



## **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:**

**Capacity Development to support expanding access to  
modern energy services**

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# 1. Energy & Gender – links and challenges

- Access to energy services provides opportunities for both men and women, but disproportionately benefits women as primary managers of energy
- Reliable energy services reduces time spent on survival activities thereby increasing opportunities for women to: be involved in other enterprises; spend time on education; or, simply rest and thereby improve maternal health
- If street lighting is provided it improves safety, particularly for the most vulnerable



- Women and girls in rural areas often spend between 2 - 4 hours collecting biomass fuel



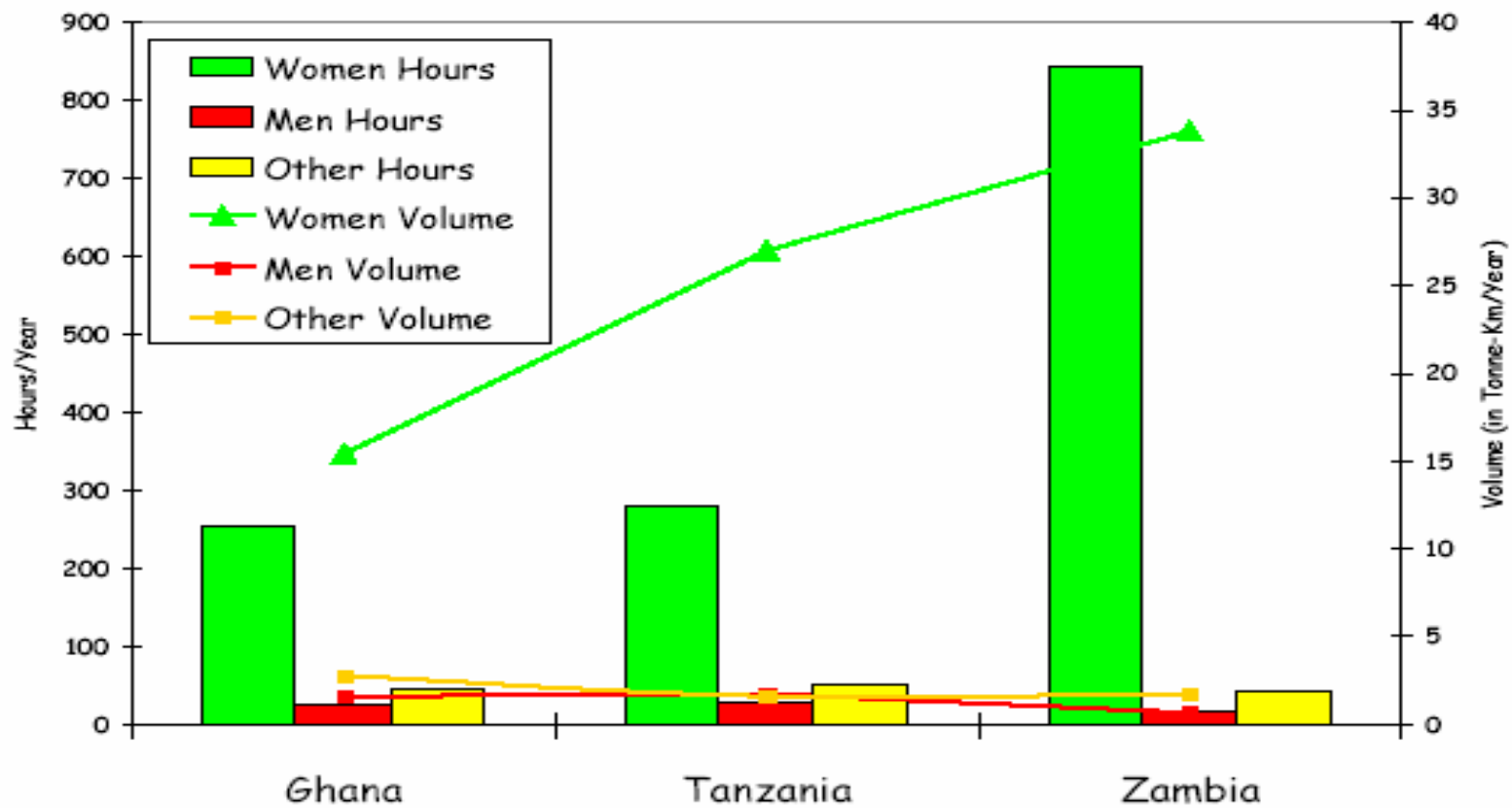
- 1.6 million deaths are due to indoor air pollution annually, mostly women & children



## Gender Issues in Infrastructure

The provision of infrastructure in rural and urban areas benefits both poor men and women  
transport, water and sanitation, and energy, in particular reduce women's and girls' time burdens  
diagnosis of the infrastructure needs and constraints faced by women vs. men in different income strata and across geographic locations is required.

## Wood Fuel Provisioning by Gender in Three Sub-Saharan African Countries





**To overcome these challenges...**

**...urgent efforts to expand access to modern energy services are needed**



## **2. Scaling up access to modern energy services for poor women and men entails...**

- 1. Integrating energy considerations (fuel, motive power and electricity), into MDG-based National Development Strategies (NDS) or Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS)**
- 2. Mobilising financing/ investment for expanding access to modern energy services**
- 3. Developing institutional capacity to deliver modern energy services for poor women and men**



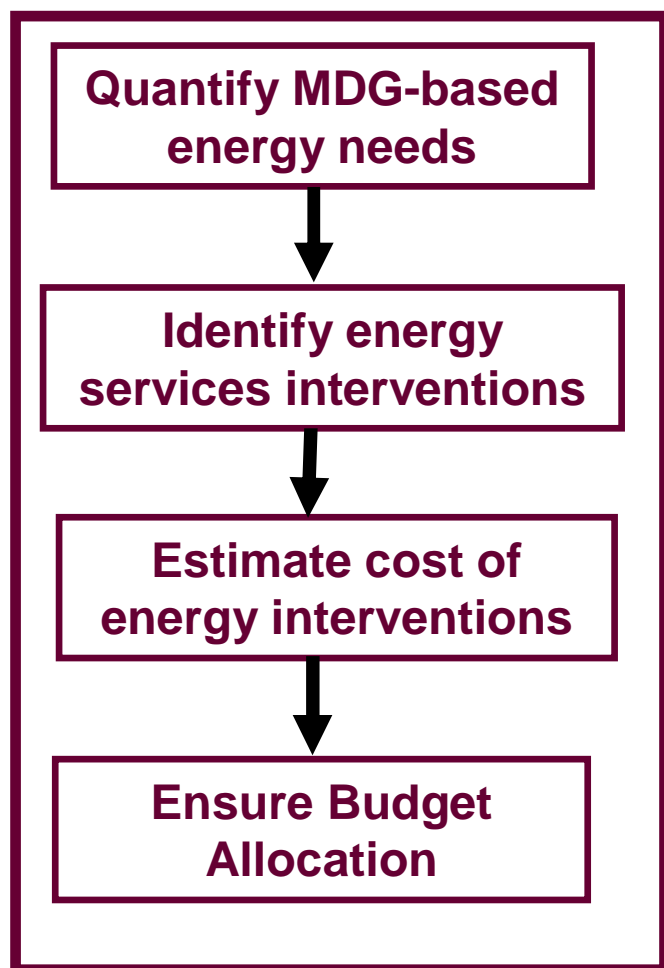
**Technologies are available...**

**Financing is a challenge but can be overcome...**

**...the major challenge that cuts across all components is  
gender-responsive CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

### 3. Integrating energy into MDG-based National Development Strategies/PRS

#### Entry-points to reduce GENDER GAPS



- An assessment of both men and women’s energy needs must be made.
- Ensure that technological interventions to meet MDG-based energy needs are women-friendly.
- Energy costing must incorporate and fully reflect the capacity development needs of both men and women.
- Investments required to expand access to fuel, motive power and electricity must be included. In the past, only investments for electricity grid has been considered.
- While aligning these investments in budget-making processes, women must be involved in the budget-making/planning process.



## 4. Developing Institutional Capacity to deliver energy services

1. **Build and strengthen capacity of local authorities to undertake participatory planning and budgeting, energy assessments & manage delivery of energy services.**
2. **Build capacity of local communities, NGOs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and financial institutions so that they respond to the energy needs of poor with appropriate energy services and products.**
3. **Build technical capacity of entrepreneurs, including business management, marketing skills to run energy systems for productive use.**

### Entry-points to reduce GENDER GAPS

- **Ensure women are fully involved in participatory planning process and energy assessments**
- **Ensure women are involved & consulted in budgetary making process, including M&E of energy access programmes**
- **Ensure focused programme packages are developed to involve women in every stage of capacity development**
- **There is a need for more programmes focused on the development of women entrepreneurs**

## 5. Partnerships are critical – nobody can do it alone

**A concerted effort is required for mainstreaming gender while integrating energy into macro development strategies and developing capacity in expanding access to modern energy services by all actors.**

- This necessitates partnerships and collaborations at different levels (international, regional/sub-regional, national and local levels) among various actors (bilateral donors, multilateral institutions, UN Systems, I/NGOs, governments, private sectors, beneficiaries, etc.)
- UNDP is committed to provide support to such partnerships and collaborations, more importantly at the national and sub-national levels within the broader framework of the UN Country Team



Thank you