
GIZ Gender Competition, 2018

Submitted by:

**Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme
(REEEP)**

GIZ Bangladesh

Project Marker: GG1

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1. Promoting gender equality

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is one of the three priority areas of German development cooperation in Bangladesh. The objectives of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP) are:

- Developing locally customized technological solutions on sustainable energy delivery and establishing business cases through successful piloting
- Facilitating market uptake of successful business models through capacity development of stakeholders, promoting access to finance and leveraging sustainable ownership
- Developing the framework conditions for promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency through policy advocacy and institutional development of SREDA (Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority), the national nodal agency.

Gender equality is identified as one of the essential factor to achieve sustainable change with economic development. **REEEP as a GG1 project** considers women's contribution within energy interventions at different levels. To ensure access to market and develop skill in energy related technologies, REEEP has been supporting both men and women in entrepreneurship development. In doing so, REEEP also focusses to identify female service provider and makes its additional efforts to build their technical and business management capacity, link with access to finance, co-finance limited logistical capacity development and finally connecting with market so that efforts could further sustain.

REEEP's interventions also target women as primary beneficiary in some of the interventions like retained heat cooker, solar drinking water pump system. In many other interventions, women often get additional benefit as co-beneficiary, as in case of improved rice parboiling system. In a nutshell, REEEP has contributed to women, as beneficiary in following context:

- Minimizing health hazards in the working environment
- Reducing water and fuel collection time
- Improving lighting quality and healthy working environment
- Creating opportunities for income generating activities

REEEP's programme context is also in line with National Energy Policy Framework in Bangladesh, which also has gender neutral focus in general, while instigating access to energy for women as part of empowerment and livelihood development. The National Renewable Energy Policy and Energy Efficiency Master Plan are geared towards Country's vision of providing universal access to energy by 2021 with a gender neutral approach.

However, the Government of Bangladesh is committed to implement the urges made in the CEDAW, MDGs, SDGs, Earth Summits and all other related conventions and covenants on promoting gender equality. The National Women Development Policy 2011 of Bangladesh enacted to promote equal rights of men and women in areas of state and public life, safety and security, empowerment, human rights, fundamental freedom, development, participation, and accessibility. The three most politically influenced leadership position of Bangladesh, namely Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and Parliament Speaker are filled by qualified women. National Development Roadmap like the Seventh five-year plan 2016-2020 of Bangladesh emphasized women's empowerment and gender equality, women's human capabilities, economic benefits, voice, easy access to safe water, engage productive endeavours; participation in decision over community, renewable and energy efficiency

resources, emphasized changing mind-set about men and women's roles, share household responsibility, promote gender equality and hold men accountable for discriminatory behaviour.

Though there are gaps of gender aspects in the energy and related policies, GIZ, as Service Provider of International Cooperation on behalf of German Government, has the strategy to ensure that the design of energy projects have explicit gender goals (e.g. equality of access), encourage exploring opportunities for women's employment, ensure that women are key participants in the design, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of alternative energy systems, support the collection of relevant gender disaggregated data in energy projects, and so on. To achieve this gender inclusion in development work, REEEP conducted independent gender analysis and prepared gender action plan for developing and better implementation of the gender strategy. The Gender Action Plan is adopted for not only the implementing within internal project framework, but also for influencing the national energy stakeholders to promote gender equality and equity.

Examples of REEEP's Gender-centric approaches

- In house training on Gender Action Plan, 2016
- Improve stakeholder's knowledge on gender responsive intervention
- Disaggregate data collection and management in its monitoring framework
- Systematic integration of Gender equality in Operation Planning and Documentation
- Create supportive environment for the participation of women in capacity building activities.
- Identify and Promote better understanding of gender differential needs and roles in management, planning and implementation
- Awareness campaign on engagement and contribution of women in energy related interventions

Examples of Gender focused Results achieved by REEEP

- Conducted Programme specific Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan in 2016
- According to Gender Action Plan 2016, the programme is systematically focusing on equal access to energy and women empowerment through its various interventions.
- Developed 12 service providers (SME) in one of the intervention on alternative cooking solution. In which 5 were empowered by women. All of these service providers have employed on an average of 5 women, which is a significant portion.
- As beneficiaries women have benefitted for i) cooking time reduction, ii) water and fuel collection time reduction, iii) additional income generation
- Gender focal point in the Programme
- Encouraging employment of female staff
- Gender friendly and flexible work environment

Level of impacts

- Short term impact: Women entrepreneur development, Recognize sustainable energy as an important instrument for gender equality
- Medium term impact: Gender focused project implementation, Systematize gender sensitization at macro, meso and micro level.
- Long term impact: Integrate gender equality through policy and advocacy in existing energy policies. Gender sensitization among partner agencies

2. Gender as a quality feature of our work

REEEP's partners do know and respect REEEP's gender focus as part of implementing GIZ's corporate focus on Gender. While translating its gender focus to partners' context, REEEP focuses on (a) women empowerment to household context and (b) gender equality in enterprish development through developing women service provider.

REEEP's gender work to its client is primarily focused towards its Bangladesh Government counterpart, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA). While translating REEEP's gender focus to its client, REEEP focuses on (a) gender sensitization and (b) brining gender focus to its organsiational framework and practices. SREDA does acknowledge REEEP's gender differential approaches.

GIZ Energy Programme in Bangladesh developed 1st Gender Action Plan in 2012 based on independent Gender Analysis on the programme. However, the analysis was then limited into programme implementation level focused in rural areas. Latest Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, 2016 explicitly focuses in i) programme design, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and ii) involvement of different categories of key stakeholders within and outside project, iii) policy and advocacy to integrate gender in energy related policies. The elaborated analysis was recognized by GIZ Bangladesh and it's client SREDA.

Influenced by REEEP's Gender advocacy to its client, SREDA recently employed one female Board Member into its organization.

3. Gender and RBM

Gender value chain analysis of core REEEP interventions are listed in the Gender Analysis, 2016. Potential empowerment opportunities, recommendation on overnight insecurity and mobility, increase confidence to participate in household and community decisions has been documented.

For the Solar Powered Drinking Water intervention, women's role has been mentioned on the Situation Assessment and Business model development report. A Gender factsheet with Success Stories prepared. Report on Kitchen performance test (Baseline Analysis) was conducted for Retained Heat Cooker (an alternative cooking solution) focused on women's role on i) Cooking habit, ii) fuel consumption, and iii) recommendation/opinion as beneficiaries. Awareness video (YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbHRUdz04I&t=3s>) on Retained Heat Cooker addresses both men and women's contribution in decision making and household level activities. Additional documents like awareness campaign presentations, gender disaggregated list of service providers and workshop participants are also available as part REEEP's gender segregated data management.

Based on feedback from initial gender analysis in 2012, REEEP has finally received a Gender Responsive Results Matrix (Wirkungsmatrix). It has explicit focus on developing women service providers with the capacity to offer renewable energy or energy efficiency technologies. REEEP's M&E framework has included the reflection of women's employment accordingly. This is how the Gender Results are systematically recorded through Gender disaggregated data of service providers and beneficiaries.

The mechanisms for measuring results are also clearly explained on the Gender Action Plan, 2016. It mentions the establishment of gender disaggregated data of beneficiaries, data compilation from service provider's organizational profile, and analysis of research/project reports. Internal template has been established to collect service providers and stakeholder disaggregated data particularly in business case development.

4. Cooperation

GIZ's Gender Strategy, National Women Development Policy of Bangladesh 2011 and UN's SDG aims to promote and strengthen gender equality. For better implementation of these strategies, role of REEEP's Gender Focal Person is to create awareness at Macro, Meso and Micro Level. These were synergised among colleagues and partners through face to face meeting, workshop and coordination with Country Office and other Project Focals. To create awareness, Gender focused factsheets are distributed to key stakeholders in energy related event. Gender is always presented as an integral crosscutting issue of REEEP while presenting the REEEP Programme to bankers, investors, partners and Bangladesh government agencies.

Moreover, in-house workshop by internal and external experts has been conducted to provide Gender Sensitized working environment. The encouragement from Country office also plays a pivotal role in gender sensitized planning and implementation. As the newly appointed Country Director is a female person, the integration of gender equality is expected to further accelerate in future.

As REEEP's Gender Focal Person is the REEEP's the Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, the complementary role eventually aided to include systematic involvement and contribution towards Gender sensitized planning and implementation. REEEP's monthly component meeting and bi-annual planning workshop are the refresher workshop to check back how REEEP is contributing to Gender. Periodic meeting of REEEP's Gender Focal Person with GIZ Gender Working Group, and Safeguard+Gender Workshop supports to coordinate within and outside GIZ constructively.

However, challenges cannot be excluded in spite of all above coordinated efforts. Achieving result within REEEP's project timeframe is a major challenge encountered individually or together, since this is often dependent on a systemic transformation. Being a GG1 project, importance of gender aspects often does go diverted. As mentioned earlier, absence of gender specific focus national energy policies is an indication of Gender Neutral approach from sectoral level. Partners working with REEEP sometimes are unwilling to accept relevant gender perspective because of socio economic factors.

The 3 key success factors on REEEP's Gender Integration are:

- Gender Analysis and Systematic Gender Sensitization within Programme.
- Coordinated and structured awareness campaign for beneficiaries, partners and client.
- Document gender segregated data from Programme interventions; communicate gender data, factsheet and success stories to targeted audience.

Annexes:

1. REEEP's Gender Action Plan 2016
2. Study Report on Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan 2016
3. REEEP Gender Factsheet