|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Interviewer name** | XXXX |
| **Sub-contractor organization** | XXXX |
| **Interview date** | 07th December, 2020 |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 32mins 48secs |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** |
| * **Code**
 | N6 - GMT20201207 |
| * **Participant name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Organization name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Gender**
 | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category**
 | Non-governmental organization, working on development, facilitating energy access, SDGs, energy and gender issues, etc. |
| * **Country**
 | Nigeria |

CF: Good afternoon, Good afternoon Mrs. XXXX, you are muted, hello.

Participant: Hello Good Afternoon, can you hear me now.

CF: Yes, I can hear you now, good afternoon.

Participant: how are you?

CF: I am good and you?

Participant: Good, I hope your weekend was restful?

CF: I'm good and you it's been a very tight day. I've been jumping from one meeting to other since 9 am.

Participant: Sorry!

CF: So hopefully, after yours, I will be able to have some sort of breathing space, but its fine, its fine.

CF: Great! Just thank you so much for accepting this invitation and then essentially what's this is all about which I'll just give you a bit of a background of what it's all about. I we've got, together with our partners we got a grant from the global challenges research fund of the UK government, and then the idea is to explore gender Equity issues around energy purposes.

Participant: Ok. Can you speak up a little bit.

:

CF

Okay, so the idea is actually to explore gender Equity issues around energy access in for Global South countries so you're looking at Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, sorry Ghana Nigeria India and Pakistan. So what we want you just to uncover those gender Dimensions to, as its connects with energy access and of course, since you are an expert in that area like to hear your opinion about some of the issues connected with that. So without I mean thanks so much for accepting to to really be part of this

Participant: You are welcome !

CF: Without, without keeping you waiting further, I'll just ride on with the first one can you just me a bit, i mean about your current role, your position. You're organization, the department you work for what you do essentially,

Participant: So basically, yeah. xxxx advisory for XXXX, XXXX is the XXXX, and then my boss is the one that referred you me, so my role is basically what I do is history gender in all our projects and ensure that no one is left behind and basically in the past each year students working on energy access in terms of 15 energy, especially in the northern part of Nigeria, and also recently. We don't access to all of these energy from 625 our swords and Brian States including to our health institutions would be so nice a puzzle basically, but we also into the policy, policy development like also zone of your choice of green a foreign agent. So basically what I do is from conception to implementation to ensure that there is a gender group attached to every project that XXXX does and that I'm monito that this code is achieved during project implementation. So basically that's what I do in XXXX.

CF: Interesting interesting. to what extent will you say? You will be you really succeeded in getting this done?

Participant; Well to a large extent, as you are aware women are basically responsible for people in our culture except where there is no, no woman cooking doesn't work. So our target specifically for the cooking energy access has been women and we've been able to achieve that over 90% of those we target are women.

CF: Wow!

Participant: And in addition to using the stove, we also ensure that we build a livelihood along the way and these includes capacity-building trainings for identified local people on how to produce the stoves so that they are not just users of the energy technology but can also make a living from producing and selling these energy technologies. Basically most of our trainees are women, over 50% of our trainees are women and in Katsina and Borno states and Adamawa as well, we were able to reach out over 200 women who were able to reach out, so far who now make a living from using and selling stoves, Some of them have even diversified their income not just the food stoves but the money being made from selling stoves is being used to do other things like petty trade like small animal rearing like goat and sheep and in Adamawa they sue it to start pettr trading like selling petty things, food within the IDP camp setting where they live and then in Borno State, we have a beneficiary that set up businesses for two sons from the money she made for wood stove production so basically we have been an]bke to achieve building up capacity for women in cook stove production, we have been able to improve the lives of women by giving them stoves that is energy efficient at the same time we have been able to reduce the impact of smoke on traditional cood stove to these women so all in all I will say we have succeeded because we have improve the quality of lives of women who benefit fro the cook stoves interventions we have done and also empowered women strategically by ensuring that they are not just users but they also producers and sellers of these technology as well, the only place where we have challenge is the training of women for solar PV, you know, basically, this is a technical field and you know most of the women in the northern part of the country don't have the technical skills to participate in this but what we do is to lower the entry requirements for women so that they will be able to participate although we had intended to have 30% representation of women among those that we train we train, we have trained 240 trainees in Borno State, on solar but we were unable to train even 20% to one very unfortunate trainees in front of State select enable to achieve even prevent excessive crossover and abilities. They also will be able to train a lot of insulation. In the future, maybe educational institutions and schools to be able to get more details.

CF: So it's amazing. I find this fascinating really deep. That's what I find Most Fascinating is actually the part that getting women to actually produce these cook stoves and sell and Make some money for themselves and improve their livelihood. I mean this is fascinating is really amazing. I mean, how did you find yourself doing this out of your hide to get involved is sort of job and what led you to all of these?

Participant: Actually my journey with gender and t energy started in 2004 immediately after my NYSC service, so I was I got this job to do a survey for an NGO in Lagos. Then my former boss she is a pioneer xxxx, she's a pioneer advocate for gender and energy in Nigeria, yeah, So when I joined her, I just caught up with the passions of the advocacy to include women in access and since then I look back, its a joy job I enjoy doing you know? Improving the lives of women, it a good job.

CF: Amazing! Amazing, so, can you tell me more, about the specific energy access issues that you've worked on are there issues around electrification? I know you've mentioned some things around and cook stove are there things that are related to policy also they have worked on? I mean what exactly have you worked on?

Participant: Yes in terms of policy, like I told you earlier on my boss, is one of the authors of renewable energy - master plan and then that in my personal capacity before I joined XXXX, I was one of persons that XXXX the Nigeria energy policy, XXXX of the National energy policy, to ensure that the issues of gender are mainstreamed into the policy and when we were doing all these, we found out the National energy policy was gender neutral and then we made recommendations to the energy Commission in whether or not to include gender in the policy, the policy has been reviewed since then that and then there's also an ongoing review where we have opportunity for bringing the issue of gender in the front burner or energy access and once it’s at the policy level, it makes it easier for it to be implemented. So presently XXXX has been invited for the review of energy National energy policy, we are trying to review the National energy master plan and it’s also another opportunity for us to advocate for gender mainstream in the energy policy.

CF: Interesting! Interesting! You've made reference to some policy context now that shape your work, I mean you have mention and some national energy policies and things like that. What would you say are the key policy challenges if there are any? Particularly in addressing gender issues in energy.

Participant: Like I mentioned earlier, when Energy policy is gender neutral at the end of the day, we will be able to take into cognizance what are the needs of everybody the women the men the girls the boys what are the energy needs of these people? There needs to be needs energy needs assessment so that everybody benefits at large from the policy of implementation, but when you have people who don’t make gender considerations in developing energy policies, what you have is just a blanket policy that doesn't benefit part of the population and it's just generic. I'll give you an example my colleague and I did a needs assessment and then we ask the men in the community in Borno State, if you want to be given lights or electrification intervention where would you prefer the intervention the men said “we want it in our houses and then the women said “ we will prefer street light and then you ask why would prefer street light light and then they said because once this app you can go out again because it's not safe, so talking to different people lets, you know what the perspectives because I do not know if they if you Just go With It intervention that provides electricity to the households without providing street lighting or communal lighting for instance, then you tend to leave the women behind men, they have lights in their house, but after that they can go out to socialize with whoever they are working in community because they fear for their safety, so for energy policy to be efficient and effective gender should be mainstreamed from the conception that is the development stage of policy and then upon the development for the implementations of the development of master plans to implement the policies. You also need to do a gender action plan that ensures that whatever gender goes goals you set in the policies implemented. So in a way, you need to look at what are the needs that you want to address. Are you addressing productive needs? That's just maybe for maternal Health like if you provide electricity to health institutions for instance, are you targeting a productive energy needs that is like for them to have a light in which maybe powering hairdressing, sewing machines or refrigerators to sell drinks or something is that the target as well, and then is this strategy do you want them to be members of the local communities committees that implements the power electrification solution in their community so that all these key aspect needs to be incorporated at that policy level. We're addressing women's strategic energy needs productive energy needs and reproductive energy needs, so if you don't define this clearly in the policy at the end of the day, it will just be like the former of energy policy it will be gender-neutral just talking abstract, general or generic but you're not really addressing the needs of people in the community. So these are the gaps in the energy policy and then another thing is the lack of gender disaggregated data, when you don’t have gender disaggregated data, It makes planning for gender mainstreaming very difficult because when you don't have gender disaggregated, data for instance will probably have the consumption rates for /electricity in Nigeria but nobody breaks it down into what men consumed, what women consume one men use it for, and what women use it for? So that at the end of each of the of the day we are able to attend to the need of each person so basically this the lack of gender focus in the policies as well as lack of gender desegregated data to inform policies and decision-making there are other gaps in terms of policy that I can’t think of right now.

CF: Interesting! Interesting, I mean there is something I mentioned I found actually quite interesting the idea of okay what people need energy for? give me streets lights because it's improved by security situation and things like that, you know, some women also argue that hey providing this thing for me I giving me more work because I mean once they once the light is available the power is available is available i find myself walking and lots more, what do you have to say about that?

Participant: Yeah, it's all depends really because at times maybe just that nights when everybody goes to sleep is the only time she has to do something more productive. So like I said, that's why you need to speak with the women okay, before you are able to provide for their energy needs, what do they want? And its based on the needs assessment and you will be able to address adequately, the needs of those women to like what we do in XXXX, we do a need assessment before you start the project and we do needs assessment, even for trainings we do training needs assessment, what are the needs of the male body needs of the women so that we were able to cater for the needs of each and every person and then whether it’s the men or women, the adolescent girls, the adolescent boys, we ensure that we know what their needs are with each other know what your needs are.

CF: Amazing!

Participant: That's why you need to consult with them because consulting will give you an idea of whether you're going to increase the burden of work when you provide a particular intervention, and then when the negative impacts. How to ease the positive you might need to rethink the interventions so that at the end of the day you don’t end up creating more problems in trying to solve their problem. So that is why we need to do a need assessment to be able to take the side of each and every stakeholder so that with everything goes on smoothly.

CF? Interesting! interesting and this brings me to the next main subjects which has to do with finance, Of course, there are lots of issues around energy access Finance. I just want to ask this do you think renewable energy access Finance processes are gender aware or even gender sensitive and even going beyond them all these green climate fund or the national finance, all the local sources are they gender sensitive?

Participant: From my experience we have not been able to really get to access any of these ones because often times its difficult for most of these women are not educated. It's difficult for them to be able to apply for funding for energy access. I don't think this is just a generic the same criteria used for men is the same criteria usually used for women to access funds for energy finance, but the challenges is that sometimes women are not be able to access this without the permission of the men, Even such a thing. So what time's the needs of the men supersede the needs of the women and then culturally, some parts of the country like the northern part of the country, they don't like anything in terms of credits taking credit except to say grant. But we all know that grants are not sustainable, for you to grow a business, since it is a business where you're going to make money you are supposed to get access to sustainable financing cells. But so far, we've not been able to do that with local women, for experience local entrepreneurs. That's more educated local entrepreneurs we had some like……. so say Renewables they've been able to access this sin specialized. For women specifically as a strictly in the ability to be able to access this form because really there are specialized functions remain social entrepreneurs or energy access, so education has a part to play in their ability to be able to access this funds because those are you that we're not able to access this, but for the local rural pepole women its very difficult for them to be able to access this funds.

CF: Interesting! Interesting!! Now, just just imagine for a moment, that Policy and financial constraints are off, I mean we don't have those problems. What do you think are other issues that we need to pay attention to in order to achieve gender equity in energy access imagine that policy deficiency and finance financial issues wiere provided? Imagine we don't have any problems with policy and finance lack of awareness.

Participant: Policies and other, those are the enabling environment for businesses to thrive but in addition to that, capacity is also an issues and then there is lack of awareness, how many women are able to know of the existence of these funds, so if people are not even aware, get the maximum benefits from the opportunities in the energy system, so there is lack of awareness as well as inadequate capacity which i mentioned in the introduction that like for instance we also train girls for the installation maintenance and so on on solar pv. But then you find out that they don't have the technical ability to do to learn what you about to teach them because you need so many physical electricity skills, so if you take that policy and finance then you need to build capacity and then as well you need to also create awareness for people to know what available and what they can have access for, and what opportunities abound in the energy sector.

CF: Amazing. Well, I mean you very briefly just touched on many of the aspects that of course that's I wanted to actually highlight because of course that this is your area really now, there are lots of policy gaps. Yes, there are different levels of this gap, but and we've highlighted some of these things now, do you think that I mean the regional initiatives like the ECOWAS energy policies, energy Finance? Do you do you think these measures are effective all what we have seen the energy initiatives from the government, I mean particularly, we also see REA, we also I mean some ideas from the energy commission. We see also what ECRE has been trying to do at the ECOWAS level. Do you think these thing have been effective particularly reflecting the gender dimension?

Participant: I think there is an improvement compared to the last couple of decades, f or instance in the ECOWAS, there is a policy for mainstreaming gender in energy access in West Africa. It's been ratified by Nigeria. As one of the signatures, presently they are in the process of doing a gender action plan for gender policy so that we've gotten to the stage where you have a dedicated gender policy targeting energy access, so it’s a step in the right direction and I guess you once we are able to come up the gender action for the ECOWAS policy, then each country will need to now step it down at the national level. So National level having a gender action plan for energy access will go a long way in addressing most of the policy gaps in insensitivity and neutrality of gender in the energy environment.

CF: Interesting! Interesting, now it is there anything and that's if you feel we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add?

Participant: Not, really, today is not just one off, after the meeting and you remember something just send me a mail and you can always reach to hold another meeting or if you remember something and you want me to respond just write it down and send it to me in form of questionnaire and I will respond to the question.

CF: I really appreciate.

Participant: Because really, I am talking form experience I don’t have a guide.

CF: No worries at all. Now is there there anyone else you think, I should be discussing with? I should be asking these sort of questions?

Participant: Like I said that this ECOWAS gender policy, so maybe you want to find their focal person in charge of gender policy, I think she's a Nigerian but I don't I don't have a contact and then there is gender focus team for the ministry of power I can get you a contact. I don't know if they have anything maybe it will be good to speak to that in case, because they are the ones working on the national gender mainstreaming action plan for energy access in ECOWAS, so you might want to speak with her i can give you her contact.

CF: I will really appreciate it.

Participant: And then perhaps, you want to speak with women who are into the energy business. I don't know if you know..

CF: Of course!

Participant: of the still renewable, there is grid energy, they are mainly into solar energy.

CF: I wouldn't mind having those contact, I will be in Abuja, ill pop into Abuja tomorrow and I won't mind catching some of them.

Participant: So, let me, I will try and see if I can get some of these contacts for you then you can speak with them.

CF: I really appreciated it, Thank you so much! thank you, So much its great having this conversation with you and definitely one of the things that we plan to do the key findings from all of this we’ll be will be sharing this in a workshop sometime next year maybe around March or April or there about and then of course…

Participant: Will it be in Lagos?

CF: We've not decided the location, I think since most of you are in Abuja, we may just have to fix this somewhere in Abuja and then we have a non-academic partner involved in this also and definitely I would like her to be, I would like them to really be in the forefront of the whole Workshop, then so and you may know her very well is xxxx of xxxx

Participant: Ok.

CF: Yeah, so I mean thank you so much for this and then definitely I will share some of the key findings with you once we, once we put them all together, and yes, I'll be expecting the contacts of these great women involved in these things, I really love to meet with them.

Participant: Ok! I will do that immediately after the talk.

CF: Great. Thank you so much and do enjoy the rest of your week.

Participant: You too, same here!

CF: bye, bye