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| **Interviewer name** | XXXX  |
| **Sub-contractor organization** | XXXX  |
| **Interview date** | 9th December 2020 |
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| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Physical interview |
| **Interview participant** |
| * **Code**
 | N8 - GMT20201209 |
| * **Participant name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Organization name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Gender**
 | Male |
| * **Stakeholder category**
 | *Non-governmental organization, working on development, facilitating energy access, SDGs, energy and gender issues, etc.* |
| * **Country**
 | Nigeria |

CF: Okay, So yes, so essentially, well, you know what I'm working on. It's this whole business of gender equity in energy access and then we are exploring really different dimensions to it's from different practitioners who have been in the field and different people. So fortunately, I have the commitment of two people in our area that I'm going to have this conversation with also because I mean they are there, they control the money they controlled in many things. So it's good to also hear their own perspective. But how long have you been in this business

Participant: Going to six years six years in now

CF: You have spent six years in XXXX?

Participant: Yeah, we are six years in XXXX and the whole campaign started, a good light, what do Nigerian need to have a good light? And then central among these is electricity energy. We know the statistics, you know clean cook stoves, open fire wood, access to kerosene, access to fuel, grid collapse, I mean its like a normal thing and then the number of people that don't have access to electricity at all, for those that have it was 90% of those that have electricity, experienced less than 4% of electricity availability, very unpredictable, poor policy, you know, so it's already there and need a world talk about energy poverty, power to generally is female, poverty generally is female, energy poverty is double female, access to electricity either at day time at night, the women suffer it the most compared to anybody, sector wise also women are also at the low point of the ladder, and then it terms of usage, in terms of the insecurity that comes with the unavailability of electricity, the multiplier effects that happens when there is no access to electricity, It is huge across board, you know from the direct beneficiaries, how it affects sectors everything still spirals down, it is still the woman so Nigeria is largely an informal sector.

CF: Okay…

Participant: Well like that informal major health sectors, health education, transportation trade..

CF: Yeah,

Participant: Small holder famers occupy they are responsible like 70% of food that is produced as access to agricultural inputs to these particular set of people is almost unavailable likewise irrigation, access to water access to storage systems that's renewable energy can provide these women don’t have it so they still have to depend on old traditional methods, women at the ending of the ladder. If we go to things like inform our business and trade it is still women, so a lot of these women apart from not having access to a public space where they can even comfortably do their business they don't have access to transportation electricity is a big challenge so a lot of these women will depend on generator whether generator to grind beans or grind tomato in the market or generators actually running their wares if we even go to professional space like Health sector 70 percent of Nigeria's depend on Primary Health Care.

CF: Yeah..

Participant: Out of the 70% that depend on primary health care from study we did about 60% or about 40% of those primary health care services don't have access to electricity, those are have access to electricity get electricity for less than four hours a day, so they run generators now, budget to run generator in the present cost is not sustainable, so the survey we did we realize that the cost of running the generators is between 20,000 to 29,000 every months and the government is budgeting an average of like between 500 and 600 a month per PHC, hindered naira per PHC, so the extra fund that you see in running generators is paid by the women in those hospitals because 70% of healthcare workers in various sectors are women..

CF: Yea.

Participant: The midwives and nurses are women, so these women apart from the poor working condition they still taking out of their pockets to pay, another way they do it, is okay those drugs they are probably supposed to be for free or subsidized, they ask people to pay so that they can run the generator and they also exposed to generator fumes that comes from these, so you look at the tail end of it is also women, if we now come to the executive space the sector professionally, I mean just a quick look or visit ministries, look at the directors, a lot of them power sector, energy sector, male, male, everybody is male, professional institutions apart from few like that you see the chief director is a woman, but after her, how many they are still very, very few, you know, and that's why people like XXXX, XXXX, had a computer XXXX, XXXX, XXXX, those few women that are within this space they are people that we should always celebrate its good that the message is going out, we may see more of these women in future,

CF: By the way, XXXX XXXX is part of this project but as a non-academic partner

Particular: Ha ha so women are not still getting a lot of space, I think one of the things that and they are that are really strong and really pushing for more women advocacy and form of that, you know, so for women was not really strong within that space, if I'm going to give the proportion of Women within renewable energy sector as executive, I will give them like maybe like less than 10% I'll pull my figure at less than 10% if I take in, Nigeria has about 106 organizations in there, the number of women led organization in there, if I include those in clean cook stove one or two in biomass the number of women in there they will not be more than 10, so that's how intense it is at that executive level, so if you want to trickle it down to other fields, to those at the supply sector, the ladder of who suffers is 100% women, men don’t have time, I mean a man is always outside most of his productive hours is outside this home, you know but a woman is always at home no lights for house, asked Mama Nkechi she is the one that can tell whether NEPA bring light, they have brought electricity bill, they have not brought electricity bill, she knows those dynamics because she is at home. She's the one that does all those unpaid labours, taking care of the children and all of that and then the man the man doesn’t see all of that the man is not so conscious about energy, he is not so reliant on it but the woman is because she's a home a business is not so far you know, so the health hazards women experience it more and of these benefits. So if you come to things like maybe specifics around energy dynamic so maybe energy for heating energy for cooking energy for lighting if we now look at the sectors so you can have to say how are these sectors striving? So for instance before we say the interview, I was talking about clean stove, the entry of clean cooking stoves because if you take cooking in Nigeria is gender 100% you know it is women, a few of us men that like to cook you know you this skill from where we are coming from we know cooking is a gender issue, you know the issue of afforestation, deforestation, the tree felling, the exposure, the sicknesses that come with this thing, a lot of women are going through issues also but the clean cooking business within the whole renewable energy basket has not thrived very well, LPG is doing better as a function of clean cooking, and, I can’t say why but may be it is because people are beginning to see its economic, you don’t have to scrap the pot, kerosene is scarce so it’s easy for people to say let’s just buy gas, the only time you get discourage in using gas is when you think of cooking beans, then you may want electric stoves, but a lot people are embracing gas, LPG gas and accessibility is one of them, lpg GAS may also have of gender consideration within the dynamic of how we promote LPG gas so if you look at gas for instance, accessibility of gas requires you to have some level of income your first purchase you need to buy a 1 kg, you need like 9,000 Naira to buy cylinder, We don't have anything that was there to take this on LPG space, so that's cooking, the man has to be convinced of using gas because a lot of the women don’t control the household income, but a man does, you know there's also this narrative of gas will explode, so we need men to be convinced about the use of LPG and then it translates that narrative of ahh let me buy that for my wife because it makes my wife healthy and those kind of things but the back to the clean cook stoves, the normal cook stove that use firewood, I think part of the reason why it has no strikes so much is because it's not been it was not presented as a business it came when we're talking about IDP camps all of those things as well people like okay let's do the in fact the first sets of cooking stoves that came into this country were from the great green wall project that they realize there are scams and everything, those things were not coming in as business they were coming in as supplies for IDP camps refugees and all of that and a lot of people that have been going into business have been tilting towards this direction, let us get grants and supply to women but they have not really presented it as business and that's why they are not really looking for who needs it.

CF: I was speaking with someone recently and the fellow argued that yes, they developed these thing but people I mean they've not had people who are ready to really commercialized it..

Participant: Exactly!

CF: Which is where the problem is.

Participant: Yeah, so who commercialized it? The person that will commercialize this is the person that is peddling the wares, that has the business so where the business so my project partner XXXX, he did a project in Mabuchi Community the local solution for different people and one of the women stood up and said one of the social problems that we are seeing here is the smoke, that Community is always Smokey smoke, that everybody is cooking with firewood that fi there's a way to stop it, she would like it and then I was like, we now said okay that that issue we want to introduce clean cook stoves to restaurants and businesses around and then what's good about the situation is there's already a payment plan XXXX was able to get somebody that trained the community people, the person came and said you use it for two weeks if you don't like it you return it but if you like it, you now pay and I'll make it easy for you or 1000 1000 1000 1000 every week or every day is 200 and then after four weeks, you are done with payment, the first set of stoves that he supplied to Mabuchi community, by the time they were through after they all paid and they rallied themself and they were now demanding for more of those stoves.

CF: Hmm,

Participant: And the person couldn’t supply so this is somebody having identified the market for you but you couldn’t meet up, so I know the situations are a lot because this I mean, these are Community that organize themselves and I say we are ready I mean give us even if they say 50 pieces give us 50 pieces and XXXX started chasing the person oh supply, they are collecting money, in fact XXXX’s staff was responsible for colecitng money but the person was not interested in that business what it means is that those that peddling this business of clean cooking they may not even believe in it, for them it’s a market can I use this to get donor fund and after they get donor fund, so they are not really doing it as a business, if you are doing it as business you look for who needs these things, how can I introduce it to them, how can they buy, what now happen is that when the women now organize themselves and say they want the clean stove and the person cannot supply, what now happen was that a local fabricator in that community saw the sample and then that man started producing that same stoves and when you are selling your own for four thousand, the man is selling his own for one thousand naira, so his own could not last as long as the standard one let’s assume that he just produced something that its substandard but people are using it, so people are buying it from him, then he tells you that there is a market people want it so nobody wants to be cooking and be inhaling smoke nobody wants it so people will pay, households will pay husbands will pay, wives will pay, I don’t want to live my life coming into my house and everywhere there is charcoal and you tell them this thing is five thousand naira this woman is using it and 5,000 I look at this woman is using its and I'll make it easy, So the market is there but the peddlers, the people, the players, if they are social entrepreneurs, let us know they are social entrepreneurs and they are looking for grant but if they are business people, they will get the markets.

CF: Interesting! Interesting. So what's policy context shape the kind of work you do?

Participant: Mmm, How would you explain that better?

CF: I mean are there specific National priorities or International object like the SDG’s for example, or whatever that shape your work?

Participant: I mean the SDG’s, we have those SDG goals, I mean at those SDG goals they are good and we try to follow them but we try to follow them within the Nigerian context NDC is also one of those ones is also one of those ones National contribution we are also looking at how we can also inform, I mean contributes to that same SDC and make it more realistic because I mean our culture our promises seems to be over ambitious and then unrealistic but so this is the NDC is also part of those things and we're trying to contribute to these and they shape it's one of the things were currently doing, I think we started last year was to start to look at the Nigerias NDC how do we include cooking into it we are also looking at how we can include Waste Management's into it that one has not really picked up. Yes, I hope it does but things like Nigerian renewable Energy master plan and Renewable Energy Efficiency plan and those documents are also very good documents and also guide what we try to do. So for instance when we are engaging the government we tell the government according to so policy, this is what said you would do for renewable energy, clean cook stoves also targets we use all those targets to engage, so they kind of like set the precedent for us but how we shape the actions we try to be as *Nigerianised* as possible, what would you do? How do we implement this policy, so we try to understand where are we coming from, why is this even happening this way and how do we progress so for things like clean cooking, LPG for cooking I am still very convinced on the growth of LPG, once we can unlock ways of expanding the market spread, you know, how do we set up LPG to deep remote areas. How do we set up filling stations gasoline stations at different points? How do we support businesses within that space, you know across those gap this period of a period of time? I'm totally convinced on that part but again, the sky is high enough, you know for a lot of things translate at the national level, we have not really seen it because everybody is focusing on Abuja, and when you are focused in Abuja, there is only one thing policy, there is no business in Abuja.

CF: Very true.

Participant: There is no business, so if you're ready for business, we need to start looking at other states, if your ready for solar home system you will be saying that can I go for Onitsha, Nnewi and can I go to Mile 12 markets, all those using generator in their house can I crack a deal with them and start to use solar in their houses? So each of those markets that have Market Association, you know seek after indispensable to roll, you know, they are Village by village, Village Association, there is markets Association they have fruit sellers Association in those markets. So sometimes you don’t need all those too much documentation, you need to understand, what are those traditional things that bind people together?

CF: Exactly what to do.

Participant: We don’t really explore all of these options and then Innovation and maybe I can bet that the number of academic like you that are looking at this type of research in Nigeria, I don’t think they will be more than 20. So the way you deliver your lectures, your lectures will be different from any of your colleagues because you know you are specific, you are not just going to talk, and many of these policies are done by one lecturer somewhere, that do not meet with people like us or official that understand them, you know, so and that's why we need to challenge how we think I'm processes things, how to do research all of those things because a lot of variables cannot be quantified but we can build narratives around them, you run this kind of question in around them and then We'll get something different something out of out of the schools works something that would multiply Nigeria, so a lot of people need these things you know, but not just letting it to happen and then awareness is also another one, who is the messenger your messengers may just be husband, you talk to men on Valentine's day you talk to men a house clean cooking on Valentine's Day.

CF: Exactly.

Participant: And then your communication materials will be talking about loving your wives, a man coming to cover his wife with clean cook stoves you know, many men can be that my wife. Also, I'm saying this for example my mom and then we my mom's never use gas never she will use kerosene even if there is scarcity she will rather go and queue from 2nd Avenue, we will go an queue in 411 just to buy kerosene but we knew gas then our neighbours were using gas, she just the story that gas burnt one man in Port Harcourt, she will never use gas, so from that point when we were small in FESTAC 1992, sometimes likes to all the way now I'm working, my mom started using gas last two years because my dad bought gas fir her.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: So how come you understand, does it mean my dad never knew we could use gas all the while, because when I was asking, ls because we were small that why he couldn’t listen to us, he said no that it just never crossed his mind because he's never at home, he has never been to see my mum coming out of the kitchen smelling kerosene he comes home late. He never asks, how did you prepare the food and it’s not that the man doesn’t care, he is just not exposed to that part of the woman's life, so many at times its like that so our work is also to look at it and then helped the man see, so if the man can see what his wife is actually doing at a time how she is she's been through it, maybe it would help him to say, ok let me actually get her this. You know, so the messaging is important and it's really important for people to choose if they want to see it as a business and also seen as a social Enterprise. So as far as I'm concerned clean cooking, a lot of people are still seeing it as a social enterprise, with the current business models, treated us business you get the market, you get I strongly believe you get your market, you will get your fortune, people spend a fortune fueling generator, but where's the deal to make it easy for me to pay for solar over a long period. Nobody likes to continue paying rent, but if they tell you all this rent if you continue paying rent for the ‘he next day as this plans you exactly you would not default.

Participant: So sometimes it's just is that the narrative, we don't have the rights narrative on how we can promote these clean cooking stoves. Even if we get the right narrative we need to still get some people to push to these things so that people will not come and say, *o na one donor they give them these things*.

CF: Because the donor will stop one day. Interesting, so are there specific energy access Project. So the issues that you guys studied didn't specifically projects.

Participant: Yes, whether I have sustainable project, Yeah, I have, under my sustainable Nigeria sustainable program, I have some projects that specifics renewable energy. We have renewable energy for XXXX, its one project is looking at expanding access to electricity for Primary Healthcare centers in Nigeria we did.. we started this into it in 2018, it was looking at we did a survey, looking at the material solving some kind of like energy audits for hospitals so after we do the energy audits we start using it to engage stakeholders, we engaged REA, we engaged the World Bank world, we engaged ECOWAS, they came to our office here.

CF: Yeah!

Participant: They came here they saw the report, they liked the report, a lot of private sector people also called they wanted to use our data we gave them access to the data, then World bank came and said can we give them a sustainability plan and then we gave did a second flier version plan, came and said, so the New REA boss came in and said this not private sector how are going to drive it, we said you will drive because you have government money, we can mainstream this into the designing the primary health care and good enough for have three states are already doing these things Kaduna state, Legos Edo state are two states. So what we are doing as stakeholders, we brought these people in, so new REA boss came in and asked what are we just working on and we said solar for pvc and the man took a bit, he started engaging world bank and before you know it we had this Covid 19, then now they want to electrify ten Covid isolation centres and four hundred primary health care canters it was like it’s not enough, REA and World Bank and then State government and local governments are not doing this so we need to go to the policy so this year we took maritime policies and laws reviewed all of them and then identified gaps within them looking at infrastructure and they will try to mainstream and electricity in there so we'll do that policy. I think one of the copy should be so many that it's still a rough draft because that was already there, but we just rushed it so you can you just put something out there. You see them It's just that policy then we started engaging ministry of Health say look we need to look at the minimum standard if you want to build PHC you need to have a minimum standard and that minimum standard must have access to uninterrupted power supply, existing technology allows for this so we need to design it to fit this existing technology and then generators cannot be the first option to an option, it has to be the last resort and then we try to promote Primary Health Care Centers, so primary assessment that doesn't need to stop and just being hospitals. They can be stimulants for socio-economic development in communities where they have provided over the fence electricity to communities and not just hospitals..

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Maybe we could install 5 KV solar system but that hospital only consume 1 KV and then they sell to others you just threw it out the make the income.

CF: Yeah, exactly! Exactly!!

Participant: So you can design it such that the community people own it, such that if we put the solar system in the hospital, we can as well put borehole in the hospital such that the revenue from the water borehole is for the community, as much as there is light in the community, nobody will steal that solar system, so a lot of these things we put into the policies as we draft, so that's one of the project we'll do what we've done events some time in.. Although there is a bit of foundation, I have the policy I have the advocacy. We were able to propagate each coalition, we have USAID, DFID, REA, some Civil Society Health base are also there, help support Foundation and all of them so it's quite big really interesting and then we just try to grow from there, but it's a huge renewable energy project and they will have specific gender chapter that specific there are particular one There are projects that were running the under

CF: I will like to know more about the gender chapter.

Participant: Yeah It's okay, another project we are running is the off grid renewable energy sector so this one is for renewable energy association so we give them administrative support and some of the activities they are looking on that they're looking at access to finance, they have some Publications also that they've looked at access to finance. So, you know the World Bank they look any SPD federal government just release them five million solar funds and then some of these is going to pass through CBN, there some criteria they have set for you to manage these different Upstream Downstream and all of those streams so, you need to meet this criterion is I have this criteria. So all of those things how are they accessible to growing Nigerian renewable energy companies, you know where this looking at accessibility of of social Intervention funds and Bank credits, they studied some survey, spoke to people about the expression accessing government forms for new knowledge and all of that with the hope that this kind of study will inform how these 5 million solar home systems and or all our future projects or renewable energy can be administered can be administered, they also did some things around the local contents, How do we thrive local content in renewable energy we don't have anything, we just have local content for electricity sector, that local content for electricity sector has not yet cover renewable energy sector .

CF: Very true

Particular: And it's still lacking in terms of implementation nobody's monitor is implemented or not capacity is also lacking there so REA also did that starting to look at what are the potential you get local contents in renewable energy sector what we stand to gain and then of course you didn't do too much gender on that part and then backpacks and then other things they did was things around you love management of you did as a battered a kind of developed and internal rotation for their members for their members Society. I think about 70% of members wanted that reaction actually have used it as a paltry regulation. They do towards the donors there as regards to trainings, they have done a lot of trainings with FCMB, Standard Chartered, Access bank, but they do other support from the Vice president. So all of those supports are things NBS gives to them to be is used to them engage in this particular space other projects we've also done under renewable energy we have these are currently running local government framework we are doing that with our partner climax, has so climax, I don't know if you're aware of that study where they did so they try to do some kind of like cost comparison between how much SME’s are spending on generators and you know, how can they replace generators with fossil fuel, so they did some of those study they did that before, …. I can’t recall the name but it has to with replacing generators in Nigeria but those people employed a devise on how you read real time on when you plug in the device that would reveal that calculation of how your own generator when you office and all of that image. So what Climax was doing this year was to look at the local governments and then look at how local governments budgeting and administration can you know start to capture renewable energy projects, so things like lights in renewable energy approach our solar for speak like solar for markets solar for parks solar for the primary health centres, solar for schools so they captured a lot of projects that are within the domain of local governments in Nigeria and then the captures examples where these things are working and then there's a process of policies that local government and state governments can actually pass to expand their renewable energy framework, then they looked at the allocation, budget allocation that goes to local government, and then kind of like show how many projects local government can roll out with those funds, so they did this kind of project they did that to Imo, Port Harcourt, and Abuja they did that. They have a publication, so they have been engaging local government in Imo state, the Imo state local government association they decided that they were going to form a climate and renewable energy data that comes for all the local governments, they have been asking for support in terms of capacity and access to funds because once you are talking about finance for local government, you are talking about financial autonomy so part of what we are looking at is how do we start to support local governments and state governments to put up mechanisms accounting mechanisms to transparency accountability so that they can also start to access funds all these private funds, domestic, international, accessing for grants, calling for support, diaspora, and all of those things, if they don’t have these framework they cannot access these areas but a lot them responded well we also worked with cleantech home, so how clever does was working at mainstreaming renewable energy at local government, what they did was Identify some few states map out their energy challenges and energy potential and then presents the state's simplified the gains of renewable energy and then some policies that the states can put together to get more renewable energy, so they have been providing that support Splintech hub, all our projects are things that are very Rural electrification Agency for REA, we started with Okay, we did some study around mini-grid site selection and we did that because a lot of grids at least for the few that I visited, you don't need to be tech to tell that this is not commercially viable

CF: Of course, but I'm going to ask you some things around that's much better.

Participant: So where you see things around like this five million home system it's good, but I am not excited.

CF: Now to what extent is gender considered in this particular case this five million home systems?

Participant: There's nothing okay.

CF: I mean I just wanted to confirm it.

Participant: There's nothing, we have not heard anything like how many women are we targeting there's nothing like maybe it should come out later, but we just know is for five thousand homes, no gender consideration, how many people will be employed, there is no clear consideration that this going to be direct for women, we are going to consider so percentage of women, so that consideration we have not seen it, there is a policy on mainstreaming gender policy on renewable energy, REA did some of those training and all of that, but its good you brought this one up a gender things, let do them and get celebrated but these are the areas of test all of those policies, do you believe in those policies we put down and we have what it takes to actually hold them off so for the 5,000 home systems I mean, we would really seen the we don't know how it is with this probably maybe we do, the truth is, a lot of these things I don't treat them with so much strong conviction they are good but.

CF: Why?

Participant: There's a difference when you want to, ok from experience a lot of people that come here with proposals. When they come they are so they are quick to think of its easy to say I have a good idea, but they don't have what it takes to roll it out, you know, a lot of people like and I can count a number of projects. A lot of people that come here with proposals but they don’t have what it takes to implement it. It’s you don't have what it takes to implement it is either they don’t have the capacity they don't have the skill or they don’t really have that concern they may have the idea but they are not really concern about the impact. So you go to say they wouldn't think impacts especially we did these developments, sincerely, people are only interested it outputs, did you do the workshop? Yes, we did the workshop, what happened, what's the impact of that workshop, what was the major highlights? So a lot of the time it’s just let’s roll it out without thinking how do you make it impactful so that's the problem with mini-grids nobody was thinking on productive energy..

CF: Exactly!

Participant: Everybody just, in fact even the big GIZ.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: When they were looking at mini-grid when they wanted to choose a location. They just shoot one satellite images and say over 50,000 million people are this place, the place is dark, therefore give them mini-grid, people are people are disconnecting themselves because they said they can’t pay.

CF: Yes,

Participant: You understand people here are saying all this stuff cannot carry this is not producing any money for us now you want to give five million home systems to households, those households are they income households?

CF: Exactly.

Participant: Are they doing businesses? If they are businesses giving them solar will increase their income.

CF: Yeah…

Participant; But if they are business if you give electricity their houses and their businesses are still in darkness, they cannot pay and the government can also be pay the bill for them. We don't want to end petroleum subsidy and start renewable subsidy, the highest you do for anybody just like to do is give them a good policy environments, but no subsidy, no subsidy we can give them physically incentives but will not give subsidy, we should not go into that regime again because okay pause when goods coming to the port, for the first four months no demurrage, after one month attracts demurrage. You meet these criteria in your projects are public based projects will give you an 100% waiver you belong to this association you get! 100% waiver, we want to run government social intervention funds we would not run it through Commercial bank, the 7% interest rate that is exactly what it’s going to be we are not going to bring any additional or participating financial institution and the participating financial institutions are at their own discretion to determine operating costs. No CBN will run it if you are serious about these and we are looking for impacts.

CF: It's interesting you're bringing in this new dimension of finance also, which is something which is something very interesting because people have argued about existing financial models that are not working and things like that. I mean, for example one argument people bring is the fact that see you and I live in cities, I want to rent a house, I already have electricity in the house I only pay for what I use meanwhile somebody in the village that is not connected we are forcing them more or less to not just pay for what they use but also pay for the cost of infrastructure, which is unfair yeah, and then this business models, they seem not to be working.

Participant: Yea! Eventually they will not worked, if they want them to work let them spend the exact money they are spending on energy alternatives

CF: And that explains the reason many people are on plugging themselves from the from the mini grid system.

Participant: But if the electricity is you're using, anybody that has a generator in his business in the shop and is making money be rest assured that person is using generator in his house It is the shop that runs the home.

CF: Exactly!

Participant: If he doesn't have generator in his business, he will not use generator in his home because he doesn't have the money he can’t afford it so if you're going to roll out five thousand solar home systems and we're going to just go and do this and just keep it there my brother,

CF: After few years ago back to square one.

Participant: Exactly! So if we are going to say electrified the markets so that women can stay longer in markets we can have night markets.

CF: Another argument from some quarters if you are providing these you are going to make me work more hours.

Participant: No, nobody's forcing you, you can spend longer hours, my staying longer hours is more pay, if there is no electricity then we have closed, or I can do other side works but if there is no electricity 5 pm you don the park up, because you are afraid of the street is very dark people can arrest you are rape as a woman but if I have electricity this business I can continue doing it.

CF: I completely agree with you there I mean it's true we've touched on different areas of hope, but from what you've described so far what is clear and I think you're not the only one that have said this, there is no policy deficiency per say, when it comes to this whole issue of energy access and whatever and people argue that is more implementation now just imagine for a moment that we don't have any policy or financial constraints. What are those other things you think we should be looking at so we should be focusing on should try to address in connection with this whole thing of addressing energy access and making sure it is it is equitable particularly from a gender perspective.

Participant: We have policies but we don’t have strategies if we have strategies and commitments in like Policy contracts, both in policy and action should not be them but we don't have a implementation strategies, I've never seen because they electrification plan. But how diligent or how ready are we to follow it? If Minister of Finance put out a policy, FIRS under the ministry of finance will bring out a regulation, and contradict, ask the minister and he will back it up, so it’s not about policies it’s about I'm ready to commit to something and work in our line? Walk in that line can we agree? We want to expand for renewable energy to expand will take up expansion and monetary policy every regulation in next three years will move in this direction we have never done it in anywhere, we have never done it in any space, whether in rice importation, tomatoes, we don't have a direction, we cannot say this is where we're going and this will work. It is either monetary policies is coming down or fiscal policies is coming up. The police is coming like this down fiscal policy like this. It cannot work and we need to be ready to triple down. Say private to private, disintegrate the data, who is the private sector? private sector informal sector is your biggest employer, they employ more people, How much credits go to those small people? *you think na commercial Stanbic IBTC na them go give you, no way*. Until the government say we are ready to do this, Japan Central Bank, they operate like Commercial Bank why? The world is going towards a mad chase for capitalism, behind capitalism is corruption, behind corruption is nepotism thriving, why are we in recession? because we have policies design to favour people that is how to from cabal, forces in play bodies we have a system that favours small people just a small tiny fraction of people, Nigeria is big, operate a liberal system price will crash by force if we trade nation levels let us be a trade, let us forget about manufacturing there are countries that don't produce anything this survived we can be like that if we want to if we're going to promote agriculture open the field for everybody, you cannot have a policy that has proven that remote and only one type of business women are the people producing for 70% of your food yet these women will not have access to land, if you know your condition and culture will not allow women own land then government come up with schemes that will give women access to land for short period of time, government can come up with schemes and say that if you have land and you are not going to use it for seven years, government can borrow it from you the way you borrow treasury bills, you can borrow lands. That's after so periods, we will give you this amount of money as interest for used land we give you C of O for their customary land for those with customary land and after six seven years, then when we get hold of those land for those who agree. We will give women hire purchase, throw it out to them finish let them farm because you know that those women if they don't farm many of them will go into prostitution, HIV will spread, when HIV spread you have a sick population a lot of those women when they cannot farm they cannot feed their children, a lot of children will go into crime, so but politicians don’t think like this, unfortunately people in civil servants Civil Service. They also do things like this, you know, so it still tells you could have sweet mouth watery policies, but nobody's really thinking through so those are the kind of things organizations like ours, people like you when you go to university talking to students, when you talk to those rich men children you need to be able to interrogate things more they will interrogate things and so the policies are there but who is implementing? Why are we not implementing? It's not as much for capacities. These things are laws, these are lost this announcements just make an announcement who this vertical basis, whatever you do treasury bill treasury check out now If a woman takes the plot of land 50K to farm for a farming season, which is a year, you say if you give us this your land, we are going to give you 10k or 100k for this period of time it’s like treasury bill, people come in we give them C of O, we give them C of O. So at the end of the day you're not breaking the culture, you're not spoiling tradition but what you're doing is you're giving that woman economic power that land culture and religion refused to give her she has too much money to buy it here so many at times we don’t really don't want to force ourselves through that process. So our policies are having a lot of loop holes so we need to find what are the alternative is what identities and then they must be openness and transparency openness and transparency is our biggest problem this country, google any government website how many of them will open? It’s embarrassing, there's nothing because people organizing people are interacting more, globalization information is almost for free, especially Africa. All you need to do is build trust how do you do get somebody to trust you? It’s by you first being open.

CF; Yeah

Participant: First being open, where you cannot change anyway say sorry.

CF: Exactly!

Participant; Just like our ends SARS protest, I am not expecting justice form anybody.. but if the government is humane enough just come out and say sorry. For the families we have lost sorry, for this is real or sort finish it will heal a lot of things but we are, people are so afraid of being that way.

CF; Yeah

Participant: So policy yes its good but It takes more takes a lot of person, character commitments, but there's a lot of hope there's a lot of hope because when you think of the people within the sector the new REA guy his ability to when he when he was coming in there was a lot of skepticism around him a lot of you are skeptical, he is young we don’t know him in the sector, you're ruining the sector but he came in with a very open ear, he was always present was always asking question, always reaching out. So it was not surprising that this guy could actually lead with XXXX, where XXXX stopped he continued the line so he chose to be open, he chose me listen, you know, so that kind of person is somebody you want to get to think through and our privacy sector is still very small. That's one thing we must agree and admit the private sector into renewable energy space or maybe the Nigeria space in general is still very small and almost from was small you know, so but a lot of these international funds that I would that we can tap into to upscale as private sector a lot of them big organizations heavy portfolio. So if you can’t lower the criteria then you must learn to build allies, so the real must be able to register themselves as entity and pull together project proposal they should be able to float a bond exactly. REA should be able to go to a local state local governments identify a maps out locations and say ok this location we want to build project is the person who want to floating point also access climates based funds, we should get to that point, you know where people stop looking for ownership credits it is me that started it, we must learn to lose that identity.

CF: There is a bit of cultural dimension to that.

Participant: So we must force ourselves to be different, what is possible if not we will never be able to get to that point of impossible, there's a lot. Nigeria is still fresh, Nigeria is still young, there is a lot, there's a lot of issues. On every issue from farmers-herders clash, Fulani men clash, we come out of that box when I see Fulani men with their cattles think about XXXX had me *walking around kitty kitty kitty kitty kitty*. Think about think them the way you think of spare parts sellers think about them when spare part sellers come to your place, a local government area Council chairman you designated place for them and rhen you say this is approved village why can't we have this is cattle village?

CF: exactly!

Participant: And then we create an enabling environment for them, we give them facts for you We give them some sort of Weaver the other side and I should have successes of how this things can work, you know, give them access to water. Their cows will be more nourished if they stay at a place, but if you come as a government that you use the word *rugah*, in a multi ethnic community.

CF: You send all sorts of multiple communication.

Participant: But when what you were you just trying to say is can we create a business environment for these people, Just a little a different language instead of saying give them *ruga*, give them a settlements there. They are words you purposely avoid, so even the *ruga* you are asking of, is already existing in different parts of the country, If you go to a Imo state you want to buy cow, there's a place where you go to you see them selling cow there that is a *ruga*, that is already *ruga* did you get what I am saying? So it’s already there so we can make it work better you can make it to such a way that people will even want to invest in it, so a lot of these narratives are things we are not thinking of because we are not sensitive, the same thing with maybe this gender issues, we are not being sensitive we do them as head tick the box, gender but when it now comes to find one million system, nobody id thinking gender electrifying hospitals, nobody's thinking gender such that even the gender concern themselves, when we can say we can look for this one million solar home system at least 30% of those systems at every category will be given to women-owned or so percent will go to women, You know so it's a journey we are still far with a very to get the journey but there's no need to lose hope it is a learning curve so we need to be able to see it as a learning we need to give ourselves room to make mistakes learnt to make mistakes and private each. Then you check our narrative knowing that we have not grown as big as you want so other things we are doing around climate finance is to look at this how can we start tracking down like this funds are they going to the right beneficiaries, and then bring it is gender dimension also within that particular so those things are also out there, The other one is around renewable energy that one is also ongoing energy access is ongoing and then we have something around people-centered electricity sector reform, It's Nexta power that are running that particular projects, So what they are doing is looking At them electricity Supply between rich communities and poor communities. So if you go to Asokoro, there is this Asokoro village, even this Utako, there is still Utako village, if you go to Maubchi you see slump and then you see the rich man, so do they get access to electricity supply the same way the we can now start looking at the existing regulations, what are the existing regulation, How about the electricity consumers support scheme, who's looking at that very much looking at that? Why is that purse not active, how can we activate that and how, is it this electricity as he right or as a business if you say we'll go to treat if you're still going to get the electricity as a business, why are we pumping taxpayers money into rescuing the businesses, so if we are using government taxpayers money to rescue private companies, you cannot call them hundred percent public you cannot call them hundred percent private, they are just like, they are joint ventures to some extend they should be able to deliver social services, just like government because they are not paying back, there is no accountability, there is no transparency, you cannot just disconnect the community because they are not paying.

CF: Speaking with a colleague some years ago, i mean I was at xxxx and then this fellow is a senior energy policy experts and he did share with me the model that they studied in Singapore several years ago and how they tried addressing this issue. So they look at the rich neighborhoods, Okay charged them a bit more for electricity and then somehow the bit of extra of course. It will never be the same as what you would spend if they were on their own and the bit of extra that it gets from there more or less subsidizes the poor oh, yeah, and then that sort of model somehow helped introduce, is a nice business model that I mean, I think can actually work if we want to make it out.

Participant: Yeah I don’t want my mine to ever believe there is a rot so all of this sector challenge era by my mind. It's a journey and you know what when you Journey starts it starts with ignorance and where there is ignorance somebody benefits.

CF: Exactly!

Participant: Somebody benefits that that's how the world works, if you are ignorant of something, somebody takes advantage of you so this sector we see when it start there was a lot of ignorance. There's a lot of we don't know what's happening, so we expect some people to steal and eat as much as they can the same thing with Nigerian power sector a lot of people have stolen enjoyed the same thing with the oil and gas her subsidy eat, enjoy overtime knowledge would increase people would know more people and rights, at some point people will lose hope then hope will come again then we push we press and then we can engage government now better for me it’s a journey some places it will be like this is a rot its really dirty there is no hope, it's fine. We'll keep moving even in the dark but at a point we will come out since it's something I've always seen in humans, it’s something I have learnt I have watched histories, I've seen human beings done some things after a lot of mistakes and errors and pain and death and bloodshed but somehow come out better because you say we did this our forefathers did this but you know, but the world what has changed I mean we don't hear of colonizing other countries even if I were to colonize they use your co-operation, business Corporation, trying to influence policies your opinion, it has changed it's not like before, before it was fresh and blood a lot of those things are changed and these are things that kind of give us hope in what we do so knowledge would increase, People would want to do more and we will fix all of these things over time you know, but we can be strong If we start to invest in knowledge if the government is serious about this thing they start sending people out go and learn about these things come back, because if you don't do that, we will always be at that receiving end.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: It's not nice because many of these people are coming to say they want fund they want to do this things, a lot of them don’t consider country specifics...

CF: Okay well essentially now to wrap off you've touched on many things ideas perspectives that you think, we have not touched have connects with gender equity and energy access in particular, that you want to just touch?

Participant: Maybe is to be, looking at gender we need to be able to look at other sectors I mean gender relation is wide and the electricity if it's electricity the ministry of electricity is multi-sectorial, so we need to be able to identify those areas that affects women and then see how we can mainstream renewable energy within that space so for instance the work we're doing is health and electricity the gender dimension there, so we are not looking at the gender from the players perspectives but benefactors, who are the benefactors? We need to still build more capacity, more training institute has given women more capacity more leverage between the states but in the delivery and ownership structure we need to see how we look at those titles beneficiaries and how do we mainstream renewable energy within that, there's also need for consciousness If in policy, collaboration is largely missing has every front so when the ministry of environment has gotten approval for a gender climates policy and that's policy is capturing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies and how they can be mainstream gender and all of that if the ministry of environment is working on in hand with ministry of power these 5 million solar home system will not just come without that element, so ministry of environment would have said in designing this programme or let us assume that what we have now is the this statement. We know of the plans of little downstream, upstream, this is what they need we know but let us assume they just brought the plan if you assume like that means that ministry of environments would have said, part of the criteria will be of course these subsystems, how do you do with the budget that is ministry of environment’s business? The environmental pollution that can come out of this business, these are pure adaptations strategy projects. So they fit into our fighting. So where's the gender element in this? we don't have any key ministry that is responsible for gender mainstreaming of polices, so that it become a law that anytime anybody roll out any strategy any plan any program of Ministry of environment must be on that planning thing maybe that's all we need to do, maybe ministry of power is too busy and then they just forget because they are thinking of the Transformers are getting..

CF: The big, the big hard infrastructure forgets.

Participant: Maybe they're not thinking like that maybe Ministry of Education where they are busy doing all the school curriculum, their brain is maybe not thinking gender may be they are also not thinking so maybe CBN at top level doesn't have any gender focal person at that top executive levels when you're designing programs and financing to credit really thinking gender so maybe it's time for us to start saying in every ministry as a director executive level must have a gender focal person that must be on top not one small desk officer, desk officer that doesn’t know what is happening, people that before they bring any strategy and said where is the gender? And look we mainstream gender so when the budget is coming they ask where is the gender and these people will be busy all day I see the project is coming as the gender you are. So this person would be busy, but you are answerable to ministry of environment. so that way we're talking about five million system. In REA one woman can be appointed as so and so, she can also be the director of gender mainstreaming and it’s her duty she make sure that every programmme you produce that gender element of it just the way we can say this person is an environmental person we can say that for every design it must pass this two tests, awards of contracts, that person will be saying how many companies are here that are female, that person can for every company that is applying that must have at least 30% workforce that person will say that for the implementation of the project, at least 50& of the beneficiaries will be women and children so the person would know how to make gender from different scale. The person will understand the interconnection of gender yourself because *Buhari’s wife, Yes she's the First Lady*, it doesn't necessarily mean Buhari’s wife represents the Nigerian women so there is still this disconnect she can be Buhari’s wife but she doesn’t know what all Nigerian women feel she can be an educated woman but she doesn’t speak for the market women. They need somebody that understand programs that have that proper gender training and think of it through gender perspective, that is what we are lacking, we need to be able to get a gender focal person who doesn’t need to be an internal person but one or two director in that office must be trained in gender dimension and mainstream so that along every project line the person will be saying ok, in procurement this element must be there. In beneficiaries this element must be there, in the training programme this element must be there, if you want to license your company this element must be there in training programme before we join your programme so percentage of women must be there you know if we do it that way that consciousness will be there from day one or we go to ministry of women affairs and say this person is an inter-ministerial gender focal person this is what they do this department must be called in every strategic planning by all ministries minister of Agriculture Ministry of this you will always be in that meeting every Workshop every training they will be there and civil society organization developer partners will go and register there so it becomes an indicator so we can be more conscious about it and then business those that are driving projects that are gender-related like clean cook stoves there is need to see how we can make them more conscious not maybe look no, that was all correct expand the space for more your people to go in.

CF: Yeah!

Participant: We need more players in do spaces with also if you could have more government supports credit systems for young people that want to go into those business support them, we need more players, there is no competition, we need competition, competition brings out to the innovation, composition of brings out the business so right now there's no competition. So people are just looking for grants, just give us grants.

CF: interesting! So is there somebody you think I should be having this sort of conversation with you mentioned REA?

Participant: Yeah XXXX.

CF: Okay you give me her contact, call tomorrow

Participant: You definitely should talk to XXXX, XXXX is s very gender conscious person to talk to within the renewable energy space, XXXX, I don't if you know her, XXXX is a private sector person she is into clean cook stoves and every other.

CF: Yes, I think I got her contact, wait, isent her an email today, because this XXXX in ICEED said I should contact her so but I don’t have her number I need to call her because I need to ahev a conversation with those kind of people.

Participant: So I like XXXX a lot, we work together and she is that gender person , she scored a big one on gender, there is this REA and other renewable energy,] associations they came together to form one big umbrella so when they were doing their constitution and all that XXXX was able to score a very good point there.

CF: Interesting, I will check on them, where are they? I know h=they should be here in Abuja.

Participant: They are here in my office, we house them here, but they are not coming today, but I will give you her contact.

CF: Ok, I will try to see if I can block her tomorrow. I plan to do a little bit of movement and if I have a bit of time I'll go and see Ifi .

Participant: Ifi is on this work too?

CF: Ifi is on this work but as a no academic partner he so when it's time for us to run the workshop, they will be very much involved. Great!