



# GENDER ANALYSIS REPORT

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*Burkina Faso National Child Project under the GEF Africa Minigrids Program - AMP*

FEBRUARY 2021

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## I. GENDER ANALYSIS

### A. Introduction and Rationale

The gender analysis is key to integrate gender mainstreaming in any GEF project including the AMP Burkina Faso project. Adopting a gender-responsive approach is critical to achieving the overall objective of the project. It aims at supporting equal opportunities to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from project resources, activities and results for women, men, youth and people with disabilities.

It shall be the basis for the Gender Action Plan to provide concrete approaches to address gender inequalities and identify strategies to advance women's and other marginalized groups' participation and empowerment in the project. As each group is heterogeneous and their interactions differ at various levels, the gender analysis not only helps preventing a harshening of imbalances but also supports the reduction of the latter to contribute to a meaningful participation of women and other vulnerable social groups.

A number of factors demonstrate the importance of taking a gender-sensitive approach to energy access.

In many developing countries for example, women and men have different health sensitivities towards firewood usage, as well as the source of CO<sub>2</sub> exposure in the workplace and in daily life. Women and men often have different levels of access to participation, decision-making, information, education, or justice, and face different constraints in their efforts to improve their environment and living conditions. They may also play distinct roles and have different power in making decisions about energy, pollution prevention, waste management, natural disasters, and building safer environments for communities.

Based on these potential differences and imbalances, and other important links between gender and energy, this gender analysis serves as the basis for the Gender Action Plan for the Burkina Faso AMP project.

During project implementation with the support of the PMU and the Gender Expert (Component 4), an updated baseline and monitoring will be undertaken in Burkina Faso.

### B. Methodology

The methodology used for the gender analysis is the framework provided in the ***Guide to Conducting a Participatory Gender Analysis and Developing a Gender Action Plan for projects supported by UNDP with GEF financing***.

The gender assessment, herein, identifies:

1. National and local context around gender, including policies and strategies
2. Gender roles (women, men, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable people) in terms of labor in general and energy in particular
3. Gender-specific access to and control over resources
4. Power and decision-making processes
5. Capacity needs, skills, knowledge levels depending on gender

The assessment will ensure the disaggregation and targeting of interventions towards addressing the needs of women, men, youth and persons with disabilities are included in the final project design, implementation plans and monitoring & evaluation plans.

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The assessment is based on:

- I. Desk research of key literature (policies, national strategies, statistics, reports, articles and project documents)
- II. Face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders, including at pilot project sites as well as via a focus group of women associations
- III. AMP Burkina Faso project result framework and project document (incl. theory of change)
- IV. UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021

## C. Context

### 1. Overall Context

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country with a population of 21.4 million in 2021 (estimated), mainly living in rural areas (69.4% of the population) with a ratio of 96 men for 100 women in 2020 (estimates)<sup>1</sup>.

Over 65% of the population is under the age of 25 hence a high level of youth. The population growth per annum is 2.58% and among the highest worldwide (with a fertility rate of 5 children per woman in 2020 vs. 6.7 back in 1971<sup>2</sup>).

The Burkinabe society is patriarchal with over 60 different ethnic groups and their specific cultures.

Burkina Faso has a Gender Inequality Index (UNDP -GII) value of 0.594, ranking it 147 out of 162 countries in the 2019 index<sup>3</sup>.

- Poverty

40.1% of the population lives under the national poverty line<sup>4</sup> and is mainly rural with over 92% of the poor living in rural areas<sup>5</sup>. According to INSD, there is a correlation between poverty on the one hand, and gender and age of the family head, as well as the size of the household on the other hand. In other words, in general a household headed by a woman, especially under 45 or of a polygamist tends to be poorer. On average, the poverty rate of female headed households lays 11% higher than men.

- Education

Boys remain the largest beneficiaries of education compared to girls. For the Burkinabe population over the age of 25, in 2018<sup>6</sup>, 87.4% women have no education vs. 77.4% for men. In terms of higher education, only 1.6% women have a higher education degree while the share amounts 4.5% for men.

In half of the households, decision around education of children is made by the father alone<sup>7</sup>.

- Family

The Individual and Family Code from 1990 clearly stipulated the ban of forced marriages and the need for free consent of both spouses, as well as equal rights and duties. Minimum age for marriage is 17 for girls and 20 for boys. However, early marriage is still common with 52% of women married before the age of 18 (vs. 3% for

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<sup>1</sup> [CIA Fact Book](#), visited on 27 February 2021,

<sup>2</sup> <https://knoema.com/atlas/Burkina-Faso/Fertility-rate#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20fertility%20rate%20for,births%20per%20woman%20in%202020> , visited on 27 February 2021

<sup>3</sup> [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/BFA.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/BFA.pdf) , visited on 27 February 2021

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview> , visited on 27 February 2021

<sup>5</sup> National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD)

<sup>6</sup> National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD)

<sup>7</sup> Yeleen Project – Gender Assessment 2019 – African Development Bank

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men). This ranks Burkina Faso as the 5<sup>th</sup> highest child marriage prevalence rate worldwide. While excision is prohibited, it remains rather common practice with 76% of women between 15-45 years affected according to UNICEF in 2018.

- Health & Healthcare

Life expectancy is higher for women (64.5 years) than for men (60.9 years). Maternal health has significantly improved in the past years.

The impact of COVID-19 on girls and young women (including married girls) could be dramatic as a lot of efforts undertaken to fight against early marriage, excision, violence against women etc. are jeopardized due to restrictions and budget reallocations related to the pandemic. Measures against the pandemic generated significant disruptions in their access to food, livelihoods, education and healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services. Underlying drivers of such practices are often related to family poverty, risk perception vis à vis pregnancy out of wedlock, taboo around female sexuality etc., which are strengthened in crisis times.

Same as for education, in half of the households, decision around the health of children is made by the father alone<sup>8</sup>.

- Insecurity

Increased insecurity coupled with a multiplication of terrorist attacks and a geographical expansion of the crisis since 2016 is particularly harming women and youth, whereby about 700.000 people are affected (over a population of 20 million inhabitants). Subsequently, a lot of efforts and financial means are targeted towards improving security at the expense of other development priorities. This situation is particularly hampering any development effort and project, including access to energy and pilot sites selection as part of AMP.

- Persons with disabilities

According to the latest census back in 2014<sup>9</sup>, 2.4% of women and 2.5% of men are considered having a handicap in the country. When taking the children under 18, boys have a larger tendency to have a disability (60% of the cases).

- Climate Change

As a Sahelian country, Burkina Faso is facing an extreme climate with high temperature and high rainfall variability with frequent droughts and floods. Climate change, deforestation and desertification have exacerbated these climate vulnerabilities. The situation combined with non-climate stresses (expanding population, growing demand for natural resources, security, COVID-19 effects, etc.) as depicted above is harming rural people's resilience, especially women. The sustainability of current systems especially of land compromise and seriously threaten food security among rural populations. According to WFP, in 2020, over 3 million Burkinabe are facing acute food insecurity.



## 2. National policies and strategies, and regional & international conventions

In terms of policy and legal frameworks, Burkina Faso has made strides towards gender mainstreaming.

At international and regional level, Burkina Faso is signatory of all major global conventions and frameworks focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). Among them, and most importantly, there is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), which was signed in 2001 and ratified

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<sup>8</sup> Yeleen Project – Gender Assessment 2019 – African Development Bank

<sup>9</sup> National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD)

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in 2005 by Burkina Faso<sup>10</sup>. CEDAW is informally thought of as an international “women’s bill of rights”: it is exclusively devoted to GEWE, legally binding, and thus a defining document in gender equality work. The CEDAW Convention’s prime objective is the prohibition of all forms of discrimination against women.

Although not legally binding and as members of the UN General Assembly, Burkina Faso has also adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. This Declaration is often seen as complementary to, and a strengthening of, the work of CEDAW. It recalls and embodies the same rights and principles as those enshrined in such instruments as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It includes women and energy in public investment programmes (Article 167), in knowledge sharing and equal access to sustainable and affordable energy technologies (Article 256).

At regional level, Burkina Faso has ratified the African Union Convention on Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). The so-called Maputo Protocol was adopted by the African Union and went into effect in 2005. Burkina Faso ratified it in 2006<sup>11</sup>. It guarantees comprehensive rights to women. These include rights in the area of energy. For instance, Article 18 states among other things that women shall have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment.

At national level, this is reflected by the creation of a dedicated ministry: Ministry of Women’s Promotion and Gender (Decree #97-270/PRES/PM 1997) as well as relevant policies, strategies and task forces.

A list of relevant policies and strategies at national level have been designed and (partly) enforced supporting gender mainstreaming. In addition, a “Livre du Genre – Femme et Homme – au Burkina Faso” – Gender booklet – has been developed to gather all relevant policies, strategies etc. in June 2020. The main policies and strategies can be found below:

- Burkina Faso’s Constitution of 1991 promoting gender equality, reinforced in the revision of 2012
- 1996 Act # 043/96 / ADP on Female Genital Mutilation
- 2007 Law on Education Orientation # 013-2007/AN stipulating that education is a right for all despite any gender considerations
- 2007 National Policy for Securing Landownership (Politique Nationale de Sécurisation Foncière en Milieu Rural) promoting that women have the same rights to land as men
- 2008 Law on # 28-2008/AN protecting female pregnant employees, providing equal pay for men and women for jobs at the same level, while instituting working conditions adapted to the situation of women
- 2009 instituting a quota for legislative and municipal elections in Burkina Faso
- 2009 Law on rural land tenure # 034-2009/AN whereby access to rural land is equal without any distinction because of gender, ethnic origins, religion, etc.
- 2015 Law on the prevention, repression and reparation of violence against women and care for victims - #61-2015/CNT
- 2015 adoption of the National Women Entrepreneurship Promotion Strategy (SNPEF) 2016-2025
- 2020 validation of the National Gender Strategy (SNG) 2020-2024 and its operational action plan

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<sup>10</sup> UN Treaty Collection, CEDAW, <https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002800030b1&clang=en>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.maputoprotocol.up.ac.za/index.php/burkina-faso>



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Particularly in the energy sector, a National Action Plan on Policy for Gender and Energy (PAGEB) for the period 2020-2024 has been adopted in February 2020 with the support of ECREEE. The ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access was adopted in Monrovia, Liberia on 4 June 2017 to support the expansion of equal access to energy for both men and women as well as highlighting gender's crucial role as a lever to energy access in West Africa (including in Burkina Faso).

Burkina Faso's National Action Plan – PAGEB (National Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in Burkina Faso) relies on 3 pillars:

- i. Institutionalization of gender mainstreaming for energy access
- ii. Improvement of women's access to decision-making spheres and jobs in the field of energy (both in the private and public sectors)
- iii. Operationalization of an efficient M&E system

In addition, an ECOWAS Policy (which became a Directive after Heads of States' approval) on Gender Assessments in Energy Projects has been approved in 2017 too. Both the ECOWAS Policy and Directive are compliant with the regional objective of achieving universal energy access by 2030 with recognition that the West African female population has an active stake in the success of these policies and that they should be empowered to play active roles.

Some efforts have been made across Ministries, national agencies and donors, but with a limited impact mainly due to a lack of coordination, prioritization on gender aspects by national and local institutions, budget allocation and technical and institutional capacity:

- Gender groups (and sometimes also units) provided for in each government institution including the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries (gender unit created in 2019 by Ministerial order) and ABER
- National council and regional and municipal councils for the promotion of gender
- A consultation framework of donors and other development partners (including the Swiss Cooperation, World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, etc.) and the Technical and Financial Partners Common Gender Fund
- In addition, up-to-date/recent sex disaggregated data are very hard to get.

Despite all these efforts related to policies and programmes promoting gender equality in Burkina Faso, it is clear that discriminatory social norms and informal laws challenge their implementation and impact. Gender inequalities therefore persist, and national averages often mask strong regional disparities. Urban settings are generally more favorable to women's empowerment compared to rural areas. While good progress has been made in ensuring equal access to education and free access to health services for pregnant women, women and girls are still largely discriminated against when it comes to social, economic and political opportunities.

Effective gender mainstreaming at policy and regulatory level can be achieved through its proper institutionalization in Burkina Faso, based on the various interviews with stakeholders and best practices:

- Need for sex-disaggregated data, per sector (incl. energy), baseline and regular updates
- Clear roles & responsibilities on gender in institutions and projects
- Suitable allocation of dedicated resources (HR, finance, time)
- Capacity building on gender mainstreaming in the energy sector
- Gender assessment, monitoring & evaluation of projects & programmes

## D. Gender Roles

### 1. General Labor Aspect

The Burkinabe Constitution grants equal right to work for any gender. According to the Individual and Family Code (1990), each of the spouses have the right to work without permission from the other. The Work Code (2008) stipulates that men and women at similar jobs should get an equal pay. It also includes articles on the protection of pregnant women as well as the right of a paid 3-months maternity leave when in formal jobs, and the protection of women against unsuitable jobs because of their dangerousness level or potential morality issues.

However, in practice, traditional labor division prevails in Burkina Faso, and women are all in all disadvantaged in the labor market. Women are mostly employed in household-based, precarious and informal jobs (incl. underemployment about 26% in rural areas for women<sup>12</sup>), many of them in the agricultural and food processing sector<sup>13</sup>. Unpaid work is rather common for women and youth (59%), especially in rural areas<sup>14</sup>. In rural areas, while women represent over half of the farmers, they are mostly involved in subsistence farming.

According to stakeholder consultations held in February 2021 in the framework of the AMP Burkina Faso Gender mission, there is a progressive change of mentalities whereby some traditionally 'male' jobs are covered by women and vice versa (especially by young men from the family).

A gap between national laws and their application leads to gender inequalities the labor context.

### 2. Labor division in rural areas



#### Labor

Gender category	Roles & Responsibilities, Key Findings
1. Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>70% of women are involved in agriculture where they barely own any land (see D.)<sup>15</sup> and represents the most vulnerable industry due to climate change (highly rain dependent).</li><li>Women work on the family's agricultural field (80% of the workers) prior to focusing on their own crop production either for their family's subsistence or for sales on the local market.</li><li>Applying mostly traditional practices, artisanal technologies &amp; basic processes.</li><li>Limited ownership and land-use rights – own less than 20% of agricultural land<sup>16</sup></li></ul>

<sup>12</sup> World Bank (2018), <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/435151544130430468/pdf/ACS22740-REVISED-Burkina-Faso-Jobs-Diagnosis.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Stakeholder consultations

<sup>14</sup> World Bank (2018), <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/435151544130430468/pdf/ACS22740-REVISED-Burkina-Faso-Jobs-Diagnosis.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> National Adaptation Plan - NAP 2015

<sup>16</sup> GGGI (2019), [https://gggi.org/site/assets/uploads/2020/01/GGGI\\_Burkina-Faso-Social-Review\\_Final.pdf](https://gggi.org/site/assets/uploads/2020/01/GGGI_Burkina-Faso-Social-Review_Final.pdf)



Gender category	Roles & Responsibilities, Key Findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women are heavily involved in processing food. This activity is often linked to cooking and the use of traditional cookstoves (3 stones) and firewood or solid biomass fuels (cow dung, wood, charcoal). Indoor air pollution and related respiratory and ophthalmic diseases, as well as back pain due to carrying firewood are very common. Mechanized processing equipment remain limited (often needs to be imported), too expensive and with high energy and maintenance (spare parts) costs. Access to electricity for processing is rather limited – a few women groups have bought PV panels</li> <li>• Small ruminant breeding is practiced by 42% of women. They are often not allowed though to become members of breeders’ organizations and can be dispossessed of their animals without any legitimate reason<sup>17</sup>. They do not become large breeders either due to lack of finance and land, or inability to undertake transhumance (Fulani breeders).</li> <li>• Women are involved in marketing, sales and processing of fish and related sea products.</li> <li>• Low earnings and margins.</li> <li>• Sales done at the local market, at processing unit, to wholesalers and at fairs. Only a few women and in specific value chains (shea, cashew, sesame) sell abroad.</li> <li>• 24% of employment in the public and formal private sector are women while over ¾ of them are active<sup>18</sup></li> <li>• Often, in rural areas, when a woman wants to develop an income generating activity, the family head’s approval is necessary.</li> <li>• In some households, because women are busy in income generating activities other than the family agricultural plots, men tend to disagree and willing them to stop these. To avoid that, in some cases, women give part of their income to hire a worker to take care of the family plot (job creation) as well as for inputs</li> <li>• Women tend to organize in groups (GIE – Groupement d’Intérêt Économique), cooperatives as well as associations. In many women associations, incl. focus group at the Beo Neere Association, while members are exclusively women, some support is provided by men incl. consulting and delivery (paid by the association)</li> <li>• Lower educational level vs. men, and illiteracy level of over 80% for women between 25-65<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• in addition to their income generating activities, women are in charge of household chores as well as fetching water and collecting firewood (about 4 hours a day as a girl and going up to 6.5 hours a day being an adult) while men tend to only contribute to those 4 hours a week<sup>20</sup></li> <li>• Firewood is bought and then sold by women. Relative high level of deforestation and desertification have led to the necessity to buy firewood in many places in Burkina. They are using torches to deliver firewood at night which implies security risks (robbery, assault, rape, etc.)</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> National Adaptation Plan - NAP 2015

<sup>18</sup> OECD 2018, SIGI Country Study

<sup>19</sup> World Bank (2018), <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/435151544130430468/pdf/ACS22740-REVISED-Burkina-Faso-Jobs-Diagnosis.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Yeleen Project – Gender Assessment 2019 – African Development Bank

Gender category	Roles & Responsibilities, Key Findings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In charge of the health and education of children. School fees are often paid by women but also by men</li> </ul>
<b>2. Men</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% of independent farmers or workers are men.</li> <li>• Mainly in charge of commercial agriculture.</li> <li>• Men manage the family's agricultural storage.</li> <li>• In the cashew value chain for instance, men tend to sell raw produce for export while women tend to sell processed product especially to local but also sub-regional and international markets, when possible.</li> <li>• Growing tendency to invest and manage a food processing company but semi-industrial rather than artisanal in most women's cases.</li> <li>• While women are involved in agriculture throughout the year, men tend to move to cities during lower agricultural season or even all year long to earn money for themselves.</li> <li>• Own the land most of the time and hence also better access to finance (collateral)</li> <li>• In electricity cooperatives (COOPEL), the bureau is dominated by men.</li> <li>• During various stakeholder consultations in villages around electrification (ABER), there are only men attending while women were invited too.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young women are often integrated in the mother's (or other woman of the family) business at an early age, especially for input collection and product deliveries, part of processing, etc.</li> <li>• Progressive perception shift to jobs that were considered only for women – especially food processing. Young men work with their mothers and continue even after their mothers have left this activity.</li> <li>• Involved in B2B (wholesales) and B2C sales of cashew.</li> <li>• Multiplying unpaid jobs, feeling exploited, pushing them to move to cities or even farther to Europe.</li> <li>• Before being married, young people are not really autonomous and independent to have their own business and pushed to work for the family business.</li> <li>• Young men tend to be more concerned and involved with the family including children then their elders (progressive shift).</li> </ul>
<b>4. Persons with disabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% are not educated</li> <li>• 56% are unemployed, with a lack of professional qualifications cited as the main reason</li> <li>• 44% feel socially excluded<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.hi-us.org/burkina\\_faso](https://www.hi-us.org/burkina_faso), viewed on 12 April 2021

### 3. Labor division in the energy sector

Inequalities are present at different levels in the energy sector:



a) At institutional level

At the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Quarries as well as at energy related agencies such as ABER, the share of women as part of the staff is relatively low and functions covered are mostly at lower hierarchical levels (except for instance for the DG of the regulatory body, ARSE, who is a woman).

A gender unit exists at the Ministry but has rather limited budget and the staff is in charge of various topics including gender. A staff member owning the institutional memory on energy and gender has left, which negatively impacted the gender mainstreaming efforts at the Ministry.

A Gender Group (CPMG-ME) at the Ministry Level including all energy agencies do exist (by ministerial ruling) but without clear roles and responsibilities so far for each of the members and without proper budget to implement the determined actions. Its annual action plan does not differ from the National Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access in Burkina Faso (PAGEB).

b) At supply level

Women are highly involved as intermediary to distribute and sell firewood (as indicated above) and charcoal, but not as producers. Firewood represents up to 95% of energy sources for cooking in rural areas.

Regarding supply of electricity, men still remain the majority of energy services providers in the country (incl. SHS, minigrids, etc.). A few initiatives have fostered women and youth in the RE business. [Barefoot College](#), an Indian NGO, building the capacities of middle-aged often illiterate women in villages in emerging countries to become solar engineers (so called Solar Mamas) and install, build and repair solar power systems. While trainings occurred for a period of 6 months in India, a training center should soon be implemented about 80km away from Ouagadougou, to train more women in the country as well as from neighboring countries.

ANEREE, the national agency promoting RE and EE, has trained 5,286 young people by August 2020 – about half are women and the other half are men - in Burkina's 13 regions to solar energy and EE. The aim of this 7-days training is to build their capacity in that field and promote entrepreneurship and skilled employment. The trained technicians should be able to provide installation, maintenance and monitoring of local solar equipment. To facilitate the adoption of RE and EE by users, ANEREE involved also various artists (incl. singers).

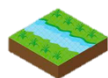
Out of the 118 members of APER-BF, the association of RE professionals in Burkina, only a few are women.

c) At demand level

In rural areas, women mainly use energy for cooking purposes. Access to electricity for their income generating revenues remain relatively rare, except for some women groups and cooperatives using some solar PV panels for part of their food processing/productive use activities. (e.g., local sorghum-based beer dolo, attiéké, shea butter)

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## E. Gender-specific access to and control over resources



### Land

While women represent the largest share of farmers in rural areas, their access to ownership of land is relatively low (less than 40% for land in general, and less than 20% of agricultural land). When they have access to land, it is often a joint ownership with a man – mainly husband, brother, etc. Men own land individually<sup>22</sup>.

In some areas and for some crops, such as cashew, more and more women and cooperatives of owners have been created. In the largest cashew production area of Burkina – representing 40% of national production and covering 4 regions: Cascades, Sud-Ouest, Hauts Bassins and Centre Ouest – some women are raising awareness in villages to foster the process of women owning rural land for their income generating activities, with the initial support of ADA, the Austrian Development Agency. Since, some men have given some plots to women so that they can benefit from such development projects.

According to the Agrarian and Land Reorganization of 2012 (RAF – Law 034-2012 AN), the State of Burkina Faso can attribute urban and rural land to individuals irrespective of sex or their married status. But in practice, land remain mainly a man's asset and some land that is provided temporarily to a women's group for instance, can be taken back at any moment. Hence, women have a perception of having a Damocles' sword over their head with the risk of being chased away at any time (various interviews and focus groups).

In rural areas, women and youth barely have access to land. Stakeholder consultations indicate that some men believe they are losing when a woman has access to land. In addition, some local customs tend to prevent women from owning land.

The lack of land ownership hampers the access to bank loans and nurtures the level of dependence of women towards men.



### Water, Sanitation, Health & Wellbeing

In Burkina Faso, 66.2 % of rural population has access to drinking water but only 15.1% to sanitation end of 2017 according to the Ministry of Water and Sanitation<sup>23</sup>. A study in 2018 highlighted the low satisfaction of consumers toward water supply and sanitation across the country (63.4%), which are both, considered as basic rights for every Burkinabe in the Constitution.

Issues related to water supply (rotating cut-offs, irregular supply, insufficient flow, infrastructure quality) mean that women and girls spend many hours a day to collect water, at the expense of productive activities for women and education for girls. Quality of water, including physic, chemical and bacteriological compositions which are only conducted prior a community well's inauguration, stagnation and conservation, is highly questionable in rural areas. This encourages water-borne and vector-borne diseases such as cholera epidemics and diarrhea, and vulnerable populations are particularly affected.

Often at household levels and in schools and rural workplace, latrines are not available, forcing women and girls to walk long distances to reach such facilities. This has an impact on their time, health, productivity and security.

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<sup>22</sup> OECD 2018, SIGI Country Study

<sup>23</sup> IRC WASH [https://fr.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/blog\\_juste\\_defis\\_odd6\\_burkina.pdf](https://fr.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/blog_juste_defis_odd6_burkina.pdf)

Women often consume less water during the day to reduce the need to go outside at night, which makes them more sensitive to infectious disease (e.g., urinary tract infections and kidney problems).

Lack of hand-washing and disinfecting measures after defecating and before caring for children or cooking increases both the spread and prevalence of diseases. Especially in COVID times, access to water and hand washing is more critical than ever before.

→ *The AMP project will support through the rollout of low-carbon minigrids, access to drinking water in all pilot sites as well as power health centers. Moreover, access to energy could, based on a needs assessment and combined to other initiatives, support sanitation and water treatment efforts in pilot sites.*



## Finance

Financial inclusion is rather low at 18% in Burkina Faso based on a UNCDF study in 2016. According to a recent field study, 66% of women do not have a nominative bank account. 76% of the women that applied for a loan did not get a positive answer due a lack of suitable collaterals for (especially land as indicated above)<sup>24</sup>. In addition, women entrepreneurs, who have a weaker literacy level than their male counterparts as seen above, tend to have business activities with lower profitability impeding their ability to access credit. According to the General Directorate of Economic Planning and Finance, men tend to get 3.5 times higher loan amounts than women in Burkina Faso. Therefore, lack of access to finance significantly hampers women's business activities as their financial needs are often higher than the amounts offered by microfinance institutions.

Even to access microfinance financial products, women tend to face some challenges. Women savings groups, "tontines", are well developed and used across Burkina and especially in rural areas, be it at community or cooperative/association levels.

Part of the challenges related to access to finance are overcome thanks to specific initiatives such as the FAARF<sup>25</sup>, a state-owned institution, offering credits (with progressive amounts starting at about USD 100) combined with financial and management literacy to support income generating activities for women. FAARF is actually supported by UNCDF, a partner of the AMP project in Burkina.

Digital financial services are growing thanks to mobile money services offered by telecom operators combined with innovative financial products and services. Digitalization and innovation seem to be appropriate levers to contribute to access to finance especially for women and youth, e.g., digital rural savings groups supported by UNCDF via two financial institutions RCPB - Réseau des Caisses Populaires du Burkina Faso, and SOFIPE - Société de financement de la petite entreprise<sup>26</sup>.

Such digital solutions need access to energy (charging phones and often also to Internet), which will, luckily be supported by pilot projects at AMP. They also create jobs and at least additional income generating activities thanks to the sales agent network to ensure end-users have access to these digital financial services.

During stakeholder consultations, women indicated that access to finance for income generating activities in rural areas was also limited due to the lack of understanding of specific value chains (agriculture, energy, etc.)

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<sup>24</sup> OECD 2018, SIGI Country Study

<sup>25</sup> Fonds d'Appui aux Activités Rémunératrices des Femmes

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.uncdf.org/article/5626/building-bridges-to-financial-inclusion-in-burkina-faso>, viewed on 13 April 2021

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by financial institutions agents. For instance, the payback period does not reflect the duration of an agricultural campaign.

Insurance services are another important financial inclusion dimension that helps rural women to mitigate risk. Agricultural and livestock insurance is vital for rural inhabitants. Since July 2020, the Burkinabe Government has introduced an agricultural insurance with Société Nationale d'Assurances et de Réassurances (SONAR-IARD) and Mutuelle Agricole Marocaine d'Assurance (MAMDA). The pilot project on specific regions (Centre-Ouest, Boucle du Mouhoun and Est) shall be the first step for helping smallholder farmers better face a yield reduction due to droughts and floods.

Financial literacy on the benefits of finance and insurance products and services, including for productive activities in rural areas, remains a large barrier.

→ AMP envisages to contribute to overcoming such barriers through innovative financing (Project Component 3) including on the demand/end-users' side. Capacity building for financial institutions around minigrid, their innovative business model and risk mitigation will also be provided (Output 3.1.)

## F. Power and decision-making processes

### 1. Political arena

Women are underrepresented in politics— 13.4% in 2020<sup>27</sup> and lack decision-making power, while a law on gender quota of a minimum of 30% women on electoral lists at legislative and municipal elections has been adopted since 2009. This situation is mainly related to persistent stereotypes for both men and women, and the fact that women are not often considered up to the task for decision-making positions in the political arena.

The Ministry of Women's Promotion and Gender is the Government entity responsible for gender equity and each ministry has a gender focal point or unit (National Gender Policy – Institutional framework 3.1.). These gender units often have limited resources, including financial ones, leading to limited impacts on gender mainstreaming.

### 2. Energy field

There is barely any information available on women's representation and decision-making power in the energy sector on the private sector side. At the Ministry, ANEREE, ABER and the national utilities SONABEL, in 2018, there were about 18% of staff that were women<sup>28</sup>.

For the year 2018/2019, 35.3% of higher education students were women<sup>29</sup>. Science represents only 22.4% of the total students and encompass 21.3% women among their students. Academics deplore the limited number of women in STEM and in particular in energy related topics (from electrician to RE engineer).

## G. Knowledge levels depending on gender

### 1. Children's education

Despite numerous efforts to promote girls' education in Burkina, the general preference to send boys to school is prevalent. In the Cascades Region for instance, more than 1 inhabitant over 5 considers that it is better to send a boy to school than a girl mainly because of (i) school fees and their share in the overall household budget, (ii)

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<sup>27</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS?locations=BF> visited on 13 April 2021

<sup>28</sup> Annuaire Statistique 2019 du Ministère de l'Énergie, [http://cns.bf/IMG/pdf/me\\_annuaire\\_statistique-2018.pdf](http://cns.bf/IMG/pdf/me_annuaire_statistique-2018.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Dashboard 2018-2019 on Higher Education, <http://cns.bf/IMG/pdf/tbmersi2019.pdf>



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loss of income for families whose daughter constitute an important workforce, (iii) risks of early pregnancy. At post-primary school levels, traditional labor division and stereotype prevail. Boys are favoring sciences (50% of the boys) while girls are heavily present in social science, telecommunication or services (45% of the girls). Girls make up two-thirds of administration and secretarial students, boys almost all of the army and police, and civil engineering, public works and medicine students (90 %). The result is a highly segregated labor market, which explains, among other things, gender-based income inequalities.

Children with disabilities are seldomly sent to school (85% are not educated) as facilities are not adapted and teachers tend to stick to classical teaching without adapting to some children's disabilities.

## 2. Skills and knowledge for adults

Access to training for women (and sometimes also for girls) can be complicated for mobility issues and household chores.

Some initiatives and activities targeting women/youth and energy in Burkina Faso have been put in place but without concrete scale-up so far. As indicated above:

- Barefoot College, an Indian NGO, building the capacities of middle-aged often illiterate women in villages in emerging countries to become solar engineers (so called Solar Mamas) and install, build and repair solar power systems. While trainings occurred for a period of 6 months in India, a training center should soon be implemented about 80km away from Ouagadougou, to train more women in the country as well as from neighboring countries.
- ANEREE has trained 5,286 young people by August 2020 – about half are women and the other half are men - in Burkina's 13 regions to solar energy and EE. The aim of this 7-days training is to build their capacity in that field and promote entrepreneurship and skilled employment. The trained technicians should be able to provide installation, maintenance and monitoring of local solar equipment. To facilitate the adoption of RE and EE by users, ANEREE involved also various artists (incl. singers).
- 3 vocational training centers in 3 different regions are providing training on renewable energies as part of their Electrotechnics diploma<sup>30</sup>.
- 2iE, an international institute on water and environment engineering, offers trainings on RE for some decades already.

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<sup>30</sup> [https://snv.org/cms/sites/default/files/explore/download/evidence\\_sur\\_letat\\_des\\_lieux\\_de\\_loffre\\_de\\_formation\\_en\\_er\\_bf.pdf](https://snv.org/cms/sites/default/files/explore/download/evidence_sur_letat_des_lieux_de_loffre_de_formation_en_er_bf.pdf)

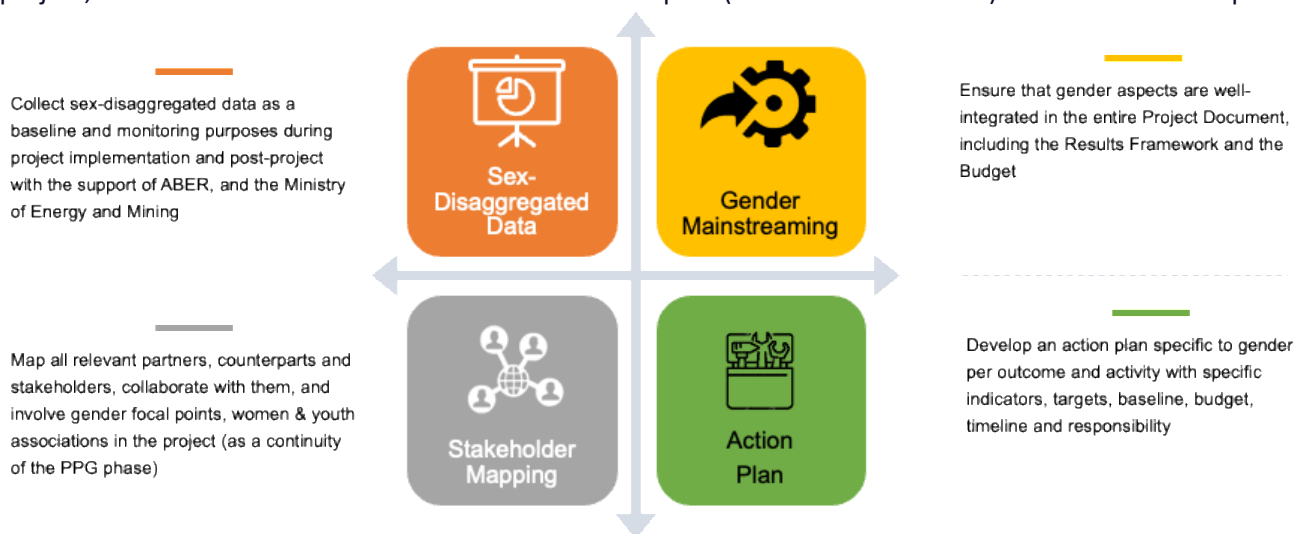
## II. GENDER ACTION PLAN

### A. Recommendations / Entry points

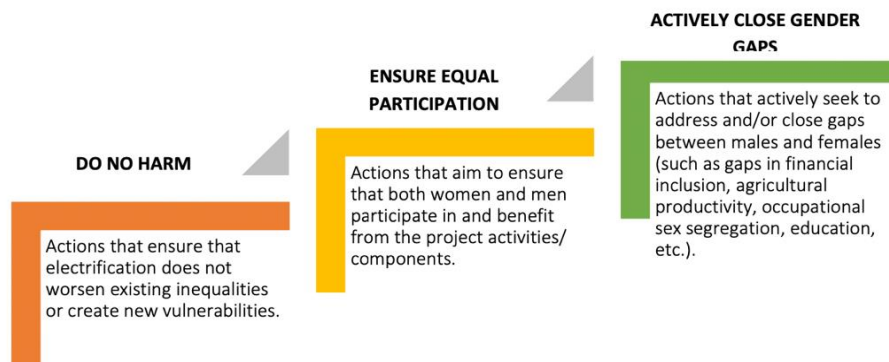
The Gender Analysis above provides a holistic understanding of how relationships between men and women, as well as youth and persons with disabilities, affect their ability to participate in and benefit from the opportunities and impacts offered by the AMP project

Based on the Gender Analysis above, the project's Theory of Change and its Results Framework, concrete tailored measures to mitigate identified challenges are drawn and reflected in a Gender Action Plan with targeted indicators. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be monitored and adapted if needed via corrective measures (Activity 4.1.1). The GAP is key for the PMU to ensure that gender outputs and activities are well-integrated in the annual workplan and budget.

Various aspects need to be considered to ensure the successful integration of the gender aspect throughout the project, combined with the Social and Environmental aspect (see Annexes 9 and 10) and its effective impacts:



3 levels of gender actions are considered in the project<sup>31</sup>:



<sup>31</sup> ESMAP (2017), Minigrids & Gender Equality: Inclusive Design, Better Development Outcomes – Key Issues, and Potential Actions

In addition to the activities to be considered, gender-sensitive indicators are incorporated in the project's Results Framework including:

- Quantitative indicators: that can be counted (in absolute and relative terms);
- Qualitative indicators: that are evaluated based on experiences, perceptions, opinions, attitudes of the different gender and are collected thanks mainly to participatory approaches such as focus groups, social mapping tools, etc.

A preliminary list of indicators can be found below. Changes might occur at project inception phase and during implementation.

## B. Proposed Gender Action Plan

The action plan considers the following main topics as critical for the success of the project and its gender mainstreaming impact:



GEWE = Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

All these aspects are integrated in the Gender Action Plan below.

Gender-related objective	Action	Indicators and targets	Responsible institution	Timeline	Budget (US \$)
<b>Outcome 1: Stakeholder ownership in a national minigrid delivery model is advanced, and appropriate policies and regulations are adopted to facilitate investment in low-carbon minigrids</b>					
<b>1. Ensure equity and advocacy at Multi-Stakeholders Platform</b>	Output 1.1. – Multi-Stakeholders Platform encompasses members representing gender aspects which are key for the project overall and particularly the pilot projects’ success. This includes representatives of pilot projects’ communities, women/youth/person with disabilities associations, Ministry of Women’s Promotion and Gender, and gender focal point at relevant ministries and agencies (incl. ABER and the Ministry of Energy and Mining). Members of the platform should be relatively equally distributed between men and women.	<u>Indicators:</u> Women, youth and persons with disabilities represented and participate actively in the Multi-Stakeholders Platform % of women members of the Multi-Stakeholders Platform <u>Baseline:</u> 0% as the Platform does not exist yet <u>Target:</u> At least 30% of the Multi-Stakeholders Platform members are women, youth and person with disabilities	ABER, UNDP, CSOs (Women, Youth, Persons with disabilities)	Year 1 Q1	\$3,000
<b>2. Include gender mainstreaming in regulatory and policy frameworks</b>	Outputs 1.2., 1.3., and 1.6. – The specific minigrid strategy clearly takes gender into consideration. Specific paragraphs are dedicated to gender. Minigrid techno-economic studies assess the gender aspects be it as a key criterion for minigrid eligibility (GIS study), as a risk and relevant mitigation measures (DREI analysis)	<u>Indicators:</u> Number of relevant strategies and studies including clear gender considerations <u>Baseline:</u> n.a. <u>Target:</u> Gender aspects are assessed and integrated as specific paragraphs/chapter in all documents (regulatory framework, studies)	ABER, Ministry of Energy & Mining, UNDP	Year 1 Q1-Q4	\$4,820
<b>3. Build and strengthen Institutional staff and private sector players</b>	Output 1.5. - Technical, managerial and regulatory trainings will be provided to	<u>Indicators:</u>	ABER, training providers	Year 1 Q1, Q2, Q4, Year 2 Q1, Year 2 Q3-Q4	\$16.356

Gender-related objective	Action	Indicators and targets	Responsible institution	Timeline	Budget (US \$)
	institutional staff and private sector players including women.	% of women and youth <sup>32</sup> taking part in training programmes Number of women becoming a trainer. <u>Baseline:</u> Limited capacities at institutional level on minigrids per se. About 18% of relevant institutional staff are women. <u>Target:</u> At least 30% of people trained are women and youth At least 2 women are trainers of the different training to be provided.			
<b>Outcome 2: Innovative business models based on cost reduction operationalized, with strengthened private sector participation in low-carbon minigrid development</b>					
<b>4. Pilot project communities (incl. private sector and public services) are consulted, involved in the decision making and have a role to play in the management of the minigrid</b>	Output 2.1.: As initiated during PPG phase, encourage and enable women and men to participate in the planning and design of minigrids helps ensure that services provided are beneficial to the whole community, and are implemented with full public support. In pilot 1, women are expressly trained.	<u>Indicators:</u> % of women consulted in the pilot minigrid development % of households or MSMEs headed by women connected with electricity via the minigrid. <u>Baseline:</u> Pilot site communities have been selected, <i>inter alia</i> , because of their dynamic communities. <u>Target:</u> At least 20% of the community members consulted are women.	ABER, local authorities, ecovillages committees, Communities, private sector minigrid developers/operators	Year 1 Q2 - Year 3 Q4	\$21,060

<sup>32</sup> African Union, African Youth Charter – youth is between the age of 15 and 35

Gender-related objective	Action	Indicators and targets	Responsible institution	Timeline	Budget (US \$)
		At least 40% of households or MSMEs headed by women, are connected with electricity via the minigrid			
<b>5. Empower women and youth through additional income generating activities and advocacy around minigrids</b>	Outputs 2.2. and 2.3.: Build the capacities of and create decent jobs for women and youth to become rural electricians, money collectors and other jobs related to the minigrid on pilot sites and further. A close collaboration with private sector minigrid developers/operators is key here. Some training will be undertaken by the latter.	<u>Indicators:</u> % of women and youth taking part in training programmes <u>Baseline:</u> Limited trainings on minigrids so far <u>Target:</u> At least 50% of people trained are women and youth	ABER, communities ecovillages, private sector developers/operators, training providers, national industry association for private sector developers	Year 1 Q1 – Year 4 Q4	\$26,155
<b>Outcome 3: Financial sector actors are ready to invest in a pipeline of low-carbon minigrids and concessional financial mechanisms are in place to incentivize scaled-up investment</b>					
<b>6. Offer financing products &amp; services targeted to gender</b>	Outputs 3.3. and 3.1.: The umbrella financial instrument and relevant innovative financing solutions (especially on the demand side) develop gender-specific conditions and solutions. Women and youth are facing quite significant difficulties to access to finance in general in Burkina Faso. Capacities of financial institutions provided should include a sub-module on gender considerations and empowerment through access to finance	<u>Indicator:</u> Number of financial mechanisms, linked to minigrid, proposed and operational in the umbrella financial instrument to facilitate investment in minigrid, is targeting women and young people Submodule on gender aspects integrated in training for financial institutions <u>Baseline:</u> No targeted financing solution available for minigrids but some that can be used to get some funding for getting access to energy, to RE and EE ancillary equipment (demand) and to buy relevant materials	Financial institutions, ABER, Women and Youth associations	Year 1 Q3-Year 3 Q4	\$10,900



Gender-related objective	Action	Indicators and targets	Responsible institution	Timeline	Budget (US \$)
		and goods for energy service providers (supply) <u>Target:</u> At least 1 financial mechanism, linked to minigrid, proposed and operational in the umbrella financial instrument, is targeting women and young people 1 Submodule on gender aspects integrated in training for financial institutions			
<b>Outcome 4: Increased awareness and network opportunities in the minigrid market and among stakeholders, and lessons learned for scaling up rural electrification using solar PV-battery minigrids</b>					
<b>7. Provide awareness raising and knowledge sharing</b>	Outputs 4.2., 4.3., 4.4, 4.5., 4.6.: Communities of Practice include women and youth. As such study visits, knowledge sharing efforts etc. are provided to targeted women and youth too. The national awareness raising campaigns take gender aspects into consideration. Gender perspective included in the knowledge sharing materials. The data strategy and its action plan integrate gender	<u>Indicator:</u> % of members of Communities of Practice are women and youth (national, regional) Gender aspects are considered for national awareness raising campaigns, lessons learned and the data strategy <u>Baseline:</u> n.a. as not started yet <u>Target:</u> At least 20% of the members of Communities of Practice are women and youth Gender aspects are considered for national awareness raising campaigns, lessons learned and the data strategy	UNDP, AMP Regional Project, ABER	Year 1 Q1 – Year 4 Q4	\$5,748

Gender-related objective	Action	Indicators and targets	Responsible institution	Timeline	Budget (US \$)
<b>8. Ensure monitoring and evaluation efforts are gender-sensitive</b>	Outputs 4.1., 4.9., and 4.10.: Monitoring and evaluations will put a particular focus on gender related activities and indicators.	<u>Indicator:</u> % of women part of the project management unit and implementation support staff MTR and TE integrating gender-sensitive evaluation <u>Baseline:</u> n.a. as not started yet <u>Target:</u> At least 20% of the PMU and implementation support staff are women MTR and TE integrate gender-sensitive evaluation	ABER, UNDP	Year 1 Q1 – Year 4 Q4	\$45,127
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$133,166</b>