



Africa Minigrids program (AMP)

GENDER ANALYSIS REPORT AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR GENDER EQUALITY (GAP) DJIBOUTI

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Introduction

1. The Africa Minigrids programme (AMP) was recently approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council. It aims to help 11 sub-Saharan countries increase access to energy by reducing costs and increasing the commercial viability of renewable energy minigrids. These 11 countries are: **Angola, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.**

In line with policy guidelines, objectives and approaches to support efforts to achieve gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls by 2030, a study to provide an overview of gender issues in Djibouti with a national action plan for gender equality was carried out in

This gender equality assessment aims to provide an overview of the gender situation in Djibouti, by showing opportunities and gender gaps that could be taken into account by the project's activities, and by identifying gender issues that are relevant to ensure women have equal opportunities to participate fully in the project and access the benefits that the project will intend to generate.

2. This gender study will help align the interventions of the AMP program and in particular the interventions of the national project with the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment. It will provide guidance on actions that will ensure compliance with national gender equality and women's empowerment goals in the context of the energy sector.
3. To conduct this study, we used a methodology based on the review of existing literature, consultations in the form of meetings with key stakeholders in key ministries such as the ministries of women and family, Ministry of energy, ministry of agriculture, ministry of social affairs, the national statistics institute and consultations with groups of women and men in the project's intervention sites. Participatory and gender-comparative analysis tools were used. In addition to gender-based assessment, an action plan for gender equality is proposed to provide an overview of how gender issues resulting from the evaluation can be addressed as part of the implementation of the project's activities.

I. Situation Analysis

4. In Djibouti, the situation of women has changed, but there are still disparities between men and women, particularly in rural areas. Disparities exist in the labour market, education and decision-making spheres, whether at the level of public administration, at the community level and within households. These disparities can be explained in part by the Arab-Muslim tradition ¹ prevailing in the country, even though the population comes from various millennia-old cultures that relate to its main community components, namely Afars, Arabs and Somalis. This Arab-Muslim tradition is patriarchal and patrilineal. It places, socially, the woman under the authority of the man. "This situation is at the root of the inequalities and disparities which weigh heavily on the status of women, both in the family and in society. They restrict his chances of education and limit his ability to make decisions and participate in the life of his community, with the same opportunities as men. Although women are increasingly present in many sectors of activity, their productive work is not always valued. This situation reinforces the relations of domination / dependence which characterize the relationships between men and women within the family. However, women are always on the front line during political, cultural and religious events..."²

¹ In the report of the study on the evolution of the situation of women in Djibouti from 2000 to 2015 (ESFD)

² National Gender Policy 2011-2021

1.1 Institutional and legal framework

5. Djibouti's constitution guarantees equality before the law regardless of language, origin, race or religion regardless of gender and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Djibouti ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1998. Unlike other members of the Arab League, Djibouti has ratified CEDAW without reservation.
6. At the political level, there is a national strategy for gender equality 2011-2021 that succeeded the National Strategy for the Integration of Women in Development (2000-2010). The current National Gender Equality Strategy focuses on promoting equal access to social services, including education and health, and prioritizes programmes to improve women's literacy. In addition, some sectoral policies also include the promotion of gender equality in all their actions, such as the development of a national social protection strategy by the Ministry of Social and Solidarity Affairs in 2018. This strategy created the national family solidarity programme, which introduced cash transfers targeting the country's poorest families. Cash transfers are granted to women with accompanying measures on nutrition and decision-making of women in the family. This program helps empower women and help make decisions in the home.
7. In Djibouti, it is probably only in the last 10 to 15 years that women have begun to exercise some of their rights. Women were able to enter the Parliament in Djibouti for the first time in 2003 through the adoption on 13 November 2002 of Law No. 192/AN/02/4th establishing the quota system in elective functions and in state administration. The act aims to "compulsorily include candidates of either sex in order to obtain a proportion of either sex, equivalent to at least 10% of the seats in power, on the proclamation of final results." In 2018, Law No. 219/AN/18/7th amending Law No. 192/AN/02/4th was passed, so the number of women parliamentarians increased from 7 to 17 women parliamentarians or 17 seats held by women out of the 65 seats in parliament total, (more than 26% of women in total). This is a step forward for the Republic of Djibouti, but it is still weak because we can say that women are still in the minority among elected representatives and political decision-making bodies.
8. However, it is important to note that these advances have been achieved with the implementation of the National Strategies for the Integration of Women in Development in 2000-2010 and the current one to promote gender equality (2011-2021). Through these strategies, the government is committed to making progress in several priority areas: (i) women's participation in decision-making, (ii) the economy, (iii) education and (iv) health, (v) women's empowerment, ...

1.2 Demographics

9. In 2019, the population of the Republic of Djibouti is estimated at 973,560 and it is expected to reach more than 1.34 million in 2024³. Women represent more than half of the population (52.2%), against 47.8% of men. The proportion of women has steadily increased over the past decade, according to data from the National Statistical Institute. A segment of Djibouti's population is still nomadic, at the time of the general population census in 2009, 62.1% represented the ordinary sedentary population, 19.7% represented the nomadic population and 18.2% represented the particular population ⁴(these are migrants and so-called floating populations).
10. According to the Djibouti National Statistical Institute (INSD), there are an average of 6.4 people per household (household size) and the population growth rate is 2.8%. These figures are likely to

³ Data on the World Bank website;

⁴ Particular population: population without shelter or living in boarding schools, orphanages, prisons, military barracks, hospitals, hotels, construction sites, refugee camps ...

have a negative impact on the amount of time women can spend improving their well-being (better education, health and nutritional status, job creation and income creation) at the expense of time spent taking children's care.

11. In rural areas, access to running water and energy remains a challenge. A large part of the rural population depends on wells (dam, water reservoir, cemented wells, etc.) and do not even have electricity. While men are involved in the construction of dams and wells to allow access to water, women are responsible for collecting water (supply) and using it within the household. Gender studies have shown that women spend more than an hour a day collecting drinking and cooking water and taking the risks of travelling several kilometres (on average more than 5 km in the southern regions and more than 10 km in the northern regions). Time spent on water supply and transportation limits women's personal development and empowerment. This project will have a great leverage on the development of the status of women (positive change), as it will ensure the security in travel, learning and development of economic activities that will be related to the installation of the energy center. Therefore, it will participate in the emancipation of women in the intervention areas of the project.

1.3 Economic growth, poverty and well-being

12. The assessment of the situation of women revealed that there is still a gap between men and women on the one hand and between women living in urban and rural areas on the other. This disparity is largely due to poverty, which is a reality that affects women more (the households most exposed to poverty are those headed by women) and rural residents (more than 57% of the poor living in rural areas compared to 13.1% in other urban areas - inland areas - and 10% in Djibouti city). For example, 30.5% of women are heads of households. The proportion of women heads of households is higher among widows (43.3%) and divorced women (12.8%) than among men heads of households, whose proportions represent respectively 1.5% and 0, 5%. It should be noted that in general, the status of widows and divorced persons exposes women to vulnerability as well as the members of the households for which they are responsible.
13. 15% of the Djiboutian population lives in rural areas, but nearly 45% of these populations are poor⁵. Households in these areas suffer from poor access to public services such as electricity, water and sanitation. Access to electricity, a basic service that is known to boost consumption and incomes and improve education and health, needs to be addressed, as only 6% of the rural population benefits from it. Open defecation rates are high in areas with high poverty rates and large rural populations, such as Tadjourah and Dikhil (69% and 68% respectively).
14. Poverty in rural areas is due in large part to recurrent droughts and lack of water and energy. The latter are at the origin of the crisis of pastoralism and continues to accentuate the phenomenon of rural exodus. Also, the impact of climate change is particularly negative for rural populations, who make up a large number of poor communities that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.
15. In the interior regions, near the Tadjourah region (62%) which has the largest number of people living below the extreme poverty line, we have the Dikhil and Obock regions, which come in second and third place respectively. This highlights the relevance of the project, which aims to support households living in rural areas, as the project's intervention sites are the locality of Yoboki (in the Dikhil region) and in the town of Khor Angar (in the Obock region).

⁵ World Bank Report: *The challenges inclusive growth, An Assessment of Poverty and Equity in Djibouti*, 2019

Table 1: Poverty Indicators in Djibouti, EDAM 2017

	National	Djibouti city	Other regions	Other urban areas	Rural
Extreme poverty	21,1%	13,6%	45,0%	14,8%	62,6%
Poverty gap	7,1%	3,5%	18,6%	5,2%	26,4%
The severity of poverty	3,4%	1,3%	10,1%	2,6%	14,4%
General poverty	35,8%	28,2%	59,8%	27,6%	78,4%

Source: EDAM-IS 4, 2017

16. A recent study carried out by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity in close collaboration with the State Secretariat for Decentralisation with IOM's financial and technical support in 2019 showed that the phenomenon of rural exodus is accentuated by the search for a better living condition (well-being). Recurrent droughts and the lack of essential social services, and especially the lack of water and energy, are the factors that trigger and accelerate the migration of rural people to cities.
17. On the socio-economic front, the country recorded positive economic growth of 7.1% in 2020 in a context of pandemic ⁶ and an estimated GDP per capita of US \$ 1,800 in 2019. The country's economic activity is dominated by 85.8% of the tertiary sector (services, transport, communications), most of which are located in the city of Djibouti. The secondary and primary sectors accounted for only 13.2% and 1.0% of GDP.⁷
18. The 2018 World Human Development Report (HDR) ranks Djibouti among countries with a low human development index (HDI) with an HDI of 0.495. Djibouti is ranked 171st out of 189. Between 1995 and 2018, the republic experienced an increase in its HDI from 0.353 to 0.495⁸, an increase of 40.5%, but it remains among the 20 countries with the lowest human development in the world. The 2010 HDR introduced the Gender Inequality Index (ICH), which highlights gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, Empowerment and Economic Activity and the 2014 HDR introduced the Gender Development Index (GDI), which measures gender inequality in three fundamental dimensions of human development: (i) health (measured by the life expectancy of men and women at birth), (ii) education (measured by the expected length of schooling for boys and girls and the average number of years of education for adults aged 25 and over); (iii) control of economic resources (measured by the estimated GNI of men and women per capita). These indexes are not known because of the relevant data.
Due to the lack of availability of gender data for Djibouti, no figures for Djibouti reporting the Gender Inequality Index and the Gender Gap Index are available in UNDP's annual Human Development Report.
19. The maternal mortality rate was 248 per 100,000 live births in 2017.⁹
20. In Djibouti, the proportion of women in the labour market has increased over the past two decades, but it is still quite low compared to the proportions of men in the labour market. This assessment highlights the existence of a number of differences or inequalities between men and women, particularly in the labour market and the existence of forms of discrimination against women. For example, the latest national household survey (EDAM-IS 4: Djibouti Household Survey - Social Indicators - 4) conducted by INSD in 2017 shows that at the national level, the activity rate is 44.8%. This participation rate remained low among women (31.6%) compared to men (58.6%). People living in rural areas are most affected by the lack of economic activity and opportunities - the participation rate of rural women is 23.9% compared to 50.8% for men.

⁶ Data on the World Bank website, published in January 2021

⁷ INSD, 2018

⁸ Human Development Report 2019, UNDP

⁹ Source: Data from the UNFPA website, 2017

21. The unemployment rate remains very high in Djibouti, at 47.1% nationally. Unemployment is higher among women (74.4%) than among men (42.8%) Djibouti. This shows that women are less likely to have access to paid employment. Unlike men, women are more represented in unpaid activities, such as household chores/as domestic tasks (such as housekeeping, water collection, food preparation, etc.) and informal activities, such as preparing and selling coal. The table below presents the gender disparities in the employment sector.

Table N°2 : Unemployment data by sex

	National	Men	Women
Labour force ratio to working-age population	44,7%	58,5%	31,5%
Percentage of the working-age population employed	23,7%	36,4%	11,6%
Unemployment rate - EDESIC 2015 (15 years and over)	47,0%	37,8%	63,3%
Unemployment rate- ILO definition (15-59 years)	27,5%	23,1%	38,2%
Unemployment rate for young people (15-24 years old)	86,2%	84,1%	88,8%
Unemployment rate for young people (15-34 years old)	65,1%	57,4%	75,5%
Percentage of employees working in the public sector	51,6%	56,4%	37,0%

Source: INSD/EDAM4 2017

22. In terms of income, there is still a disparity between men and women. Gross national income (GNI) per capita (constant 2017 PPP \$) is \$ 5,689 in 2019. While that of women (estimated gross national income per capita, women - 2017 PPP \$) is \$ 4,151 in 2019 . This shows the income disparities between men and women¹⁰.
23. Djibouti's strong economic growth has not been accompanied by the creation of a dynamic formal private sector. The labour market is characterized by a duality: on the one hand the public sector which is the main employer and on the other hand, informal jobs in informal enterprises. The vast majority of jobs in the private sector is informal jobs. Women are fairly represented in informal enterprises, which are mainly one-person enterprises (one-person enterprises). According to the 2015 Djibouti Employment, Informal Sector and Consumer Survey conducted by INSD, women aged 15 to 64 are more represented in household activities (56.2%) and the informal private sector (45.2%).

Table N°3: Women's Contribution to Activities by Sector

Women's contribution to economic activities by sector					
Industry	Public administration	Public and semi-public enterprise	Formal private sector	Informal private sector	Household
% of women aged 15 to 64	19,5	13,3	33,5	45,2	56,2

Djibouti's Employment, Informal Sector and Consumer Survey, 2015, INSD

24. Data from the Djibouti Employment, Informal Sector and consumer Survey conducted by INSD in 2015 showed the results below: Analysis of the contribution of women in different industries showed that women aged 15 to 64 contribute strongly to the sales activities of khats in detail (86.2%), retail trade (70.4%) (53.4%), clothing products (49.5%) as well as in the hotel and restaurant sector (47.9%). The contribution of women aged 15 to 64 to agriculture (33.5%), livestock (20.3%), fishing, fish farming and aquaculture (20.9%) is not insignificant. On the other hand, women contributed to electricity and gas production (0.0%), water collection, treatment and distribution (0.0%), trade in vehicles, motorcycles and accessories (0.0%), transport (5.6%) and construction activities (7.6%) are virtually nil.

¹⁰ Human development report, UNDP, 2019. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/DJI>

Table 3: Women's Contribution by Industry

Industry	% of women aged 15 to 64	% of young women aged 15 to 24	% of young women aged 15 to 35
Agriculture	33,5	37,1	35,0
Breeding, hunting	20,3	88,7	25,4
Forestry	9,4	.	0,0
Fishing, fish farming, aquaculture	20,9	100,0	47,1
Food	40,6	57,7	38,7
Making clothing items	49,5	0,0	37,5
Extractive	16,4	0,0	10,0
Construction	7,6	20,8	13,0
Electricity and gas production	0,0	0,0	0,0
Water collection, treatment and distribution	0,0	.	0,0
Sanitation and waste treatment	10,1	.	100,0
Other industries	12,7	24,7	17,8
Trade in vehicles, motorcycles and accessories	0,0	.	0,0
Khat retail	86,2	0,0	68,7
Non-khat retail (retail trade)	70,4	69,8	70,0
Wholesale (Wholesale Trade)	53,8	46,7	47,4
Industrial repair services	3,7	0,0	8,5
Other repair services	0,0	0,0	0,0
Hotels and restaurants	47,9	58,7	55,9
Transport	5,6	0,0	8,8
Post, information and telecommunications	12,9	34,2	16,4
Household services	44,3	87,0	57,0
Repair services	23,1	34,9	26,2

Source: Djibouti Employment, Informal Sector and Consumer Survey, 2015, DISED

However, it is important to note that women's participation in the labour force has increased. In urban areas, women work mainly in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and an increasing number of women entrepreneurs have created their own economic activities. In rural areas, female entrepreneurship remains quite low. We can say that lack of access to energy is one of the causes because the availability of energy contributes to women's economic empowerment.

A study in South Africa found that electrification of rural communities has led to a 9% increase in women's employment. Another study in Guatemala also shows similar results where electrification increases women's employment (Grogan and Sadanand, 2009). Both studies attribute the increase in employment to the fact that electricity frees up time for women by increasing their efficiency of household chores, such as cooking, and by reducing the time they have spent collecting wood, allowing them to devote more time to education and other skills-building activities.

1.4 Literacy

25. The literacy rate for adults aged 15 to 60 is estimated at an average of 52.8% in the country - 61.6% in urban areas and 22.4% in rural areas. This means that a very large proportion of the rural population are illiterate. By disaggregating this figure by gender, we find that the literacy rate of men (63%) is much higher compared to women (43%) with a difference of 20 percentage points.
26. Northern regions have the lowest literacy rates (Tadjourah 21% and Obock 23%) (Dikhil 26% and Ali Sabieh 42%).
27. Looking at the group of girls and boys in the 15-24 age group, the result is quite encouraging for the Republic of Djibouti, which has recorded notable advances with a literacy rate of 80%. Although this figure is higher than the national average of 52.8%, it is still lower than the MENA average of 91% for the same cohort (UNESCO 2018).

1.5 Education

28. Schooling children regardless of gender until at least the age of 16 is a fundamental right, regardless of the socio-professional category of parents, backgrounds and communities considered. However, in analysing the data from the 2017-2018 National Education Statistical Directory, we found that the first discrimination is visible from preschool. Very few children go to preschool in general and among the children who go there, there is a difference in numbers between girls and boys
29. According to data from the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, the average rate of access to primary school is 89.8%. The gender gap remains relatively small, with access to primary education estimated at 88.1% for girls and 91.4% for boys. The gender parity is 0.86.
30. The average number of successful years of education for women is 9 compared to 10 years for men. The differences are more significant by region, with a fairly favourable figure (92.5%) for the city of Djibouti and significantly lower figures for the northern regions - in Obock (76.7%) and especially for Tadjourah, which has the lowest average access rates (72.6%).
31. The disparities between boys and girls (to the detriment of girls) in access to school are particularly pronounced in rural areas.

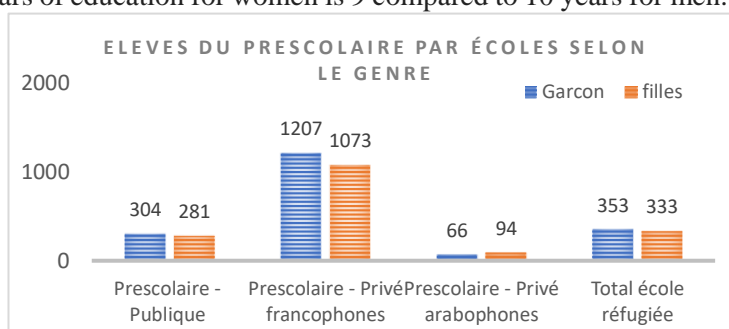
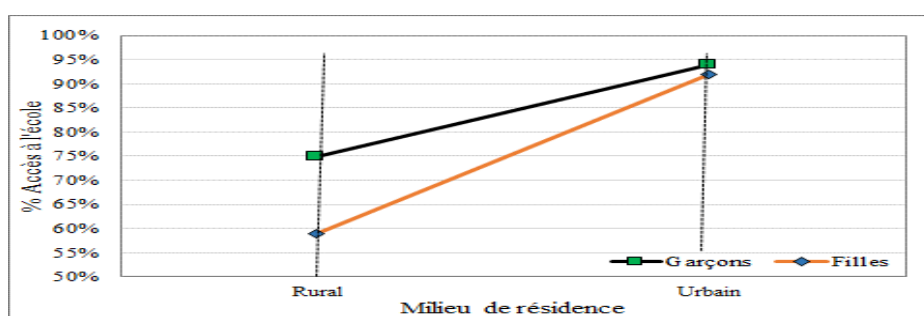


Figure 1: Interaction between sex and place of residence



Source: Minister for National Education and Vocational Training

32. The project's target areas (yoboki and khor angar) follow these trends. Various studies on gender have shown the importance of education for girls and its positive impact on its socio-economic status in Djiboutian society. Thus, it is important to note that a woman's influence depends on her level of education, the job she holds and her economic "weight" in the household.

1.6 Health

33. Over the past decade, the Republic of Djibouti has made significant progress in improving access to health services through the construction of hospitals and health polyclinics, the training of doctors and professionals, and the development of an institutional framework governing the health sector - the launch of universal insurance for all in 2014 including the integration of a fully free health social assistance programme (PASS) for the poorest and the poorest. vulnerable groups based on the solidarity system.
34. Life expectancy increased between 2001 and 2017 from 57.10 to 65.89 years and the under-five mortality rate between 1990 and 2012 rose from 119 to 81 per 100,000 (Unicef). Despite recent

progress, the overall health of Djiboutians is still far from optimal. Total per capita health spending is \$55, one of the lowest in the world.

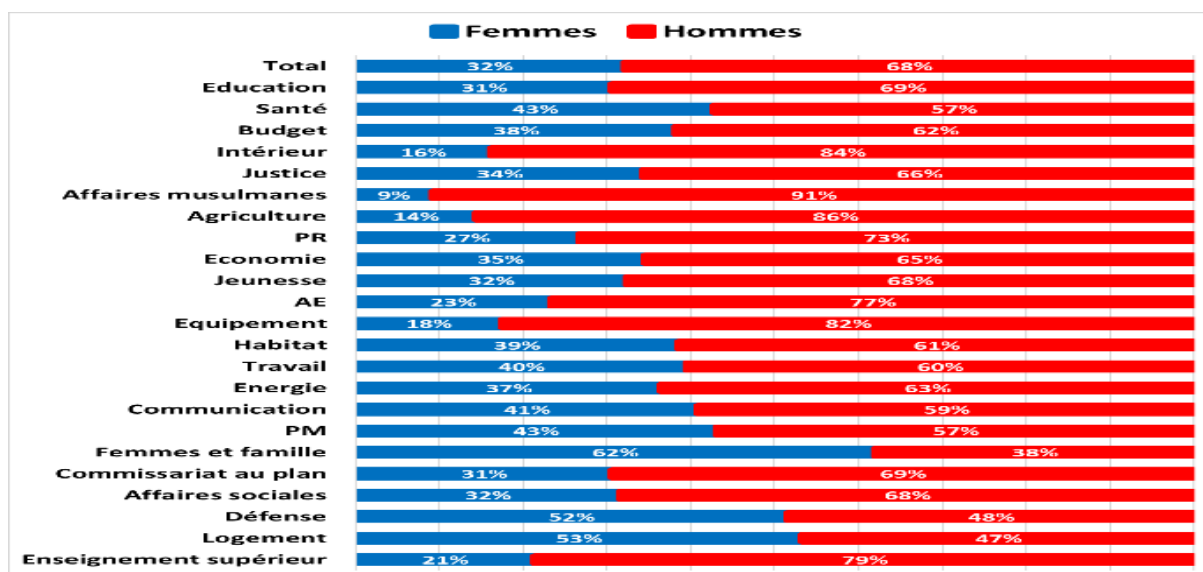
35. With the vast majority of rural households using traditional biomass fuels (boiled, crop residues, wood, charcoal) for daily cooking, exposure (especially for women and children) to indoor air pollutants is very high in Djibouti. Only 6% of the population have access to a clean cooking (% of the population with access) in 2018¹¹. This has a direct impact on health by increasing the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, worsening lung function and contributing to childhood pneumonia and lung cancer. Added to this is the stress of recurrent drought, which leads to lack of water and livelihoods for human beings and livestock.
36. The impacts of climate change will have a negative effect on women's health if gender equality is not addressed in accordance with adaptation measures. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change in rural areas where they take major responsibility for household water supply, cooking wood for cooking and heating. Women are more exposed to waterborne diseases because of the nature of their role in the community. In natural disaster incidents, food prices rise and lead to a reduction in the quality or quantity of poor rural food families are able to buy. Djiboutian women who are already more insecure than men will have even fewer nutritious diets at their disposal.
37. The introduction of cleaner energy sources offers alternatives to firewood for cooking and heating, which significantly reduces women's and children's exposure to indoor air pollution. The use of renewable energy also reduces communities' overall dependence on timber, slowing down deforestation and landslides, thereby reducing the damaging force of natural disasters. Access to modern and affordable forms of energy can also play an important role in improving access to safe water for domestic use. The electrification of health clinics allows for the provision of medical services at night, increased use of more advanced medical equipment, helps retain qualified staff in rural health centres and allows local clinics to keep the necessary medicines among other benefits.

1.7 Women's access to decision-making positions in the administration and the National Assembly

38. Women's access to decision-making positions in the administration and the National Assembly has made progress in recent years. Since the 2013 parliamentary elections, 26% of the elected representatives of the National Assembly are women (17 women parliamentarians) and in public administration this figure is 32% of women against 68% of men.

¹¹ [Tracking SDG 7 | Progress Towards Sustainable Energy \(esmap.org\)](https://www.esmap.org/)

Figure 2: Breakdown of men and women in ministries



Report from the Ministry of Women and Family, CPIA, 2018.

39. In the project's target areas, women stay and manage daily life and household chores. But in recent years, we are witnessing a change - getting out of the house, taking care of the "outside" of the house - in order to contribute to the family economy. This change in circumstances seems to be integrated and accepted by the various groups in society who recognize the importance of women's economic contribution.
40. These changes in behavior and mentality are justified by the existence of several initiatives and programmes to support and promote women's empowerment. We can cite "cash for work/food for work" programmes initiated by UNDP, income-generating activities through self-help and affinity groups (GEA) initiated by the government, labour-intensive activities initiated by social safety net projects, community development mutuals (community mutual investment funds) initiated by the Ministry of Women and Families, support for empowerment through the distribution of livestock or poultry, goats or resilience products that aims to develop agropastoral areas and the development of market gardening near the home, ... These programmes and projects to support empowerment, even if dispersed and uncoordinated, have a significant impact on women's empowerment and, in general, on the status of Djiboutian women.

1.8 Women's access to finance

41. In Djibouti, women are the main beneficiaries of microcredit and traditional microfinance (Djibouti-CPEC: Caisse Population of Savings and Credit). According to the CPEC representative, microfinance is a financial tool that aims to strengthen women's empowerment and fight poverty. However, it is important to note that rural populations appear to have very little access to microfinance services.
42. In addition to traditional and Islamic microfinance services, there is the Community Development Fund (commonly known as the CDF). It is a fund made available to the community to identify, design and implement projects of public and collective interest.

1.9 Violence against women

43. The prevalence rate of female genital mutilation (FGM) at the national level remains high (70.7%, all ages) although it has decreased by almost 8 percentage points compared to 2012 (compared to 78.4% in 2012). It should be noted, however, that the decrease in the prevalence rate is observed only in the urban environment, where it decreased from 78.5% to 69.1% between 2012 and 2019.

Over the same period, it increased slightly in rural areas from 77.8% to 78.6%. 79.1% of people aged 15 and over said they had heard of FGM. This percentage is 95.3% for women and 60.3% for men. Among them 71.3% said that the practice of FGM has decreased in their community; 70.2% know that there is a law prohibiting the practice of FGM; and 69.5% think that FGM should be abandoned.¹²

44. The first national strategy to combat all forms of female circumcision was introduced in 2006 and the government developed and adopted in 2009, Law No. 55 / Year / 09 / 6th L regarding violence against women, especially FGM.
45. The minimum legal age for marriage is 18, but a minor may marry with the consent of a (male) guardian or with the approval of a judge. The rate of early marriage is 13.3% overall, with a significant difference between the urban environment (10.3%) rural environment (26.9%). In this sub-session, we will briefly present the different types of violence with statistics from the survey.
 - **Physical violence:** 7.2% of unmarried women experienced at least one act of physical violence from the last husband/partner during the couple's lifetime; and 4.6% experienced it in the past 12 months. For single women, the prevalence rate of such violence is 6.1%. Deep injuries, broken bones, broken teeth or other serious injuries were reported by 22.5% of women who were victims of domestic physical abuse by the last husband/partner.
 - **Sexual violence:** 5.3% of unmarried women have experienced at least one act of sexual violence from the last husband/partner during the couple's life. This prevalence rate was 3.5% over the past 12 months. The prevalence rate of violence.
 - **Emotional abuse:** 9.4% of unmarried women experienced emotional abuse at least once in their life as a couple with the last husband/partner.
 - **Control by husband/partner:** 31.0% of unmarried women have undergone at least one act of control by the husband/partner at least once in their life as a couple with the last husband/partner.
 - **Seeking help against violence:** of all women aged 15-64 who have suffered physical and/or sexual violence, only 21.1% sought help at one point. Assistance was mainly sought from the victims' own families (71.3%); husbands/partners' families (54.8%); legal men and women (35.8%); neighbours (23.9%); NGOs.
46. In 2007, the Government set up a listening, information and guidance unit (CEIO) to denounce, in particular, violence against women. The CEIO, which includes a social section, a legal section and a health section, helps victims of violence by informing them of their fundamental rights and by referring them to the appropriate institutions and services with easy access to judicial bodies.
- 47.

1.10 Access to information

48. There is a strong correlation between the absence of energy and the lack of a means of communication and information. In the project's target areas, the lack of energy negatively impacts the means of communication and information that remain difficult to access (*no Internet in rural areas, there are few localities that operate mobile telephony and due to lack of electricity in some localities - there is no television*). This means that women do not know the legal texts in their favour and have less access to information and ICT. This has a significant impact on its emancipation.
49. Thus, this project to build solar power plants (mini energy network) will help to strengthen the capacity of women and men to access reliable information and in particular to know the legal texts and strengthen their leadership. At the same time, the project is to organize information workshops, discussion forums and exchange of experience to promote women's empowerment, empowerment

¹² Report of the national survey on female genital mutilation and violence against women, conducted by the ministry of women and families (MFF) and the national statistical institute of Djibouti, January 2020.

and leadership. And also, to inform and educate women about climate change so that they become actors in climate change.

1.11 Women's access to basic social services such as energy

50. More than ever, the issue of access to essential services, including water and energy, is being raised as essential to achieving an adequate standard of living and ensuring better physical and mental health that can be achieved. Water and energy are essential to eradicating poverty, increasing food production, improving public health, improving education, creating economic opportunities and empowering women.
Thus, we can say that access to water and energy is linked to the right to life and dignity and that they are a necessary precondition for the realization of development.
51. The impacts of climate change no longer sparing anyone, for the nations of the world, the main need for "essential services" is unanimous. That is why, by meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, ensuring universal and equitable access to affordable drinking water (SDG 6) and investing in solar, wind and thermal energy is essential to improve energy productivity and ensure access to energy for all (ODD7). And we are convinced that access to water and energy is intimately linked and interdependent. Water can only be produced by the energy on which it depends.
52. To ensure the achievement of SDG 7, the Republic of Djibouti has set a target of switching 100% of fossil thermal energy to 100% renewable energy in the energy sector in 2010 to 100% renewable energy by 2020. This energy would come mainly from geothermal, wind and solar energy and the Ethiopian hydroelectric system. So far, the target of 100% renewable energy by 2020 may not be reached.
53. Significant energy efforts are needed to address the problem of energy access and the negative impact on global warming. Currently, about 53% of the population does not have access to electricity (this rate is 80% in rural areas). And in rural areas, firewood is the main source of energy for about 75% of rural households. In 2018, only 6% of the population has access to a clean kitchen.¹³ Added to this is the level of unmet demand in the electricity sector, which is important.
54. Looking at the links between gender, access and control of natural resources, particularly in the energy sector, we find that there are a number of disparities in the world and in Djibouti:
- i. ***The unequal access to and control of natural resources:*** Women continue to be hampered by structural constraints and gender norms related to access and control of land, water and other productive goods and biological resources. Even when the law guarantees women equal rights to men, many women have less control over natural resources. Research shows that if women had the same access to resources as men, agricultural productivity in developing countries could increase by 20-30%, reducing poverty and improving women's ability to support their families, and sustainable management and use of natural resources.
 - ii. ***Unbalanced participation and decision-making in environmental planning and governance at all levels:*** gender standards, greater time constraints for women and other structural constraints continue to prevent women from having the same opportunities as men to make decisions in the management and sustainable use of natural resources. Bridging gender gaps in participation and leadership in decision-making, from local to national, can help make institutions and policies more representative, and help women better participate in decisions that shape environmental planning, policy development, and sustainable solutions and practices.
 - iii. ***The unequal ability to benefit and services socio-economic:*** In rural areas in particular, women do not have the same opportunity to access income generation opportunities, credit

¹³ Data from the National Statistical Institute (Insd, 2017)

and technology as men. In addition, women often face more barriers than men to accessing funding, training and information. Expanding women's socio-economic benefits can make a significant contribution to improving the environment in areas such as natural resource management, land degradation reduction, renewable energy, sustainable fishing, etc.

Added to this are the negative effects of the accumulation of unreliable energy on the health and well-being of the population, and in particular of women and girls who are primarily responsible for the collection of biomass fuels such as charcoal, wood and agricultural waste. They are at risk of sexual violence when they search for firewood for long hours, travelling several kilometers. The risk of indoor air pollution from the fumes of traditional stoves also exists. Finally, the lack of reliable energy services seriously affects women's activities in the micro-enterprise. The Africa 2018 Sustainable Development Report indicates that the time lost by women and girls to the stress of poverty is compounded by their disproportionate lack of access to affordable and sustainable energy sources (ibid).

55. Given these barriers, this project will be a transformative potential that will bridge these gender gaps and access to reliable energy by (i) more effectively mobilizing women to participate in the design and implementation of the project and environmental efforts, taking into account (ii) women's skills, knowledge and experiences, training (iii) women in the solar mini-network implementation chain in Djibouti and the project area, as well as women's access to reliable information. Also, increased supports will be offered specifically to women to strengthen its role as applicants and primary users of reliable energy and support and support activities to strengthen women's empowerment so that they can benefit full of the project will also be designed and developed.
56. To date, no data on women's participation in energy projects are available. The few mini networks available (for example at the Ali addé or Adaillou mini grids), the employees are mainly men. And there is very little government or other initiative to support women in energy business projects. This project will serve as a catalyst for the country by taking into account the place of women in the energy sector.

II. Gender Integration in Africa Minigrids Program Djibouti National Child Project: Benefits and Opportunities

2.1 Gender Mainstreaming in the Project

58. The participation of women and young people throughout the energy value chain is very limited - sectoral policies do not currently address the challenges they face, and barriers such as lack of access to credit and training limits opportunities for women and youth to develop and use energy and clean cooking technologies and solutions. Access to clean energy through minigrids has the potential to bring multiple benefits to off-grid communities and especially to women who will benefit from mini-solarnetworks, as access to electricity is a crucial issue for gender equality.
59. The availability of electricity benefits everyone, especially women and children. Because the availability of electricity in health centres will reduce maternal and child mortality. The lack of electricity in health centres leads to childbirth and in the event of complications of enormous damage. Women are transferred to 2nd or 3rd level hospitals that equipped with operating theatres and travel time is quite expensive for the lives of women and children. Also, the availability of electricity would lead to better preservation of vaccines for children. So a better impact on the health of mother and child.
60. It has been clearly demonstrated that there is a positive relationship between the productive use of electricity and women's economic empowerment. For example, the use of electrical appliances helps diversify products for sale and helps women entrepreneurs attract more customers. The supply of electric light amplifies time savings by increasing efficiency and adding flexibility in planning household chores. In addition, freeing up women's time is a prerequisite for investment in their education and life choices, encouraging them to seize economic opportunities and participate in economic, political and social life. Recognising this, Agenda 2030 emphasizes the close link between a zero-carbon transition and women's empowerment. Only by reducing energy poverty and empowering women entrepreneurship can they learn and create income-generating activities (AGR) can societies thrive towards inclusive development. Access to reliable energy can therefore make a major difference in women's lives and their available time.

Thus, access to energy improves people's overall physical and economic well-being, which in turn is the prerequisite for adapting to resilience

61. Access to energy allows rural people to diversify their livelihoods away from vulnerable activities, which is a key factor in building resilience to adverse events, including the impacts of climate change.
62. Electricity can increase women's knowledge significantly. In contexts where women have been directly involved in electricity supply, they have acquired a new type of skills and a higher status. This illustrates how the organization of gender-specific supply can affect women's human resources and their wider empowerment. Also, women's access to television and radio programmes will allow them to know about women's rights, which will strengthen their role in family decision-making and in the community.
63. Also, the impact of electricity availability on the community is significant: mini grids are intended to improve the social and economic well-being of the community in several respects because electrification has positive effects on the health and education of the population. It also increases comfort by facilitating domestic tasks for all women and girls in the community, and thus fosters relationships between community members. Access to information through radio and television is an additional benefit for the emancipation of the population.

64. Mini-grids operators are encouraged to increase women's participation in mini-network operations. Encouraging women to use electricity for their income-generating activities and businesses can help increase the electrical load, and thus the viability of minigrid projects.

Table 3: Benefits and opportunities of mini grids (minigrids)

	Minigrids benefits
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reducing women's chores, especially in agricultural activities, seeking water, coal and wood for lighting and cooking; ii. Facilitate the processing of labour-intensive food dominated by women (electrical appliances, water pumps, grinders, mills, blenders, refrigeration and electric stoves). iii. Provides lighting in homes and on roads. This will ensure safe travel and have a better impact on learning and health. iv. Facilitate access to water and reduce time spent in search of safe drinking water. v. Facilitate access to information and the development of information and communication technologies. vi. Increased comfort and more time spent on learning and household well-being. vii. Promoting Leisure and Learning. viii. Make food and medicines possible.
Productive use	<p>Participation in productive uses of energy in predominantly female and labour-intensive agricultural and food processing activities results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Productivity and cost reduction. - A reduction in physical exertion. - Faster and better transformation. - A wider range of services; business after dark. - The development of local trade. - Access to market information. - Fresh and frozen products;
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrification of dispensaries for the lighting and refrigeration of medicines/vaccines and its beneficial impact on maternal health. - Education services at night. - Safer communities; - Clean and reliable water supply (including less time spent, less distance travelled); - New local services. - Digital services
Empowering women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building women's capacities and developing equitable opportunities to fill key positions. - Increased women's voices in decision-making that reflect the priorities and realities of the community; - The availability of public lighting improves the safety of women and girls when travelling at night. - Women are more likely to create income-generating activities after electrification.

III. Key recommendations of gender mainstreaming in activities

65. To ensure the integration of women and gender equality, in this section, it is proposed some relevant recommendations to be taken into account in the implementation and the monitoring of the project. These recommendations are in line with the activities proposed in the framework of the project and are the result of discussions with the various stakeholders, in particular the actors of government agencies and the populations living in the sites of interventions of the project. These recommendations will be divided into two sub-parts. A first part where we will present the main recommendations at a higher or national level and a second part of the specific recommendations in the sites of intervention of the project.

3.1 Recommendation at the national level

- i. Promote business creation in renewable energy supply and encourage women's participation;
- ii. To encourage the participation of women in stakeholder consultation workshops and to ensure a strong involvement of women in policy and regulatory debates on energy issues and particularly in the design of a mini grids.
- iii. With a view to strengthening women's knowledge and skills in the field of renewable energy, it is necessary to organise training workshops and awareness-raising workshops on technical issues, management and regulatory issues related to the development of solar and hybrid mini-grids. Women's participation must be strongly encouraged.
- iv. Implement a gender-responsive capacity building program. This strengthening programme will provide Training on new approaches to planning, design, budgeting and maintenance of energy infrastructure such as solar and hybrid minigrids and other training related to the activities of this project at the national level and to the communities of the implementation sites of minigrids, including consultations with women and women's associations to better ensure that women employed in key ministries are trained and engaged in these innovative models of energy delivery. Training and awareness-raising on the role of women in the creation of revenue-generating activities from this infrastructure and especially from the establishment of the ice plant is extremely important and must be strongly taken into consideration.
- v. For the nomination of a national focal point for the development of mini-grids in Djibouti, the candidacy of women for this position will be strongly encouraged.
- vi. Expand discussions and dialogue on gender and climate resilience and adaptation strategies to include Indigenous knowledge.

3.2 Recommendation At Project Implementation Site Level

- i. Given the low availability of detailed and gender-disaggregated data at the site level, it is important to collect gender-sensitive socio-economic data to assess the payment capacities of households and productive users. Research will be conducted in an inclusive manner to ensure diversity and gender balance.
- ii. Supporting women to take full advantage of the establishment of the ice factory that will be implemented as part of the project in khor Angar. Options should be considered to encourage women to organize themselves into cooperatives for ice production and marketing ;
- iii. Ensure gender balance while providing opportunities for young women to be recruited or to work in the mini-grids that will be implemented as part of the project. Construction and maintenance work should aim to include women as much as possible in the tasks they can

perform. The experience of the social development agency (ADDS) in the Social Safety Net project's Intensive Work Experience (HIMO) has shown that women are willing to participate in less complex construction work.

- iv. The management and maintenance of mini grid should be carried out in consultation with local associations, including women's associations, with a view to engaging women in these activities.
- v. There is a clear lack of understanding at the community level of the effects of climate change. Involve women and men at both the macro and micro levels in the climate resilience process. And awareness sessions focusing on the consequences of global warming should be organized at the village level and involve women's associations in event planning and participation. Further sessions should be considered on education, health, nutrition and hygiene, ideally involving men and women.
- vi. Given the challenges and dangers of Genital Mutilation of Women (FGM) and violence against women, It is important to include an awareness component on the dangers of FGM in the project response sites by encouraging households and communities as well as religious (imans and preachers) To lift taboos around FGM discussions so that every person, including young men, is informed about FGM and its impact on the health of girls and women. Ensure broad dissemination of the law prohibiting the practice of FGM and violence against women.
- vii. The inclusion of all stakeholders involved in the project to increase awareness and training to draw attention to the implication of adaptation to climate resilience and gender equality.
- viii. Women's associations should be involved in decision-making and should be strengthened and supported. Further preparatory work will be required to assess their concentration and capacity in the target communities. Links should be encouraged by any outreach work by the Ministry of Women and Family and the National Family Solidarity Programme. In addition, the lessons learned from self-help and affinity groups (GEA with the Miranda approach to the Adds project), in particular the solidarity savings component and the development of income-generating activities, are extremely interesting to encourage dynamism. And women's creativity.
- ix. Data from previous projects involving women's support for entrepreneurship should be analyzed to ensure the implementation of lessons learned on sustainability.
- x. Assess how gender equality is currently integrated into the energy sector, develop needs assessments, enable planning and be effective in monitoring and evaluation.
- xi. Expand community discussions and dialogue on gender and climate resilience and coping strategies with the inclusion of Aboriginal knowledge.
- xii. During the implementation of the project carried out qualitative evaluations on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated with the project. This issue will be incorporated into the Annual Project Implementation Report, the mid-year report and the final evaluation. Indicators to quantify the project's gender equality objectives will include men and women who have had access to affordable solutions, the number of men and women employed from the jobs created by the project, training opportunities, knowledge management and information dissemination.

IV. The Gender Equality Action Plan for the project

66. The main objective of the AMP in Djibouti is to ‘support access to clean energy by increasing the financial viability, and promoting scaled-up commercial investment, in low-carbon mini-grids in Djibouti, with a focus on cost-reduction levers and innovative business models’. To achieve this objective in the preparation of the project, we conducted a gender-based analysis, taking into account women’s groups, civil society and indigenous peoples in the preparation and design of the project.
67. Thus the project recognizes the importance of gender inclusion. As a result, the project not only integrates renewable energy technologies that would benefit women by giving them access to cleaner energy, improved health and education facilities, and increased women's empowerment. It will also help to organize and build the capacity of communities living in minigrid implementation sites while being gender sensitive.
68. The involvement of women on the demand side will help to promote income-generating activities that benefit from the availability of energy, such as the creation of sewing units at the community level. Therefore, the project's interventions will strengthen women's capacity in the field of renewable energy at the national level.
69. The project will also work with religious leaders, okals, leaders and local authorities to raise community awareness of the rights and opportunities women who can access to energy can offer to strengthen women's rights. While this is not a direct topic in this project, the issue of gender-based violence can also be raised during these consultations.
70. The project is expected to achieve the following results in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment:
 - Increased entrepreneurship opportunities for women among the communities of the two mini-solar system implementation sites, resulting from capacity building on the productive use of energy.
 - Improved understanding and best practices in the provision of gender-appropriate renewable energy services and the development of rural mini-grids in targeted areas;
 - Ensure that training activities are inclusive and participatory.
 - Increase women's technical expertise in renewable energy in general, and the development of mini-grids specifically, at the national level, through capacity-building activities.
 - This Gender Equality Action Plan provides suggested entry points for gender-sensitive measures to be taken in each of the project's areas of activity. In addition, specific indicators are also proposed to measure and track progress in these actions at the activity level to ensure that gender (including broken down data) continues to be collected and measured throughout implementation.

Gender Equality Action Plan Table

EXPECTED RESULTS	Activity	Indicator and targets	Head/Institution	Timeline	Allocated budget (\$US)
COMPONENT 1: POLICY AND REGULATION					
Result 1 : Stakeholder ownership in a national mini-grid delivery model is advanced, and appropriate policies and regulations are adopted to facilitate investment in low-carbon mini-grids	1.1 Conduct political, institutional and technical-economic analyses of gender-sensitive mini-grids to propose the most cost-effective basket of political and financial risk reduction instruments.	<u>Indicator:</u> Socio-economic and productive use data of minigrids disaggregated by age and sex;	MERN/UNDP	Year 1 - Year 2	35.000
	1.2 Support ministries and authorities in the implementation of project recommendations and institutional strengthening and capacity building activities, including for the staff of the new focal point.	<u>Indicator:</u> Many of the activities adopted by the project incorporate disaggregated and gender-appropriate and renewable energy outcomes and objectives Number of women in leadership positions in the public and private energy sectors Baseline: 0 <u>Target:</u> 100%	UNDP	Year 1 until year 4	
	1.4 Work with elders, okals and religious leaders as well as community associations to raise awareness of women's rights in general and especially the roles of women in the energy sector	<u>Indicator:</u> Numbers of Awareness Sessions conducted and numbers of participants accessing knowledge products (gender-differentiated) Baseline: 0 <u>Target:</u> a) 30 awareness sessions;b) 2000 participants (at least 40% female)	MUET and MERN	Year 1	
	1.5 Train the staff involved in the implementation of this project on gender awareness of energy sector policies and strategies.	<u>Indicator:</u> Numbers of training sessions completed and numbers of trained participants (differentiated by gender) Baseline: 0 <u>Target:</u> a) 5 organized awareness sessions;b) 50 trained staff (at least 40% female);	MUET and MERN	Year 1	

COMPONENT 2 : BUSINESS MODEL INNOVATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

<p>Result 2: Innovative business models based on cost reduction operationalized, with strengthened private sector participation in low-carbon mini- grid development</p>	<p>2.1 To assess whether the construction of two mini-solar networks - mini-network to yoboki and khorangar has the potential to promote gender equality and/or women's empowerment or is likely to have a negative impact on the sexes or increase women's exposure to risk.</p> <p>2.2 Support women's involvement and professional development in the private renewable energy sector and their decision-making roles.</p> <p>2.3 Promote the development of employment opportunities through the installation of minigrid to increase family income benefits for project beneficiaries</p> <p>2.4 Increase knowledge of gender equality issues on the productive use of renewable energy and demand issues, particularly women's priority areas (Creation of RMAs,);</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Indicator: a) Gender expertise included in project team. b) government and non-government staff (30% female) with a better understanding of gender impact and opportunities for gender inclusion in the development of rural mini grids Target: a) 30% of the project team are women.</p> <p>Indicator: a) Number of technical training on how to use minigrid to reduce costs b) Proportion of female employees in private enterprises supported Baseline: 0 Target 20% of women in the private renewable energy sector are supported.</p> <p>Indicator: Number Of direct and indirect jobs created with the installation of minigrid (by gender) Baseline: 0 Target 20 jobs created (at least 20% of women)</p> <p>Indicator: Number Of information, education and communication sessions conducted to profile women in local communities Baseline: 0 Target 10 awareness sessions for 1000 participants.</p>	<p>MERN</p>	<p>Year 2 and Year 3</p>	
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COMPONENT 3: SCALED UP FINANCING

Result 3: Financial sector actors are ready to invest in a pipeline of low-carbon mini-grids and concessional financial mechanisms are in place to incentivize scaled-up investment	3.1 Strengthen women's capacity to participate in the creation of innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms, including the formation of technical standards for the design and operation of mini-networks;	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> Numbers of lessons learned reports that capture the project's gender impacts <u>Target:</u> 4			
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COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (KM) AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

Result 4: Data and digitalization are mainstreamed, across stakeholders, into local mini-grid market development. Increased knowledge, awareness and network opportunities in the mini-grid market and	4.1 Improved knowledge, awareness and networking opportunities in the mini-networks market and among stakeholders, including through links to international good practice 4.2 Include gender equality as a central theme in all technical working groups. 4.3 Ensuring women's participation in study trips and exchanges of experiences. 4.4 Create networking of women in the public and private sectors from the various countries involved in the renewable energy sector in the	<u>Indicator:</u> Number of knowledge products (reports, overviews) focused on gender equality issues related to the minigrid sector. <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 2 <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> Numbers of lessons learned reports that capture the project's gender impacts <u>Target:</u> 4 <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> numbers of study trips or exchanges of experiences organized between the different countries involved in this initiative (proportion of women participating); <u>Target:</u> 4 study trips or organized virtual workshops (40% of participants are women) <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> Network numbers of women created			
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<p>among stakeholders, including benefitting from linkages to international good practice</p>	<p>form of communities of practitioners in the sector.</p> <p>4.5 Collect gender-sensitive and gender-broken data and communicate to the regional project through its web portal. This data will be used by the regional project to develop annual reports on lessons learned containing its impacts on gender.</p> <p>4.6 Continuously monitor the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan (GAP) to ensure women's responsiveness to the project and integrate gender-specific impact assessments into mid-term and final evaluations</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> 1 network of women created</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> - Gender Equality Action Plan monitored and updated regularly <u>Target:</u> 1</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> Gender specialist hired as a member of the project's core team <u>Target:</u> 1</p>			
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