

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

June 2, 2015

**[APPROVAL BY MAIL]: BUILDING RESILIENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE'S POWER SECTOR THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR
INVESTMENT (PPCR) (IFC)
Comments Received from WEDO**

Thank you for this invitation to comment. WEDO's comment is in relation to the *Gender Considerations* taken into account in the programme.

The programme writes:

It is documented that natural disasters and their subsequent impact on average kill more women than men. Boys are likely to receive preferential treatment when it comes to rescue efforts and both women and girls suffer more from lost access to economic resources in the aftermath of disasters.

By increasing the supply of local, clean, and resilient energy that can power basic institutions (such as hospitals and schools), the Project will contribute to reducing womens' and girls' vulnerability to prepare for and recover from climatic events. Gender aspects will be reviewed in accordance with IFC's environmental and social management framework, which that will be applied to the project.

COMMENT: This is a very baseline understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men and how increasing resilience as a whole will support gender equality, but it does not give any specifics into the gender considerations which could relate to the programme. In addition to the statistic on vulnerability outlined here, we also know that women often have limited access throughout the value chain of energy production, in terms of both designing and developing local energy solutions, and access to credit and collateral to own and manage decentralized energy solutions- while at the same time, women contribute to much of the household and community energy usage.

Decentralizing energy systems have huge potential to enhance women's economic empowerment and leadership and promote gender equality, and gender should be a key element to the design and implementation of a project like this. Women have a right to be active participants in the value chain of climate responsive technologies and beneficiaries of economic opportunities that may arise from enhanced mitigation/ resilience initiatives. In order to achieve the above, it is necessary to overcome a series of barriers to facilitate women's engagement in the sector. For example, technology innovation and use is widely viewed as 'men's work'. However, in many developing countries, it is traditionally women's work to gather wood, provide food, and generate income for their own and their children's needs. It therefore makes sense to enlist women in designing and producing locally-appropriate energy technologies, customized to fit their household and income needs. Even in countries where there is educational parity at the higher levels of education, women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) remains relatively low to that of men. (ECLAC, 2013). Small-scale renewable energy and energy efficiency projects deliver benefits to local communities, including the reduction of: (i) drudgery, particularly of women traditionally in charge of firewood collection, (ii) respiratory illnesses, (iii) physical and sexual attacks on women during firewood and water collection, etc.

This is already happening in Mozambique and would be an excellent addition to this programme if incorporated. Lojas de Energias is an initiative adapted by Gilda Monjane, in 2011, as a way to fill a gap in infrastructure for rural off-grid areas. Women from rural areas in Mozambique apply to receive an initial set of material to manage their own energy shops. Future material has to be bought, but loans are also granted by the enterprise and the women organise in savings groups for cyclical buying. The shops offer improved cook stoves, photovoltaic systems, lamps, mobile phone chargers, refrigerators and energy saving light bulbs. The women organise meetings with communities to raise awareness and offer the different products. The enterprise empowers women in rural Mozambique

through entrepreneurship, offering new skills and stable income opportunities. The adoption of clean and renewable energy sources reduces dependency on charcoal, kerosene and firewood, diminishing deforestation and carbon emissions. Air pollution is therefore also decreasing, reducing respiratory diseases in the long term. Lojas de Energias won a SEED award in 2015.

Best,

Bridget