

Gender in Norway's Energy and Petroleum Sector Cooperation in Mozambique - From Entry Points to Implementation



A series of Country Experience Briefs present entry points, achievements and challenges so far documented in Norad's assistance to Norwegian embassies on gender mainstreaming in energy and petroleum sector cooperation at country-level. Two Technical Notes on Gender Equality in Energy and Petroleum Sector Cooperation present the rationale for action and how to operationalize gender equality in sector programmes.

Together the Country Experience Briefs and the Technical Notes may be used as a guide for:

- Communicating the Norwegian position and rationale for gender mainstreaming
- Discussing programmatic priorities with national partners
- Strategic discussions and entry points for possible joint positions with like-minded donors
- Assessing proposals and projects/programmes

In 2010 the Norwegian Embassy in Maputo requested Norad's assistance in developing a targeted and practical gender mainstreaming programme. The goal of the Embassy was to implement the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation within the development cooperation in the energy sector (Clean Energy and Oil for development (Ofd)). A team of international and regional experts from ENERGIA International Network for Gender and Sustainable Energy collected baseline data, assessed needs and entry points, and assisted in developing a gender mainstreaming programme. This country experience brief summarizes the process from identifying entry points to agreeing on a gender mainstreaming programme in energy and petroleum sector cooperation (2011-2013).

1. Senior energy sector managers ownership for gender issues in their sector

Gender equality through mainstreaming is a goal of the Mozambican government. Government institutions responsible for energy- and petroleum sector programmes need to be committed to planning and implementing programmes that meet gender mainstreaming goals in the sectors.

Basic entry point

The Ambassador invited all senior energy sector managers to a high-level Roundtable meeting to present and discuss suggested entry points. She arranged for the presence of the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Women and Social Action. This provided the impetus and priority needed to gain the commitment of the other ministries and agencies. A second Roundtable meeting was held in February 2012 to agree on

the gender mainstreaming programme. Ultimately, the Ministry of Energy is taking ownership of the programme, with the participation of the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MIREM), the Ministry of Women and Social Action (MIMAS) and the Ministry of Environment (MICOA).

2. Implementing national gender policy in the energy sector requires human and financial resources

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Women and Social Action (MMAS) to guide the implementation of the national gender policy in all sectors. However, the MMAS staff members are not yet familiar with gender and energy issues. The current approach of developing gender strategies separately from core business decision-making in the sectors, lack of gender capacity, and of assigning responsibility for gender equality to Gender Focal Points in sector institutions, present a major hurdle for gender mainstreaming. Staff members are unsure about what is required and have no budget.

Strategic actions to build institutional capacity

By developing a gender mainstreaming programme through a capacity building process, the energy- and petroleum sector institutions identified their capacity needs, actions to be taken, and resources needed.

3. Energy sector cooperation concentrates on supply, with less focus on customer issues

The energy sector is directed towards energy supply and covers a wide range of technical specialties for power generation, alternative technologies, petroleum exploration, production and refining, transportation and distribution.

For further assistance, please contact Norad's Department for Economic Development, Gender and Governance, Section for Rights and Gender equality, Kari Trædal Thorsen (Norad-Post-Sect-LIRE@norad.no).

For information on key resources and available capacity, see <http://www.norad.no/en/thematic-areas/energy/gender-in-energy>

Norad
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
P.O. Box 8034 Dep, NO-0030 Oslo, Norway
Phone +47 23 98 00 00

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Different energy institutions are responsible for the various technical specialties. The different energy institutions all need an overall view on customers' needs, services provided and barriers to access across all energy subsectors – grid electricity, alternative technologies and petroleum products.

Strategic actions to strengthen the focus on customer needs

Key agencies were brought together to work across institutional barriers to identify shared concerns and how to approach customer needs, including specific gender differentiated needs. At the same time, specific follow-up capacity building and support targeting gender issues in individual institutions' respective mandates was conducted as part of the process.

4. Gender issues in upstream petroleum are not only about women's employment

The Ministry of Mineral Resources (MIREM) is responsible for management of the exploitation of all mineral resources, including petroleum. Norway's Ofd programme is with INP, the petroleum regulator, and with ENH, the national oil company, both within MIREM's jurisdiction. The downstream distribution of petroleum products, where women's fuel needs could be addressed, falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Energy and outside the scope of Norway's current Ofd assistance. Gender issues in the upstream petroleum industry have been defined mainly in terms of women's employment. However, there may be important gender aspects in social and environmental impacts on local communities affected by petroleum development, and in social development projects that companies are taxed to provide funds for.

Strategic actions to build capacity on gender issues in upstream petroleum

The government petroleum sector institutions and civil society working with petroleum sector development identified their capacity needs, actions to be taken, and resources needed to understand and

address critical gender issues in local impacts of petroleum development.

5. Customers do not necessarily connect to grid electricity even if it is available

The electricity utility, Electricidade de Mozambique (EdM), has difficulty selling enough connections and power to pay its operating bills, in part because rural customers are not aware of how affordable the tariffs are. Targeted marketing activities, including to women, could help build demand, but there is currently lack of gender awareness at EdM.

Strategic actions to increase connections

During the capacity building process of developing a gender mainstreaming programme the following entry points were identified by EdM as strategic actions to increase connections;

- Increase electricity demand by targeting female customers (end-users), beginning in an area with a new line extension funded by Norway in northern Mozambique.
- Train women as energy sector community workers and set up energy service centres to demonstrate the domestic and productive uses of electricity.

6. Women's major energy need is energy for cooking

Most of the energy used for cooking is from biomass. Current biomass use has serious health consequences as well as environmental impacts on forest resources. Since biomass energy falls under the forestry domain, it has not been considered relevant to energy sector suppliers. The agency responsible for alternative technologies, FUNAE, focuses on solar sources and production of electricity, and has only recently set up a Biomass Unit. The need for improved technologies and fuels for cooking is substantial, and cross-sectoral interventions need to target all responsible agencies.

Strategic actions to improve energy for cooking

During the capacity building process of developing a gender mainstreaming programme the following entry point was identified by FUNAE (Mozambique's National Energy Fund) as a strategic action to improve energy for cooking; Develop a market system map for cooking energy. The map should identify energy sources and suppliers, as well as the policy environment and interventions needed to improve access to clean energy sources and technologies for cooking.

7. Achievements

2nd November 2012 the agreement to support a new programme was signed by the ambassador on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique. The agreement indicates;

- Advancement of the gender equality agenda in Mozambique's energy sector.
- Senior decision-makers in energy sector institutions are committed to gender mainstreaming.
- The electrical utility and the agency for alternative technologies recognize the need for identifying and addressing gender issues in their services.
- The embassy works systematically with gender mainstreaming in energy- and petroleum sector cooperation.

Parallel to the agreement a Contract was signed between Norad and ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy for a two year capacity building and backstopping assistance to the programme. This means:

- This is acknowledgement of the need for a structured and long-term support from Norad
- Gender capacity building in the energy- and petroleum sector programmes.
- The need for external technical support in Norad's delivery.