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| **Interviewer name** | xxxx |
| **Sub-contractor organisation** | XXXX |
| **Interview date** | 15th, January, 2021 |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 1 hour, 09 mins |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** |
| * **Code**
 | N15 - GMT20210115 |
| * **Participant name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Organisation name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Gender**
 | Male |
| * **Stakeholder category**
 | Engineers and others responsible for putting those vision-led plans into action(formerly an official within a government regulatory agency) |
| * **Country**
 | Nigeria |

CF: I don’t know what I did to you that you decided to accept even though we have not met physically before, but this is great.

Participant: Yeah, and thank you for the opportunity, I think basically it’s just borne out of the passion I have for the energy industry.

CF: That is fantastic.

Participant: We've suffered a lot in this part of the world and I feel that most of the problems that we have, if we are able to get the energy sector correct somewhat progress will be fixed.

CF: Yea, I agree with you, I can't agree less, it's beautiful, really to have you around, just to give you a bit of a background. So this study is actually supported by the UK Research and Innovation global challenges Research Fund and the idea is that we are trying to understand some gender related issues and energy. So we really want to explore from experts, to really find out if truly underground there are gender dimensions to the energy access problem and if so how do they play out? I mean, in the different ways and two different I mean, and indifference fares really, I've had conversations with many people already, from diverse backgrounds and the contributions are actually quite interesting, you know, from having those who think, for example that they don't really think that the political agenda is affected more than by gender affected by the high seats and in fact, it's quite interesting hearing a woman actually saying that, sorry, men and women actually equally affected, except he wants to cookie in and whatever was what, like, no, like, Okay, and then we are conducting this in four countries, so Nigeria, Ghana, and India and Pakistan. So we're trying to look at four global south context so the idea also is to look at this cross country comparison, and then to be able to explore i mean, the similarities, differences, what sort of learnings we can actually get from the other countries also what they can implement, so that we are looking at the details of what worked, what didn't work as the team's image, we'll see how these things unfold. Now, at the end I think sometime beginning of Q2, or so we should be hosting a workshop, where we'll share some of the findings. And for sure I'll be ready to share some of the findings with you. And of course, if you're available to also join the workshop.

Participant: Okay, Interesting.

CF: Now, one of the things I found interesting in your profile is the fact that you've worked with the XXXX and then I'm sure your experience in that space as a regulator I mean, will be very useful in this study. So in principle this should take about an hour, if it goes beyond a bow depends on how the spirit leads depending if you want to talk more and of course, there are many more things we'll talk about later on. So this session is being recorded. Thank you for sending the signed consent. I really like that. And then towards the end, I mean, when we're done we'll discuss some of the issues of record.

Participant: Okay.

CF: So this conversation will be in four parts, So there is a general introductory part. And this introductory part, essentially, we look at your own role, overview of your role, your work priorities, your organization and background and then the second part we'll be looking at understanding the key issues particularly around gender, and energy and equitable energy access and the like and then third part we shall be looking at policies and interventions. So I have a series of questions around that site that I would like to ask and then we'll have the closing part. So this is how it will go. Okay, If you find we can we can begin.

Participant: That's fine. I'm good.

CF: Great. So thank you so much for this opportunity. Now, if we to begin with can you start by briefly telling me a bit about your current role position in the organization, the department you work for.

Participant: Okay, thank you very much, so it's great to have this opportunity to have this conversation with you. Presently I work for XXXX and at XXXX we are basically into energy consultancy where we try to provide good regulatory and technical feasibility studies for energy storage across Nigeria on grid off grid. So we do activities like energy or this advisory yeah and then for in terms of policy wise, we also come into provide our services policy development so currently I am the lead at XXXX energy. We are based out from Abuja operations are basically within Nigeria.

CF: Okay. Interesting. The next time I come up to Abuja I must, I must and pay homage, interesting.

 Participant: Thank you.

CF: So, in brief, can you tell me a bit more about your background? And how and why you got into this line of work that you do?

Participant: Okay, I'm interesting, I am from, educationally I have an engineering background, the leading technology school in Nigeria.

CF: Where FUTO?

Participant: Exactly. Yeah,

CF: You guys are very proud.

Participant: I mean that's the perception anyway. Yeah, Oh, I so after my graduation from school, I started with the XXXX, yeah, it's more like give me an eagle view of the entire industry decided to directly base the entire electricity industry in Nigeria and from that point, I was able to see some of the problems that are holding back the development of the sector whether regulatory wise, financing wise and all of that and I think the sector started off on a good note by the privatization they did I was at the commission at the time of the privatization and, yeah, and the privatization, privatization was done. Surely one thing, which is technical knowhow of the whosoever is going to take over the company in reducing the losses, there is a huge losses in the sector that at the time of the privatization, no one knew no one could quantify this loss It was then after the privatization that some research some study has to go in to actually determining what the lost were and they were much higher than the estimated losses at the time of the privatization and that's now how, that became a problem to the government because it's like, you're the preferred bidder that this is what it is and after the due diligence, it's something else. So government have to come in with some type of interventions in the sector and all of that so that's just the starting point, you know of our long walk to electrifying Nigeria. Okay, but one thing that strikes me the most is the level of ignorance on the level of energy consumers.

CF: Exactly,

Participant: And I, I felt like okay, at that level that maybe that's something we could do to bridge that gap, so when I left the commission, I ended up working with an NGO and our goal was to see how we could inform Nigerian through the media have them sensitize them on the existing regulation, because we noticed that the consumers are almost blind I mean, they are not aware of their right as an electrical consumers and in the DISCO’s are taking advantage of this in exploiting them, by so doing, there is a whole lot of confusion in the industry, the consumers lost confidence because the Disco's just get whatever they can get financially and not committing back to the industry to make it work. So we feel that if they talk to this consumer and they cannot present some kind of resistance to these disco’s it keep them on check to do the right thing and then we tried what we would didn't, I wouldn't say we've achieved so much success in that regard, Yeah but we did a lot of things, we went to school, we went to communities we tried to organize community engagement forums that will bring in the community leaders, and then the officials from the NEC and then, of course, the, the distribution licensee in whatever region, we are holding the engagement. Okay. So, to that extent, we recorded some little achievements in the sense that some of the community issues were resolved, some of this community helped to contribute money by themselves to procure transformers and all of that and they are not being refunded your customers and all of that and they are not being refunded for that and this is all because of the distribution company. So we're able to come in and mitigate in this kind of areas, making them understand, look, if you're taking ownership of this asset, you have to reimburse the Community Credit, So, this is sort of the revision that we are trying to now let the consumers become aware of.

CF: interest.

Participant: So yeah, so we did that and some of the you know we also did some advocacy program for customers who have been wrongfully disconnected without following the procedures Now, we have about five consumer regulation in Nigeria, ranging from the when you have to disconnect the flow from how you viewed them and, and all of that, and in terms of investment into the network is about five of the regulations, So we tried the most we could and I wasn't very satisfied so I said Okay, let me let me see how we can change our focus to be cooperation to big businesses, in terms of for the project development just to see that things are done the right way and that was when we started XXXX initiative. Since then, yeah. Since then, we've been good It's been good even though we've not been able to achieve the most we hoped to actually what is the process and yeah, we're, we've recorded some landmark as well Yeah, I think in 2020, the year of the pandemic I hope it doesn't continue this year.

CF: Hopefully.

Participant: Yeah So like I said, so we've been working both on grid and off grid projects, we are in 2020 for the federal government there has been this push to diversify our energy resources you know, renewables, all of that. So I think under that pressure the federal government initiative, which one of them was to build a 10 megawatt solar power plant in northern Nigeria in Kano and the sole purpose was to create the industrial zone come to light, it will be more efficient with energy supply and by so doing they will be able to boost the economic activity in that region, though, we came in with a lot of work in that regard with the in the study, looking at the distribution network to be sure that what we have present can live up to the 10 megawatts if not what additional capacity will be needed if they work with energy and all of that so just to give you an insight of kind of what we do, we also took a look into the end user if you can, and industry can be observed this capacitor is coming the end user the whole reason is that we don't have a sufficient whereby you finish developing this project and installing it, and then you begin to have the regular loot rejection that we usually see in the distribution companies Yes, it's all of that challenge Yes, there is a red flag whereby you have generation capacity, but you did discuss it and distribute it for even to an investor who was like, Look, you've not finished the discussion of the available capacity that you have, why do you want me to come on and add more extra capacity to what you have and all of that. So is a very big bottleneck. And, you know, we've been working with the commission sometime in 2017, they came up with the eligible customer regulation. Yeah, by a large customer you can just put your energy on the generator strip you know, go into the distribution, what because of this, the market structure that's policy hasn't been effective I think so far about two to three licenses has been granted by an eligible customer I mean so it hasn't, the so much unexpected benefits of the regulation has not been realized yet so the industry is still very nascent with a lot of challenges and I hope we'll be able to overcome some of these challenges the sooner the better for Yeah, this is still very good but that has been the journey so far for me, from my academic background, and my professional background as well.

CF: This is great this is great. I mean, this background really I mean, presents some and gives us a foundation for follow the conversation. Now can you tell me more about the specific energy access areas or issues that you work on? So for example, you mentioned some things that connections electrification and personal policy area so then more things around electrification programs policy technical projects or I mean that's you really work on.

Participant: Okay, Now in Nigeria we have the rural Electrification Agency that has that sole responsibility for rural electrification and, of course, the peri urban area that has not been electrified already with respect to that they have like I think they have about four thematic areas of programs or interventions that they have developed which is one of them is energizing education and energizing education the whole energizing education is to provide adequate power supply to a certain number of universities in Nigeria and as well as teaching hospital yeah, yeah so that's an energizing education, then there is also in it as an economy where they try to provide electricity supply. So some, some markets in Nigeria, from one of them is in Kano, I think one of them is in Aba, in Ariara market or so those are the kind of interventions that they have come up to improve electrification in rural communities and then on the electrified, areas of lighter but beyond this commercial levels they also have the mini grid and the solar home system program so the whole idea is to increase assets for the people who has not given electricity line in Nigeria and we have about 97 to hundred millions of Nigerians who are still not connected, who has no access to electricity and the government, I think they just they're trying to beat up with this Sustainable Development Goal between 2015 and 2030 and so they are coming out with so many interventions, to see that people would have access to electricity have been electrified so recently the government the amount of money to for the activities of the real estate agency, and that's not actually granted the loan is a low interest loan with a longer tenure just to see how they can be able to bridge the funding gap this electrification project. So I have not directly played a rule in any of this project. What I can talk about the project that they implemented because I have some of them have gone on site to see what has actually been done to the development.

CF: Interesting! Interesting!! Now, this is quite good and now, if I may just come in a bit into another area in relation with the policy context that shape the kind of work you do idea current developments or issues in policies at the national level that influenced your work.

Participant: There the issue that we have basically is lack of policy implementation. I mean on paper you can see this policy on paper was international implement this they're not fully implemented and this program. So, for example we have the National Renewable Energy Policy and I always argue that if you have this policy it becomes it's not obligatory you know for people to implement their, we have to find a way to transition this policy into regulation, that's when they can become what I say they can become regulation. So we have the National Renewable Energy and Energy Policy and then the fallout of that policy was now the national action plan for energy efficiency, as well as the national action plan on renewable energy there were so many recommendations, so many policy statement in those document but if you look at this document and look at what is been implemented in the sector you will see that there's a lot of that now the policy itself added at the time of the development of this policy, there were also some challenges in terms of data, because we don't have adequate data to support some of these policies and I think that's part of the problem that has also affected the implementation of these policies, because if they are not, if they are not evidence data, if they are not credible data to formulate this policy then obviously you're going to have some challenges in implementing them Italia the reality is different from the assumptions that were made at the time of formulation So how does this affect the work I do? Some of the policies that were on paper so for example if you look at the National Renewable Energy, renewable energy action plan, some of the ambitious some of the ambitious activities that has been stated there, it doesn't have to for example in terms of fiscal incentives you know for people that implement renewable energy that that mix, has renewable energy mix in the energy supply, and all of that some of the fiscal incentives that should continent are not implemented right I think government has also not been around to increase the import duty of renewable energy equipment, so that has also affected the market So and also trying to make the renewable energy components of the economy I mean uncompetitive with the conventional supply and all of that so on paper it is it looks good but in reality in terms of implementation it's almost like the opposite so it has affected the growth of the market and when people are not bringing in investment into this market of course there wouldn’t be much for me to do right so that's so that's the way it has also affected the work I do and if you think that the energy sector at work, it's the same story okay there is no motivation, there is no incentive for people to increase renewable energy efficiency in their business practices and all of that there is no in as much as there are incentives in the policy document what in practice in reality it is not been implemented so people still don't find the motivation to spend extra money on exchange product and you will still recall that well, the government will say that there is no subsidy in the current 2021 to one budget there is no subsidy for electricity there's a political term for the current 2021 budget but that's not the first time that we've had it on than last year there's no subsidy but of course as we speak today there is still some level of subsidy in the renewable sector so when you have all of this, it's, it kind of widen the gap for competitiveness between renewable energy, which is the way the world wants the energy sector So it's kind of widen that gap and on the on the conventional side that's the on grid side of this, I'm not going very well because the distribution companies are not actually distributing as much as they should so you have, you have return of capacity, or degeneration and, and the only way to begin to bypass some of this problem is when you now begin to deploy off of grid solution, you know, and then you find out that the government by themselves are not working the talk, in terms of supporting rapid adoption of that off grid solution. So these are the challenges. And I think another one I failed to mention is the macroeconomic barrier that has to do with cross border financing the exchange rate Yeah so that's another big one the adoption of this of the solution that we actually had a bit of help was assessed I mean, and I hope that the government if they're able to solve this cross border financing barrier maybe coming up with some kind of guarantee and all of that it’s still going to be a long way, but as long as the naira is at free fall and all of that is a very big barrier and when people are not investing in this sector of course what that means that there'll be less work for us we'll have to keep working on the on the existence of special see how can we put them as opposed to trying to develop new infrastructure? So those are just the challenges that we are this how some of this policy has also affected.

CF: Interesting! Interesting!! Thanks so much for that insight for those insights we'll go to the second part now which has to do with understanding the issues now from your perspective what does equitable energy access mean to you?

Participant: Okay from from my perspective equitable access simply access to everyone energy access I mean I don't how else to put that but There.

CF: Okay.

Participant: Go ahead,

CF: Continue.

Participant: Basically for me is just providing access to energy to everyone no matter where they live over the air, that's just what you have you don't have to leave anyone behind in your drive to provide access energy to anyone So irrespective of where they live, or where they are you have to find a way to provide access to energy that they will assess in my own perspective.

CF: So let's look at it from a gender perspective now what does gender equity in energy access mean to you so do you think for example, that it should be a priority for policy and intervention? And if so, why, why should it be? You're looking at it from a gender perspective?

Participant: I'm looking at it from a gender perspective I don't really think there is any I don't think there's any discrepancy in terms of access because unless if you're telling me that there are some certain areas that are that are restricted to certain gender then maybe by that virtue maybe assessed to energy is not being provided to them, then I can begin to agree that yes maybe that can be some level of discrepancies in terms of gender.

CF: But maybe cooking.

Participant: Except you now speak in the aspect of the area of cooking yes, the female, the female folks are more affected because in the African tradition but globally more of the women does the cooking, so in that aspect, yes, they have been affected in terms of energy access, and I mean, I give a lot of this when, when the government of Nigeria is heavily promoting solar home systems, it is a little bit of a concern to me because if you look at this rural community where these interventions have been implemented, you will realize that a large percentage of the energy consumption is not a, is on cooking and then you're not committed to give them solar home solar home system is never a substitute for cooking. So you're not tackling their major energy problem Okay, so I feel like they could do better indication if they could use that money to provide or to provide financing for Clean Cook stoves that's for me, that's where you begin to balance the gender equity in terms of cooking. So if you see gender, gender equity and all of that in terms of energy assess, with respect to cooking yes there's there's a, there's a, there's an unbalanced system especially in Africa, we have a lot of this maybe in a global south where most of this cooking with firewood.

Participant: Interesting, interesting now, how equitable is energy access as community and household level particularly in terms of gender equity?

Participant: At the community and household level I, because there is no there is disaggregation in terms of residents, like I said, earlier, you can say that this was this is for tackling gender and this material and as long as everyone is cohabit wherever they found that energy infrastructures are not been provided based on gender, or to have it coming from that background, I don't think there is any unbalance in terms of energy access with respect to the gender.

CF; Interesting! So if I may ask, in terms of energy use now, how does gender affect the way energy is used in households? So for example I mean look at look at different tasks that people carry out in the use energy and for example you can look at him and if at all, how, if at all, do men and women use energy differently and why? So how does gender relates to energy access and specific domain, particularly okay, we just talked a bit about cooking but are there other things?

Participant: Okay, are we talking about how gender in terms of maybe how energy is being consumed and all of that? I really don't think there is any, any bias in that regard when you are talking about energy consumption. Like I said earlier I mean, the typical family for example with father, mother, children male, female and all of that, I don't think it has anything to do with gender at this level, rather it has to do with level of awareness and so if you're not talking about the level of awareness, you might not want to correlate that with the number of male or female children, Okay, so, to that extent, you can say, maybe the male students are more has more privilege to learning than discrimination. Now, in terms of educational knowledge and awareness, in our in our in the context of our economic environment, we know the males children are more privileged by this kind of knowledge, and that's the only I can look at it.

CF: Interesting, interesting, thanks so much for that now, we just want to look at a bit of a comparison now, do different groups of women benefits from energy access differently? for example does energy use access among the older, so look at the older versus the younger women, and in terms of energy use and energy access, or look at different income groups for example, and those different, so urban versus rural, younger versus older people. So within these various context you think different groups of women benefit differently?

Participant: Yeah, definitely we look at the levels of energy access to like people in the rural communities have different level of access to the people and communities, and actually at the global level, this has been classified into five tiers, you have tier zero to tier five so people fall into different categories of these tiers and I doubt you will find someone who is in the rural communities which on tier five, which is the highest tiers of energy that you can. So when you're looking at this from that perspective and then bringing it back to the gender equity that you talked about yes, and the reason is that you find more of the women at the local level, because most times the men always have to leave the committee look for somehow to make ends meet and all of that leaving back the women. So when you go back to the rural communities, you find more of the women in your profession. So and then that is the level where you find the low level of access. So and so from that perspective, yes, at the rural communities, they have more professional women than men then the upper level, at the upper tiers of energy access the urban and peri urban areas have a good level of access, then we now look at this from the income perspective so the people who are above average means, people who have higher income levels have a higher access level. Okay, so, yeah. So in terms of income, income, and people who have higher income so they're in the upper tier of the energy access yes, so I don't know, if maybe the I don't, I don't have an idea of in terms of the level of earning between the male and the female. So if the male have a higher level of income, it will be that you will find more of them at the highest access level.

CF: That's interesting. Now, I would like to draw your attention again, back to your experiences in the XXXX. Now, how do they arrive at demand for energy, how can this be a different way? How is demand for energy determined and how does that organization come to understand consumer needs, particularly XXXX?

Participant: Okay. At the XXXX level, I mean, the basic problem around this sector across policy and problem has always demand data with that credible data, you will be able to plan very well and we looking at how and yes, the formulate policies, in terms of forecasting for energy, whether from generators or from consumption, there are some certain data that they look into and see if they are making their predictions in terms of maybe available generation capacity, they're looking at the number of licenses issued and they are also looking at the licensees that have started developing their site and all of that, they also reach out to know when it's going to come online the project is going to be completed. So based on all of that information that they have, they can they would predict the available generation capacity, now, they don't they don't put so much on what the demands are, because they believe that whatever because we have a lot of shots for example, the demand So they believe the focus is how can we generate more to meet the demand gap and all of that program

CF: More or less to improve supply.

Participant: Exactly! to improve supply and all of that so they are not so much on the demand side however, they also try to collect data from the distribution company which I think it's also something that they're not getting the right however, they are handicap at this moment at this level because if XXXX go out by themselves to acquire this data it’s going to take in a lot of fund which may not be available for them to go and acquire the information, so they rely on the information that by the regulated entities, now they are the regulator and the people you are regulating are the people who are feeding you with data, so the problem with this is that you can be manipulated, in fact you have to behave the way they want you to behave and that is a very big problem so they have to provide the customer number the number of customer from their network, now this is coming from the DISCO’s and then they also have to provide a level of in terms of customer classification, the number of residential customers, the number of commercial customers, and the number of industrial customers on your network and based on that they will be able to put an estimate on the average Which customers are using, now assuming Okay so based on statistics. I think the residential people are taking 48 % of the total generation that we get from the grid while a total of 40-something percent of is distributed between the commercial and the industrial, government institution and all of that. So basically this is how they gather their data but we have seen a lot of problems in that starting from the generation. So when they arrived at Staten average when they put up all the whole investment or the whole asset and everything and they required industry revenue, they have to know divided by the number of customers and all of that to come up with an average price per unit of electricity. So when they don't do that they have to do a cross subsidy, they need to take off some part of the residential people and then put it in the industrial people and the commercial so they kind of subsidize the residential while the people that use it for commercial purposes higher per unit.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: So they do this cross subsidy and then they arrived at the to now the problem is after they've done all of these so they usually come up with the not demand forecast this time around but supply forecast, but Supply forecasts. They make projections of the number of supply that will be available almost all the time, they've missed this this forecast, they can say that in maybe now we are in 2021 as far back as when they study the might do in 2012 or thereabouts, they have been making some ambiguous forecast that I never really stick Okay, so that's has also affected Industries oftentimes, they have to come back and make adjustments on their forecasts and even after the adjustment the forecasts are not still being met It has it has posed a lot of challenges, it’s a learning curve, they have been so long into the regulatory field, so this is a learning process. I think that beginning to realize to tighten up some of the loopholes in terms of how they acquire that data in terms of data to make projections and make some of the analysis so they're learning they're learning. They're learning in the living on the job and so it's a process and I think I think I think is it is it is getting better I think they are now getting better, they have override this distribution companies, they have deployed some tools to get this data directly to the database.

CF: Interesting! This is good. This is very good. What's key infrastructure? Okay, we know that XXXX never really provides an infrastructure, but they are they also check in when new energy infrastructure and technologies are provided what's in your view are the differences but slowly between men and women in terms of who benefits you've mentioned this before, but do you do you see do you see any difference really in terms of who benefits when you have a new infrastructure will tend to benefit more?

Participant: When there are new infrastructure, there are two ways to look at it, you are look at that people who are engaged in the value chain, you know and you are comparing that to the gender equity that you have more of these but on the consumption side I still see no difference the men and the females because everybody, as long you are somewhere between the access level, you are definitely going to get benefit from those infrastructures, If you are in the rural communities and a new Transformer or a new distribution network was built, of course in that regard, you know, you have more of the females down there in the rural communities, so at that level the pendulum swing on the female side as people who are actually going to benefit, but if it's only if it's in the urban area or the peri urban areas as well i don't see so much of the different at that level.

CF: Interesting! Thanks so much for that insights, now with regards to decision-making do men and women participate equally in decision-making about the energy access?

Participant: In my own opinion no, and the reason is because it helped a lot of the male folks in terms of at the city level we have more of the male who are taking this decision so at that level we have the less of the females at the time I was in XXXX we just have about left six commissioner just one female so you have five men who are Commissioners and just one female and even at present, I don't think we have any female commissioner XXXX I can’t remember exactly if we have any female commissioner and these are the people that regulates the entire industry and you find out that the female voice is somehow being silenced at that level, so in terms of key decision-making at the regulatory perspective, there is no female voices then at the industry stakeholders in the player distribution companies, I think the same scenario plays out, but at that level, think I'm beginning to system female Folks at that sea level in recent times I know I think EKO has female as their MD at that level we are beginning to see, I think at that level the gap is beginning to narrow down but at the regulatory side of it, the gap is still wide.

CF: Interesting. This is this is good and okay, when we look at it, we look at another question again is gender equity in energy access different in urban and rural context?

Participant: Say that again please?

CF: Is gender equity in energy access different between urban and rural context?

Participant: Yeah, yeah, Yeah, Yeah, I yes it is looking at this perspective. I shared previously, you know on the level you find yourself at that access level like I said you should have on tier zero people who has not even been electrified was coming no means of electricity. They all depend on kerosene lamp by wouldn't know who else it 0 then for the way to tier 5 people who have air conditioners, washing machines dishwashers all of them so we look at this at this level and you find out that I did lower scale of that assets because mostly they were Community while the other end of it the positive wide open community and when you look at the population across the rural and the urban areas the funnel that we have more women and they were communities and then put a date at the up at the urban communities side I'm really starting I think it should be kind of balance at that level at the rural community to dismiss balance your more all the women there and those are the people that actually like it passes energy bit more.

CF: Interesting now, we'll go to the penultimate parts now, which has do it policies and interventions know to what extent does gender Equity factor in your work on energy access. Now one of the things I want to want to look at is particularly to see at the examples of projects priorities or policies or internal processes that you have in place that keeps this on the on the front boner?

Participant: Okay, and I walked we do, so for example when we will be hiring and yellow paint and we in international put faces on people like that we encourage female who qualify to apply and know we try to give them that yeah, try to give them an advantage in so we have done it, you know what's missing would probably send qualifications we tend to favour the female the more, you know, just to close off the end and all that's what's within our control Okay? Yeah, but if we're on any project I mean we really don't have so much control in terms of who benefits from the project other people who are involved in such projects that we don't have control over that we have control over, so for the aspect that we have control we try to breach that gap.

CF Has this benefit, has this been effective so far.

Participant: Yeah, we do not because we will put out some of this publication is defined as a number of female who are applying and not encourage it and I think it still goes back to the academic side of it that I talked about earlier. We have more of know who are more privileged to good schools and human and not just a go to school, that have in terms of technical side of the school, you find out more females do the social science, why more on you guys then do the technical and Engineering so you know the energies is an engineering field, so just based on that there is that imbalance in gender equity you know, when you're not looking for resources to work with for me, that's for me. That's really the crux of the problem, that’s where the problem come from, at the entry level where you have people build and develop their capacities coming and then become resourceful to in the energy sector. That's the problem

CF: interesting Thinking Beyond your specific work. Now. Do you think energy access policies in our country's gender sensitive and what ways?

Participant: The policies per say, I can tell you they are not gender sensitive, Yeah, and the reason I said is a limit there has been a lot of, I've seen a lot of the government project program, interventions, It doesn't make any special provision arrangement target and to bring them gender Equity to the way I want to look at it in terms of the rural electrification. Remember I told you that you have more of these chemicals at the bottom of the pyramid terms of the energy access to level who are in rural community and then you want to provide intervention for this community one would have for that is if you if you have started getting fund to provide an intervention, you should be intentional about how you can use it to affect the lives of the female and treated mom and if you think in that direction, it's definitely going to be you're going to definitely think about the clean cook stoves

CF: Yeah,

Participant: But they are not thinking about that. Yeah, just interested in being solar home system, of course more system is a level of energetic but it's not it's not hitting the problem where it matters most, is because if you're looking at from environmental perspective time management and all of that, I think if you ready with a better clean cooking to and all of that is going to help them good, going to protect the environment what is good to free up time for them to do other things that they want to do but that is not to say that the solar home system is not it's not a good solution what I'm just trying to compare it to what could have affected that in the at you you're talking about. Hmm. So that's a if you compare Tiny Places outside with Bridging the agenda every gender gap then it will choose more on this place bookstore than Solar home system

CF: Interesting so are there policy gaps exist in are you aware of?

Participant: That's has to do with gender Equity?

CF: Yea, particularly as it connects with energy access, so do we have a deliberate policy start getting them if said no both definitely that's it seems to be like a gap.

Participant: Yes that that for me that seems to be like a girl again. But again, it's from my own perspective. That's that is fully present. When you look at Europe Community, you know, not physically very open and open Community.

CF: Okay, great. Now what's related social policies? Do you feel have an impact on end on energy Equity generally?

Participant: Social policy, so for so for example, are there other things that we feel that may have access so you just mentioned something like okay having this. I know the government is thinking about something about distributing LPG to about 12 States for now to community or something women in different communities as a way of helping them transition are there other things you think we can do in order to address this issue of gender Equity?

Participant: Basically, like I said what whatever can be done. It has to be I can get it at the identified program and from where acid from my perspective the problem I can identify ready for the problem is at the rural community people who has less access to electricity and whatever information that the government has to do. Whatever policies should policy that has to come, you know to address this problem has to have to have to be intentional, it has to give more footwork what kind of activity that women engaged in and then try to see how they can electrify those kind of activities or see how far they can provide some may be a better technology in so that women can come be able to come up to speed and increase that access gap, so you talk about the LPG cooking technology that the government intent to distribute that's one and then I know at some point there will come a time in back then in turn during the Jonathan's Administration about 2014, or so, I think the government they actually impact on the provision of clean cooking stoves to rural community but of course like I said most times these things are very good on paper but in terms of implementation they are not being were implemented and that's has been always been the problem in Nigeria who have policy is not the problem, the problem is implementation, so I'm sure that's that clean cook stoves and whatever technology that's that that substitute the use of firewood and all those people using charcoal and the rest of them and the rest of them has been captured in the energy renewable energy and Energy Efficiency policy, but the problem is that most times they don't actually consult the documents, they don't go back to this document and make sure that they Implement what has actually been planned. So they just Implement what best policies in documents and paper, but the problem with policy is implement. We have a have the best qualities, you know documented report what they probably has always been implemented. So from my own perspective, I don't think we have health policy gaps that addresses is the ability to have this Gap. The problem is just implementing the existing policies existing policy.

CF: Interesting. No, let's just imagine for a moment that we have no policy or financial constraints, what's in your own view would be the best practice for achieving gender equity and energy access particularly in our country, now, what are those other things imagine that we don't have policy or financial constraint that you think we should focus on in order to achieve this?

CF: I mean, we don't have fincaial constraint and policy constraint. Okay, the other third one that's also a big barrier technical capability, Okay. I think we still have some gaps in terms of the technical know-how and the challenge is that there is no there's nothing like a one side, what's the another part of the country in my not work in Nigeria, we have our own peculiarities, that's not to say that work, what works in a nation Like India might not work for us sure, they might work, but of course, we still have our own particular issues here in Nigeria. So if you take away the financial and then the policy and I think where we should now lay more emphasis is on the technical abilities and capacities, but I think I think the biggest barrier is financial barrier, because the government is trying to see how they can mobilise private domestic sector and yeah, okay. The list is not beginning to expound then if you take away the financial and the other only not talk about the regulatory environment, I don't know if your policy has to also include the progressive side of it.

CF: Of course.

Participant: There is no, Okay. Yeah, so there's no clear. There's no clear regulation on how some of these things can be done. Okay, it's just so just office and I will have the mini-grid regulation and there's no regulation on maybe solar home system and all of that and some other particular a litigation project has no clear regulation and no that's how dispute has to be settled and all of that, those are the issues then again, we have to also look at the consumers that because it's not just about the supply side because you must hide has a lot of problem as if or lack of productivity economic activities, so you've heard of that in some cases. They are you able to provide you're able to deploy these penises ready technical know-how to deploy electricity you find out that the capacity to pay becomes another challenge. Okay, so which now begins to make developers look towards productive use of any two more focus is not the key to productive use of this energy as opposed to just sending this energy to the point where if they're just making assumptions and not productive uses that can actually improve and enhance the capacity to pay so consumers capacity to pay is another big problem. I remember one time, I was in Kenya and the issue I was in a discussion was about the load reduction and and one of the staff there told me that look it's not like they don't have enough electricity to supply to this communities, but the problem is if they supply them beyond this limit, if you supply them eight to twelve hours, they won't be able to pay, it's not like they can supply them up to 18 hours, but if you do that they will be able to say to that becomes another problem, you know, the inability of the off-takers to pay for this electricity, it's also a big challenge. Not just the modules in the local communities, even the government themselves is a problem with this regard the government institutions because this the payment of this energy is not coming out from their pocket, so they use energy, you know inefficiently and they don't pay for it the government's don't pay for this and even though that might have been budgets for it or because they want to see the administrators and the political players, they want to focus more on Project where they can be able to get kind of benefit to themselves, so they focus on may be capital project on some of that, they pay less attention to some of those operational expenses and stuff. So it keeps accumulating, the Nigerian government is almost the biggest step closer to the energy sector in Nigeria today, So it's a big challenge if you if you put in your money and in a market where you're not guaranteed I can get back the actual money you even invested, then I mean, I'm sure nobody wants to know going to such kind of a market and that's the situation we find ourselves in Nigeria, the government is not so making the investment climate friendly weather with the policy, you know, I talk about regulation a time when I said that all these pure it is part of the policy that you talked about. The government is not letting investors to recover their investments through cost effective tariffs and they're not coming, they're not coming up with such, it becomes a problem, okay, you don't allow these people to collect the full cost of delivering this service to the people and you're not coming on with the solution, it’s a problem, and again, even if people think are been subsidized take up this electricity. They're not even coming up with the required payments on their own side is a problem. So, I mean if he if you take financial and then the policies regulator actually side of it. I think, you know how to focus on the technical and then the off takers capacity to pay you have to begin to look at this angle.

CF: Interesting is very good. Now we get to the last parts of this conversation, which is a closing part. Is there anything we have not discussed on this topic that you would like to add?

Participant; I think so well structure with almost every aspect of the energy sector on the political economic, regulation sector, I think we have actually touch a whole of it.

CF: Thank you very much. And then hope you will be available for further questions, should they arise?

Participant: Not a problem. I will be available.

CF: And yeah, is there anyone else you think? I should be having this conversation with?

Participant: I don't know who you've spoken with, I don't know if you we spoke with the xxx.

CF: I haven't spoken with him, Okay, if you can if you can send me his contact. I really appreciate it.

Participant: which of the contact, which one in particular?

CF: Both email and phone number. I'll call him, and then I can book.

Participant: Okay. Okay. Okay, I would do that. I will share his contact with you. Okay? I am thinking he is someone you should also talk to.

CF: Interesting! With someone like him. It simply means I will have to find my way to Abuja because it's him and then the guys in the REA, I need to yeah, I need I need to have a conversation, although I met XXXX in December when I was there.

Participant: Yeah, I was good. I was I was going to ask I was going to ask if you have XXXX on your list. You must have spoken to him right?

CF: Yes we met but for this conversation I was thinking for this conversation it may best to hear from someone who is a senior person there, with the head of legal the current head of legal Amina, he actually links me to I mean for me to have a conversation with her, so she we agree that is going to happens sometime this month.

Participant: Okay, so, yes it relatively gender sensitivity in your selection?

CF: Yes, so it will have a bit of a balance, so to also hear from their perspective interested.