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| **Sub-contractor organization** | XXXXX |
| **Interview date** | 1st December 2020 |
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| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** | |
| * **Code** | N1-GMT20201201 |
| * **Participant name** | XXXXX |
| * **Organization name** | XXXXX |
| * **Gender** | Male |
| * **Stakeholder category** | Non-governmental organizations (working on development, facilitating energy access, SDGs, energy and gender issues, etc.) |
| * **Country** | Nigeria |

CF: Great, Good afternoon, Good afternoon

CF: Okay.

Participant Hello XXX

CF: Yes, good afternoon.

Participant: How are you? My brother

CF: I am fine and you?

Participant: Ok, I am fine.

CF: Good to hear from you

.

Participant: Yes, I am almost ready, so If you give me a couple of minutes, Let me get myself a glass of water and I will join you.

CF: No worries at all.

Participant: Ok thanks.

CF: Great.

Participant: Alright!

CF: Great, Welcome back.

Participant: How are you doing XXXX?

CF: I'm here with you.

Participant: Is it just the two of us?

CF: Just the two of us.

Participant: Ok good, Nice to talk to you. Congratulations on your GC., is it GCS?

CF: Yea, GCRF, Global Challenges Research Fund.

Participant: We also got one ourselves.

CF: Oh, great.

Participant: We working on mini grids. We got the xxx with xxxx, you know.

CF: it's interesting.

Participant: University of Watford. In the UK, so we are doing a comparative study of mini-grids in 4 countries.

CF: Amazing!

Participant: Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and Senegal.

CF: Hmm interesting, interesting.

Participant: We're looking at three important areas of increase the sustainability of mini-grids inclusiveness and governance.

CF: Perfect.

Participant: The project is called **XXXX**, so you so we are just about starting.

CF: Great.

Participant: You are ahead of us.

CF: Don't worry. I'm actually interested in some of the outcomes of this one you're working on. Well any which way I will be in Abuja next week and I will still like us to at least meet however briefly but I am happy that you have accepted that we might come next week.

Participant: I am in town next week.

CF: Great, great, very good. So well just to give you a briefing though you may have seen it already. But since this is a.. it's a GCRF funded projects and what we are exploring is to try to understand, I mean the gender issues connected with energy access particularly in the global South but with emphasis on four countries, so we are looking at Nigeria and Ghana in Africa and in Asia, we're looking at India and Pakistan. So what we are doing in this project is essentially to explore issues of gender Equity whether the manner we've been actually addressing the issues of energy access whether, we really consider the gender dimension. So this is a hopefully I mean it's going to last less than an hour. I mean it all depends on how the conversation go, I mean from your own world of experience I'm sure you may want to share many things, but we hope not to exceed that time, so if I may begin, I would just like you to tell me really a bit about your current role, your position, your organization, what you do? I mean essentially?

Participant: Okay, so I am currently the XXXXX, We have our main office in Abuja, but we have four other offices in the country one in maiduguri one in Kano, one in Katsina and the last one in Ebonyi states and we focus essentially on energy access as an area expanding in energy assess the response to climate change as an additional area and so we a non-academic research organization. We are focusing mostly on applied Research or policy research. So we, our aim is to dig up sufficient evidence to help our work on advocacy and communication on these issues of energy access. So, so we do very light-handed kind of research not the kind of fundamental research that you will do in the University but, a kind of research that provides sufficient evidence to carry out the advocacy that we do for energy access, on energy access, we focus mostly on electricity access to marginalized communities that will be rural areas they could be peri-urban areas, but increasingly in the past few years, we've been working in the humanitarian setting. So a bit active in the north east and in fact, our largest office now is in Maiduguri where we're providing safe access to fuels and energy in humanitarian communities. These are communities that are displaced by the currents Insurgency in the Northeast, but not only for XXXX for also for their host communities, So so we have quite an elaborate collaboration with the UN system and international agencies, in implementing something a broad umbrella projects XXXX, so so we do that two critical areas for energy access for us one is of course electricity in these in this man marginalized Community is the other one that we are increasingly getting well known for is our focus on clean cooking. Access to cooking energy, Doc as you would know clean cooking is the very poor cousin of electricity in energy access. So,

CF: They are very good cousins, we’ll still hammer on it a bit.

Participant: They are very poor cousins because when people talk about energy assess, energy access is another way of saying electricity access or for most work that we come across so it's after talking about electricity access, that you say and then it's like a footnotes, you know, but access to clean cooking it's, it's a matter of life and death for families, especially women and and this is an area that is very under-researched, does not figure so much in the policy rader and has very low priority. So one of the research that we're doing the one that we invited you for the other time, is to really look at to look at the political economy for clean cooking and understand why it attracts so low priorities and therefore what we can do to be able to raise the profile of clean cooking so it can attract powerful and influential actors to be able to focus on them and address the issues. So principally, Those are my talking points for what XXXX does, Just One Last point on my role? I'm essentially here In XXXX because we haven't found a replacement for me yet. So this is my 21 years and in XXXX Age and that was not the initial plan. I founded XXXX with some friends in 1999. So last year was 20 years for us and I had wanted to leave before I become a nuisance in the organization. So, but unfortunately myself and the board, We haven't found an appropriate placement, part of it is because we don't have sufficient funding to be able to sustain a high caliber Individual to take over you know, so, so but, I am in transition. I spent half of fifty percent of my time in XXXX and 50% in my retirement in my Village again working on other things, working the healthcare Service delivery and basic education kind of thing. So, I am half and half here, you know.

CF: Wow amazing, amazing! Amazing! Really. I mean you've touched on a few things that says yes.

Participant: Can you hear me?

CF: Yes I can hear you very loud and clear. I mean I can hear you.

CF: I guess you can hear me?

Participant: Yeah, I can hear you.

CF: Great. So now my next question is really, how did you get into this line of work? I really it's so interesting and fascinating. How, how did you get into this line of work?

Participant: See somehow I dabbled into this. I went to I went abroad to study something else altogether. So precisely Norway, Oslo in Norway.

CF: Okay.

Participant; And so in the University somehow I dabbled into Political Science doing a master's degree an MPhil. In political economy on the linkage between economics and political science and and towards that the

/Similarities between my two countries Nigerian Norway where energy, you know both of them both of them living on petroleum revenues and being major oil oil producing countries. So so I did my MPhil projects on petroleum management, but the first job I got was, you know when we had the Rio the Rio conference and in preparations for the Rio conference and I was hired by a think tank in Norway to look at the African positions on the preparation for Rio. That's how I dabbled into this. So one thing led to the other and I burnt so many years in Norway working for a research center on energy and climate issues. So came back in xxx, and I thought I'm as, That is the only thing I knew I was prepared to do. So as I we started XXXX to work on those linkages between energy access and climate security addressing climate change.

CF: Well, this is this is fascinating really this is fascinating. Well now let us start to look at some more interesting issues. There are some things you raised the fact that electricity access and issues of clean cooking poor cousins, now, Can you tell me more about some specific energy access areas or issues that you work? We've mentioned a few things already and particularly in relation to that the policy context our ship your work.

Participant: Yeah. Yeah. Well, you know still drawing on our background, I came back here in 99. And before then I used to visit Nigeria for my MPhil. studies, you know, and so I even though I was away for many years. I knew a little bit about how the evolution of energy access even though you could say 20, 25 years ago, it wasn't called Energy access, you know in the literature if you look at the literature, so it was called rural electrification. That's what the World Bank and the rest called it. So expansion of rural electrification, even though the scope included peri-urban areas. So and I came to Abuja made friends with people in the ministry of power it used to be called be ministry of power, or power to still the way Nigerian called it, and then you know, there was I don't know if you know that there was a very strong rural electrification program in the country 20, 25 years ago, you know, it was centralized in the Ministry of power he had Department focusing on it, with a director in charge of it and they had a well-plan program that had annual implementing schedules and that time, you know, it was very simple the aim of the federal government is to provide Universal electrification to all Nigerians. The strategy was to connect all these are all the local government headquarters 774 local government headquarters to the grid. So, so once you have a node in the center of the local government, then you will have the ability to now connect those 33 KVA lines to to rural areas, you know in those days they goal was 15 kilometers away from that node. You know and then for areas like, the challenging areas like the Niger Delta and like today's River States and by Bayelsa and parts of Delta that was challenging, That was Maritime, you know, then other programmes applied but that was the programme of the federal government. And by the time I came back to Nigeria 20 or 21 years ago, we had already achieved over 60% its connection to Local Government headquarters.

CF: Wow.

Participant: So so we had something to brag about that other African countries. They didn't have, you know, and and by that time we I think in some literature you see like something around 58 percent almost 60% electricity coverage now now my brother if you know, look at what 20 years after today and you look at the website of NERC for instance, the returns that NERC gets from the disco's showing the number of customers that they have which is the most reliable way of checking. You know, how many people are on the grid if you look at that. It's below 40% So after four after over 20 years of rural electrification program and heavy expenditure the shows we not making progress, you know proportionate to population growth. You know for for electricity, so let's even forget that clean cooking or access to LPG or efficient wool stoves or any other type of cleaner cooking, let’s even focused on electricity where we have spent much money and political capital and everything. Access to electricity services. It's not just expanding, it's not increasing in Nigeria, you know, which means that more and more Nigerians are climbing down the energy ladder rather than moving upwards moving into grid connection moving to productive use of energy and so on and so forth and that is the reality that we have which means that whatever programs or projects we have thrown into rural electrification or energy access simply has not just worked, you know, so and that is the hard reality that we have on or electricity. So and we can look into the details of it but for clean cooking, it never really figured in the policy that I know policies that are as we speak today, There is no single institution. There's no agency of government that is in charge of clean cooking there's non.

CF: Yea.

Participant: If you can talk of LPG, you can see the ministry of petroleum resources for regulation, You have DPR. Now the office of the vice president for lack of not really having much to do have adopted LPG. So so, so there is, so clean cooking is an orphan it has no institutional home. There's no agency. There's no permanent Agency established by law, that’s in charge of clean cooking for such a vital area for some time ago. We according to the WHO. We lost nearly a hundred thousand lives annually. Due to smoke from the kitchen, you know, and we like to put that into context after malaria and HIV AIDS there were no other diseases or health challenges that killed more Nigerian than smoke from the kitchen. You know.

CF: Wow, fantastic, amazing, which brings me, Sorry. It brings me to something else that connects with that because, who are those that cook in the kitchen? They are mostly women. So it brings me to this gender dimension. So to what extend really does gender Equity factor in your work on energy access and you just highlighted some things that are maybe to connect that to it. Also are there current policy development that shaped some of the work that you also do maybe you want to shed light on that.

Participant: No, well, you know, I am really, I'm not a gender Specialists. We have people, people in XXXX and, and our partners who focus on a you know on gender issues XXXXX for instance. You may know her she is in the University of Ibadan in XXXX she focuses on gender.

CF: okay,

Participant: She focus she focuses on gender, XXXX who happens to be my boss at home, Works for the energy Commission of Nigeria. She's also doing her PhD in there Ibadan. She's focusing on gender issues and I have somebody here who almost exclusively works on getting and Social Development for XXXX who's worked for us for a few years. So there are people who work on gender and energy issues. But let me just say, you know for me, we it sounds like a cliché that energy is a gender issue, you know because whichever way you look at it, you know clean cooking, why is clean cooking not so prominent in policy making are not, reflected in budgets is essentially for me, You know, my hypothesis is that it's a reflection of the power relations that we have in our society, women don't make decisions on issues that are vital to them, vital to their life, vital to their health to their growth and empowerment. You know, so if men had been dying if men are the ones who are in the cooking and apart from selling LPG to us if men were on the receiving end, this could have been a main crux of government involvement politics has that's my own hypothesis honest because, it is women who inhaled smoke, you know, like for those who cook three times a day so, Like inhaling two packs smoking two packs of cigarettes, you know, they inhale the smoke, they die of the smoke the get sick of this smoke, they are the one who who spend their precious time going out to the bush to collect fuel wood they are the one who suffer gender-based violence out in the bush, especially in Conflict situations, you know, so so if you are thinking of out-of-school children or kids who have to spend time, Going to fetch firewood instead of going to school there must be girls. You know, so and who has to manage the family energy budget of family food budget and consider energy costs within that, they are women. You know so not to say that for electricity sector somehow have those same issues, you know, and who participates in the corporates the major corporations on energy? I don't think we get to a ten percent of women. You know and it doesn't matter really which energy industry you are looking at. I don't think you'll get 10 to 20 percent of women in that. So not only to make decisions on that but also to make money from that, to empower themselves, You know, so so in many ways, you know gender runs through any energy sub-sector that you will want to consider.

CF: Interesting! Simply means I mean in essence that's most of our policies are not gender sensitive, Is what we are saying?

Participant: No, they are not because you, you call, well, you know, we don't really have strong policy Frameworks for most energy areas. Yes, we have, you know some Acts of the National Assembly and things, but you, you hardly, you know, I challenge you to look at any area at all. You hardly see women mainstreamed or considerations for the situation of women mainstream in our policy Frameworks, even though for energy access we very we have weak different one, then we can talk about today the electricity the 2000 electricity Act, I am trying to remember the full name.

CF: Yeah, the 2005 National Power Sector Reform Act.

Participant: Yes, you can talk about that or the or the one that preceded that earlier, You talked about our, about our rural electrification policy or the rural electrification fund that we have, and you look at all that there is really no, There's no section where you see ‘for the consideration of the impact on women of electricity access or lack of it’ so this is really an area where a lot of NGO’s have been just meeting big walls in trying to raise these issues.

CF: Interesting! Interesting! Now something to chip in here, something I would like to ask. I'd like to ask so, how can we, or how can gender equity in energy access be improved particularly. I mean within our country context if we if we look at it now in what ways what are the things we should be doing?

Participant: I don’t really know if it is, If it is, would be, I am not inclined to think that interventions in this area and the areas that I'm sure that it is inclusive has to be on a sub-sector by sub-sector basis. I'm not so sure that what works in the petroleum sector will work in the fuel wood supply chain, you know, for instance. So I think it's really sector-by-sector And, And I think that clean cooking is one excellent area where even small initiatives can improve the situation of women and lots and It’s just so obvious, you know, so and that I lot of things that we can do, you know to to improve what energy access and the condition of women, especially for clean cooking you know, and I am sure if we had universal access to LPG for instance, It's a no-brainer my brother you look at us today. We we produce we likely produce four, five million tons of LPG. We are only celebrating in that we consume 1 million tons by last year and whatever, you know, and it's also where major cause country with a major LPG producer and exporter, you know, and then while people are dying of smoke from the kitchen, so It's a no-brainer, you know, so if we had a policy of universal access, you know, and and the instruments are there, we don't need to re-invent them. They've done that in other countries. They know they did that in Indonesia, you know, they made a lot of progress in India, even our brothers, you know in neighboring Ghana had made more have made more progress on LPG and they produce nothing before this past few years. Where they have this small oil field, you know, they produce not to they still cannot produce enough for their local consumption but there are more households in Ghana using LPG Than there are household in Nigeria in proportional terms. You know, So so in Ghana, they are seeking Universal access. They want that in either 2025 they want 50% of households to be converted to LPG today they have over 20% that are using LPG. We have just got to nearly 10 percent, you know last year, you know, it was less than 5% in Nigeria.

CF: So now let's look at something else, we know there are, there are policy constraints. We also know that but let's just imagine for a moment that there are no policy constraints are no financial constraints. Just imagine that for a moment what's in your view would be the best practice for achieving gender equity in energy access?

Participant: XXXXX, I think it’s still a bit broad, You know, I still think we need to scale down to the particular energy form, you know.

CF: Imagining clean cooking and electricity.

Participant: for instance, I think that for Rural and peri-urban areas for electricity that they focus on productive use of electricity will benefit women at Lots, A lot of the small Enterprises are owned by women in local areas, you know the could be Provisions stores, they could be sewing, you know, they do a lot of sewing it could be hair-making, hair dressing, You know petty trading just to be able to light up your store be able to perform the you know, some economic activities when it is that it's very helpful, you know, so so focused, looking at the productive use of energy, it's a good intervention that will benefit a lot of women, of course clean cooking. You know, clean cooking is also sometimes I just wonder what has become of us. Why can't we set some simple priorities because you know, clean cooking is not the kind of challenge that we have in solving the problem of malaria where there is no where there is no vaccine for instance, you know, and or it's not like HIV AIDS where the cost can be high and all that, you know clean cooking is just one of those kind of challenges that we have in our country that we can resolve in a generation. It’s not something that could take us 20, 40 years to do it’s something that we can do now at low cost. Just imagine close your eyes and and say okay now that we have about 30 million households that are using wood to cook. You know, how much would it take to pass on cylinders to them $50 at the most, you know to pass on free cylinders run programs to teach people how to use them and use them safely because most, Most households in urban area and in urban areas we’re getting also to about 50 percent of all households live in urban areas, you know, they don't collect their wood from the bush they buy their wood, charcoal or LPG and none of them, None of this house so called households spends less than a 100 naira per day on buying wood hundred naira is like three sticks of wood, You know. That you use in open fire, even if they spend only a hundred ninety day no matter the size of the family, you know, you know if they spend hundred address 3,000 naira 3,000 is what it cost to buy 12.5kg here. So you find poor people spending more money than it is necessary for them to do, spending more money on dirty fuels that's killing them. So if we had aligned our policies in such a way, whereby the money that is being spent on this horrible fuels are used for cleaner fuels and that we provide, we provide access to, provide the tickets, let me just tell you what I mean by these, You see you and I you live in Lagos and I live in Abuja, you know and very likely very likely there was power there is power where you live grid power, grid electricity.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Nobody really asks a middle income family like you and I to pay the cost of connecting, of connecting electricity first from the generation station Transmitting its, pay for transmission, pay for distribution before we can access when you move to a flat when you move to a house. It's already connected with electricity. All you pay is the energy costs, but when it comes to poor people, we want them to pay, I mean if poor people are going to use solar, so they pay everything up front and not only the energy that they have to pay for they pay for the entire value chain cost ready. To buy to bring the energy to them, the same with clean cooking, the same with electricity, you know poor people will have to pay up front. So nobody says see, we're going to give you, since we cannot connect you with a grid, we're going to give you with this off-grid solution. You will be paying for the energy or you will be paying for the maintenance the way it is for Middle income families. We are going to give you an LPG cylinder, you know, because your own role is to pay for the energy use the role of the government is to provide the route a path, the access to it. You know, but we the government we're not going to subsidize your LPG or anything, but we're going to provide you as a rights, you know, so I think one of those issues to raise this issue to raise the profile of women is to make it a right. You know, a right-based approach and say this is this is not doing good to women, This is, this is providing the way you provide hospitals or public schools or bed Nets, anti-malaria access and all that. So we're raising energy issues to that level where it becomes a “public good” public in economics, you know.

Participant: Sorry, sorry,

CF: No, no. No, it is beautiful.

Participant: I see a lot of opportunities and some horrible politics or no no policies at all in this area and you can’t, you can’t afford not to be passionate about it

CF: No but definitely it is precisely the reason why we're having this conversation and it's just great because you've touched on different areas, i actually wanted to pinpoint. So in essence there is absolutely nothing, like equity on the ground from a gender perspective all energy decisions today tend to favor men more and then women and children bear the brunt of most of the negative impacts.

Participant: Well, that's one side to it, It favours rich people first and foremost. On that axis, on the the inclusiveness axis, first, it favours people who can afford it, you know, it's our and, and that is how our energy policies are tilted, rich people move into homes where they are already electricity and they didn't pay for the wire, they didn't pay for the pole, they didn't pay for the transmission or distribution cost. They just pay for the units of their.. Like where I live. I just buy token online how much it cost the government to extend it to my estate. I don't know. It's not my business.

CF: Exactly!

Participant: But poor people they have to pay for everything for every cost up front. You know, if they're using kerosene, if they're using solar to light up, if, if they are using the I-pass my neighbor, they will have to go to a store and paid 100,000 naira for I-pass my neighbor 1 KVA, you know, and then and then fuel it continuously, But nobody says you have a rights just like the big man or middle-income family to move it to a place. There's already i-pass my neighbor, your role is to fuel it, So you see where the issue of inequity? In-built inequity, you know that sides the rich that's one aspect and then you see the gender aspect following it, and and there is also as you see economic, what do do call it? …Economic income inequality also co-relates very much. We gender inequality. There's a strong link. I don't know the literature you will probably look up the literature, you know. I am sure I am sure there is strong correlation between income inequality and gender inequality. So so it is this a very important area to prove to research, you know, and I'm sure there is significant evidence in the global literature on this, but not in our country.

CF: Interesting! Interesting. I mean, I've really enjoyed I mean the thing is that you've captured and then you've really pointed out several aspects. So first is the fact that I mean, first of all in terms of inclusiveness, most energy policies, most energy access policies favors the rich they don't actually they are not pro-poor that is the first one the second one they from the gender perspective what we are saying now is essentially see women are actually impacted more because also there is another dimension, that even makes it worse, which is the fact that there is income inequality, which worsens the situation.

Participant: Yea.

CF: Okay, amazing. Now, of course, you have a lot of experience in this area are there other things, Is there anything we have not discussed that you think you would like to share?

Participant: I'm really not sure.

Participant: It really depends. On you know, It’s easier for me to respond with any specific questions, but broadly speaking. I think we, on a personal level we need more people In this piece of work, you know, we, we need we need more people, you know researchers like yourself, you know, to look, you know, to look at energy access issues to energy access issues, including gender and energy inequality the issues of energy rights, you know the concept of energy rights and those kind of things so the, the task is plenty, but the laborers are few. I don't know how they say that.

CF: It's beautiful because I mean you mentioned something now, which I think may be useful to me because, the other thing I will ask you now, but which you pointed out at the beginning at some point is that there are other people that are actually I mean better experts on gender issue that it may be interesting for me to have some conversations with, I think if you don't mind I thought if you can drop their contacts

Participant; I have sent XXXX contact to you.

CF: yes.

Participant: Did I send XXXX contact to you?

CF: No.

Participant: Ok so I’ll see and send her contacts to you and XXXX works here in my office.

CF; Ok great, So, I mean it’s nice having this conversation with you and I hope you don't mind if I have other ideas crop up and i needed some clarification.

Participant: Anytime. And by the way looks like I will visit your University early in January 1st week in January. If you are there, you might be quite.

CF: No worries at all. I think I'm going to be around from middle of from 11th the University will be alive and then definitely I mean I'll be willing to receive you.

Participant: I'll be taking my kids, I’ll taking my kids to school. So two of my kids are in your school. Yes, but they….

CF: Are you serious?

Participant: They are not interested in my work. So non, non of them are interested in my work.

CF: What are they studying?

Participant: My son is XXXX.

CF: Are you serious?

Participant: Yes And my daughter XXXX.

CF: Wow. What an amazing really? I mean you can imagine.

Participant: But none of them are interested in their father’s work so...

CF: This is this is very good. This is, definitely going to meet next week in Abuja. That is one and then and then of course, I'll be willing to receive you. In fact, this this work as I told you we are looking at four countries, but we're going to eventually, we are still going to host a workshop. Hopefully here in XXXX University sometime next year and then the idea we’ll also share some of the key findings and then also in comparison with other countries to see what we need to do and then share with stakeholders. I mean what what we need to start to think about to address some of these issues.

Participant: And then, XXXX I'll leave it up to you. Maybe it's still a bit early in your project. If you at some point feel like you have probably preliminary ideas to share for instance on the 14th in about two weeks.

CF: Hmm.

Participant; 14th of December will hold a similar Workshop like the one that we invited you, the webinar that we invited you.

CF: Okay.

Participant: Now we will have it in person but we will have an online option.

CF: Okay.

Participant; So there you will find the guys who work on energy and gender issues, On the political economy energy access.

CF: Interesting! Interesting, definitely I'll be interested in joining virtually. And then I mean one of the things, I of course, you will also notice one of the reasons our times and some of these things become possible is when we do applied research that provides more insights on existing issues and how we can actually go ahead to address them. It's something of interest to many people and this is actually the line I towed and that is why I mean it's easier for us to have this little conversation because definitely. There are so many things that we have that are common areas of interest. Thank you. So so so much its pleasure…

Participant; Thank you my brother and I look forward to seeing you next week.

CF: sure. I will make sure it happens.

Participant: Okay, Wonderful. Thank you so much.

CF: Great. Thanks so much, and do enjoy the rest of your week.

Participant: Okay. Bye then.

CF: Yeah, bye bye