

Empowering households and communities through gender responsive infrastructure

Experience from ECOWAS

Virtual Workshop: Energy Access through a Gender Lens
12 May 2020

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Women bear the burden of energy poverty...

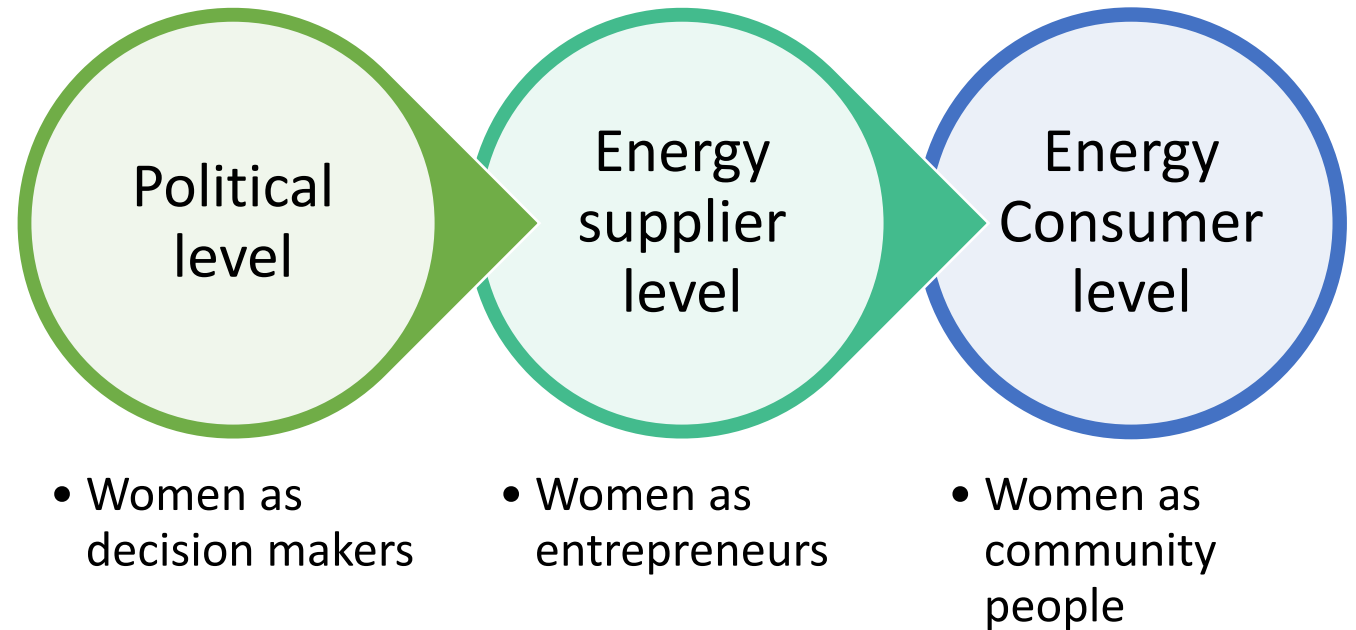
*...“Is this because they are women or
because they are poor?”*

Njeri Wamukonya (2002). *A critical look at gender and energy mainstreaming in Africa.*

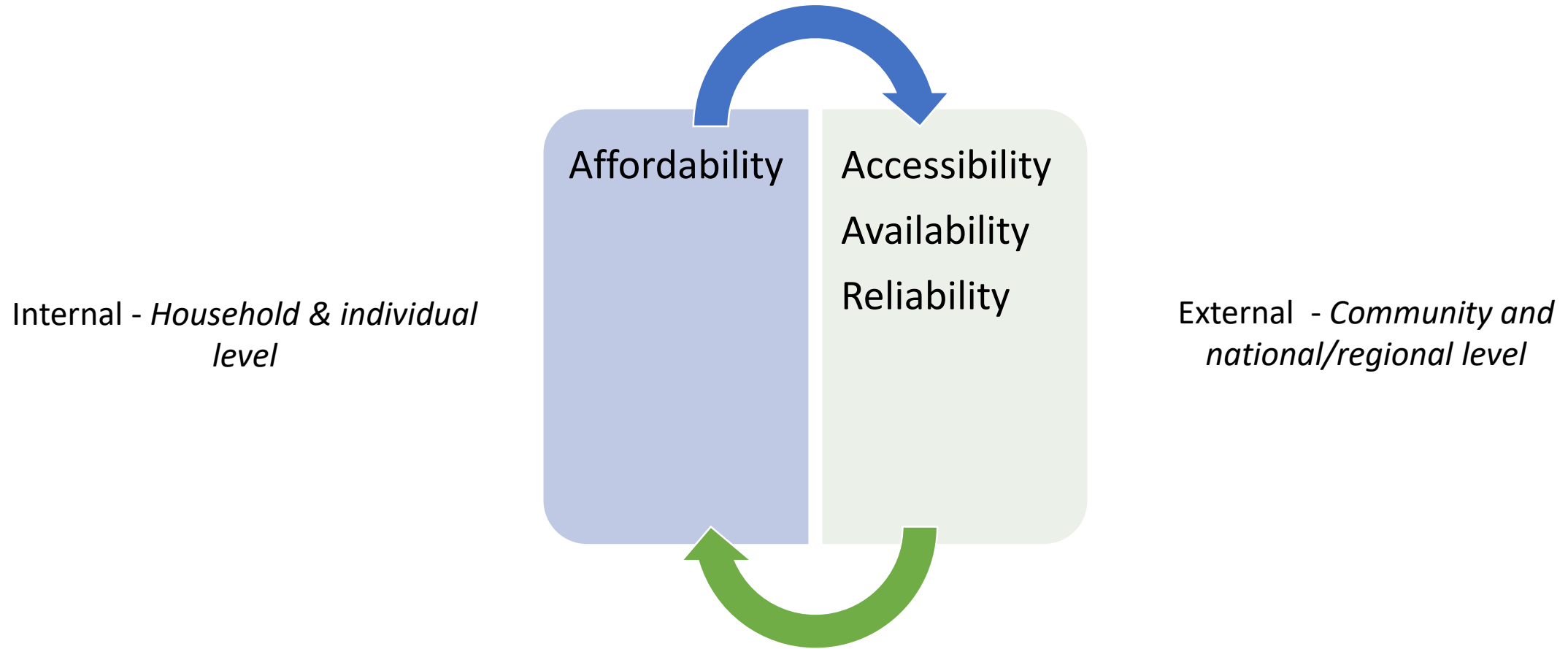
1. *Supporting medium sized women-owned businesses to transition to commercialized enterprises.*
2. *Provide training in developing successful business plans.*
3. *Ensure that during policy negotiations (local, national, regional and international) women are adequately represented.*
4. *Organize a women networking event which will bring together entrepreneurs from Africa and other regions.*

Gender inequality in the energy sector

The main challenges and constraints for gender equality in energy access exists at three levels:



Addressing the energy challenge

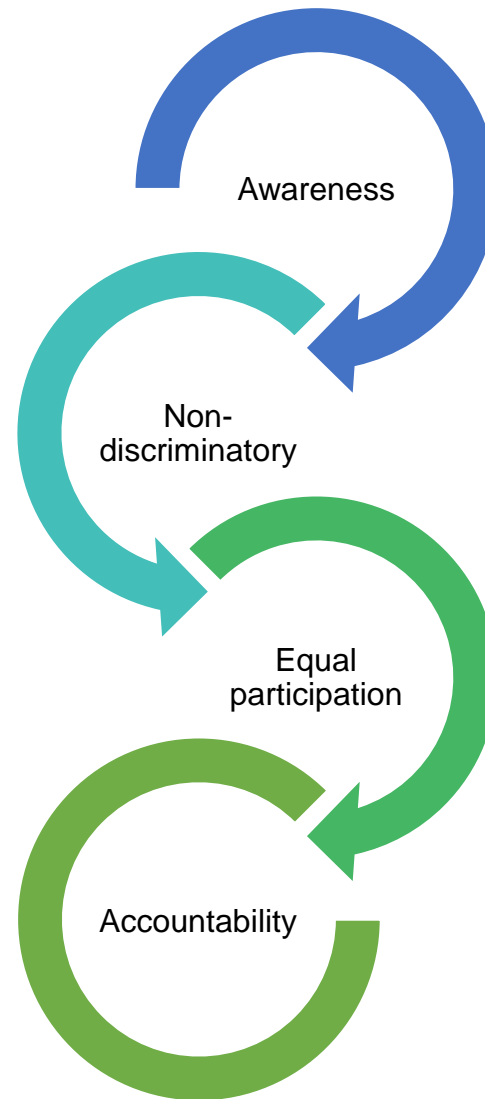


How can investment in the energy sector be maximized?

Gendered impacts of Infrastructure Development



ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access



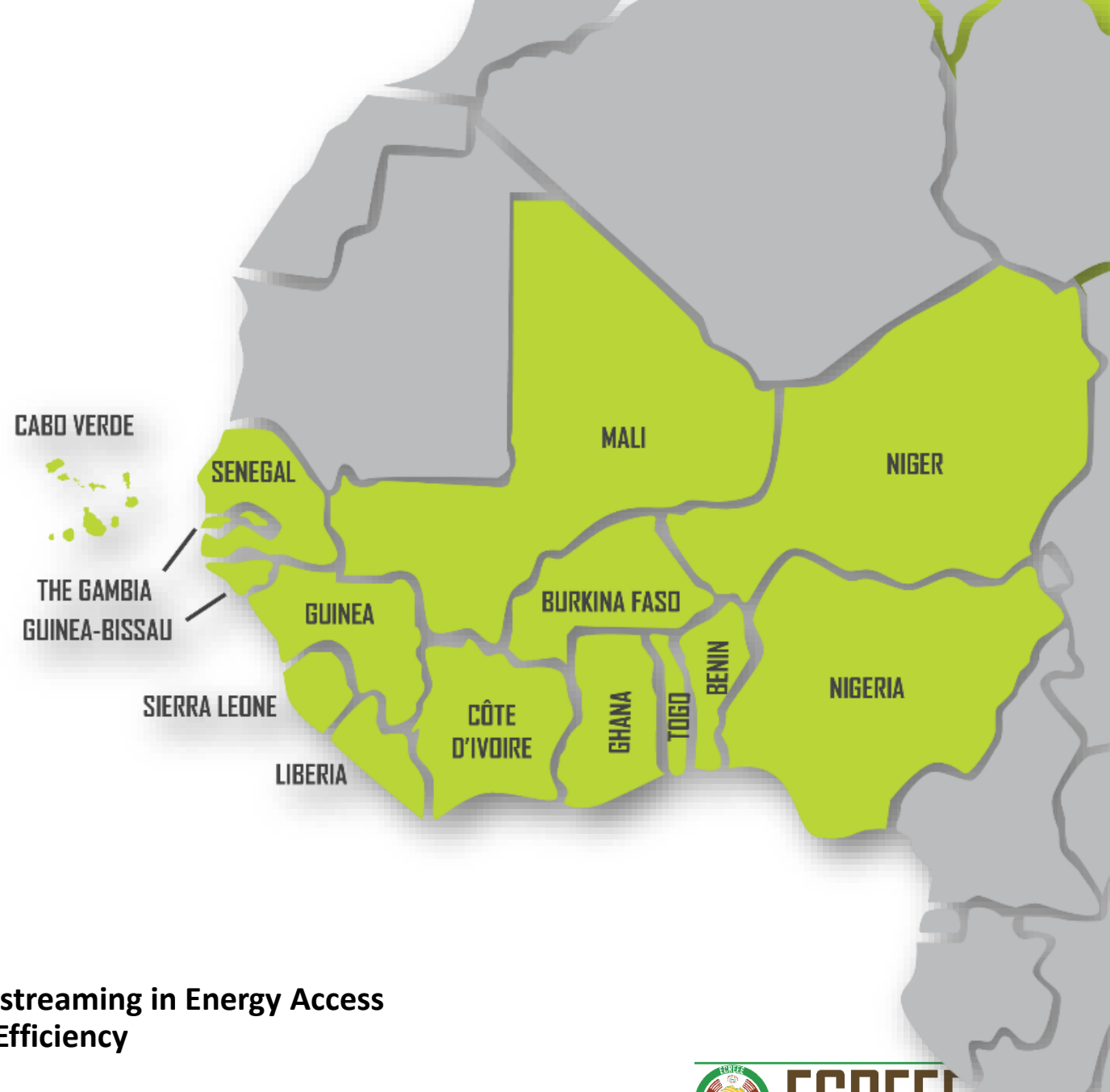
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ECOWAS Directive on Gender Assessment in Energy Projects

“Gendered Impacts” - those impacts, results or outcomes which, though deriving from the **same action or set of actions**, have consequences, whether **negative or positive**, which are **dissimilar** across affected groups of **men or women** in degree and/or characteristics.

In summary

- Gender and energy issues at the energy consumer level are exacerbated in low income situations.
- Energy projects and investments could be better designed to economically empower women and vulnerable groups.
- Addressing gender inequality at the energy consumer level will take an integrated development approach.



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