

# Gender Analysis and Action Plan

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Africa Mini-grid Program Somalia

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMP	Africa Mini-grid Program
ESPS	Electricity Service Providers
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IDP	Internally Displaced People
KM	Knowledge Management
PFD	Program Framework Document
SEAP	World Bank's Somali Electricity Access Project
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SES	Social Environmental Safeguards
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDHS	Somalia Demographic Health Survey
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WASH	Water and Sanitation and Hygiene

## 1.Introduction

This gender analysis report aims at providing baseline information about the overall context of gender relations, different needs, roles, benefits, access to/control over resources among women, men, boys and girls in Somalia and Somaliland. By generating such information, it is intended to inform the Africa Mini-grid program (AMP) to be gender responsive in its effort to increase access to renewable energy through expansion of mini-grids. Beyond describing the general gender related context, this report presents gaps identified specific to AMP components, existing opportunities to empower women, along with measures to be taken to ensure the project contributes to both gender equality and positive environmental goals.

The gender analysis was framed based on GEF/UNDP guidance<sup>1</sup> on gender equality and women's empowerment, which references GEF-7 programming directions and focuses on identifying gender related gaps and opportunities in five areas relevant to project intervention. In the case of AMP, the gender analysis is tailored to bring the gender dimensions of energy particularly access to electricity through mini grid. Accordingly, the information generated through the gender analysis is presented under the overall socio-demographic and cultural context, policy and legal frameworks; patterns of gender division of labor and decision making; access and control over energy resources and the capacity of men and women to access various opportunities.

Based on the findings of the gender analysis, strategic entry points for gender transformative activities were identified across the following AMP components:

1. Policy and regulations around mini-grid development
2. Innovative business model and private sector engagement
3. Innovative financing
4. Knowledge management (KM) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

The methodology applied to collect secondary data and relevant information include:

- Extensive desk review of available documents such of policies, strategies, program documents, evaluations and studies conducted by UN agencies
- Participated in two rounds of Energy stakeholder consultations
- Participated in four bilateral meetings held with government and non-government stakeholders in the energy sector in both Somalia and Somaliland

This gender analysis is by no means representative of the overall context of each of the location in Somalia and Somaliland even the specific site where the project is going to be implemented as the gender dynamics, institutional readiness, status of implementation of policy and legal frameworks substantially differ from place to place. Most of all, the study heavily relied on secondary sources due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions collecting primary data at community level was totally impossible.

The Gender analysis and action plan is in line with the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment strategy, as defined in the Regional project (PFD). The gender analysis has highlighted the gaps in the energy dividend between men and women, and regarding the participation of women in the minigrids value chain. It also pointed to opportunities for inclusion, increased participation by women in the minigrids value chain, including making use of renewable electricity productively. In addition to improved quality of living, this can positively impact the economic empowerment of women.

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF Projects and Program 2017

The overall AMP and the Regional Project have been designed within this context. Gender responsive measures to address gender gaps and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the minigrid value chain have deliberately been incorporated into the Somalia project design. These measures aim to improve women's participation and decision making; and generating socio-economic benefits through productive energy uses.

Opportunities identified to promote the development of gender-responsive energy policies include:

- Through gender responsive knowledge products, influence others, especially other programs, to take up strategies that provide both men and women with equal and fair opportunities to benefit from minigrid interventions.
- Provide technical expertise to national child projects to undertake systematic gender analysis. Country level gender analyses undertaken through the national child projects can help identify and make visible the different needs of men and women and gender gaps in the energy sector would help policymakers develop more gender-responsive energy policies and identify concrete targets and solutions to close gender gaps.
- Generate gender-responsive and sex-disaggregated data as part of energy policy development. Systematic collection of gender-energy disaggregated data throughout the policy process would be useful for countries in monitoring and tracking the developmental outcomes of energy services on key SDG indicators, including gender equality (SDG 5), SDG education (SDG4), potable water (SDG6), primary health services (SDG3) and improved food security (SDG2).
- Enhance women's participation in energy policy development and in the energy sector in general. When national energy dialogue and energy policies are being shaped related to mini-grids, attention needs to be paid to who is participating and providing input into the formulation of the energy policy or rural energy development plans. Diverse perspectives from groups such as women's business associations and various civil society organizations are essential to inform and shape the discussions on energy use (from household level realities to industry demands), social services, job creation and the ability and willingness of consumers to pay for electricity connections. Having targets for women's participation in the public energy sector and creating platforms where women entrepreneurs and other relevant stakeholders can inform policymaking are other avenues for further exploration.
- Support national governments to support integration of gender-responsive solutions in energy planning, through sex-disaggregated data, gender analyses and capacity building of gender equality advocates and civil society organizations.

## 2.Socio-demographic and cultural context

The Federal Republic of Somalia is one of the countries located in the horn of Africa bordering with Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Gulf of Eden and Indian Ocean. The country covers an area of 637,657KM<sup>2</sup>has the longest coastline on Africa mainland about 3,200km. Administratively, Somalia is divided in to 18 regions and 90 districts.

In 2019, Somalia had an estimated population of 15 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.8%<sup>2</sup>. The population density is 25 persons/km<sup>2</sup>characterized as very low density and 46.8% of the Somali population live in urban areas and the rest live in rural areas practicing nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyles. An estimated 25% of Somali population are farmers. The country also has one of the largest internally displaced population estimated 2.4-2.6 million people<sup>3</sup>. Reports suggest that 70–80% of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees are women and children. Most displaced women are widows and heads of households<sup>4</sup>.

The average household size was six persons and a typical Somali family consists of husband and two or three wives and their sons and sons 'wives and children. The sex ratio was almost equal 0.98F:1M. Somalia has a young population—around 55 percent of household members are under 15 years of age, and 42 percent of Somalia's population falls within the working age group. The majority of youth remain in rural areas (22.1%) or are 'nomads'

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank 2019

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR 2016

such as pastoralists or coastal fishing communities (24.9%). Rural and nomadic youth still comprise the majority of Somali youth (47% combined), while the remaining 7.4% are found in IDP locations.

The median age at first marriage was 20 for women and 23 for men. Early marriage is common and around 45 % of Somali women mainly from rural areas were married by the time they are 18 years old<sup>5</sup>. Boys generally marry at an older age, roughly 30 years old. Somalia is the 10th highest nation in the world for percent of child marriages<sup>6</sup>. The reason behind the age difference between men and women is that the men are expected to financially provide for their wives. Thus, a man needs to be entirely self-sufficient and economically secure by the time he got engaged. Due to the prolonged conflict in the country the 2012 Socio-Economic survey showed that 14% of households in Somalia were headed by women in urban areas, and 12% in rural areas.

The average fertility rate for women of reproductive age was 6.9 children one of the highest in the world next to Niger<sup>7</sup>. Most marriages in Somalia are polygamous executed under the Sheria law and a man can marry up to four wives on condition that all wives are treated equally, both emotionally and materially.<sup>8</sup> According to Somalia Demographic Health Survey 2020, only 31.6% of births were attended by skilled professionals and the country has the highest maternal mortality in the world which is 692/100,000 live births. Furthermore, 99.2% of women and girls aged 15-49 have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting. The cutting traditionally happens among girls aged four to 11 years and it is one of the severe forms of FGM. The average life expectancy at birth for females' 60.1 years and for males 56.6 years old in 2020.

Somalia is characterized as one of the homogeneous and patriarchal communities where religion, traditional values and norms plays very strong role among members of the community. For Somali's family is the most important aspect of life defining identity and related opportunities. The family structure is organized based on clans and inter clan marriage is made to create strategic alliance. Polygamy is practiced and marriage is usually arranged by families<sup>9</sup>. Inheritance is traced paternally, and women and girls have lower share compared to men and boys. The major assets transferred through inheritance include land, camel, livestock, and other valuable goods.

Culturally, women and girls are vulnerable to various forms of violence perpetrated against them due to the deeply rooted socio-cultural beliefs. The major ones include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), rape, forced marriage, physical, verbal, and emotional violence, abandonment of women by their spouses, among others. The FGM prevalence rate in the Somali society is 98% one of the highest globally.<sup>10</sup> Physical assault and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are the most experienced incidents (59%), followed by sexual assault and rape (11%). There is 76% support for and/or justification of wife-beating amongst females in Somalia<sup>11</sup>. Women and girls in the IDP camps experience rape and harassment more frequently, but there is no reporting mechanism as a result it is difficult to understand the extent of the problem in the IDP contexts.

Generally, the most vulnerable groups among Somali population as identified by UN Women and UNFPA in 2020 include women, children, the elderly, child- and female-headed households, the physically and mentally disabled, people living in conflict zones and marginalized clans.

## **Economy**

According to World Bank 2019, the main economic activities in Somalia are agriculture, livestock, fishery, remittance money exchange and investment in telecommunications. Agriculture is the major means of livelihood for over 65% of the population and accounts 80% of the national GDP. It is based on seasonal rain and irrigation means overall characterized by low productivity, non-mechanized way of production, highly affected by seasonal variability of

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<sup>5</sup> UNICEF Somalia Gender Profile

<sup>6</sup> Girls Not Brides 2018

<sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>8</sup> Report: Somalia Marriage and Divorce LANDINFO 2018

<sup>9</sup> Gender equity: Hit or miss in the Somali Population. UNFPA

<sup>10</sup> UNFPA Somalia

<sup>11</sup> Multi-Country Real Time Evaluation of UNICEF Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programme: Somalia Country Report 2016

rainfall and drought. Livestock is major economic resource in pastoralist and semi-pastoralist areas. The major animals raised include camel, goat, and sheep. The livestock sub-sector is estimated to contribute over 40% of GDP and more than 50% of export earnings.

Remittance sent by families living abroad to residents in Somalia accounts 35% of the GDP and approximately 40% of households receive these funds directly. It is the driver of the private sector impacting the Somali economy to be informal and dollarized. While data is scarce in the gender dimension of remittance one study showed that the majority of recipients are female, it is not clear what percentage of senders are female, for example, or if there are gender differences in the amount of the remittance sent by males and females.<sup>12</sup> Remittance is also one of the economic resources for a number of families creating access to direct cash. Most of the time men members of the family receive the cash sent abroad as they have better education, bargaining power and perceived status in the community.

In urban areas, a dynamic private sector is the basis of the economy in trade and services. Micro, small, medium enterprises are actively engaged in creating jobs for men and women. Women's participation as owners of these business and/or in wage employment is 36% in Somaliland and 33% in South central Somalia compared to men they participate in lower levels of occupational ladder<sup>13</sup>.

A study identified three types of women entrepreneurs in Somalia: The largest group characterized by limited education, lack basic business skills, rely on access to informal financial sources and are often the only breadwinner in the family. The second group is made of women who tend to be educated (often university-level), can take more risks due to family backing and could be individual businesswomen or part of a cooperative. Third group, small in size, is represented by returned diaspora who can and are willing to take much larger risks, have access to vital national and international business connections, and have the financial means to invest in innovative business ideas.<sup>14</sup>

The distribution of employment by economic sector in 2020 shows that agriculture employs 83% of the labor force followed by the service sector 13.3% and industry 3.5%<sup>15</sup>. Sex disaggregated data is not available about the participation of men and women in each of the sector but the overall labor force participation for male was 76.1% and for female it was 21.7%. Such gaps exist because majority of women devote their time performing unpaid care work which are central to sustain the family. They fully shoulder the routine burden of unpaid care work which refers to all household chores cooking, cleaning, child and elderly care, voluntary community work –all done without remuneration and not accounted for in the national economy.

In the post COVID recovery context, poverty is still prevalent, and most of the country's population is deprived of access to basic living standard such as decent house, water and sanitation, health and education services. Nearly 70 percent of households suffer deprivations on in two or more dimensions of poverty. There are large variations by population group, with nomads and people in IDPs suffering most and urban dwellers the least<sup>16</sup>. The gender dimension of poverty is also more pronounced where women and girls are found at the bottom of each of the population group.

By and large, the country's economy is showing promising growth from 1.4% in 2017 to 2.8% in 2018 real GDP terms<sup>17</sup>. However, it is still fragile with widespread insecurity conditions and large informal sector with minimal regulations of the government as well as high public debt and low institutional capacity to collect and administer tax. More so, with the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic the economy is facing additional challenges with the

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<sup>12</sup> Remittance and Vulnerability in Somalia. Rift Valley Institute. November 2017

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> World Bank

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

lockdown effect in different countries export has declined significantly. The informal economy is also hit hard where most women entrepreneurs operate the effect is visible in terms of loss of basic income<sup>18</sup>.

Finally, it is important to note that Somalia was not ranked in the international measures of gender equality in recent years. Such measures compare countries status and performance on different socio-cultural dimensions of gender equality. The measures include UNDP-Gender and Development Index, World Economic Forum-Gender gap index, EU-Gender Equality Index, OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. As a result, it is impossible to identify the relative status of Somalia among other countries in terms of gender equality.

### 3. Policy, legal frameworks, and institutional arrangements to address gender gaps

After two decades of civil war, Somalia is in the phase of designing new polices and re-building institutions where gender equality is considered as a priority. Such commitment in Somalia is guided by a gender policy 2014-2024 which established a framework to guide the process of developing legislations, policy formulations implementation and program that will promote equal rights and opportunities for women and men in all spheres of life.<sup>19</sup>

Somalia has ratified three out of the four international bills on human rights, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (but has not acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). Furthermore, Somalia signed and ratified the African (Banjul) Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and has signed but not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) in 2006. Somalia has not signed Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women commonly known as CEDAW.<sup>20</sup>

In Somaliland the National Constitution, endorsed in a public referendum in 2001, establishes national commitments and obligations directly related to the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and empowerment. Article 36 on the Rights of Women states that "[t]he rights, freedoms, and duties laid down in the Constitution are to be enjoyed equally by women and men save for matters which are specifically ordained in Islamic Sharia.

Subsequently, Somaliland National Gender Policy, introduced in 2009 by the then Ministry of Family Affairs and Social Development (now Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family, MESAF) with funding from UNDP which followed by the Gender action plan 2012. The action plan was expected to guide gender mainstreaming in each of the government sectors. Moreover, UNDP's Country Program Document for 2011 to 2015 provides a framework within which to implement the mandates of gender mainstreaming in the country program overall and responds directly to the acute challenges faced by Somali women.

Since the 2016/2017 elections, women now hold 24% of the seats in the Lower House and 23% in the Upper House. A quota system was introduced in the participation of women in politics with 30% threshold though this needs to be further institutionalized and strengthened if women in politics are to be truly transformative and hold some of the highest positions of power<sup>21</sup>.

Despite the availability of constitutional back-up, favorable policies, and institutional set-up the actual implementation success is limited due to lack of coordination capacities, resources, willingness of institutional leaders to advance the agenda. More importantly traditional and customary laws highly operate making it difficult to fully realize the rights of women and girls in the country.

### 4. Patterns of gender division of labor and decision making

Depending on the agro-ecological zone, pastoral- agrarian and urban-rural lifestyles the division of labor among men, women, girls and boys in household and outside differ in Somalia. However, the patterns exhibit commonly observed

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<sup>18</sup>Somalia Economic Update, June 2020: Impact of COVID-19 Policies to Manage the Crisis and Strengthen Economic Recovery. World Bank

<sup>19</sup> Draft Somalia National Gender Policy 2009

<sup>20</sup>International Labour Organization (2012). Somalia: Southern Somalia and Puntland: Decent Work Program: 2012-2015, p. 16.

<sup>21</sup><https://issafrica.org/iss-today/women-claim-their-place-in-somalias-politics>



segregation of roles that are delineated for women and men while giving less values and visibility to women's reproductive and productive roles.

In the context of subsistence agriculture, women and girl's role concentrates around supporting critical farming and animal husbandry activities. They are mainly engaged in weeding, digging using small hoe, watering, managing compost and dealing with post-harvest processing and storage. While men and boys are responsible for ploughing the land using non-mechanized means, select and sow seed, manage the farm, and primarily harvest and control the yield. The major crops grown in farming fields are maize, sorghum, rice, and cowpea. According to World Bank and FAO 2018, women provide more than 60% of labor in the subsistence agriculture in Somalia however they have a very limited decision-making power over which crop to grow, when to grow and selling of crops if surplus produced beyond subsistence.

In terms of cash crops, banana is one of the main cash crops grown for income generation at household level and for export. The role of women in its production includes preparation of fertilizer and transporting to packing centers while men focus on irrigation, harvesting and selling. Sesame is another cash crop women are observed to be engaged in the transformation process mainly (cleaning, salting, drying) and traditionally dominate small-scale trading and oil-processing cooperatives.<sup>22</sup>

In pastoralist and semi-pastoralist areas, livestock is the major asset in the household. Women and girl's primary roles and responsibilities include establishing the home and gathering resources, raising, tending, collecting fodder and grazing small animals such as shoats, sheep and poultry. While men and boys are responsible for camels and controls major livestock for trade and export<sup>23</sup>. Women play greater role in milking cows and preparation of ghee for sell generating income to supplement household needs. While men are in control of camel milk and meat and are more mobile as they spent time away from the home looking for pasture.

Decision making at household level over major assets, health and education related matters are exclusively made by men according to the cultural practices and religious (Islamic) teachings. Women make lower levels of decisions for example selling or buying shoats but not camel or oxen. Women are also alienated from community level decision making if she marries into a different clan. The clan does not fully accept her as one their own and she is not allowed to speak on behalf of or participate in clan meetings and decision making.<sup>24</sup>

Despite the heavy burden of household work, Somali women are uniquely identified as entrepreneurs they create, run and participate in small business related to livestock in rural areas and in urban context they are visible traders of food and household items.<sup>25</sup> There are also emerging female-led cooperatives in farming and handicrafts. However very few women are active in the areas of the economy where high profits are seen through exports and imports; in livestock export and in the fishing industries, women are hardly represented.<sup>26</sup> The types of business women usually engage in include milk and ghee selling, currency exchange, Khat sell<sup>27</sup>.

Furthermore, Somali women are contributing to financial decisions—nine out of ten women are deciding how their cash earnings will be spent either individually or jointly with their husbands, and close to seven out of ten (67 percent) of women make individual or joint decisions on how their husbands' cash will be spent.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>Ministry of Planning, 2019

<sup>23</sup>Sectoral Assessment of Women's Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Renewable Energy in Somalia. ILO and Embassy of Sweden 2020.

<sup>24</sup> ibid

<sup>25</sup> ILO Support to the Promotion of Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment 2014

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Khat- is a green leaf grown as shrub and when chewed it serves as a stimulant

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

Even though traditional norms and values around gender division labor are still strong the post-conflict situations forced some women to take over traditional male roles including income generating activities and decision making over major household resources<sup>29</sup>.

## 5. Access to and control over resources and basic services

In Somalia, evidences show that access to education, health, economic opportunities, and communication services are generally low for all the population and within such context gender gaps exist. Education wise, even among those who has access, there is a six-point difference between the Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) for boys and girls, with a higher proportion of boys enrolled in education compared to girls. In addition, 48 percent, of girls and women aged 6 and above, have never been to school, in comparison to 45 percent of boys and men.

Furthermore, in 2017, across Somalia some 195,804 young people were enrolled in Secondary schools of which only 39% are females. Less than a third of adult women, at 32 percent, were literate<sup>30</sup>. The situation gets worse for women and girls in the IDP context. Illiteracy rates among women in IDP communities is 76% and 59% for the non-displaced. In comparison, it is 60% for IDP men and 39% for non-displaced men.<sup>31</sup>

Access to essential health care services is also very limited in the country due to shortage of health care workers, infrastructure, and finance. As a result, the country has the lowest health indicators in the world. Only one in three Somalis has access to safe water; one in every nine Somali children dies before their first birthday; and the maternal mortality ratio is 850 deaths per 100 000 live births<sup>32</sup>. Furthermore, there is a high risk of outbreaks such as measles and Cholera due to limited access to basic sanitation and hygiene services mainly in the IDP sites. Women and girls suffer more in all instances particularly in relation to access to WASH and maternal health related services.

Data on access to radio and TV shows about 13 percent of women have heard a message related to birth spacing on the radio. Close to 10 percent of women reported having seen a message on birth spacing on television, and 4 percent saw a message on birth spacing in a newspaper. Eighty-two percent of women had not been exposed to birth spacing messages in any of these media. As expected, women in nomadic areas are less likely to have been exposed to birth spacing messages in the media compared to women in urban and rural areas.<sup>33</sup>

Access and control over basic economic resources such as land and livestock differ for men and women. Land in agricultural areas is allocated by community elders and clan leaders who have the authority to allocate plots of land to individual households and inheritance is traced patrilineal as a result women are excluded. In the pastoralist areas, land is owned communally based on clan and women are excluded from decision making process.<sup>34</sup>

Livestock is seen as family wealth and men manage and control high value livestock such as oxen and camel. They also have control over the income generated from it while women have more control over small animals such as goats and milk products like ghee.

Access to important economic empowerment opportunities such as agricultural inputs, and extension services, market information, financial services are not yet fully accessible to communities all over the country. Even those few available opportunities target men with better literacy level, as a farmer, businessmen and head of the household which is also determined by strong clan connections<sup>35</sup>. Women's access to such resources and opportunities are constrained by their low social status, illiteracy, reproductive functions and interventions that ignore their status and unique needs. In this regard, UNDP Somalia has taken major steps influencing the status-quo by targeting women improving their access to economic empowerment through its focus on issues related to 'an

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<sup>29</sup> ibid

<sup>30</sup> African Development Bank Somalia Bank Group Country Brief 2017-2020

<sup>31</sup> Federal Government of Somalia (2017). "Somalia Drought Impact and Needs Assessment." Volume I, Synthesis Report

<sup>32</sup> World Health Organization humanitarian response plan 2015

<sup>33</sup> Gender Equit Hit or Miss In the Somali Population. UNFPA, UKAID and Sweden 2017

<sup>34</sup> Gender and land rights database, Somalia. FAO

<sup>35</sup> The role of women in private sector in Somalia 2013

enabling environment, capacity building of stakeholders, access to finance, pro-poor value chain development, and the establishment of small and medium enterprises'.<sup>36</sup>

Access to communication services such as internet, phone, radio, print and postal services are expanding in Somalia. Evidences show that due to the role of the vibrant private sector Somalis enjoy better access to internet and phone services compared to other countries in the region. Three-quarters of women aged 15-49 own a mobile phone and 64 percent use their mobile phones for financial transactions.<sup>37</sup>

### **Access to energy**

In the post conflict Somalia, only 15% of the population has access to electricity, 4% in rural and 33% in urban areas. In a nutshell, 11 million Somalis are without access to electricity. Besides the limited access the cost is one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa (\$1/kWh) along with power generated through private owned diesel mini grids risking the environment<sup>38</sup>. Electricity in Somalia is fully provided by privately owned mini grids and each of them are called Electricity Service Providers (ESPs). It is confirmed that there are 45 ESPs in the country of which none of them are owned and managed by women. Sex disaggregated data is hardly available showing how many women and men are employed in the operation and maintenance of mini-grids. The sector is totally male dominated.

This situation means a lot for men and women in Somalia where electricity is a fundamental ingredient of everyday life, social development, and poverty reduction. Evidences also shows that male-headed households having a higher percentage access to electricity than the female headed households. In rural areas, torches have been reported to be the highest main source of energy for lighting, with female-headed households reporting a higher usage than male-headed household.<sup>39</sup> Furthermore the tariff setting dynamics also shows urban-rural dynamics where residents in urban towns have enjoyed a relatively cheaper price unlike those who live in rural areas due to the competition of more than two ESPs in urban areas while only one ESP taking the monopoly in rural context. This further limit rural women's much needed access to electricity.

For millions of women and girls whose primary role is cooking, biomass is the main source of energy and only 5.2% has primary reliance on clean fuels and technology.<sup>40</sup> Situations in IDP contexts are worse where access to electricity is very minimal.

According to key informants, Somali women in rural areas spend up to 4 hours per day in search of fuel wood and cooking the typical Somali meals such as rice, pasta with goat meat, fish, vegetables, and different types of flat breads. Not only cooking but also the unavailability of grinding mills to grind staple flour made from sorghum, cowpea further exacerbates the hardship women must go through to feed household members in sustained manner.

It is well recognized that access to modern energy source such as electricity is life changing for all members of the community but for Somali women whose primary role includes household chores and small entrepreneurial activities it opens a new door. The lighting from electricity further adds protection from street violence, allow study time for girls and ease the burden of household chores. Access to electricity means a new way of doing business for Somali women who comprise 60% of business owners and represent 70% of the informal sector<sup>41</sup>. Yet they still face gender-based barriers in a number of areas including access to markets, technology, financial and non-financial services Lack of access to electricity is identified to be the major obstacle for women entrepreneurs to start and/or expand business.<sup>42</sup>

While renewable energy is an emerging sector presenting good opportunities to promote women's entrepreneurship development. The representation of women in the private sector, or bodies supporting the sector,

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<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Government of Somaliland Ministry of Energy and Minerals. Somali Electricity Access Project 2018

<sup>39</sup> Ibid UNFPA

<sup>40</sup> Ibid SEDHS 2020

<sup>41</sup> Ibid

<sup>42</sup> IBID Somalia Private Sector

remains insufficient particularly at higher level. For example, female employment in dominant telecommunication and financial institutions is as low as 1%, discounting the large number of female staff often employed as cleaners by firms.

An example of women owned, and managed renewable energy company called Samawat Energy has a focus on empowering women and girls beyond electrification. The company distribute solar home systems up to 100watt, lighting bulbs and solar home kits. Studies also show that there is a huge emerging market for renewable energy in the country where women's entrepreneurial potential can be tapped into with minimum inputs<sup>43</sup>.

## 6. Existing Energy access programs and gender focus

A review was made on the existing energy access programs in Somalia whether gender dimensions has been integrated and specific activities to empower women has been considered. The following are the key findings:

- **World Bank's Somali Electricity Access Project 2018 (SEAP)** has a focus on improving energy access via standalone solar solutions for both households and small enterprises. Some of the key gender aspects of the project's include beneficiaries data disaggregated by sex, Solar home distribution process to various communities to be 25% women led, Training of solar distributors, incentives to women led enterprises WB focus on lighting and TV, the first and strongest impacts of the project shall occur via lighting, TV and reduced indoor air pollution, fire and burn risks. The lighting also means more protection from GBV, TV relates to access to information.
- **Energy Security and Resource Efficiency in Somaliland (ESRES) (2015-2021)**  
No specific focus on addressing gender gaps but the increased access to electricity through six mini grids will likely benefit women and girl through lighting and creation of productive use opportunities.
- **Somali Energy Transformation Project funded by EU 2017-2020**  
Increased The project focuses on improving access to clean energy in Somalia. It has different approaches and strategies which include national energy policy dialogues which have been held with a total of 60 participants (No information on sex-disaggregated data of participants). It also promoted income generating activities through productive use of energy. It will also provide electricity to improve the efficiencies of health services and educational facilities. The project sub granted another project called Women in Renewable Energy in Somalia with a focus on biogas and solar enabling Somali women to create sustainable clean energy and employment opportunities.
- **The Somaliland Ministry of Energy and Minerals through the Somali Electricity access project**  
Aims to provide unelectrified Somali households and small businesses in urban, peri urban and rural areas with affordable and reliable energy access. The project is expected to reach 41,000 households, equivalent to around 246,000 people, around 22.5% of the current off-grid population. Of this number 122,000 are expected to be women with promising impact on lighting, reduced indoor air pollution and improved access to health institutions.
- **The Public and Private Development Partnership Project (PPDP) for Renewable Energy and Women's Economic Empowerment (2018-2022), funded by the Government of Sweden and executed by the International Labour Organization (ILO)**- Within the renewable energy sector, the off-grid solar value chain the project aims to empower women and targeted women in Garowe as the most promising for women entrepreneurs for support.

### **Summary of Gender Analysis Findings according to AMP components and recommended actions**

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid

Project components	Gender analysis findings
<p><b>Component 1</b> Policy and regulations Appropriate policies and regulations are in place that address policy, institutional, regulatory and technical barriers to facilitate investment in low-carbon mini-grids</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Somalia has gender policy that promote the empowerment of women as a priority in areas of health, political participation, education and economic empowerment. The implementation of this policy lies with the Federal Government of Somalia through its Ministries, particularly the Directorate of Women and Social Affairs under the Ministry of Human Development and Public Services.</li> <li>- However, there are institutional gaps to effectively mainstream gender as per the policy and gender relations specially are governed by customary laws with strong religious principles rather than formal laws.</li> <li>- Review of Somalia Electricity Act 2018 and National Energy Policy 2018 reveals that there is no mention of gender issues in the consultation process as well as in the formulation and content of the policy.</li> <li>- In relation to policy governing mini-grid tariff, findings show that tariff is set based on the agreement of providers and one should note that female headed households might not afford to negotiate and access electricity</li> <li>- Efforts are going on to include gender dimensions in the energy access programs and researches on understanding the unique needs are emerging.</li> <li>- Somali women's participation in policy making processes is almost invisible and institutionally gender issues are not addressed in systematic ways as a result opportunities are lost to harness the potential of women in different sectors</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible Actions AMP can support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support capacity building training for women professionals, owners of companies in energy sector for their systematic engagement in policy level dialogues</li> <li>2. Include women's representatives in stakeholders' consultations regarding tariff, operationalization of mini grids at least 40%</li> <li>3. Prioritize/create modality to support the hybridization of mini grids among those which are providing electricity to health facilities (As Somalia has the highest maternal mortality rates)</li> <li>4. Intentionally integrate gender dimension in policy analysis and studies that will be conducted regarding mini grid</li> </ol>
<p><b>Component 2</b> Business Model Innovation with Private Sector Engagement Outcome Innovative business models based on cost reduction operationalized to support and strengthen private participation in low-carbon mini-grid development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Somalia gender policy prioritize economic empowerment of women through vocational training, entrepreneurship skills access to finance and but data is not available how many female and male students are enrolled in vocational schools.</li> <li>- There are 24 independent ESPs which are owned by private businessmen, all these utilities operate in the different regions of Somaliland, besides they own their generation, distribution and transmission system. None of them are owned by women and even if there might be women holding shares data is not available.</li> <li>- Furthermore, information is rare about women's participation in the operation and maintenance aspects of ESPs .At the technical i.e. engineering level there are almost none with exception of well-publicized few engineers in the sector including one girl who works as an electrical engineer for NECSOM in Garowe-Puntland.</li> <li>- Somali women are uniquely identified to be entrepreneurs effectively handling very small business that support family's income. However very few engaged in export level business or energy generation only one Company called Samawat Energy identified as women owned energy provide affordable, off-grid, solar home solutions to residents in Somalia through the use of a micro-leasing, rent-to-own system.</li> <li>- In the aspects of productive use of electricity and innovative use of appliances there are plenty of opportunities to support agricultural and livestock related value chains</li> </ul>

	<p>with potential of empowering women business wise as well as easing the household burden.</p> <p><b>Possible Action AMP can support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capitalize on the unique entrepreneurial capacity of women to support their business ideas with access to electricity by conducting context analysis</li> <li>2. Target existing female students in vocational trainings to be trained in maintenance of Planned pilot demonstration, capacity building opportunities</li> <li>3. Solicit inputs from representatives from Samawat, the engineer from NECSOM and possibly representatives from the Somali Gender equity Movement to identify viable ways to get girls and women in the value chain of the energy mix.</li> <li>4. Specify the intended call for proposal will have a particular focus on interventions that address women's particular energy needs or open up business and other opportunities for women in all contexts as well as any of the intended interventions to benefit the most disadvantaged women in communities.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Component 3</b> Innovative financing An innovative financing mechanism and accompanying financial instruments in place to incentivize investments in the development of low-carbon mini-grids</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women's engagement as investors in the mini-grid sector is very limited but in some areas they are share holders</li> <li>- Mini-grid financing mechanisms are not clearly formalized, and viable financing models yet to be identified.</li> <li>- Evidences are limited on barriers on why women are not investing in the energy sector</li> <li>- On the business case for reaching women, case studies on what works, and designing new approaches that focus on women as target market segment are not available.</li> <li>- Women's access to formal finance to start-up business is constrained by factors such as lack of collateral, basic business skills etc as a result they resort to informal financing systems</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible actions AMP can support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Incentivize existing women and girl graduates of electrical engineering to establish small business in the sector along with the right training and financial access</li> <li>2. Incentivize OGS companies and ESPs to higher women at different points of the value chain</li> <li>3. Provide incentives to OGS companies to market and sell quality products to women only/lead businesses and households</li> <li>4. Encourage upcoming new financial access modalities to set-aside fund to support women entrepreneurs</li> </ol>
<p><b>Component 4</b> Knowledge Management (KM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reliable gender statistics and sex disaggregated data is hard to find particularly in the energy sector</li> <li>- There are existing and emerging endeavors to address gender gaps in the energy sector, but success stories and promising practices are yet to be produced</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible Actions AMP can consider</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build institutional capacities to collect, analyze and use sex disaggregated data</li> <li>2. Develop project specific success stories, technical briefs on gender and mini grid</li> <li>3. Support pilot projects to conduct context specific gender analysis and action planning in the hybridization of existing mini grids</li> <li>4. Set gender as an agenda in the community of practice to exchange learnings</li> </ol>



## 7. Gender Action Plan

**Key considerations taken in to account in proposing the following activities include** – Legal and policy environment, existing institutional structures, alignment with project’s components, recommendations from stakeholders consultations including women and men from the communities and linkages with SDG, UNDP/GEF Gender equality and women empowerment standards (Ensuring projects do not exacerbate gender inequality and be responsive of women and men development needs and priorities).

It should be also noted that gender dynamics and institutional readiness vary in different contexts and responsive mechanisms should be context specific while capitalizing on existing opportunities and resource. For this reason, conducting specific gender analysis and participatory action planning using the mini-grid gender analysis framework is strongly recommended particularly in the pilot sites.

Project Outputs	Proposed Activities	Indicator	Responsible body
<b>Component 1 Policy and Regulations</b>			
1.1. Mini-grid DREI techno-economic analyses carried out to propose most cost-effective basket of policy and financial de-risking instruments.	1. Integrate gender dimension in the proposed study for eg willingness to pay aspect especially for women headed households	# New evidence generated on gender dynamics in the sector	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
1.2. Mini-grid policies and regulations, including tariff model and incentives, are operationalized through digital transformation support, in collaboration with the authorities and other development partners.	2. Ensure digital transformation considers the educational and socio-economic status of women as end-users		UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
1.3. Institutional setup for rural electrification assessed and supported, and institutional capacity building provided on technical, managerial, and regulatory issues.	3. Address gender gap as one of key priority areas in rural electrification institutional capacity building process	Gender gaps identified and strategies proposed Yes/No	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
<b>Component 2. Business Model innovation with private sector engagement</b>			
2.1. Pilots developed, including on productive use/innovative appliances, using innovative business models through calls for proposals based on lessons learned from the operationalization of the SREF under ESRES2 and the results of the geospatial mapping by SEAP.	4. Integrate gender analysis and action planning in the pilots to be supported using the gender and mini grid analysis framework (The analysis can be included as part of the feasibility analysis)	# Mini-grid sites conducted gender analysis and action planning	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders



2.2. Public programmes (apprenticeships, certificates, university programs) to develop competitive, skilled labor market in the design, O&M, and management of solar and hybrid mini-grids, including technical training on the utilization of online tools for performance monitoring, consumption tracking and billing.	5. Prioritize potential female students to join the apprenticeships, certificates, university programs	# of female students joined the AMP supported capacity building programs	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
2.3. Support provided to establish, grow and capacitate national industry associations for private sector developers and ESPs.			
2.4 Support/prioritize pilots that aims to identify and address women's energy needs/innovative appliances that support women owned small business	6. Identify and support women owned business in energy access/ innovative appliances	# of women owned business supported with new appliances and/or access to electricity	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
<b>Component 3 Scaled-up financing</b>			
3.1. Design support, including development of operational guidance, for a complementary funding instrument through which the diaspora and small investors can participate in existing financing mechanisms that have been introduced by other development partners to facilitate finance for vetted mini-grid projects.	7. Support/prioritize female investors to access available financing mechanisms through capacity building, orientation and other technical support	# Female private sector investors supported to access finance	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
3.2. Domestic financial sector capacity building on business and financing models for mini-grids.			
3.3 Create financial access to existing female graduates of electrical engineering to establish small business in the sector along with the right training	8. Set-aside small funding to new/emerging female business focusing on energy	# Female owned small business established through AMP support	
<b>Component 4 Knowledge Management (KM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</b>			

4.1. A Quality Assurance and Monitoring Framework (QAF) for measuring, reporting and verification of the sustainable development impacts of all mini-grid pilots supported, including GHG emission reductions, is adopted and operationalized based on standardized guidance from the regional project.	7. Ensure data collection systems whenever possible enable the collection of sex and age disaggregated data	# Indicators disaggregated by sex and age	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
4.2. National project stakeholders participate in AMP Communities of Practice (CoP) led by the regional project.	8. Set gender as an agenda to be explored, discussed and new evidences to be shared as it relates with Community of Practice	# COP meetings where gender and energy issues discussed	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
4.3. Lessons learned, captured and shared with the regional project.	9. Develop success stories and technical briefs on gender and mini grid topics	# Success stories/ technical brief produced on topics of gender and mini grids	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
4.4. A Data Strategy is developed and implemented, including linkages to and following guidance from the regional project.			
4.5. Inception Workshop conducted and Inception Report submitted to UNDP.	10. Ensure representatives from organizations focusing on gender issues are invited and voice their concerns	# of organizations/ women led movements or advocacy groups participated in the inception workshop	UNDP Somalia and stakeholders
4.6. Project Monitoring, where data on Results Framework Indicators are systematically collected and analyzed to provide decision-makers, managers, and Stakeholders with information on progress in the achievement of agreed objectives and the use of allocated resources, as set out in the M&E Plan.	11. Ensure the use of sex disaggregated data used to inform actions		
4.7. Project Evaluations, where independent evaluations are carried out at the mid-term and at the end of the project as per standard UNDP-GEF evaluation procedures and the financials of the project are verified by an independent accredited auditor on an annual basis.	12. Ensure evaluations include indicators and dimensions on how the project contributed to close gender gaps in the mini grid sector		UNDP Somalia and stakeholders

