|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewer name** | XXXX  |
| **Sub-contractor organization** | XXXX  |
| **Interview date** | 5th December 2020 |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 58mins 35secs |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** |
| * **Code**
 | N4-GMT20201205 |
| * **Participant name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Organization name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Gender**
 | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category**
 | Government policy institutions and regulatory bodies (e.g. elected politicians, policy officers) |
| * **Country**
 | Nigeria |

CF: Great Good afternoon.

Participant: Hi good afternoon!

CF: Good afternoon. Thanks for coming.

Participant: Hello. Hello.

CF: Thanks so much for coming here, I like to thank you so much at least for for agreeing to take part in this and participating, I'm excited because of your area of expertise also, and for sure this kind of study will also need more women to also provide more insights since they tend to know better than men and this sort of matters. So what is this whole stuff all about? We, it's a funded research by the global challenges research fund where we are exploring issues of gender equity and energy access Particularly in four global south context. So you are looking at the Nigeria, Ghana, India and Pakistan. So in this the whole idea is to see okay, Based on the various experiences of each of the participants to try to explore those different dimensions of how we have actually looking at gender aspects and particularly issues of gender equity in addressing energy access issues this, I envisage that this conversation will last for about 40 minutes or it all depends on how on how it go, it can last longer depends on how the spirit leads and then of course, we based on your own experiences also, so there are lots of things like that. Okay now without wasting much of your own time and thanks so much for creating time on a weekend. I like you to give us a bit of a background really your professional background organization work with your department and then somehow how your role, I mean, more or less connects with what we are discussing about now.

Participant: Okay, I, professionally, I have worked in the energy space for 16 to 17 years to now. I started out working with XXXX had my NYSC in XXXX and then project assistant then welfare officer, and then I left XXXX in 2010 as a project manager was managing the project by XXXX, So there we were looking at Nigeria's response to climate change developing a low-carbon economy. What we should do as Nigeria and that research was very useful in formulating Nigeria's all parts of, when we went to Copenhagen, now 14, 13, when we went to Copenhagen. So our research, Yeah, so that project managed different teams that worked under it, education, technology, development and it was managing a couple of people from Academia and the government so we came up with Nigeria's, we had a reports that we said xxxx. So it was a useful project. xxxx. So I've been in the XXXXfor the last ten years and in the XXXX. I am in the renewable energy Department.

CF: Amazing!

Participant: Where we have worked on there we have worked on the renewable energy master plan, the revised version energy policy revised version, even though that hasn't been ratified by government. So we are still, when we quote, we use the 2003 National energy policy but we have a revised draft and then we do trainings, we train women, we trained corpers in the department. And then we just work on renewable energy in general. We have, I head the biomass units, but we have solar, we have renewable, we have emerging Technologies. So my work in, where I've got some training and experiences in gender was when I was in XXXX, we worked with Friends of the Environment, then they were the focal points of energy, and we did a lot of gender mainstreaming and even we looked at the Copy of National energy policy of 2003, energia did comprehensive work with their focal point in Nigeria then, I don't know who is their focal point for energier in Nigeria now, but when we did that one, we found out and 2003 energy policy was gender-blind. So we worked with them and came up with ways of ensuring that it is a national energy policy that takes into consideration gender needs of both men and women because we tend to think the policy should be gender-neutral. But when you do that, it's women that suffer. So when we did that then I started out on that job in XXXX, but before the job was completed. I was now in XXXX so we came up with recommendations and the revised Draft of the National Energy Policy and you put the two documents side by side. You can see that gender considerations are now taken, we have a section on gender, and we have a section on the environments and the policy is more robust now, so I will say, before maybe people didn't consider, the aspects of gender when you're looking at an energy policy project program. But at the XXXX, they are more aware now because energier worked with them over a span of, energier and friends of the environments were active as they used to but then they worked with them and we have a lot of differences in our XXXX at least, they are very much more aware before the engagement with energier in 2007, there was nobody in the XXXX that was female in the technical side.

CF: Wow!

Participant: There was none, not one, no female engineer, no female scientific officer, but by the time the engagement with friends of the Earth of the environments based in XXXX, by the time it was done, I had come in, a lot of people came in from 2007, so we now have scientific officers, we have technical officers, we have Engineers we have even Directors that are female, so engaging in the process is important, it means teaching about gender in energy is very important.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: Yeah, I'm talking from now the XXXX. I don't, I can't say for Ministry of power. I don't know if they are that aware, yeah.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Yeah. I'm just looking from my office,

CF: No, but that is even great because i am actually interested in trying to even uncover and understand more things from the XXXX's perspective and then I mean in in in your brief introduction that you just mentioned so many things, you've mentioned.. I think you've given me an idea now that there are lots of policies in the pipeline that are being redrafted as it were but we are just waiting for is for it to be properly ratified and then there are also some that even there in place. So can we really say that we don't really have policy problems per say, is it a problem of implementation, is it what exactly?

Participant: It depends on what aspects you're looking at? If it is do we have policy? Yes we since we have the policies, some of the policies don't have the kicked they need because we don't have the regulations to back it up. You understand. So like our national energy policy and it says do this, do this do this, but there is no force of law backing this policy that ensures we get it done. You understand, so while we may have 2003 National energy policy,

We’re in 2020. You understand. So we here, we felt this policy is old. So we had an elaborate process met with stakeholders, got Academia, got related agencies and came up with 2013 revised draft National energy policy and till today, it is still in draft because somewhere along the line we couldn’t push it through the Federal Executive Council and the government can give you the accent it need to now be the official policy and this is, this is now seven years. So while we should have been talking about another revised version. We're still trying to get that one approved.

CF: Wow!

Participant: you understand?

CF: Wow, wow! this is this is interesting really, now. I know the XXXX. I mean you guys look at different Spectrum more or less within the energy…

Participant: Yes, we look at all aspect of energy.

CF: Electricity, oil, gas everything now, in what, in what ways I mean, I would like to really understand better in what ways does different policy context shapes your work. For example, I mean, I'm sure, I mean they are so many just look at oil, gas, electricity, what way does this shape your work in the, in the XXXX. And of course, how does it influence the way you work at different levels? Both National level and sub-national level States, or so, how does it informed?

Participant: So for us at the XXXX, you know, we are supposed to be review all the national energy all policies related to energy and all aspects of energy, that's what we are supposed to do. So we don't make, or we did make the National energy policy 2003 in question, and this one I'm telling you about. You wouldn't “find” because it hasn't been approved. So we did that in collaboration with key stakeholders, but when we now make these policies NNPC in the Ministry of petroleum, is supposed to be guided by these policies, but the reality is Ministry of Petroleum does what do they want to do based on their own policies that they formed, then when you come to electricity, we have the ministry of power. We also have NERC that regulates electricity sector, so we can give broad guidelines, give policies broadly but these agencies do their day-to-day and how they use their policies, you understand?

CF: hmmm!

Participant: So our role really is to coordinate and make sure these policies do not conflict. When you bring the policies together, It shouldn't conflict. That's our role, are we performing our roles the way we should? that's open to debate.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Yeah, So because of the way it has been set up when you look at the energy sector in general, we are hampered by a couple of issues that I would not want to go into a lot of detail about so now we focus we try to focus on ensuring we have up-to-date information on different energy aspects renewable energy seems to not have a domiciled, an institution like this Squarely domiciled with. So we have spent a lot of time and done a lot of work on energy. So when you go across the country, you see a lot of pilot projects done by the XXXXon renewable energy, So we decided that well petroleum has the ministry of Petroleum and it focus on it, electricity has the ministry of Power they have their regulator. So why don't we spend time and try set up the renewable energy sector, So that's what we have done, we have done lots of research on biofuel, on solar on wind and we have tried to do and especially on solar you'll find a lot of it, there is no state you go to in Nigeria that you wouldn’t find an XXXXproject on maybe, solar or solar street lights so we are not only doing the pilot projects we also have research we also have our Energy Information Department that keeps the Data Bank on what it were in renewable energy like now in the office, We are talking about going to some states and doing a survey to know how many solar systems are in place there and deployed by which organization and all that, we want to do that. So next step, that's what we want to focus on, try to know what to all around even projects that were not done or funded by us. Yeah, so that's what we do we, we try to collaborate with Ministry of Power especially when you are now talking about sustainable energy for all so we try to collaborate with the NNPC or the ministry of petroleum as it is, but where we have really had interactions with in them is in the biofuel area.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: Yeah. So we've had talks we also started a reviewing the biofuel policy. You know, we have a biofuel policy that was done by the NNPC...

CF: Interesting

Participant: Of 2007, so we started a review process, I don't know how far it has gone because it was the petroleum pricing and regulatory agency that was leading that work. I don't know where it has gotten to but I know that still the official one is 2007, but there is the draft, so our problem is we have the policies, we don't get them adopted, when we get them adopted, they are not implemented, so it’s a big problem, yea!

CF: So, so we seem to have so many policies that are in draft stage more or less and they are just waiting for us to get that node to start to put them into effect.

Participant: So making the policies is not the problem at all, the content of the policy is not really a problem, it's the stage to move from policy making to now implements, enforce, monitor, that's where the problem is.

CF: Amazing! Amazing! You mentioned some things that I find interesting the as the idea that okay you guys, I mean you have projects everywhere in the country, i mean in almost every state of the country. Now, let's find out to what extent does more or less gender Equity factor in, In some of these your work Particularly all these project that you are deploying the Renewables, and things like that, do consideration for women come to the front burner when it comes to making decisions around this and how does it play out?

Participant: So like I said earlier the XXXX, when you now bring in the institutions and organizations that are working in the energy. Government now, I'm not talking private sector I am not talking NGO’s, government's institutions working in the energy sector, I think the XXXXwill rete very high in terms of organizations that are gender aware, because of the work I mentioned before, Friends of the environment did in raising awareness on gender issues impact, you know, so we, for us at the XXXX anything we are doing now, they have minimum, the DG will insist on a minimum of 30% female inclusion in the projects, You understand this right from the office, right from the office, so we have a gender team and management was trained so they are aware, he tries to make sure it's not just lip service. So when we are performing a project women are there, minimum of 30% when we are when we are looking at projects. They have to make sure a member of gender team is there, and we are like, how does it affect women, what are the impacts, what are the implications can help them in any way? So we look at all that. I unfortunately will not be able to speak strongly on the projects that are out there because I have never gone on a monitoring and evaluation of projects out there. We do that after they have on and has been running then they send a team go and look at one. Look at the projects, did they meet the maybe like even the equipment's did they meet bill of quantities that you gave. You know, these projects are done by “contractors”

CF: Hmmmm

Participant: Yeah, so we now go to supervise our see whether they did what they were supposed to do. But when we are developing the project and it kind of projects you choose like where you're doing, solar, boreholes, it's not for the men it’s for the women, it’s the women that are in charge of fetching, getting water, when you bring a borehole, already affecting the women positively do they now make sure that it doesn't affect them because you know a project you can go with good intentions that this will help the women, they don't have to go far to fetch water but you hear stories of women saying, but that means you just get that done and then we have more work to do. So yeah, there are two sides when you're looking at it. You need to be careful. So but when these projects are done people now check that, do we talk with the women when we go for our service? We talked with the women, we do community engagement and we talk with them, but when we go for implementation, I can't speak so strongly. However, yeah, so I'm not going to speak strongly on that but when we start out thinking about the women and the aspects that relates to improvements for women, have we focused on empowering women? We are thinking of things that brings in income for the women we haven’t had much of those kind of projects in so we haven't had much of projects that maybe we are now thinking of energies that blend maybe, milling, maybe will help them in processing their food. No, we haven't done that even though we have prototypes of like solar dryers that women can use to dry agricultural produce. But we haven’t had projects on that, we have just had where which we need to work on actually, We have just had things like solar street lights, solar boreholes small solar home systems, you know, so we need to move from their welfare to how women can have have money in their pockets, generated income. So that one I'll say we haven't really done much of.

CF: I like the aspect really, this idea of empowering women through this more or less energy through productive use of it. Now, there is one thing I would like to also, Find out something. I don't know whether it's connected with the work of the XXXXthe idea, that this idea that there are two very bad cousin that are there, the idea of energy access as one from electricity perspective and then clean cooking as another one that are very very bad cousins. So the idea is at times we tend to focus more on electricity and then we forget also that I mean the aspect of clean cooking which is also another one, which also impacts on women a lot Particularly their health among many others. Is there anything I thought I'd XXXXdoes that's connects with this.

Participant: That connects with what?

CF: Which aspects of clean cooking Particularly for women.

Participant: Yea, on this large-scale projects. I'm telling you about we don't we haven't done much in terms of research into options. We have since the 80s, been working on improved wood fuel stoves. we have got two burner one burner of improved wood fuel stoves. What a few of us are saying at the XXXX is, we need to move pass this, at we've done that, we’ve basically raised the awareness for improve wood fuel stove, apart from other agencies, like maybe when you think of GIZ, but government organization, there's no other government organization that has done as much as we have in improved cook stoves for women and thinking about how women can cook better. But, the problem is we have done it from a research point of view, you know, the XXXXhas six research centers. So there is research centre in Sokoto, Sokoto Energy Research Center, that's what you do, the research center in Nsukka that's what they do, So what we have been saying for a few years is how do we get this to move past research? How do we get it from the lab to the markets? But you know, it's also not the job of the government agency to do that. So I think that's also what has been slowing it down because it is we can take it to the market. So we do, we raise the awareness. We are trying to put it out there luckily donor agencies have come in a lot in the last how many years and then you don't forget that it's only in the last few years that the focus is turning to clean cooking every time you say energy access, Everybody has focused, even the World Bank all of them, they focused on electricity, as I'm speaking to you now, they are still paying in my opinion lip service to clean cooking because you, you check was happening with the mini-grid. We've been trying to push a clean cooking but min-grid in the last two three years has just blown boom overnights in the country and it's mainly because of the World Bank and the and the work GIZ is doing in the energy sector now, so if they had just done one tenth or one twentieth in clean cooking, I believe the story would have been different? So now we are talking about it, but they are not putting their money where their mouths is, when you compare that with electricity even till now.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: Electricity, electricity has the big gains of, “you see it” when there is light you can see it immediately, instant so people like that, it is easy to measure, you just see it. But when you now, improve clean cooking it takes a while before you see the impacts on girls that don't, can cook better so they have more time to read, girls attendance in school, women getting jobs. It takes a while before you see different. So I think that's also why people want quick gains.

CF: hmm.

Participant: Yeah, so but now we talking of this clean cooking, it will take time before you now start seeing less incidences of the health challenges less of catarrh, asthma, it will take time, but you know, when you bring electricity here, but you're passing you can see the places well lit.

CF: Exactly!

Participant: Now we are paying more attention to it but they are not putting their money. So when I look at the way mini grids exploded in this country in the last three four years like we been shouting about clean cooking for

Twenty years and nobody has put in that amount of energy, it would have changed overnight, it’s good that now we have the ESP of government, this ESP document, Its just for 2020 that’s talking about LPG. I was discussing with XXXX of the Office of the vice president and I was like, oh, this is a good Initiative but, why are you still saying you are talking about LPG? and you're looking at and autogas? can we just focus on let’s say, at least the first few years. Let's get LPG all over the country for use. Then maybe latter we look at auto gas and he's like, “no we are going to take...” I think my fear is if we are taking them all together, it is the cooking that will fall behind.

CF: Yes!

Participant: He's, he's like, “no, you know the composition is slightly different.” But I still believe that initially we should have started with purely Focus for cooking get that sets get it working. Then we can go for Industries for cars but every day it’s still better than nothing is mentioned clean cooking LPG use is mentioned for cars and all that.

CF: Interesting! So I'll bring up another dimension now, which you point you, you touched on it which has to do with issues of Finance. One of the things that we have seen clearly is that the whole thing about energy access, and Participantly things that also impact on women, people argue that the financial models, we have today are not pro-poor, they tend to say I mean and we imagine some of us living in the cities. That’s you see, I want to rent a house there's electricity already up to that house. I just work to pay for what I consume. But for most of these projects that are going on now in many remote areas more or less the customer the, the end users are forced to also pay for the cost of infrastructure which makes it a bit more expensive for them and they're saying is not pro-poor, from your opinion really, I mean, what do you think about this? I mean and how, what sort of, how does the current financial model really help us Particularly in areas of energy access and how does it impact on women because people are not using it because they feel it’s expensive. That's why so many, so many great projects seem not to be lasting long. There are some that they would say, well I'm not interested because, I'm not, I cannot pay for it.

Participant: There are different models and I think people are increasingly looking at models that fits poor people, we know that when you talk of poor people they are more women in this category than men for various reasons for various reasons. So is it's a bit tricky is good to have tailor-made

Financial…what word do I use, Financial mechanisms for people at the bottom of pyramid, it’s good to have tailor-made and I think that's where NGO’s and private organizations come in, some of them have done really well in this area, government. I know doing their best, but I think government too should stick to ensuring like the way the Electricity have the NERC has done with their electricity less than 1 megawatts, then you less than a hundred megawatts hundred watts to one watts they have the category as this those are the kind thing government can do just put the regulation in place and even with the new electricity tariff you see how they staggered it and then for the poor, they didn't raise it, those are the kind of things government can do but when it comes to help women that are poor assess it that's where we need CDU’s NGO’s and private organizations that have that are doing social entrepreneurship because they can now look at this, one good other good thing about the LPG plan is where they say they're trying to make sure that we don't own cylinders anymore

CF: Hmmmm

Participant: So this is good in that when this comes on stream, you know, what use to hinder people when women now see LPGS, they like it, then the cost of the burner, the cost of cylinder now makes them stick to what they are using. So in cooking access for cooking aspects when you want to get an LPG stove, the plan that day according to people at the VP's office that is the office of vice president, they have this LPG expansion there.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: I don't know if you have spoken with them, what if, what they say is the plan is that they are going to take to take ownership of cylinders away from private people. So when you go you just go with the cylinder that belongs to depending on which company buy from People also have plans for companies to come they just pick yourself up and give you a new one. So you did that. So that takes away the cost of that initial cost is usually or do is gone. So you just pay for what do you use? You pay for what you use when they work with people that giving you the equipment itself and then it's a staggered payment because when you sit down with women, especially for those in the peri-urban that use wood for cooking and you ask them how much they spend? When would you calculate it in a month? I did one field visit in September went to poor peri-urban areas, so I sit down with this woman, I'm like, so you say you spent 200 hundred a day, okay, so we calculate it and I'm like, you know, if you buy gas worth this amount it will last longer, some of them would say? Yeah, we know but my gas cylinder is bad and I don't have money to buy another one some of them will tell you, yeah, I know but I don’t have the cooker itself some were lucky they got the cooker when they got married. And they will tell you “oh, yeah, I do that sometimes but i don't have all the money, I don't have 2000 naira and then we now find that all these gas plants, small small people around selling from the stand will then give them as low as in a place with saw they could buy three hundred naira, I was so impressed because I didn’t even know that, so I am like, so so they have made it so that women can even go and buy gas for 500 naira, one area the minimum was 500, one area the minimum was three hundred. So I was like, I came out,

CF: That’s amazing!

Participant: Very amazing, I was very amazed I came out and I'm like, this is so optimistic. So there's hope so what government needs to do put the plan, let the plan starts you start like yesterday with this cylinder roll out where this women don't need to buy it. So you just go, the guy comes and he fills it, like the way you buy your charge card, he fills for 300 Naira, 500 Naira and you go your way, so our problem is implementation, how to get it off the ground and running but the good plans are there and then you find out that people are even surviving, I was so shocked, then we say three hundred naira and I am impressed but when you now compare with people that don’t have that three hundred and they can get charcoal for fifty naira. So I am like this fifty naira, how long would it last? Say to make a meal, and I am like are you going to make only one meal? “ we are going to cook one main meal, and you see you get happy that with 500 hundred naira but some of them do not even have that 500 hundred naira, so those ones that don’t have that 500 hundred they buy fifty naira charcoal, so I am now like so tomorrow you’ll buy another fifty naira, they said yes tomorrow well buy another fifty naira one, or I may have sold something and gotten fifty naira before tomorrow, she has five hundred but she is going to buy fifty naira charcoal, hundred naira onion, one fifty beans, so for these daily people, these are the ones that need, that’s why we can’t go all LPG, they still need cook stoves, but let’s give them improved cook stoves and it last probably more than one meal, but what they are using is not the improved cook stoves that is burning it better, so when you talk to the people that are in the business, they give those women the improved cooks stoves and then they pay them back a little by a little..

CF: Wow!

Participant: Yeah, so that's already if you talk with the woman did that plan is is there they as you go, it's all over they're already doing it. They just take down the information in the communities. They know the women they organize them and these women pay back. So on I did they in a large scale. No, I did all over the country. I can't say for sure the ones I know are the ones that operate in this Northern area. I don't know how it is in the South, I can’t say for sure. I haven’t worked in those areas but here in the North, we have quite a few NGO’s, that are giving, that sell these things try to make it easy for the women to pay for it.

CCF: I love, I love this local adaptation of the pay-as-you-go system. It's so great. I mean it's so exciting with this, there is hope really.

Participant: There is hope, government needs to do what they need to do, but people are adapting and coping somehow, you understand?

CF: Yeah!

Participant: They are doing that. Well you it's also so sad. When you say you are in an urban area, when you into the peri-urban areas you see heap and heaps of firewood. So in that study when I went to I'm telling them, do you know that this improved wood fuel stoves the one that uses firewood you don't need these big chunks of wood. So what you said lasts you for a day can probably lasted four days because you make it smaller usage and they're like, oh really? very few people at least here in Abuja, few of them that knew and those that knew they didn’t know where to get it, so which takes me back to what I was telling you about how to get it from the lab to the markets, so they're like, “oh like what I saw that somebody but I don't know where she got it from, she's no more in our community”, Some of them are like, oh, yeah, I've heard about but I don't see it. so you're talking to me. Like we need also market-based approaches. We need to like flood the market with it because people would also use what they see. So for me in my vision where you have to go to the market the way you see LPG stoves, you see kerosene stoves, you should see the charcoal stove and see the wood fuel stoves. Now when you go you see this ones the Artisan make that is not improved is just the regular like the tri-pot stand.

CF: Mhm.

Participant: Yeah. So how do we now start seeing this improve one this ones that have clear lining that keeps the heating and so uses less energy how do you now see it there in the market when you talk of government, government will tell you, no, we want to use LPG” we want to use LPG but the fact remains that some people are not going to be able to use LPG immediately, what, can we get them to use an improve version? Can we have it out there in the market? You know, A How we have it out there in the market, you know, so those are the kind of question we are raising the next one.

CF: I wanted to actually ask now, somehow you've answered this in a different way, but I wanted to just say just imagine for a moment that there are no Financial or policy restrictions or constraints. What do you think in your own opinion is the best way that we can actually achieve a lot of these gender balance in the way we address energy access problems imagine for a moment that we don't have the financial barriers and we don't have policy barriers?

Participant: So we don't have financial barriers and we don't have policy barriers?

CF: Just imagine for a moment that those things don't exist. Those barriers don't exist. What do you think is the best way that we can approach this and tackle it?

Participant: So what will be our problems?

CF: Laughs! The problem will now be, let's get, how do we get women to now, how do we now help women in all of these? Imagine that okay money is no longer the problem and policies is no longer the problem.

Participant: Okay, if money yeah, because it's not just money and policy that is the problem, when you now come to the women some of them are doing we also need behavioral change communication you understand, because some of these women can afford so we saw the ones that can afford to use LPG but they will tell you, ahh, we are used to firewood, and you tell them its bad for their health and they are telling you, but that’s what my grandmother used and she lived to a hundred and something years old, so when people say its finances its not true but we had this conversation as far back as two months ago. So I'm looking at this woman and I'm like, I don't understand she said, no we should stop. Saying their parents used this, besides, you know that firewood taste, what do we do now, you know how food taste when you use it. Some of these our meals, we just have to cook with firewood and some of them will tell that if we don’t use firewood, their their husbands will not eat. Well, yes, so it's not just it's not just finances. It's not just policy. So we also need where, this Behavioral change which we have also been discussing about, we now have radio jingles, we now have TV adverts. We are now trying to create the impression that at least as a modern women. Because most women also want to be seen to be modern, we also found examples of where one person gets it then everybody's striving to get it so we now try to change the narrative from you use this not just because of Health like I told, I was discussing with colleague that we’ve been pushing this health impact, health impact, health impact, is healthy heart healthy but we are not making progress, let’s start talking finance, let start telling people how much they can make, how much they can save because this health grounds people have a way of pushing it aside people have a way of just pushing it aside and Well, I am not sick or my mother used it, she lived to this amount of years, but when you are now telling her that, look at how much you are spending, you can save this amount and this one will give you more time to do this and your kitchen is cleaner, so we need to now do lot of awareness, that yes, your jollof rice has the Smoky flavor but I saw that even Maggie is making spices that gives you the smokes, so you can feel …

CF: Exactly!

Participant: So all these things for people need to know that it’s there, people need to know so there's still a lot of work that should be done with behavioral change Yeah. Yeah, you like your firewood, but this is also and if its the smoke you need just put Maggie Smoky flavor and you still have it. Yeah, that's a good thing. If you look in the market, you see that because what used to be the problem before they tell you that that big pot, people have large families the big can’t sit on conventional LPG stoves but now, we have local ones that they make in market comes in two burner or one burner.

CF: Exactly!

Participant: That can sit on a massive tri-pot stand, Yeah, so now one is out if the way, I have that that in my Village house, because when you are cooking for, that’s what we use so you can put, no matter how, 250 litres pot you can place it on it. So the market has evolved people have taking all these things into, before years ago. We didn't have that. It was only, if you want to use a big pot it firewood, you its automatic, party cooking comes automatically with firewood, but that has changed. So you just take this massive LPG stove is constructed, they make you connect your gas it and you can still do your big cooking, So but women that have changed that are women that got these public awareness education impact so you see some big caterers, that's what I use. They have left firewood completely, Yeah, but they didn't just leave it the way they were trained. They now know the implications they now also saw that first you don’t need massive space to keep the big logs that you have to use, just bring it roll your cylinder. So the barriers are not just about policies, we also have cultural, behaviors that needs to change its changing gradually.so, I notice that in Lagos state a lot of them use that this LPG this constructed one I am telling you about,

CF: Yea I've seen a lot of that too.

Participant: Yes... Yeah. Yeah. They are more aware. I don't know who did that work In Lagos, but they're more aware. So we, so we need that outside of finances outside in policies. You just need women to also understand move, and we have to we should we can talk about the health but people tend to discount the health when you are talking to somebody, if she's not sick or she don’t have somebody that died directly from smoking-related illnesses, they tend to discount it.

CF: very true,

Participant: To this fact, it's, you know, some have the child suffering from asthma. So so it's better to lay more emphasis on how she can save money how it gives her more money, more opportunities to make money and then so do you well,

CF: Thank you so much my last last last parts now in principle of you've covered you've covered many many many things already, but I will just see is there anything you think we have not discussed that you may want to just read some lights on. That connects with this on some some things that you may want to just talk about. I for instance. Okay the work of the XXXXfor example going into the future. What are they looking at? And of course other aspect also, do you guys relate to some of the work that they REA does For example, the rather Education Agency among others I engage with the rural electrification Agency Among others

Participant: I engage with Rural Electrification Agency informally, and I told, when I was discussing with them I told, I know that rural electrification agency was a lip service on electrification of the rural areas, but you we need to electrify rural areas, yes there are things that come with electrification, but when you just give light for light sake then…. Then when I was talking with a friend, was also teasing and saying then I see the rural electrification agency taking about energizing schools, they left what they were supposed to be doing and were doing something else, I was like you guys are making a lot of noise and getting a lot of attention but are you really doing what you are out to do because you were supposed to get electricity to the rural areas and can you think of innovative ways of providing electricity when the women now are empowered by your electricity? Yes, you give them Street light so they see the feel safer, But some studies have also argued that, that lights also increase their work because it means when they could have said its dark and the can't work anymore now they have light so they continue working.

CF: Hmm.

Participant: Yeah. So you also need to now look at how does this electricity and empower women get more money in their pocket because the more women get empowered, then you can narrow the the engine the power imbalance between men and women, without money you can’t do so much. So for me what is that may not be related, but what I tell people every time I have a conversation is in Nigeria, we need also need to look at we need to our energy sector as a whole, I'm of the opinion that the lack of the ministry of energy has hindered a lot of work we could have been doing because you have the ministry of power and then they focus on power they focus on electricity, you have REA also electricity you have NERC its still electricity, then you Petroleum that does their petroleum business maybe transport. That's why you see that energy in itself is suffering. So you bring XXXX, but we are limited because we are a parastatal and if you know about the history of the XXXX, we were in the presidency before and there we were a bit autonomous, but now that we are under Science and tech we are now, Yeah, so it limit what you can do, its taking a bit of power away from us, when I say power. I mean the power to change things you understand?

CF: Yea,

Participant: We were autonomous where we were just directly under in the presidency. Then it gives us more power. But when you put us under the science and tech, the ministry of power is ahead of us, of the minister of the ministry of petroleum is ahead of Science and Tech. and the ministry of petroleum is ahead of science and tech, their ministers are more powerful. Then it's hindering a lot of work. Then when you compare the XXXXthat is was established by an ECOWAS Act, when you compare you take XXXX and you compare it with the enrgey commission of that Ghana you see the commission of Ghana is more powerful, because they are autonomous they can work, they have a ministry of energy so they can just work so I don't know why I feel our energy sector seems to be weak, we have… I don't want to be quoted, laughs. We should have energy where we can have power in there, You can have energy itself as relates to household cooking in there, we can have energy as relates to transport, agricultural, you know, all that as department's.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: As departments, but when you just come and you have and then you wonder why the focus tends to be on electricity. Who is pushing household cooking? Who is pushing energy for industries?, who is pushing thermal energy?. You understand what I'm saying?

CF: Yeah.

Participant: So I'll tell you the ministry of power talks about electricity and electricity Industries. but we need is a ministry of energy, we started it in Obasanjo’s time and it was scrapped again and what's keep getting it scrapped is that petroleum also wants to come under a ministry, petroleum wants to stay on its own, you know that petroleum brings in all the money. So they sort of dictates.

CF: Wow, thank you very much. It's been it's been, it's been nice having this Conversation really and I hope and I hope that I mean in case I decide to get a brain wave and then I remember something, I hope I can easily reach you?

Participant: No problem at all.

CF: Thank you so much. Okay, for some reasons, I'll hop into Abuja next week and I'll try to just come and say hi.

Participant: Oh no wahala!

CF: Thank you very much, and then do enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Participant: You too.

CF: Thank you, bye-bye.

Participant: Bye.