International factors, economic and cultural influences

The Political Context
- political structures / processes, institutional pressures, prevailing concepts, policy streams & windows

Links between policymakers and other stakeholders, relationships, voice, trust, networks, the media and other intermediaries

The Evidence, credibility, methods, relevance, use, how the message is packaged and communicated

What Role Can Gender Research Play in Influencing Power Sector Policy?

- Context: Gendered Politics, Institutions and Global Influences

**Global level** – focus on international agreements e.g. CEDAW, Beijing Platform, etc

**Institutional level** – awareness creation about engendering power sector and energy policy; training and development on different aspects of gender analysis within policymaking institutions
What Role Can Gender Research Play in Influencing Power Sector Policy?

• Evidence on Gender: Credibility and Communication

- Gender disaggregated data – evidence required for motivating policymakers to engender energy policy

- Timely, relevant and practical information
  - Package gender research results in a more ‘policymaker friendly manner’
  - Simplified and non-technical language
  - Multi-media communication strategy

What Role Can Gender Research Play in Influencing Power Sector Policy?

• Links, Legitimacy and Women’s Representation

- Forge links between policymakers and researchers

- Link to women’s organizations with limited expertise in energy but extensive skills in promoting the gender agenda

- Fuller participation of women in decision-making process on various levels in the power sector

- Establish mechanisms to ensure other women’s stakeholders’ views and demands (especially those marginalised from decision-making) are highlighted
Next Steps

• **Reviewer’s comments and in-house discussion**
  - Assumed that gender approach has positive impact on power sector - need for additional empirical evidence
  - What is the relevance of central grid-based power to gender? Is it, by definition, not pro-women?
  - Should one focus on decentralized electricity systems (e.g. diesel gensets or PVs)?
  - Credibility of research evidence – are external researchers more credible than local researchers?
  - Need to place gender in the wider context of class, ethnicity, urban/rural and age
  - Several unsubstantiated statements – need to either qualify or provide supporting evidence

• **In brief, more in-depth analysis**