

Gender mainstreaming

Fostering women's empowerment through gender mainstreaming sustainable energy programmes and initiatives.

Women's empowerment is recognized as not only a normative right but also an important economic and developmental strategy for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). The World Bank's World Development Report 2012 states, "countries that create better opportunities and conditions for women and girls can raise productivity, improve outcomes for children, make institutions more representative and advance development projects for all."

The UNIDO Energy Portfolio also recognizes that women's empowerment and sustainable energy are mutually reinforcing goals. Increased access to energy can reduce the burden of the household chores typically assigned to women, thus allowing women to engage in productive activities, leading to women's empowerment and gender equality. In turn, gender mainstreamed energy initiatives are more likely to achieve sustainable impact as recognition of women's roles in energy use will facilitate more comprehensive and long-term energy solutions for inclusive growth and development.

To achieve optimal impact and effective results on the ground, UNIDO's portfolio analyses and captures the potentials and opportunities in gender mainstreaming of its projects and programmes. Building on the existing gender mainstreaming efforts, the Energy Portfolio has recently launched an initiative to develop an action plan at the strategic level, and also an operational level guideline for all project stakeholders, including gender analysis tools and indicators to be applied throughout the project cycle. Gender mainstreaming of its sustainable energy portfolio will allow UNIDO to continue its political leadership and strengthen its comparative advantage in promoting and accelerating ISID.





CASE: Island Women Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Network

The Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative (SIDS DOCK) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the regional organizations is coordinating the “Island Women Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Network”. The flagship initiative promotes gender mainstreaming in the sustainable energy sector of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific, Caribbean, Africa and Indian Ocean.

Without the active participation of women, it is impossible for SIDS to transition to sustainable energy for all and to achieve the SIDS DOCK goals: to increase energy efficiency by 25 percent (2005 baseline) and to generate a minimum of 50 percent of electric power from renewable sources and a 50 percent decrease in conventional transportation fuel use by 2033: Island Energy for Island Life 25-50-25 by 2033. Across the islands women face similar barriers to take advantage of sustainable energy services, investment and business opportunities.

The network is supporting SIDS-SIDS activities, projects and exchange through a network of regional sustainable energy centres, namely the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). The centres are operating

under the umbrella of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The gender network convenes a powerful advocacy group for sustainable energy and gender issues in SIDS and provides a strong link between international agreements and concrete action on the ground. The network executes and supports activities in five programme areas:

1. Gender mainstreaming in policies, processes, program and project cycles
2. Gender-responsive capacity and institution building
3. Gender-responsive awareness raising and advocacy
4. Gender-responsive investment and business promotion
5. Gender-sensitive knowledge and technology transfer and exchange

The network creates links to already ongoing regional and national energy-gender programmes such as the ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN) or the gender mainstreaming program of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The network is supported by the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), the Clinton Foundation, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and other partners.

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