

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

June 29, 2015

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

IFC Responses to Sub-Committee

IFC’s responses to the PPCR Sub-Committee observer comment on the IFC-PPCR Project: Building resilience of Mozambique’s power sector through private sector investment

Comment	IFC Responses
WEDO	
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments to the IFC-PPCR grid-connected solar PV Project. Please find below some additional ways in which increased availability and reliability of electricity supply that will result from the Project can benefit women and girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Project is expected to improve basic conditions that facilitates the ease by which women can participate in the local economy. Powering basic services such as hospitals and public lighting can help improve maternal health and safety, allowing women to participate in activities outside their homes after dark and enabling greater mobility to engage in productive activities under safe conditions. Facilitated provision of drinking water and agricultural uses can reduce time spent by women and girls fetching water. Improved refrigeration and improved health knowledge through better access to media and more time to read will result in better nutrition and food safety. Healthy, safe, informed individuals are more apt to be productive (Deloitte University Press: Women, Energy, and Economic Empowerment, 2014).

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.

- Studies have demonstrated that increased access to electricity is most often used for lighting, which increases productive time for work and study and contributes to improved education outcomes. Increase in education rates will likely lead to women's employment opportunities.

- Increased availability and reliability of electricity supply from the Project may also increase economic opportunities by lengthening opening times for economic activities and businesses in which women are involved.

- The Project client is committed to the principles of employment equity, equal opportunities and empowerment, regardless of gender, race, color or creed. As part of the Project Labor Agreement and Human Resources Policies and Procedures for the operations, the client will develop and implement a formal policy on non-discrimination and equal opportunity to cover all aspects of the Project therefore supporting women's empowerment.

- The Project will reduce the end-user tariffs which will positively impact female-headed households that constitute most chronically poor households and account for 26 per cent of total number of households in the area directly impacted by the Project (numbers based on data from national Census and recent survey of family households in the Project Footprint Area).