|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewer name** | XXXX |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | XXXX |
| **Interview date** | 25th January, 2021 |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 1 hour 1 min |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | N2 - GMT20210125 |
| * **Participant name** | XXXX |
| * **Organisation name** | XXXX |
| * **Gender** | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category** | Non-governmental organisations, (working on development, facilitating energy access, SDGs, energy and gender issues, etc.) |
| * **Country** | Nigeria |

Participant: Hello.

CF: Great. Good afternoon, and happy New Year, ese gidi gan for coming, I really appreciate this I will try to okay. Well, I'll give you a background before so just a bit of a break ground again on a bit of an introduction. So this whole thing is we're trying to understand gender related matters within energy access and then we are we doing this for four countries, so four global south context, so African countries and two Asian countries, so we are looking at Nigeria and Ghana and it also looking at India and Pakistan hopefully in the end we want to be able to draw out parallels and differences and see area where there can be cross learning and all of that. So it's funded by the UK research and Innovation Global challenges research fund and then hopefully of course will be willing who will share the outcome of some of these interactions that we are having with diverse expertise from all these four countries. So we have identified experts in different places on different in different aspects of this particular matter, and then we are trying to get their own experiences based on what they have I've been doing and how this so I mean in the end how they all shape this subject matter that we are talking about. So there are four parts of this whole conversation will be having so the first you'll be a general introductory parts, so where we're will be looking more at some of the things that you're doing your role your work priorities your organization your background and then the second part has to do with understanding the issues. That's a lie around energy access and then the third part has to do with policies and interventions and then the last parts we will have some closing questions. So well without further Ado our just launching straight. So can you start by briefly telling me a bit about your current row position the organization work for the Department of work for just a bit of a background?

Participant: Yeah. So I work with the agency says, you know my

Do you want to know a bit of my background or just focusing on what I do now?

CF: Yeah, even though that's links with the next question.You will need to tell me a bit of your background and how you got to your line of work.

Participant: Well, Okay, right. Now I'm the managing director of XXXX's, but were functioning through the Nigeria hub yes, meaning that we are focusing more on where majority of our members really reside right now which is Nigeria but we have member all over Africa and what we're trying to do is to ensure that as we grow whatever model we created in West Africa we would say that Nigeria is our face first case study if I can put it that way, you know, so and it looks like we really functioned in this part of the world, you know good enough to be able to replicate what we're doing here in other parts of Africa. So on my background, I'm an energy economist, I studied economics as my BSC and later on did a master's in energy economics and policy. So that's my background my first and my first focus right, majority of people do economic are usually working for consulting firms, which luckily for me. I was with xxxx where I worked on that their energy Department's so majority of the audits jobs I did have to do with oil and gas companies majority with oil and gas companies So we did process, financial audit different Consulting work for these kind of organizations then after xxxx, which I did for about 3 years then I moved on to xxxx, and I was also in internal audits this time where it had to do with investigations audits creating processes reviewing business process flows, you know and things that's what I still stayed with in oil and gas. So but funny enough this time was Downstream. So I had to do investigations and all these different little petrol stations. A lot of them had to do with safety understanding safety processes and Reporting on how these different environments different departments are doing then from there really from there, I moved on to working for myself. So I worked for myself for a very short periods, which I'm still sort of doing to an extent and the focus of that business was like corporate consultancy while I was total, I was already volunteering with XXXX like to me because I heard about XXXX while I was in uni, when I was in Xxxx's which is first time I heard that XXXX might want to come to Nigeria. I said I that was a good like to be involved. So the setting off of XXXX's I supported them since my days of Xxxx so by the time they were ready to officially move to Nigeria. That was when I was approached, you know, and there you're asking if I was interested in the world at the time it was Business Development, you know, and that has a perceived business has grown since then and built a bigger team, you know, and it's just much more worried doing so we really had to expand. So yeah, that's the story of me interested. Yeah,

CF: This is this is very good. I've been which okay gives us a very good background relates to what we want to discuss which leads me to the next one really, can you tell me more about the specific energy access areas or issues that you work on, do look at things on electrification technology projects or policy. What exactly do you work on? What are those areas of Interest?

Participant: A s you know we're Professional Organization, so when it comes to knowledge on of the industry understanding where issues are that is our Focus as the XXXX. So I would say more on the capacity-building side of things. Trainings in renewable energy, understanding Energy Management. What are the different areas things like me to ring and you know different processes of energy is important for professionals to understand how energy is being used in this particular part of the world. So our role is to just ensure that we are disseminating the knowledge that is required. So it's you know, we're not your conventional oil and gas company or power company we are more supporting the industry that is our role. So we have the expertise through our members through different people and organize and committees. We create not just within the Nigeria Africa branch but internationally because compared to other professional organizations, we are very connected to our headquarters because we understand that the issues that are being faced is not a Nigerian or African problem. It's a global problem and it needs to be you know solved. So, you know I members as you know, you know range in ages backgrounds discipline and you know, they all come with different knowledge skills and good practice and for us we're just ensuring that we're that hub for them to always contact for things like standards guidance training qualifications, you know and understanding the entire Energy System. So that's the role we play as the XXXX, you know, and if you to ask me within Nigeria. If I'm to be more specific. How impactful are we in energy access, I think we are organically growing, I don't think we're there yet side who think anybody can actually say that, you know, there's a hundred percent, you know functioning and supporting the energy access agenda if I can put it that way, but we were getting there. So there are two things that for me jump straight to my head after use as examples of this case. There's something called the energy sustainability tool kits which you know about because you've supported us before, you know, that's a document that we're still pushing as you speak. You know, and one of those topics one of the topics that we're working on this actually energy access and what is the energy sustainability toolkits a toolkit that we want industry players and policy makers to use when it comes to looking for data, when it comes to looking for indexes, you know to help support whatever report or article their writing. So we want to be that hope that people will go to get information about energy access, you know, so that's one the toolkit, and another one is the trainings, So there's a training that we're doing now call the energy management training We've run a couple with Years and we're now incorporating more of energy access in that particular training because we all have deserves assumption that everybody knows what they're doing, you know and they understand that energy as a whole world actually not true people still need to people that were able call veterans still need to get like a refresher course, you know what's missing on what's how they play in the whole system and how they can support the system moving forward.

CF: Interesting. I like this interesting insights now, are there policy context or issues or policy developments may be at the national or International level. That's influence the kind of work you do. I know the SGD is an example, but there are others also?

Participant: I think with the sdgs for us is very powerful Paramount because it's something that you know cuts across globally, you know, and it's something that we can always go back to say. Okay this is why we're pushing the energy access agenda I keep calling it that because that's you know with Nigeria and Africa as a whole looking at how we're doing globally regarding electricity for example, it's really a shame, you know, so we are focusing more on the sdgs, you know, and I think the one is DG that's you know sticks out is poverty, you know and ensuring that we don't keep this part of the world on lit for as long as we have and we just we there were we are players in ensuring that you know, everyone whether you're in the rural area or in a city where ever you are, you know, you have access to some level of powers, especially so I would say the sdgs it's our Focus

CF: interesting. Thanks so much. Now we'll go to the second part which is really understanding the issues know what those equitable energy access mean to you?

Participant: Equity Energy Management, equitable energy access. What does it just right? So that may be something that hits my senses as a typing, equity in energy access, right?

CF: Yeah Equitable energy access, what does it mean when you have equitable energy?

Participant: I am not sure, I may have to get back to you on that but off the top of my head. I think it has to do with economics of it, you know of energy access and ensuring that it hits the different areas in you know, the right percentages I'm guessing.

CF: Well, maybe I can link it with the next one really, when we when we look at it from the point of view of gender.

Participant: You're breaking up you're breaking up again.

CF: What does gender equity in energy access mean? For example, do you think it should be a priority for policy and interventions for us to look at the energy access from that gender lens? So make it more gender or gender equity for men women.

Participant: Yeah, I think for me here. We have to look more in the rural side of things. If you're speaking about Nigeria, especially, you know, a lot of our women, you know, they're the ones doing the cooking, you know at the use their different biofuels, you know from the how do you call it? the firewood and everything women are the ones that actually, you know, expose themselves to the repercussion of bad energy that is unclean energy, so in that way on clean energy, so it's in that way it's important for us to understand that energy means different things to different genders. You know, I was reading somewhere that the smoked the smoke emitted from using charcoal and firewood and you know that that woman would actually be smoking about 12 cigarettes a day just from cooking meals for her family, you know, so its scary it's very scary, because you know keep saying, you know the stop smoking but some people are indirectly smoking daily to take care of their family while the husband as we go to work or go to the farm, you know, so that's simple example in itself. It shows that energy means different things to you know, to the female and male gender, you know, so I think definitely you know, it's something that needs to be considered on even the policy level, you know, if you talk about even if we you know, it would come out of the rural side of things and we think more of the corporates most of these organizations decisions are being made by men women at put on much lower level management level while the men are the top of it. So this is and what I like to do not love decision that we made in homes without like to note is that she made for any woman, you know, and what are the children going to wear? A lot of times we're right, you know, I think that right these are life decision. So why are we trusted with those ones and when it comes to the boardroom, we're not trusted, you know, so it's essential I think and when I think of the solutions also energy access all that have been asked this questions are men, So true when they're responding they're thinking about things that affect them directly, so they will say to you. I'm oil and gas professional. I mean and MD of an upstream company all I'm thinking about are my universe. Yeah, You know, but if you speak to a female, you know, that is also running an oil and gas company if I could put it that way. Maybe she's running a downstream company. It's a completely different things. You would say. She would say, oh a lot of homes in Nigeria don't have enough LPG, you know, they're all still using charcoal and wood and you know, so it's the way people addressed things are completely different the way or female will see it is very different from how her male counterparts will see it, you know, and it's with all this but nobody is saying that men are wrong. No, they're just saying that you need to see things in another light. You need to see things from another dimension, you know to really appreciate it and understand that you are looking at it holistically and I think that's why the female part is important.

CF: Interesting. I like I like the I like the narrative coming out now because I'm a can see you're getting very frustrated about these really are these are two key issues. It's nice. No, it was a bit more about energy access as community and household level in terms of gender, You know, now I can look at it from above look at that's Community level at the household level you mention a few things women gets affected by studying the cooking side and I maintains a big decision, but when we did this that's community are there things that, what are those things really how equitable is energy access at that level as Community level and as household level and and when you look at it from a gender perspective.

Participant: Yeah, I think for me if you ask me is the ignorance that really hits me the fact that these simple data like what I just told you about smoking, you know, there's where we as women, we're still talking about women now and I'm pointing to examples we've become so ignorant to these things, you know, but because we just think it can't be that important, you know, and that's where I play as XXXX's the knowledge dissemination, I think when people know they would do that, you know, a lot of times they just don't know, you know, they don't know that so when I was talking about this health and safety part of it, they don't even know what how beneficial for example LPG is compared to the charcoal they're using they don't know that the cost could even be less because nobody has come to them to show them a real time analysis, you know to say did you know that this amount of spending on this, there's a way that you can manage this or there's a substitute this what that means they could you it would cost less for you. These women do not know this, you know, so it's for me. It's not like I can say ignorance because some people just some who know it they're not acting on it while there's the other people that actually don't know it's hence the reason why they're not acting at all. So its people that don't know each other at all that I'm talking about, you know, so we need to be able to go into these different communities and be able to disseminate it to them explaining, you know to them why we want them to switch from the biofuels to a better view. So, of course, you know with electricity there are other things that we need to consider. Some people are using candles kerosene and other forms of lighting, you know, the this is the real situation here in this part of the world, you know, so it's about educating them, not about educating the women the girls that will become women also need to be educated, It you know, we need to let them know that okay. This is how this is why this is dangerous you and these are the different alternatives now while they're in school, they are learning this but they also been back up to tell their mom, you know that did you know that you know this thing can cause this did you know that you can we can change our habits, you know, I don't know if that answers your question because I think I'm.

CF: Yeah it does. I mean, yeah, it's great. It's great. It's really, you know, there is something you talked about which just reminded me of something else, Now, I only ask this question really how does gender affect the way energy is used in household level now, there is something there is something that I've had so women may say abeg, no tell me that, my grandmother and my great-grandmother they didn’t die, they die at 120, how do we change this sort of attitude, level personally looking at it from that gender perspective. Also considering also behavioural aspects?

Participant: Yes, so I think and I keep saying it a lot of people disagree with me but I'll say it again. I think a lot of the problems we have as women. It's men that can actually solve it for us because that if you know, it's one of those things where you say who would fight the battle. I think it's the men that can fight it and I don't need all the men. I need just like 10% of the men saying actually we are going to do something about it because when a man tells his friend or his colleague that oh, this is what I'm doing. Now the probability of them listening to their colleague compared to the wife at home, yes I hear this thing can kill me, the probability of that guy listening to his colleague is higher than listening to his wife at home, you know, so it's about us just looking for strategic ways to actually do the work and I think it's too many and if you ask me off the top of my head, it's something as simple as Organizations that oil and gas companies for example that already making so much money in this part of the world sit convincing to some things and same okay, everybody all my staff, I'm going to supply LPG to your homes or give you a discounted coupon or something. That would make them actually say, okay. This is what my company is doing for me so that my wife would be in a better situation on this is me talking about the big boys are working for now if we don't look at guys, and you everyday guy? It could be just approaching the government and if it's not a Nigerian government's cannot perform then many different funds that are available internationally that we can actually, you know, create a case and said look these women want to change their ways they want to change their behaviour, However, we need your support, If a small gas cylinder, I'm not saying gas is the cleanest energy but, It's safer, if gas cylinder is about $6,000 and your average who cannot afford it dear funder from the UK, US wherever, why don't you subsidize this thing for us? You know, why don't you give us, you know, a training on something, you know, it's just help reduce the cost of these things. So that some families at least can afford cleaner energy. So that's me speaking and hoping that there are funders like that internationally, but they might be funders like that locally to you know, that would say, you know, we're ready to for this switch and this is how we want to support So as I've said the first one is men speaking to themselves and the second one is Corporate speaking to themselves, you know, and then if I'm to come down to women ourselves, I think I've already said it earlier, If somebody tells you and gives you real cases and situations and telling you in, you know, women understand things from experience, Yes. So if we sit down and do our research and actually do some formal survey, you know asking people about their condition health-wise, you know, I'm sure we'll be able to get some data real people to come and tell these women their stories, you know to say when I stopped using this thing, I noticed I stopped coughing. I notice that feel better. You know, let's find out what the people have done in the streets. Who are they where they bring them out and speak, I find that influencers are very powerful hence the world is working right now. What's an influencer? I'm not talking about social media influencer an influencer is anybody that can talk to you about something is service a product anything that would actually make you change your mind or help you. Good decision on that answer. So I think if we if we look at how thick the new generation is working as to changing people and the way they look at our parents my at my parents used to abuse us those that we are pressing phone, now they are always on whatsapp, they are on instagram I'm like, how do you have time to do all these things? So this small Young generation, they have changed the older generation when it comes to technology, so why can't we do that about people changing their mindset about clean energy, you know, so it's the same concept in my opinion.

CF: Yeah, very good. Very good. I mean, I like those submissions. They're not do different groups of women benefits from energy access in do differently for so for example, rural versus urban order versus younger on how quickly shed more light on it.

Participant: Yeah. Let's talk about I would like to say that I might be relevant. Is that speak for my own position first? On the urban side of things. I think it's different after that means it's definitely different and it's from the simple case of knowledge as I said with knowing something, you know, and also we are very, I don’t know how to put it, we don't like to suffer, you know, so we understand that for things to be easier for us. We have to part with money yeah, and we are ready to make sure to weigh that opportunity cost, you know, if it's more expensive for me to have clean energy, but it means that I'm going to be less stressed, I would rather find that money and pay for that, do you see my point? So because of the fact that they have a higher purchasing power over people they make this seem to make the safer not the best but the safer options, you know, when it comes to energy access, you know, and it's a good thing but let me tell you I still have people that think like me we went to school together learner people that will still have the conversation like basic conversations on energy access you can you'll be shocked to hear that they don’t know anything. You know, so I'm trying to generalize what I said. They don't know anything. They just don't they're like really, you know, and it's just because they don't they probably heard of it, but it just in tip actually Union so on the urban side I believe that because of the higher purchasing power D. They make better / smarter decisions in that area. It also is apart from the fact that because they know it's also because there's a social thing to me that we cannot win against, you know, so take for instance. I tried to do barbecue sauce. I'd say try just barbecues once a while if I hope you know where I bring out the charcoal and a dream so for me, I'm actually doing using family here. But in my head is a social thing. I'm having a barbecue, you know what I mean? So it's okay, you know, so for us this is social part of if I'm ever to pick up something clear is because I'm trying to do for social and also there's a social part to the fact that my friend cannot come and visit me bringing out firewood, Mmm. So it's again it’s a social thing, there is a short story. I have to tell you. I remember my mom telling me that when they had me, you know, just so hard that they had a gas cooker. So in the early in the morning before everybody that compound wake up, because things get hard and they couldn't afford gas. So she quickly go outside four fetch two, three stones quickly puts the firewood together cook what she wants to cook really fast before the neighbours, wake up, she will make her ewedu, she will make everything She says when she finish she's on the pot, she now go and put it on the gas cooker so that if any of her friends come they will not see that she cook the food outside, you know, but I'm telling you this story because really that it means says a lot, you know about how women think you know, some decisions we make even if we cut a hundred percent afford it it's because of the social pressure connected to it, you know while the rural woman just wants to feed her family, Yeah, the real woman just wants to feed her family. That's like it's just simple and basic as that, you know, what do I need to do to make sure that they get at least one or two meals to do you know and trust me as a woman once you have done that first one, but they did you know that you deserve a pat on the back what that means is you've gone far and wide to number one not just toasted fruit or sauce for how you didn't make the food and that must be so it must be time consuming. It must be stressful. It must just take so much for you as oh my God because we are human. We that's very fast. And that's a fantastic thing about our gender, you know, once we do something once or twice and three times, it just becomes normal to us and we are done, you know, so it's not easy for the ladies in the urban areas, but it's just it's a matter of I need to feed my family, there's nothing else more important than that.

CF: interesting. No some wonderful insights there, back to it beats your organization how yeah, okay. Can you hear me now? I guess it's better now. Okay. Now how is demand for energy determined? And how does the organization come to understand consumer needs? So for example do depend on existing statistics of the government or are there ways you guys also mine data? I mean physically within the XXXX and things like that. So that is one and of course, how does it link also to to energy infrastructure provision?

Participant: So as a professional organisation we have access to in water cater. I don't know if you know that we have a program called technical partnership where we have different companies that are registered with the XXXX and they do different reports and data reporting and regular analysis they do that very often. So some of them shell, total, a lot of power companies all International You know, so once these reports that are which obviously also some of them detailed information on access energy access. I beg your pardon. So when they could little this they look to the XXXX to house these days after them. So we do that through something called the energy Matrix, which is actually an online platform that every member has access to so people can go up there and research or ask the librarian or whoever is available on the platform to give them more information about whatever information and looking for now on the matter of Africa if we need to be specific you and I know that data wise we are not there yet. And that is why I said that's all I'm not sure I said be energy issues in Africa is really pushing to grow into these areas. I mentioned earlier that are growing organic and I keep saying to cope with me because I want to keep your mind in myself that we're not there yet. We're not. We're not a conference organizer. No, that's not who we are, we are not a training provider know where much even though we do these things were much bigger than that, you know so the plan is over time, We want to be that safe place where people can come to find data on energy access of renewable energy on anything relating to energy. That's our goal, that's where we're going to so, please XXXX, if you find any funding in these areas is let them know the XXXX for the fund. Okay. Wow, we really want to be we really want to start to ensure that any information regarding energy access, especially moving towards clean energy in Africa. We want to be the hub for it.

CF: Interesting. So when new energy infrastructure and technology that provided what's in your own View at the difference between men and women in terms of who benefits

Participant: Benefit for what?

CF: So when we are thinking about providing new energy infrastructure and Technologies for what's in your own view are the differences between men and women in terms of who benefits?

Participant: Do you want to hear the truth? When there is big money invoved, That's where they men, when there smaller risk that’s where the women will be, I'm not part of them because yeah, I don't like to classifiy myself like that. I'm a woman but I'm a you know, I'm a I'm a woman, I cant say I am modern, other women still take less risk you know, I am woman pushing to understand how men work, I think I should put it, so it’s just obvious, you know, because there's a cultural mentality to it. So I have to be a bit more specific because you as long as you understand what I mean, but anybody else the leases might not the average African / Nigerian woman believes that the husband is the breadwinner meaning that everything comes from man. You're just supposed to sit down, you know, and the money arrives when I say average of talking, I'm speaking through the tasks section. So even your very learned Nigerian woman still makes her money is probably working for a multinational whatever it is, but there's still that big stick mentality that your husband takes care of the entire. She can contribute but ideally the Nigerian culture says it’s the man.

CF: Hmm interesting,

Participant: You know because it just sounds like the woman is not supposed to do anything and the man is supposed to take charge of all it's all but over time. We're now seeing a couple of women they're saying guess what? You know, I'm ready. You know, I'm old enough to do it now, even though they're coming up. They're all still, you know, playing safe, you know, and that's why a lot of women organizations such as associations are now really coming up because women have something that's really powerful and that's the way it woman encourages. Another woman is completely different from when a man encourages a moment. So they've all started coming together now to start to see look women we can do this. We don't want to support each other we can do it. So I need to give you a random scenario that I think would also help explain this and the oil and gas sector there's a particular situation I'm a part of I'm not going to mention and when it was time for the bidding for oil fields and I was imagining feel sorry much all Fields this pitch guys to station a personal women and said ladies I don't see why one of us should have do this and then one lady said well because you have the money then another woman came up and said why don't we all come together and do it, you know because we all trust each other we've been on this road together for so long, We're happy with each other, where do we go ahead and do it. The lady said fantastic idea how to indict there, you know, and it sucks, such, you know, it's actually sad thing. But this just tells you that we want we don't mind taking risks that's the truth. We just want the extra pushing that if anything goes wrong, my husband is there, If anything goes wrong my children, but men don't think like that men are bold enough to say, you know, what I'm going to go to the bank and the job which the back I'll get the funding the worst case if this happens this is you know, they manage to risk it in their heads. We would think in a different way, we say if I go to the bank now and they give me this billion something now goes wrong that’s your end and your husband to tell you is true that you know, let's manage as a family, Let's figure this out or let me help you to partner, you know, it just our conversations don't get there and then there's the science thing that can go to bed see from my research. You'll see all these kind of conversations of deals and contracts talking about energy happens when they do casual events when they go out in the evenings and we women were always with our kids we women we don't have time to go out with any it sounds mundane. Mr. XXXX, It sounds very unprofessional and maybe it's not worth talking about but what I'd like to know this is real like this is what is actually happening a lot of these deals, like what I just explained regarding marshall fields, they are done in a night cafe, or bar somewhere and they close the deals now while they're closing that deal. I'm going off to the school runs or you know, I'm off doing something else, you know, so or putting my baby to bed, so these are the real things now other women that I'm lost thinking like these other women excelling and thinking like man if I could put it that way. Yes, they are, are they having a tough time being like that's yes, they are because men would always become uncomfortable around them. They probably wouldn't the ones that I really excelling just went to the banks and became bold and make those kind of decisions, but they are not necessarily supported by their counterparts, You know, they will always say, oh she's acting like a man and that's supposed to be a bad thing, you know, so it's even when you try to be bold and take the risk, it's tough for you as a you know, so I think that's my opinion in that way.

CF: No, this is very good. This is very good really lots of interesting insight now do men and women participate equally in decision-making about energy access? Let's look at decision making now.

Participant: I think that's an interesting one and are we thinking more domestic.

CF: Yes. So at how so skilled at local skill may be one of the biggest skill why not and different skills like that.

Participant: You see Mr XXXX, I will say it in the Nigerian way, it's the person that has that makes a decision. It's that simple, you know, if I feel like something I don't have the money, I cant pay for it that it's a simple, you know, so whether you like it or not, the men have the power, you know, or whoever is making the money because in some cases it might not be the man, you know, but whoever has the money makes the decision, you know, because you know where the money is and you know, how you can manage it better than the person that doesn't you know, so who do I feel women can sort of take charge of you know is when it comes to Okay, you have been given the funds for this, how can you manage, the actual management of the funds, that's what we are professionally fantastic apps, you know, you can be given to a 20000 for food, you know that 2000 is for the firewood, do you understand my point, and you know that every month, you know that that has to be done that's the focus of the woman, you know. She's the probability of her saying I want to switch, again it depends on whoever is giving her.

CF: Hmm, that's it interesting. So I mean, I really like love the insights you have provided now we go some aspects which has to do with some policies and interventions now to what extent does gender equity factor in your work on energy access particularly the kind of things you do and how effective they've been if yes particularly on that efforts towards gender equity?

Participant: can you just say that question again?

CF: So it is to what extent does gender Equity factor in your work on the energy access, so are there projects I did things that are internal processes that you guys have in the XXXX. We look at gender for example, and then how effective have there been?

Participant: I think within the local branch, I'm not sure that there's anything specific when you say that you meet with the staff or do you think generally on the work we do?

CF: Generally only work you do

Participant: okay, that there's some things we've started creating now, there's the women in energy, I don't know you must have heard about it from last year. So we're really pushing to encourage the girl child and our focus right now is going to the secondary schools and universities and just you know, speaking to them having some mentorship programs, you know and letting them see shortly. We will showcase people that we believe these women be inspired by all these girls who be inspired by you know, and and that's that's really.

CF: Interesting! Now thinking beyond your specific work now, do you think energy access policies in our country should be gender sensitive and in what ways?

Participant: Do you think they should be gender sensitive?

CF: Yes our energy policies, do you think they should be gender sensitive?

Participant: No, they should be for sure from everything. We've said they should be and that's we are working on the energy toolkit, to actually highlights what our members are saying in this area, you know, and we don't want to just talk want to speak with data, we want to speak with facts, that’s how we work from our office.

CF: Interesting! Do you think there are gaps around women's access to energy in our country?

Participant: If you give us till October I will give you the full list because that's when I'm launching it, so that’s the work we are doing, Mr XXXX, you know that that’s what we are doing right, if you just give us the then all these all these questions strictly answered.

CF: Now one interesting question. I have imagine for a moment that we there are no policy of financial constraints what's in your own view would be the best practice of achieving gender equity particularly for our country so what are those are the factors that we should be looking out for imagine there are no policy or financial constraints for us to be able to achieve this.

Participant: Mr XXXX, can you give me a second?

CF: okay,

Participant: I need to just do something. Just give me a second, please.

CF: Okay, okay.

Participant: Hello, can you hear me now?

CF: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Participant: Yes your question again please?

CF: I said, just imagine for a moment there are no policy of financial constraints what in your own view will be does do what are those things that we need to focus on in order to achieve gender equity in energy access?

Participant: Yeah capacity building meaning the people that are actually in the areas and the stakeholders in the energy access area know and understand me entire Energy System, understand how they play on this unbearable on the capacity building, another one is that awareness, I think we already spoke about that in lots, you know, letting the public know and not using your regular Avenues use paper that somebody comes and shouldn't use this, use the same technology that everyone's pushing now social media, you know use it to explain to people this is what you need to do. This is how you need to change the way we think so capacity building awareness and then for me governments, don’t intentionally committed to something, you know intentionally saying because this is going on and we've done this reports, we finally decided I was given a scenario. We finally decided to highly subsidized LPG, you know, or you decided that every household gets this coupon, you know, or get something, you know, so governments and policymakers regulators are very essential for this, something else that you know, if we look if we come away from the domestic very second is these women associations that I mentioned earlier they're doing so much but they don't feel like they're still being hurt. So there has to be that intentional supports given to women run companies women run associations, you know, did they have to be able to be heard, because they're the ones that can fight and push the agenda for women, you know, sorry. I'm focusing just a woman energy keeps saying gender,

CF: But that is good is good. We have to expose the okay.

Participant: Okay great. So it's important for these associations to be heard to be recognized, you know at given platform given funding, you know to keep up the work they're doing take for i the one I mentioned earlier. One of the things they're doing is actually sponsoring a lot of young women to understand how to run their businesses and entrepreneurs, you know, and the truth is who best to do it than if any woman that's trying to show you that I did it. You know what I mean? I did it as a meeting and I'm a woman how do I do it if you know if it's not just you know from hard work, you know, so those associations need to be supported, Then it will even run business. It's important for governments to give, the same way we have local content, It should do women content, to have this number of women when you're board, If you don't have this woman on this number of women on your board, you can't get this contract, you have to be able to say that to them

CF: Hmm.

Participant: Or could you need a percentage of this women on the board also it should cut across about the consultants and contractors, you know, you can't have a hundred percent men run businesses, you know, you should have 20 percent, whatever it is and women run businesses, you know, I mean, it can even sit under local content I don’t care, it should be essential on that level that someone knows that look we need women need to be a part of decision-making, you know, so that's what I think.

CF: Interesting! Thank you very much. Anthony last parts now. And this last part is you're just one or two questions only. So is there anything you would like to add to what we have discussed, Are you think you we need to we need to consider?

Participant: I think you just don't, we have a lot of women doing fantastic things, especially in this part of the world. Yeah, but they always seem so far off that your average woman just sees that as celebrity or an icon and or mentor, they can’t be reached because like you can't actually pick up I can pick up my phone. Okay? Okay, maybe I can we average woman can’t pick up for and ask, let me just think of someone XXXX, and ask her ma, I heard you are doing fantastically will give me one advice she can’t, So the solution to that is something I call lateral mentoring I think is system has to be put in place for women to be able to mentor themselves regardless of what level they are on, you know and let the system almost be like a boarding system, you know, you know like in schools now, Sorry, I'm bringing it to this level, in schools in England, you know or Ireland which is where I studied we had to avoid people will stop people from following you, we have something for the boarding system, so your boarding system is the person you speak to, you know, if you think you're doing good, you know, and that person is not a teacher that person is not your parents. It's just a friend because with when you have your friend advising you supporting you encouraging you, it's just less pressure. And before you know it you actually, you know, achieve so much within a year. So we need to create a system where women are able to network with themselves often enough, you know to encourage themselves and it's that's what the associations are supposed to be doing. A lot of them are become over the years what I am talking about where it is about the women that are doing really well, they're the ones that are being pushed and the women that are doing everyday importance and effective things are not celebrated, you know, they're just not so we don't know them. You know, the woman that that is the carpenter, the woman that is a shoemaker the woman that is doing just basic things. We need to find a system in which they are also celebrated, you know, and we talked this whole sense of fun of an artisan, is that a worse and just focus more on and celebrating this simple everyday woman, you know, I think for me that's something I would really love to see.

CF: Interesting, you know this thing just mentioned. I just see things we mentioned many things. I just have to drop this now there is this community in Abuja called mabuchi this community one of the satellites towns, I mean many of the women they use firewood sometimes something about some years ago a few years ago, somebody show them a clean cook stoves, and then the fellows tried it they organized themselves into, because they saw that they were using less would they were having less emissions, they organized themselves see that many of you impossible 5,000 then and they were just playing they had a payment plan to 200 onto the finished paying, they got about the organize ourselves and said you know what? everybody in this community must switch you won't believe it. Where did they have the bottleneck the person that supplied them couldn't supply them and how did you solve the problem one thing you mentioned using men. So one of the local blacks made them decided to start to fabricate these clean cook stoves, and he started selling it for them for 1000, is business for the man who the entire Community eventually switch to clean cook stoves, and then why because of what you just mentioned all the women formed themselves into a cooperative and insisted that in this community, everybody was switch. Correct, correct, correct. When I heard this story my last streets Abuja going for future it was so hot so nice.

Participant: Yeah, its empowering them, something that they thought they couldn't do by themselves, the men you people are the solution to our problem, honestly, honestly, and I keep saying about people who like no you solve your problem yourself the problem, you people are the ones that cause the problem then you are now telling us that we will solve the problem, people that cause problems should solve it, it’s their problem.

CF: That's what we need amazing! Amazing! So I hope you'll be available for any follow-up questioning, if the need arise?

Participant: Are we good?

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Yes. It's okay. Yeah, no problem.

CF: My very last question, do you think there is anyone I should be having this conversation with?

Participant: Have you had a conversation with a lady called XXXX?

CF: XXXX in REA, she's on vacation. No, no, no, no, no, no someone else. I wrote her an email then she wasn't available then but I'm going to write I again, someone sent me a contact.

Participant: XXXX

CF: XXXX is part of this project if he XXXX he's actually part of us as a non-academic partner.

Participant: Oh I see!

CF: Yes, so I'm going to write XXXX again and then make sure we have this conversation, she wasn't around with the last time I went to Abuja, but I'm going to have a conversation with her.

Participant: ok.

CF: Great. Thank you very much. Please sign my consent form and send it back to me, please. Thank you very much. It's so nice having this conversation with you.

Participant: Awesome

CF: Cheers.

Participant: Take care, bye.

CF: Bye! Bye!