



Africa Clean Energy
Catalysing Africa's Solar Markets



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GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE OFF-GRID SECTOR

What measures should we take to support vulnerable population segments are affected by lack of electricity access in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic?





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Speakers



Moderator:

Dr. Margaret Wanjiku Ngunjiri,
Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor
ACE TAF



Speaker:

Olasimbo Sojinrin
Country Director
Solar Sister
Nigeria



Speaker:

Dr. Frederick John,
Energy Consultant and
GESI specialist for
ECOWAS,
Sierra Leone



Speaker:

Ndeye Seynabo Pouye,
President of
FAADEV,
Senegal

Agenda

- Discuss gender and social inclusion issues in off-grid solar (OGS)
- Interrogate gender and social inclusion issues in the context of COVID-19
- Explore how to integrate a gender and social inclusion lens in OGS from the perspectives of different players (government, private sector (solar companies), financiers, NGOs, donors, among others)
- Share selected experiences from the West African Region





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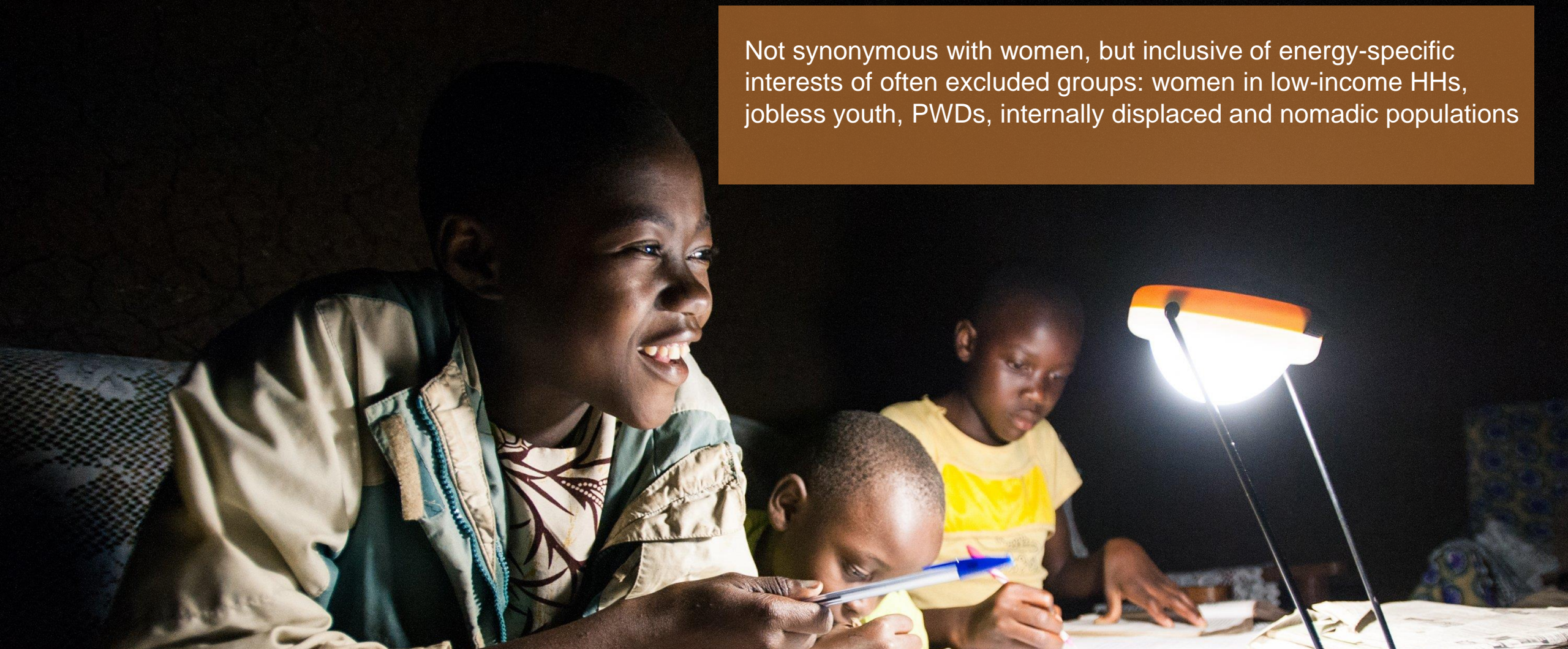


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Our Understanding Of GESI Within ACE Technical Assistance Facility

Not synonymous with women, but inclusive of energy-specific interests of often excluded groups: women in low-income HHs, jobless youth, PWDs, internally displaced and nomadic populations



Gender and Social Inclusion in the ACE – Technical Assistance Facility

Purpose of Webinar – draw attention to the following;

- Myriad of gender and inclusion disparities in energy access – [see GESI Handbook link](#)
- Existence of success stories of 'what's works for GESI in OGS' – [other speakers in this webinar](#)
- Coffey - prioritized GESI in ACE-TAF in all programmatic interventions now taking off in all 14 target countries
- Knowledge management is core to scaling up strategies that work for GESI.
- Series of three webinars (Western, Southern, Eastern Africa) providing a platform for region-specific sharing

COVID-19 impacts on GESI –perspectives on energy

- Health sector: **delays in supplies** negatively impact productivity
- **Reduced family incomes** with the economic meltdown stretching energy affordability
- **Increased demand for energy:** families at home. Appreciating governments' policy not to disconnect utility bills defaulters
- Reduced access to financing & business credit – now more compounded for the vulnerable
- Increased GBV and sexual offences with the 'stay home' restrictions – requiring greater access to uninterrupted energy



Government: i) setting policy agenda, ii) availing gender-, age, disability-disaggregated data to other players, iii) social protection and energy safety nets to 'leave no one behind', iv) tariff exemptions?

Private sector: i) GESI in the OGS supply chains (manufacturing, distribution, sales, recruitment/pay), ii) Innovative financing for vulnerable, iii) GESI concerns included in the agenda of solar associations, iv) Pushing for access to OGS products in remote regions

Investors & donors: i) Low-cost loans and conditional grants to support access to OGS in remote regions, ii) GESI-TA to companies, iii) Incentives to companies posting positive GESI indicators, iii) explore partnership with governments on social protection for extremely vulnerable

Non-profits (NGOs, CBOs); i) Greater efficiencies in energy access via social protection, ii) advocacy on GESI-responsive policies, iii) capacity development for vulnerable groups in solar entrepreneurship



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Now inviting other speakers

Click the link below to download the ACE TAF GESI Handbook for sub Saharan Africa

<https://www.ace-taf.org/kb/gender-and-social-inclusion-in-off-grid-solar-a-handbook-for-sub-saharan-africa/>



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Dr. Margaret Wanjiku Ngunjiri is a gender and governance specialist with over 15 years of international development experience in East and Southern Africa. She has a wealth of experience in the areas of decentralized governance, public policy analysis and engagement; and gender mainstreaming in energy and agriculture programmes.



Olasimbo Sojinrin is the Country Director for Solar Sister Nigeria which is a social enterprise and not for profit social enterprise that is committed to building a network of women entrepreneurs, especially in underserved communities. Through Solar Sister they seek to provide energy access through a range of clean energy products that they distribute in their communities. She is an enthusiastic social activist, passionate about fighting for women's economic empowerment issues, along with eradicating energy poverty and climate/environmental issues.



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Ndeye Seynabou Pouye is passionate about promoting female and youth entrepreneurship. Her concerns for gender issues have led her set up an organisation called Active African Women for Development (FAADEV) in 2018. FAADEV positions itself as an incubator to support the economic growth of female entrepreneurs through a business model based on agricultural activities , renewable energy and digitisation, to enable women empowerment and youth employment.



Dr. Frederick John is a gender in energy specialist with +15 years of professional experience working in the sector at the policy level, to ensure that the challenge of gender equality becomes a visible and key concern; at the programme level, to ensure that all energy interventions create opportunities for women's empowerment and gender equality; at the organizational level, to ensure that equal economic and financial opportunities are available to women as well as men.