0:00:01.7 Speaker 1: I think we'll start with a brief introduction to the research. So as I mentioned earlier, this is a study that we... Friends of the Earth Ghana is doing in collaboration with a number of universities from the UK so first, there is the University of Anglia Ruskin, University of Cambridge, Leeds Beckett University, and then [0:00:35.8] \_\_\_\_ University. So these are the universities that we are working with on this particular study. Basically, the study is about an assessment of the gender equity in energy access within the global South. So we are in Africa, there are two countries that are participating in this study, that is Ghana and Nigeria.

0:01:02.9 Speaker 1: So in Ghana we are doing an engagement with energy experts who... We are doing an engagement with energy experts to get your insight, your perspectives on certain key issues relating from... Ranging from policy issues to practical experiences in terms of your projects that you have implemented, projects that you have been involved with and how you have seen the energy discourse unfold in Ghana and then how we can mainstream gender equity into our energy policy and energy practices. So basically that's a brief about the study. I don't know if you have any questions before we proceed?

0:02:03.3 XXXX: I'm XXXX with it.

0:02:06.0 S1: XXXX, XXXX. Alright. Thank you. So we'll start with a brief background of yourself. If you can tell me a little bit about yourself, your organisation, what your focus is in the context of in relation to energy?

0:02:30.5 S1: So, my name is XXXX, formerly XXX, but now a board member of XXXXand also a director of XXXX and also a board member for XXXX, a member of the Access [0:02:55.5] \_\_\_\_ organisation, NGO because that because we are funding energy. That's what I've been doing for the past years in environment, climate change and looking at policy, the advocacy for clean cookstove for rural women.

0:03:23.7 S1: XXXX, XXXX. So in terms of the policy related issues which specific or generally which policy areas have you been focused on or policy issues have you been engaged with?

0:03:42.4 S1: So, basically access to energy, clean energy and also policy getting rural people to get electricity because in Ghana, we say we have about 97, 98, the statistics say penetration. But there are still communities that they don't have electricity.

0:04:09.5 S1: XXXX.

0:04:12.2 RESPONDENT: And so making it policy realistic, or making it let the people feel some the policy we have share of the national cake and so basically that's what we look at.

0:04:28.8 S1: XXXX.

0:04:28.9 RESPONDENT: We look at the policy and we look at various community that do not have the access, but he says we already have it. For example we've done a great job when you look at some community in [0:04:45.6] \_\_\_\_ don't have it. And so basically that's what we are looking at. We are doing a projects in other electricity space and maybe from the street light charges to really go to the people how much do they receive, how much... Who do they account to? So we are also looking at accountability in the area of electricity bill. Where did you just let be on street lighting but where the money goes and so we are also looking at that area. So basically that... [0:05:40.4] \_\_\_\_.

0:05:46.4 S1: XXXX, alright. XXXX. So in that same context there has been some discussions on an equitable energy access. How would you... How do you understand the concept of equitable energy access? What does it mean to you? In relation to your work, what does equitable energy access mean to you?

0:06:30.6 RESPONDENT: This means that the ordinary people in the various community will be able to get access to electricity which is fairly distributed. Fairly having access to it, will be able to benefit [0:06:51.3] \_\_\_\_. Basically, that is the general aspect that I want.

0:07:03.1 S1: XXXX. So if we bring in the gender aspect, how do you understand gender equity in terms of energy access? What's your understanding of gender equity in terms of energy access?

0:07:25.5 RESPONDENT: In gender, let me put the gender as basically at women, but gender goes across multiple people [0:07:38.1] \_\_\_\_ access to clean energy, because they take care of their home and they supposed to have access to it to take care of them. Let me give you a few scenario where we went to a community that they were not able to take care of the family planning because they don't have electricity. And so the husband, in the night, what they do is that... Have sex and have babies. [0:08:16.0] \_\_\_\_ electricity, we find out that they were able to take care of the household, their children, the intervals between their children were planned. They were able to plan and plan well. And so electricity brought a lot of developments in terms of being able to plan it, plan the family well. Because they also have the access to electricity, their children also were able to also learn from it. So basically that is what we wish [0:09:03.2] \_\_\_\_.

0:09:06.2 S1: XXXX. So how equitable would you say energy access is at the community levels, the communities that you have been engaging? Do you see a level of equity between access to energy for men and access to energy for women? Do you see any level of equity between the two?

0:09:33.0 RESPONDENT: In Ghana, basically the men taking charge. And so we look at what does the woman need to use energy for? So in terms of equity, it's fair balance. Maybe because they do not have money to pay, because there is someone to take care of that. And so that is what I would say that for. Because it's good to have in every house, there is no [0:10:10.2] \_\_\_\_ that a woman should not have it. So for fair share, yes, that is it. But then who benefits more, I would say it is... Definitely say it is benefit for the woman. The men it's only for the [0:10:31.1] \_\_\_\_ and the things and the problem that the woman gives him, a lot of [0:10:36.9] \_\_\_\_. Looking at farming, where they use it to pump their water, [0:10:50.2] \_\_\_\_ and also what they do. So it helps the women a lot to use [0:11:08.0] \_\_\_\_.

0:11:18.4 S1: XXXX. So now that you've touched on the benefit, do you think... In terms of the benefits of energy access, do you see any difference between the different groups of women, say, older versus younger, middle income, lower income groups? Do you see any differences between their levels of access and how the benefit is distributed among these groups?

0:11:55.9 RESPONDENT: XXXX. So most of the community they pay a little... Some maybe do not pay the electricity. Some maybe need it for [0:12:04.2] \_\_\_\_. Some just need it for their television, to watch their movies. Some need it for their [0:12:22.7] \_\_\_\_ the young people were [0:12:28.1] \_\_\_\_... Something that is what I look at... That's a lot it depends upon, for example, when you go to a village and go to the [0:12:40.2] \_\_\_\_ maybe to, to look at the [0:12:42.7] \_\_\_\_ and after that it gets off. And the rest of the people need to stay longer so they really need it because they need to be update... Charging up their phones. Basically like that.

0:12:54.4 S1: XXXX. XXXX. I was actually going to ask between men and women, who do you think benefits more? But I think you've addressed that already in one of your responses. So I'll move on to decision making. Do you think men and women participate equally, in decision making, when it comes to energy access?

0:13:24.8 RESPONDENT: So when... There are so... On the committee, when you go to some of communities the men [0:13:33.1] \_\_\_\_ advocacy. Men that talk to their [0:13:38.2] \_\_\_\_ that they need the street lights, they need the lights in their area.

0:13:48.0 S1: Yeah.

0:13:48.8 RESPONDENT: Yes, for women, some that they need, because they sew in the evening. And so, they need that light... Electricity brings development [0:14:02.5] \_\_\_\_ for the benefit and for advocacy, I know the men do a lot. For women, because of our cultural setting, they just need it for cooking and a few things, apart from that... They just do the ironing and all those so it depends, when you talk about rural, talk about urban, it depends upon the level of that... We even did a research about heater and there was this company that want... Open... I don't know... Heater... When they want to cool their house, those...

0:14:54.8 S1: XXXX.

0:14:58.3 RESPONDENT: So we did our research, and we find that people were not even interested in that. What they need is to have a lights in their home [0:15:06.7] \_\_\_\_.

0:15:07.8 S1: XXXX. But do you think at a community level... You've already mentioned that at the household level, it's usually the men who who make the decisions. But at a community level, at a national level, do you think it's the men who... Are usually in charge of making the decisions or women have some level of participation?

0:15:30.7 RESPONDENT: Women have some level regardless of the benefits that they also would get. But not like the men percentage, I'll say men are about 70% [0:15:46.1] \_\_\_\_ it's the woman that I feel will enlighten...

0:15:49.2 S1: Sorry, I didn't get that clearly, you said percentage wise?

0:15:58.3 RESPONDENT: Percentage wise I said the men were about 70... And the women, because of the culture, in terms of the culture... The men always [0:16:07.1] \_\_\_\_.

0:16:07.3 S1: Alright. XXXX. I think you've already addressed the next question in your opening. So I was going to ask, whether these perspectives are based on your training? Or is it based on your community experiences? Or... What's your perspectives based on, is it based on your academic background, or just based on your community experiences?

0:16:40.9 RESPONDENT: Basically, it's the community experience because of engagement with the community, and when you go there, that is what they always talk to, and most of our work, we base on gender, and women as well. So engaging them, that is a feedback that we get and most of our project there is a sense of gender, we always look at the gender aspect, because one of our objective is to promote a gender participation in every aspect and also empower them. Basically that is what we come... From all level of areas.

0:17:23.6 S1: So from that perspective, do you see the level of equity, gender equity to be different in urban communities versus rural communities?

0:17:36.2 RESPONDENT: Of course, yes. I see a huge gap because for example, in urban when they build a house... The man has build his own house, he just needs electricity to come to... Take your decision, so he need electricity to come to his home and to do all the chores that he need. And in this 21st century, woman need everything fast... They need washing machine, they need everything... He need it, and when you go to the other side of town, basically it's the men that take... Basically the gaps... You find it very, very huge. And you know what before, education aspect also, now the women know their rights and they don't need the men to take decisions for them and they own it, they own some of the properties [0:18:41.2] \_\_\_\_.

0:18:41.3 S1: You mean in the urban areas?

0:18:45.2 RESPONDENT: Women... The gender aspect, they own most of the properties and so [0:18:54.7] \_\_\_\_... Sometimes even when you go to some of the urban communities the women don't need [0:19:03.1] \_\_\_\_ for that.

0:19:06.1 S1: XXXX. So from your projects and programs, how do you feel your work has been effective in terms of promoting gender equity in energy access?

0:19:32.1 RESPONDENT: Let me put it in this context. Most of the community work we look at access to energy in terms of cooking. So we have two energy that we are looking at. We are looking at energy in terms of electricity, and we are looking at energy of... Like cooking. Energy where they need fuel. They need it to cook. And so we gave them efficient cookstove. We improve their traditional stove for them. Because we find the smoke has impact into their lives and they complain of back pain and eye pain and because of the way they cook. So how do we improve it for them? That is what we also look at. And so, if I couldn't tell you... I think that that energy that you are talking about... What kind of energy are you talking about now?

0:20:52.1 S1: All of that inclusive. So, energy for cooking, energy for electricity or lighting... All of that inclusive. But it would depend on your project specific context. So if your focus is more on cooking...

0:21:09.0 RESPONDENT: Our focus is more on cooking and also energy transition, where they will transition from... Basically that is what we look at. And also for farming, how do they use the energy, and [0:21:24.8] \_\_\_\_ machine, and what type of [0:21:36.2] \_\_\_\_ so that's what we...

[overlapping conversation]

0:21:44.1 S1: Let's talk a little bit about policy-related issues. Do you think Ghana's energy access policies are gender sensitive, from your perspective?

0:21:57.8 RESPONDENT: Yes. I will say yes. Because for the NDCs, I know government, two Ministers of Energy and Ministry of Environment consults with the UMPP, consults a plan for development to look at energy gaps in the NDCs [0:22:23.6] \_\_\_\_ how we can empower the woman to take our responsibility, that missing link. And so we have a really... That document there which I'd like to share with you, called "empty aspect of the NDCs," which is well-documented [0:22:45.4] \_\_\_\_.

0:22:48.1 S1: XXXX. That would be great. I'll get in touch later for that document. So from that perspective, do you think there are still some gaps that need to be addressed in terms of ensuring gender equity in our energy policies?

0:23:09.9 RESPONDENT: Of course. We find... In living that, we also find that because we're small, Ministry of Environment and NDC was so much in energy for development. We're just looking at health policy documentation. And up to now, they will tell you how suit you are to be able to get a funding. But we make sure we [0:23:42.8] \_\_\_\_ it and make sure we implement what is in the policy. So when it come to gender aspect, our attitudes towards that is different. And I don't know because of our... Something like that, something that I can't think means that wasn't... Or have that gender bias. Because if that's [0:24:07.5] \_\_\_\_ think we need to have that political view to do it and to commit to a [0:24:14.4] \_\_\_\_.

0:24:17.5 S1: So you've already touched on the next question. How do you think we'll be able to improve upon gender equity and energy access at the national or district level? I think you've already mentioned the political will, but are there any other ways that you think we need to or will be able to improve upon...

0:24:43.7 RESPONDENT: The NDCs was how much... I know they are doing the [0:24:47.6] \_\_\_\_ it should be cautious, it should be targeted in that area. So basically that is what we need to also happen [0:25:02.5] \_\_\_\_ that report, in terms report on that aspect. We... The defense of the earth cannot wait.

[chuckle]

0:25:21.1 RESPONDENT: It's a pie up in the sky. [0:25:24.4] \_\_\_\_ gender, in terms of energy, where we can then report for that. Make a straight assembly had a showcase and make it look at that is what this committee is looking at [0:25:38.8] \_\_\_\_. So we can make [0:25:41.6] \_\_\_\_ that some other [0:25:43.5] \_\_\_\_. So it's a conscious effort that we need to...

0:25:55.2 S1: Right. So in an ideal situation, what would you say would be the best practice, or be the best pathway of achieving gender equity in energy access? In an ideal situation, I mean, without any financial constraints, without any policy constraints.

0:26:17.9 RESPONDENT: So basically the research for our various communities... What are they need, what do they need? Every community have dynamics? And what are we able to find out we can use few as a power base. How we see that sometimes you do it's not a financial thing. Because... Let me use a cookstove as an example. We'll go to some of the villages. They already have the traditional cookstove. How do we improve it? We do a metal, we just put it in, and we just reduce the smoke by 50%. They use firewood for [0:26:56.0] \_\_\_\_ foods, this is one thing that we can do to showcase that, with this effort, we're able to change the dynamics. So I think that we can change the dynamics if we are all together in this regard. We have the willpower.

0:27:19.4 S1: [chuckle] XXXX. Let me just bring this in. In that context, how do you see the issue of gender related data? Is it easy to access gender disaggregated data?

0:27:32.5 RESPONDENT: We don't... It's a few organisation that can do it. We don't have it... It is a project that somebody said, "XXXX, [chuckle] because on gender... " But it was something that... But the conscious effort where we say, "We just need it." Specific. We need it to guide [0:27:57.2] \_\_\_\_ we don't have it. So [0:28:03.0] \_\_\_\_ we just need to do it. But it is someone who everybody said, "XXXX, let's then add a gender aspect of it." So you find it's basically on a big project, but very small, small, small aspect. We need to basically a conscious... And have it where [0:28:20.3] \_\_\_\_ I quite remember we had a meeting and then we're seeing that all the ministries supposed to have bender, and person in charge of energy Ministry [0:28:34.3] \_\_\_\_ we did that... We called on Ministry of Women and Children Affair, and then asking them [0:28:46.4] \_\_\_\_.

0:29:02.9 S1: I was going to ask "how balanced is the gender representation," but I think you've already given the percentage. So I'll jump to the next one, which is the finance. Do you think energy access finance, or energy finance, is gender sensitive? So if you take even the Green Climate Fund and other national and local financial sources that are available, do you think these sources are gender sensitive in any way?

0:29:36.9 RESPONDENT: No, no. I don't think so. [chuckle] Maybe it's because of our culture. I don't think we... Maybe we will try. We will get there.

0:29:56.7 S1: [chuckle] XXXX. All right, so just the last part. Let's talk a little bit about energy transition. Do you think our government, the Ghana government, is committed to energy transition? Currently, Ghana is heavily dependent on hydroelectric power. But we've also seen some increase in our dependence on natural gas and a little bit of solar, still around 1%, 2% there. Do you think we... As a country, the government is committed to ensuring that we move from this fossil fuel dependence to more renewable energy potentials like solar wind?

0:30:54.0 RESPONDENT: I know you are aware that Ghana want to make Ghana [0:30:57.5] \_\_\_\_. And he think... Which is a [0:31:01.3] \_\_\_\_. And they think that it's... They need it, we need it to develop and it's a gold mine. And so it'll be very difficult. 'Cause most of our budgets are being financed by the petroleum, by fossil fuel, and all those things. It's going to be very, very challenging. Ghana [0:31:29.0] \_\_\_\_ in that area. Because now we have [0:31:38.6] \_\_\_\_. So even at some point [0:31:46.2] \_\_\_\_ if we can get another funding and then we can see that this is what we can do. But apart from that I'm sorry it's a huge problem. That is the truth...

0:32:05.7 S1: Yeah.

0:32:09.2 RESPONDENT: 'Cause I spoke with one big man at the Ministry of Energy and he said xxxx you sure that when they saw this money that is coming... When they saw investment, government would say, "We don't need it". Country where they see... I know we signed some contract with German embassy... The German Government in terms of solar, so basically maybe we will be able to achieve it but as a government and as a... Looking at the budget, I'm not sure.

0:32:56.1 S1: Oh XXXX, so based on that, you don't think the government is committed to achieving a energy transition?

0:33:03.6 RESPONDENT: No, for now I don't think... They'll just say that, but their actions... The indicators point to they're supporting to that area. And now as you said they want Ghana to [0:33:23.9] \_\_\_\_.

0:33:29.6 S1: XXXX, so from all of that, what do you think are the key challenges to achieving gender equity in terms of energy access?

0:33:41.1 RESPONDENT: Conscious effort... We need the data, we need the research, basically that's what we need to get. Give ourselves sometime for both education, advocacy... They were about to do a budget review. How do we get... We will be asking for ideas, the Ministry of Finance will be asking for ideas. How do we also present a document showing that we need this thing. For example Ministry of... The Minister of Education [0:34:33.4] \_\_\_\_... We need to move now, we should not be waiting, what we normally do... We like to talk... We did our research and put it up. But even as the budget... Even as the other ministries are doing... How the people... Give them the alternative, tell them that we think... This is what our research shows. Do something about this. And also we need to demonstrate [0:35:07.9] \_\_\_\_ that we can showcase that this is what we have done... And through that... This is what we have been able to... For example what I told you [0:35:22.4] \_\_\_\_ where there's electricity, where the women were getting pregnant because was the night's too dark. [0:35:28.7] \_\_\_\_ things begin to change because they have a source of entertainment. So basically and also in terms of education they were able to go to school and also do well in that aspect. So that's what we need to do, we need not to wait. We need to make hay while the sun shines.

0:35:57.2 S1: Great thank you very much XXXX. These are the questions that I had, so we've talked about energy, equitable energy access, we've talked about gender equity, we've talked a little bit about the existing policies and the policy gaps, we've talked about energy transition. Is there anything that you feel need to be addressed or this research need to take into consideration that we've not looked at, from your perspective?

0:36:37.2 RESPONDENT: I don't know whether you're going to the communities to talk to the rural people which... It would be great if that happens that area... I know you guys [0:37:00.9] \_\_\_\_ to find out the kind of energy... It's up to you [0:37:08.9] \_\_\_\_ for it. Anytime you call on us, we will be able to share our ideas and our... The way forward so I'm looking forward to... So we can move with it, we can run with it, we can then to help our community and help... Make sure everything becomes fine by 2050 we'll be able to achieve the ICGs [0:37:51.0] \_\_\_\_...

0:37:54.0 S1: XXXX, that's great. Yes. So you're right, it would have been good to include the communities, get in touch with the local communities who are actually... Yeah, but in this particular study... Please can you hear me ? Hello?

[pause]