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| **Interviewer name** | XXXX |
| **Sub-contractor organization** | XXXX |
| **Interview date** | 11th December,2020 |
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| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | N10-GMT20201211 |
| * **Participant name** | XXXX XXXX |
| * **Organization name** | XXXX |
| * **Gender** | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category** | Energy Practitioners Association  Engineers and others responsible for putting those vision–led plans into action |
| * **Country** | Nigeria |

CF: Good afternoon.

Participant: Good afternoon.

CF: Very good afternoon to you, good to have you around.

Participant: Thank you we just quickly settling as I said I jumped on from another call.

CF: Sorry.

Participant: Okay,

CF: Good! So many thanks to XXXX for doing this linking. He was all responsible for this and then yeah, he told me that it'd be nice to have a conversation with you regarding this subject matter because you've been working in this line also just a quick summary. I mentioned this before but essentially we are exploring. This is a funded project by the UK, research and Innovation global challenges research fund and what we are exploring is to actually uncover the various gender equity dimensions in energy access so to find out it's really we've been looking at that how has it been different countries experiences being so there are four countries we are exploring within a global South context so to in Africa and to Asia so we are exploring Ghana and Nigeria and then in Asia we are exploring India and Pakistan so part of the whole thing around data collection is also to have conversations with experts and those who have been active in this space to try to get insight as to what has been going on and then to also see how been that's what helped us a great deal to also check for parallels and differences regarding different countries that we are studying and what we can learn so hopefully sometime next year by the early second quarter. We should be having a workshop we will share some of our findings and definitely whatever we get those of you that have taken part in. This will try to share the outcome.

Participant: Okay,

CF: Great! So nice speaking with you and nice having you around this would take an average of 40 45 minutes but again, it may extend depending on how the spirit leads and how much experience you want to share with us for me. Is that a problem at all?

Participant: Okay.

CF: And to start with really can you just tell me a bit about your current role your position your organization your department what you do when you work for you know just above ground.

Participant: Okay, so I'm executive secretary at the XXXX as you already know and our association is relatively young but as I always say small and mighty because most of the renewable energy in Nigeria It's being done in Nigeria are actually by XXXX members and a lot of especially as covid hit a lot of the isolation units were powered by renewable energy and mostly XXXX members were five I think out of the seven that were picked, so that's a plus for us. We're doing things in the space. So and I joined slightly over two years ago and yeah we're trying to we have ambitious goals including which would impact on this having a gender disc ultimately and so XXXX essentially, you know, we're sort of the bridge between public and private sector so public sectors doing their stuff and they have their remit trying to achieve vision 30 30 30, that's 30 gigs electricity by 2030 with Renewables forming 30% of the mix. So that's what drives our activities, you know and our vision is linked to that, that's a major Focus to advocacy obviously member services members support and trying to lead the narrative in the renewable energy space that's a XXXX in a nutshell and my role is leading the secretariat and the activities around it and we currently have about yeah 120 members.

CF: Amazing! now, correct me if I'm wrong, this Association was supposed to be an offshoot of the xxxx that was launched in 2017.

Participant: Not an offshoot, that's just part of we belong to XXXX so that's sort of like a public-private support thing, so it was launched by the vice president from the office of the vice president with mesg providing technical support and XXXX being a xxxx of the renewable energy sub-sector.

CF: Okay, great, because I mean I know I had some conversations with XXXX and during that whole period I was there at that lunch and then there was this whole idea of actually having this sort of Association which for me I'm very happy that it has come to light. Yes exemptions with now you highlighted something which I find interesting and the idea you just slightly touched on some sort of policy context that shape your work, 30 30 30 Vision, that's a gigawatts of electricity with 30% coming from renewables by 2030 so what are the policy context that shape the kind of work you do, are there current issues that shape the work you do?

Participant: That's the nearest I'd say that's a bit more granular than the overall National targets, because Nigeria is signed up to the Paris agreement, we have our nationally determined contributions and we're bound by reporting as a country to the UN FCCC, that long name on climate change it change the things that guide our activity. So a lot of workshops will center around, you know, NDC targets and all that kind of stuff. But the main one because our vision that XXXX is to promote the strategies, that will help us a team up to forty percent Renewables in the Energy Mix sort of 10% more ambitious than government. So that's the hugest one for us the others we work towards because we want to obviously encourage a green transition, which is all under the national targets that the federal government is signed to.

CF: Interesting! so Now considering your background really, how did you end up doing this kind of thing that you're doing now, I mean how you end up in this line of work?

Participant: I have them what I can call an Elastic CV so starting initially at you know, corporate Banking and institutional banking a bit of commercial then morphing into developmental sector, and I'd say that has what has led me has been what has led me to this because in the last 17 years I've been in you know, not for government work program not-for-profit mainly Charities. So with that kind of that's where my passion is. So I then joined Technologies on a project and yes, so it was in as xxxx technologies, which is a social enterprise which kind of married my two passions that I then yes, saw the opportunities and just the wealth of things that can be done in the renewable energy space and caught the bug and here I am at XXXX.

CF: Amazing. This is this is very good, this is very good really. Well, so to continue on this line because we've already you've mentioned a bit some of the policy context that shape your work and things like that now I will go into the next main line of coming up our conversation, which has to do with some aspects or on equity and particularly equity. With regards to energy access now for you for you until you what does equity or equitable energy access mean?

Participant: So that would mean that you know, maybe to touch on universal access reliable clean energy access for all regardless of social gender physical, any of those it just has the equitable means we all have equal access to it regardless of our backgrounds and abilities, you know, so yes, you know if we're talking Just energy, you know people come by generators, but everybody that come by in 18 kva generator that can carry five AC. So that's not equitable even if it's not clean was talking Equitable. So Equitable is every Nigerian will have access to the same source at the same pricing, you know to their pockets. So it might be solo home solutions that would work in rural areas, which has been done in Kano and you know, 11 other states by as URI, but they have access so you know limited to their needs what they want, they don't have commercial or industrial needs so that's fine. That's perfect, they can power their radios LED lamps and they no longer using candle wicks or kerosene lamps. So yes equitable means we all have access to the same opportunities for electrification and energy needs.

CF: Hmm interesting! Interesting!! Now if we look at this more from a gender lens can you say energy access is equitable, how equitable is energy access at community and household levels particularly when we look at this from the gender lens.

Participant: Yeah without empirical data. I'd say not equitable you know, so it's not something unfortunately that I can say. I have a study for that XXXX has done but you know from experience and from what you know, we hear feedback on from women and I'd say concentrated more in rural communities so that energy access where gender comes in its things like clean cooking because we tend to think about it only in terms of electricity and it's not just electricity, yes clean cooking has an impact for sure or lack thereof, so you know in definitely not even just in rural areas people even in peri-urban areas urban areas will use Alternatives that are not clean, and it Impacts mostly at least in our context on the Nigerian woman because they're the ones that you will find traditionally do more of the cooking so not equitable in that sense, so they don't have access and knowledge actually about the options out there for clean energy. And in terms of you know, even let's say electricity, they don't control the finances necessarily so they don't get to make the choice about what form of electricity they use or have access to it tends to be the man of the house in those communities, so I don't think there's equity in that. There's other good points, you know, if we're going to go deeper, we do know that when they do get to make a choice they sort of they also direct how that energy is used as obviously the man pays maybe but then he goes off to do his own thing and comes back in the evening so they can control it but they cannot make the choice initially.

CF: hmm interesting! you pointed out something which I remember someone mention it as the poor cousin of energy access, which is clean looking now, and it's really amazing because really when we talk about that, it's something that's really impact. It has a clear agenda by us and such. I will just like to bring it how does gender affects the way energy is used actually in households if we look at this considering the fact that we know is really a women they are so what are the dynamics really?

Participant: There're different things affordability. So that's one we tend to find that maybe the earning power of women is slightly less so the choices that they have open to them unless they're fewer you know, in terms of what they can pay for then also they will tend to spend more time at home so they will have more need of it so if for instance you know, maybe a gentleman is going to the farm. He'll go from morning to night, so what are his needs maybe he's radio when he's on the farm, but in terms of the woman at home she's going to need if she does trade she might need electricity to be able to work till later. She might need a rice milling machine or grinding machine so those are the things that impact on and this specifically and then as we mentioned clean cooking they are at home cooking. Let's be real 80% of the time they will be the ones responsible for feeding the family.

CF: Now there is something I want to bring out here now. I want to really I would like you to really dwell on did how different groups of women benefit from access to energy because it did this argument that they'd benefit differently, so for example the older women versus the younger ones. Those are villages and those in cities all these different dynamics really and then consider how does it play out of focus, you know these different dimensions, do they benefits and differently?

Participant: So they differently would the demographic depending on what let me see. So as you said let's say the older woman for her you know, it will be a simple thing if she still involved in any of the activities at home you know, then she so, okay sorry I'm selling a bit confused so maybe there's a solar home system a project with a fan she will benefit because she's no longer going to have that heat in of the Nigerian sun, you know daily because the fan is blowing and she has a little kiosk or something and even her customers can sit down, maybe she sells ground not you'll sit down have their groundhogs with a drink because there's now a fan so the benefits in that sense increased commercial activities or microbe entrepreneurship which can cut across all age groups to younger children studying so the girl child can study longer and you can actually encourage if you're trying to increase you know access to education for the girl child which happens a lot in the north trying to get them to understand that they can do that as an option If they can't study properly in comfortable surroundings, they will not be encouraged to go into school so they benefit in that regard so they can do homework and this is proven even with a zoo remodel, you know, they can do homework for a longer because it's not Pitch black when they get in and they have their little home systems that they can work with. So they benefits in terms of increased access to education and increase studying and then micro entrepreneurship I think it's probably one of the bigger things and I think those are the models. We maybe need to look at moreso you get sort of pyramid scheme, you know one person comes in. It's a woman I like I'm sure you heard of solar system. So that model of empowering other women entrepreneurs, so it starts with somebody who gets a small distribution distributorship and sheep and has seed funding that she then pays back in installments recruits another couple of people, they then start that process and they delivering solar lanterns, very small solar lanterns and other products around their communities and it grows from there and they become larger distributors so the economic power is increased and you're building micro-entrepreneurs so it stops rural flight as well. So you don't always have to have people thinking that it's only when they go into the city that they can do anything they can actually exist economically viable, small businesses in rural communities.

CF: Interesting! Interesting!! Now let quickly look at energy infrastructure itself, the whole process of providing new energy infrastructure or new technologies. What is the difference between men and women in terms of who benefits?

Participant: Hmm! That one this is just is my accordion yeah it's some men will benefit more for different reasons women need to lean in what they just don't realize that it's open to them as well you know, so in terms of infrastructure you know, you're going to need the installers you're going to need and then even with digitalization and everything people assume that it's the men that will go for those things even women I'm sure if we did a quick study of 20 women in peri-urban and up and we're all areas. They just naturally assumed that it's not for women yes, the men will go and do those jobs and we will find something else. So that's some something that's yeah we have been working on anyway with different groups to try and increase awareness and increase stem education because you know, it's all tied into that infrastructure thing people think it's too technical and it's not for women to a lot of programs, you know, and I've got our members do have scholarships for women and they do these periodically in the year to try and bring them on board to understand the value to any energy access value chain and to be able to seek opportunities within it so for now I'd say they benefit less because a lack of awareness and the men seem to understand want to go for it more at the moment.

CF: Amazing! This is this is quite insightful now do men and women participate equally in decision-making about energy access.

Participant: I don’t think so and maybe the focus will be on in the urban setting? I think it might be there might be more parity simply because there's more exposure in those areas, you know women are highly educated as well and in the forefront, so there's mmm run the coal run the household as opposed to places like I visited places in Azure, in Kano we weren't allowed to talk to the women even as a woman, It was the head of the house if he's not at home, there can be no discussion and those women used to cower behind the curtains, they wouldn't see anybody because they felt afraid to talk to an outsider while the head of the house was not at home.

CF: Hmm, which actually brings me to what I wanted to ask, are there cultural or ethnic dimensions that are impact on energy access

Participant: Very much so very much, you know the head of the house. So whether that is in practice you know, that's more of a different kind of sense of data that would have to get but essentially you know, everybody goes into their partnership in Nigeria that the man is the head of the house and that's it daddy rules, so daddy makes the choices now Individual dynamics, you know couples have their ways maybe the woman is push-pull maybe she's actually stronger those can be but culturally we defer to the man.

CF: Hmm amazing! Amazing!! So let's go to some policy and interventions particularly as it relates to energy access to what extent those gender equity really factor in the work that we do on energy access, particularly your work.

Participant: It's not really easy, its way below par at the moment I don't think it's always a consideration and that's part of yeah, what we also want to do a tree and to bring that to the forefront so for now, they're very few anything that that's a gender focus for energy access though to maybe give some context people are thinking about it and in terms of policymakers. So for instance, you know you have to start working with the people that make the policy are there even women among the key policy makers that can outline this as a problem. So XXXX is trying to do stuff from that's you know, I really so for instance for instance the out the old CEO made sure that it was put in place that you cannot bid for an aria job of a certain size if you don't have a woman in senior or executive management, the reason being that if you include women in your decision-making or you know management, then you can actually influence things in a certain way because we are privy to certain things because of our gender and we can come in and say look this might be needed as an intervention so there's that understanding so they are trying to do that and hopefully that will then come you come into effect with other organizations and bring into focus what needs to be done in terms of mainstreaming for energy access itself and the ministry of power is now has commissioned and I was at the Inception meeting has commissioned a consultation on gender access gender mainstreaming and energy access, which should be ready next year. So that would come with recommendations and we can also see and then of course people like XXXX will then be able to go in and say okay these are the recommended interventions and this is how we could possibly go about achieving this.

CF: Interesting, are there policy gaps already around this subject matter and if there are what are the ways that we can actually address some of those gaps?

Participant: Gender is not even mentioned in that in most of the policies, so huge gap, so I think that's what Ministry of power recognizes as we all do so they I mean they're huge they're responsible for all the policies around energy, so that's a good one because big and it will be a big wide study and we can start to then or act on it in our own little way so there are gaps and it will come with recommendations and we will also input, there'll be a validation Workshop that will all be a part of and it will shed more light on exactly where the gaps are and USAID did a social inclusion so gender was part of it obviously and they did this and I was on the working group for that. So some things came to light, so there are gaps in in policy and say they are omissions, i wouldn't even call them gaps yes, I like that properly speaking there will be yes because these aren’t got some gaps mean that you haven't plugged something small in something that exists. These are emissions. It's not really recognized…

CF: Interesting! Interesting!!

Participant: Especially with... Sorry to cut you off especially of the renewable energy agriculture nexus and how it can actually, you know, we can feed a nation if we get it right and make sure the gender component is also included in that.

CF: Yeah getting closer to another thing that I'm actually because of course has been this whole push towards okay productive use of energy, you know, we are we have been mini-grids for the past few years and we have communities on plug-in themselves from those mini grids because they couldn't afford it and it's already telling us something that I mean is it that we are doing something wrong and I mean like someone was saying that there is a fundamental question that we need to ask each time. We have to address any energy access problem what people use energy for.

Participant: Yeah, exactly.

CF: That is a fundamental question that will shape whatever intervention we want to actually take and the nuances are different from geography to geography so with this in mind what are those are the things you think we need to do to improve on all of these?

Participant: I mean, advocacy, data and just working together really to find a solution that we're exactly as you have pointed out is it where do they need it the most is it in terms of having solar dryers for women farmers so they cooperatives they can actually after harvest keep stuff, here's less wastage you know, maybe is it cooling technologies we need to look at, we just do need to keep working together to get as much data as possible to know where the intervention is going to be best needed.

CF; Hmm definitely! Now some people argue about financial constraints which are come back to that. There is one of the big problems is no financing energy access, so there is this arguments at all for people like us who live in cities, we want to rent an apartment. There is already electrical infrastructure up to that building so once I move in I just pay for what I use most people argue that a lot of this interventions particularly in rural communities. They also burden these people with the cost of the infrastructure making it more expensive. What do we need to do regarding some of this financial models that seem to be making the poor poorer?

Participant: I think they are well intended and nobody wants to lose money, but we have to get it right to see I mean consumer financing is also one of the things that you know has been on the front burner for us. How do we best intervene with consumers so that they can afford these green energy solutions the jury is still out? There's no there's no science to anything at the moment, but that's something we need to look at very well and if the person you know to get the infrastructure on ground as you see in rural areas, it costs money so from the access to finance issue in the first place. How do we get people to think that is not like your normal Commercial Banking model where your returns are after a few a couple of quarters. You can get returns. They need to look at it long term and see how they can better finance green initiatives, and that way, you know that these funds are their longer-term. They're not expecting returns minimum of five to seven years for renewable energy returns who's going to be ready to finance that and how? That's the big that's the big question. I don't have an answer for now. We just have to keep plugging it and saying how do we come together to make sure that there's adequate access to finance for these group of people all these interventions won't work unless and then little things that can be done for now. We are import dependence so it's great that government wants to focus on 70% local content with their solar connection facility, but it's not going to happen overnight. So yeah, we say that and then you slam duty and VAT on certain components that people are going to be bringing in they needs to be a break for people bringing in stuff you know, maybe with a commitment to the long term of this is my business plan and model of how I'm going to morph into local assembly manufacturing but at the moment this is what we have to do we have to bring it in look at the foreign exchange that's gone high wire, you have to have to get it on the black market because there's no access to CBN funds why can't CBN provide FX window for renewable energy developers, let them be treated as essential services and they can also have an exemption under the effects window so that even in the line to get it because people have their money but they can't bring in stuff.

CF: Yeah amazing. I mean these are interesting insights really, but just let's imagine for a moment, there are no policy constraints, there are no Financial constraints what other issues should we be looking out for so in order to ensure that we have Equitable energy access?

Participant: Mmm, this is the biggest ones, I mean if we can deploy anywhere and we can give it to anybody. I think it's just increasing the awareness and then also yeah increasing their awareness, but sort of changing the mindset, you know also to bear in mind traditionally and this cuts across everybody people who don't want to pay for power so that's also a constraint. Nobody wants to pay for power but then you know, which what which came first the chicken or the egg. We don't have good power, so I have not even been inculcated to want to pay for something that was never good in the first place. So that's not might be one of the key things, so now we have this, you know, we have this Ideal World where money is not an issue everything everybody can just plug in and turn on the thing. They probably wouldn't but they won't realize that it's available. So we need to even you know, make them aware that you know, there are clean energy options for them you know, every day is survival Vision 3030, it’s just a figure to them. They don't nobody is interested unless it translates to their own lives directly so that's what I'm trying to get at that even getting people to accept, you not it you don't have to do it on your room. They're all these things in place. All you have to do is work out a way that you can pay for this somehow. Let us know your needs that awareness needs to be there.

CF: Interesting! Interesting!! Now we are getting to the end really, I mean because it's the end now, are there ways or the regional targets or regional policies that impact on energy access? So for example the ECOWAS has course which are very clear, the ECOWAS has regional Policy for example among others at their ways they impact on the energy access dynamics and of course, does it even have any form of gender focus, I know many of these things they don't tend to look at it, but how does it impact on energy access?

Participant: For now, I don't see any direct impact, I believe if I can remember the document right, It's like it was sketchily mentioned, you know something about out gender but nothing robust, but at least credit to them, I think I mean, let me not say the wrong thing. I do believe, you know in all their objectives and there are many that gender was some little part of it if I recall. No, but as far as impact goes

CF: Interesting

Participant: That hasn't translated down from the region Regional level to National

CF: Interesting this is this is good okay Now is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to bring up?

Participant: I think we've touched on most things as I said, we've been, I mean one of our members founded the women in renewable energy Network so they all do various initiatives to try and bring you know gender to the Forefront and mainstream gender it from capacity building to you know, mentoring like knowledge-based stuff trying to get data. So it tends to be more of private sector-led which should be okay, but we need to work with embed things in policy as opposed to just trying to run it ourselves.

CF: Yeah, interesting!! Interesting!! I hope you'll be available in case I do I get a brain wave and I'll need to clarify some issues you available to answer any questions. Okay, great thank you so much now well just to let you know again I mean, I will try to share I mean as much as possible the out there on the outcomes of some of these things and I'll try to make sure that's how you get a copy of it.

Participant: Okay, nice.

CF: Thank you so much it’s nice having this conversation with you and enjoy your weekend..

Participant: And you too yeah, thank you.

CF: Bye.