**REPUBLIC OF MALI**

**One People-One Goal-One Faith**

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**MINISTERY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES**

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**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

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National Commission for Renewable Energy, Mali **(AER-MALI)**

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**ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT WITH SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT IN 70 VILLAGES IN MALI**

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACTION PLAN**

June 2018

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# INTRODUCTION

This action plan is the result of a simple literature review based on institutional and organizational diagnostic. The layout of the plan is as follows:

* Overview of gender in Mali through national gender policy
* Background and Rationale
* General objective
* Specific objectives
* Strategic orientation framework for actions aiming at gender mainstreaming in the project
* Gender mainstreaming strategies

# OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL GENDER POLICY IN MALI

# *This overview serves as a recap of salient points in the national policy whose main aim is to provide strategic directions*

vision:

*"A democratic society that guarantees the development of women and men through the full exercise of their fundamental equal rights, active and participatory citizenship and equitable access to resources, with a view to making Mali an emerging country strong in its growth and proud of its values of justice, peace, solidarity and social cohesion”*

# *Strategic directions:*

*The policy is structured around six (6) policy directions; initially mentioned in the National Gender Policy document. These are:*

*1) Consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in Mali through equal access and full enjoyment of fundamental rights for women and men.*

*2) Development of human capital (women and men) capable of meeting the challenges of the country's socio-economic development, poverty reduction and integration of Africans and Africa in the global village.*

*3) Recognition of women's contribution to economic development through their integration into productive channels and equal access to employment opportunities and factors of production.*

*4) Making use of the potential of women and men in national development through equal participation in the decision-making process.*

*5) Promotion, awareness-raising and communication for the entrenchment of egalitarian values and behaviours in Malian society while rallying the traditions of equality to the imperatives of modernity and openness to the world.*

*6) Gender mainstreaming as a guiding principle of good governance in public policies and reforms most conducive to change and in budgets, considering the context of deconcentration and decentralization.*

# BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Climate change has a profound impact on our planet and its inhabitants. New climate records show alarming frequency with multiple climate impacts. For instance, we note the increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts or floods; the rise in extreme temperatures, with the drying up of our water bodies. These changes have major indirect impacts such as decrease in available agricultural or fishery yields, increase in food prices and decrease in food self-sufficiency opportunities leading to food insecurity, conflicts over land tenure rights due to pressure on land, water, wildlife and among others.

Convinced of the chain of climate change impacts with multiplier effects, on the poorest and most vulnerable; yet they are not only the least responsible for the causes of climate change, but the most serious affected. In Mali, according to the terms of reference, "the rate of rural electrification is still very low (15% in rural towns and villages against 55% in urban centres) where 77% of Mali's population resides, estimated at around 16.5 million inhabitants in 2013. Around 78% of Malian households' energy needs are therefore met by biomass resources (firewood and coal), which, in addition to creating health problems linked to indoor air pollution in rural areas, aggravate deforestation and soil degradation by releasing carbon stored in trees and soils.

It is worth noting that research findings have estimated very significant environmental and social consequences of the energy situation, namely: (i) deforestation of about 400,000 ha/year; (ii) the emission of 15.45 megatons of carbon dioxide, representing 94.33% of Mali's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in carbon equivalent; and (iii) decrease in the purchasing power of the population in the face of rising oil prices, even though women, children and marginal communities are particularly vulnerable and more exposed to the risks of natural disasters, directly dependent on resources which themselves depend on meteorological hazards with low adaptation capacity to the effects of climate change.

It is against this backdrop that Mali, through the "Green Energy Services for Communities in Rural Mali" Project, is working to "electrify 300 localities in off-grid/mini-grid mode using autonomous renewable energy systems (solar PV, wind)".

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to contribute to better mainstream gender in the "Green Energy Services for Communities in Rural Mali" project, in particular the "Rural Electrification of 300 localities in off-grid/mini-grid mode from autonomous renewable energy systems (solar PV, wind)".

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

* Improve women, and youth participation in decision-making and project implementation at all levels;
* Enhance collaboration between stakeholders to ensure appropriation and sustainability of the project;
* Improve women and youth as well as others’ access to learning and training opportunities offered by the project;
* Promote information and communication in mainstreaming gender throughout the process
* Promote the acquisition of gender knowledge by project team members and other local stakeholders;
* Encouraging the sharing of experiences, capitalisation and dissemination of good practices
* Set up monitoring and evaluation system to achieve project indicators

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

* participation of women, youth and others in decision-making and implementation within the framework of the project has improved at all levels;
* Collaboration between stakeholders for the appropriation and sustainability of project activities is encouraged.
* access of women, young and others to learning and training opportunities offered by the project has improved;
* Information and communication for mainstreaming gender throughout the project have been promoted
* The acquisition of gender knowledge by project team members and other local stakeholders is enhanced;
* Experience sharing, capitalisation and dissemination of good practices are enhanced
* Monitoring and evaluation system for achieving the indicators has been set up.

## STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER ACTIONS IN THE PROJECT

The implementation of strategy guidelines in the project will be based on the achievements, lessons learned, and especially the current gender practices as provided for in the NGP.

As a matter of fact, the Gender Approach aims rather to establish and preserve equality of opportunities and complementarity so that gender and or any other form of difference are no longer determining factors in decision-making, than to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities.

Indeed, the policy framework will take into account gender in diversity and respect for all forms of difference. The process would be supported by new initiatives for sustainable adaptation to climate change, through operational principles, linked to different aspects of governance.

## Major strategic pillars for gender mainstreaming

## Institutional and organizational governance of the project

The project management team must opt for legality through the applicable laws in Mali. Thus, for future actions, it is important to take gender into account in terms of staff composition. Also, the team must pay attention to the chain of responsibilities and decision-making taking into account diversity. These principles must not only apply to management bodies but also to members.

## Gender mainstreaming in the project implementation

In the context of this project, the participation and involvement of all stakeholders (project team members, communities and authorities) is necessary for ensuring equitability and complementarity. This can be seen at two levels:

* project level: both male and female staff, including specifics, must be recruited and trained equitably. Their specific practical and strategic needs should be taken into account when recruiting. It is therefore necessary and desirable that staff be involved in the implementation as well as monitoring-evaluation phases of the project.
* Local population level: women and men, including those from the most vulnerable groups, should be consulted on their specific needs and priorities for change. They must participate equitably in the diagnosis, design, implementation, monitoring and sharing of benefits generated through project intervention.
* Management bodies or committees should be chosen in a balanced and representative manner. Similarly, opportunities to participate in training/employment/volunteering activities are important, if it requires special measures (time, location, same-sex trainer as participants, etc.), these must be known and integrated into the project activities.

## Project level: here, it’s a matter of strengthening partnership with other stakeholders, for enhancing mobilization of personnel to commit themselves to achieving the expected results.

**Local population level**: at this level, synergies will be developed with local authorities, technical services and other GED-sensitive stakeholders to enhance the benefits of community interventions.

Cooperation with women's organizations representative and other groups, such as youth and others, will be strengthened to encourage the participation of the entire community in the promotion, planning and implementation of the project.

## Improving GED Accessibility in the Project

**Project level** : the choice of priority criteria for project staff and access to professional and social well-being must be based on gender and diversity analysis to ensure that the most marginalised staff benefit from this.

**local population level:** the constraints and obstacles faced by women and men, including those from the most vulnerable groups, must be identified in consultation with the community.

## Gender Information/Communication in ANICT Programmes

The success of the fight against the effects of climate change and the emergence of local adaptation initiatives will depend on measures implemented to establish communication between the various stakeholders at all levels. Rural radio and all other information and communication technologies are opportunities whose reasonable and effective use will improve social and professional well-being.

**Project level:** communication is an important and essential ingredient in community life. Accessibility to information implies the right to seek, obtain and communicate information on social and professional matters. The project must ensure that the personnel involved are sufficiently informed about their rights but also about their duties with learning and training opportunities.

**Local community level:** another focus of GED at the local level is to design and implement a communication strategy, aimed at both women and men and other special group.

This process aims on the one hand to make them aware of the impact of the Climate Change on their daily life and that of rural populations. On the other hand, to make them aware of the opportunities for active participation in the development and implementation of appropriate technical and technological innovations to adapt to the adverse effects of Climate Change.

To better manage the gender sensitivity dimension of conflict, existing traditional mechanisms will be strengthened with the participation of formal and/or informal community structures, traditional communicators, by supporting and accompanying local communities.

# GENDER MAINSTREAMING STRATEGY

The institutional framework of the strategy comprises three levels, namely that of coordination and monitoring, piloting implementation and execution on the ground.

The project will facilitate the planning and monitoring of the implementation of gender strategy at all levels. It will also ensure the achievement of results by members with the support of various national partners (provision of human and financial resources), and their capitalization in the processes.

* **Steering implementation**

**The steering of the strategy** would be provided by a Group which would be responsible, among other things, for providing guidance, facilitating capacity-building sessions, periodic monitoring and the mechanism for implementing the strategy.

* **Implementation of project actions**

**Implementation would be carried out by the project team,** which would be supported to integrate the gender dimension in line with the donor's gender strategy**.**

* **Monitoring and evaluation**

A monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be put in place and be active throughout the implementation process of the strategy in order to assess and measure progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming. A participatory approach will be adopted to assess the progress of activities and the level of achievement of outcome. The monitoring and evaluation process will therefore involve stakeholders directly concerned by gender mainstreaming at the project level. These different strategic directions are outlined in the implementation table below:

Table 1 : Summary of gender mainstreaming action plan in the project framework

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***COMPONENTS*** | **ACTIVITIES** | **Indicators and targets** | **TIMELINE** | **RESPONSABLE** | **BUDGET US D** |
| *The implementation of the "Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)" will contribute in the long term to the off-grid/mini grid electrification of 70 villages, nearly 50% of which are women and men, using renewable energy systems (solar photovoltaic and wind) with the aim of moving towards low carbon solutions in the energy sector and reducing the sector's vulnerability to climate change, linked to fossil fuels.*  *The intermediate and immediate results of the project will generate multiplier effects including: the improvement of in health of more than 50% of women, men, young people and children by reducing greenhouse gases with the bonus, the economic empowerment of nearly 50% women explained by the improvement of their purchasing power, access to new economic and environmental opportunities, the reduction of deforestation by about 400 000 ha/year ; the emission of 15.45 megatons of carbon dioxide, representing 94.33% of Mali's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in carbon equivalent; the population's decrease in the face of rising oil product prices.* | | | | | |
| **OUT PUT:**   * The participation of women, youth and others in decision-making and their implementation within the project at all levels is effective; * The accessibility of nearly 50% women, young people and others to the learning and training opportunities offered by the project is improved; * Information and communication to mainstream gender throughout the process is real * The acquisition of gender knowledge by project team members and other local actors is effective * Sharing of experiences, capitalisation and dissemination of good practices are encouraged; * The monitoring and evaluation system for achieving the indicators has been set up. | | | | | |
| *1 Stakeholders institutional capacity building* | * *Awareness-raising to strengthen partnership and Genre mainstreaming - (women's cooperative union of the Community Development Committee (CDC), chiefdom, other community leaders in the 70 villages) in the implementation of CGES programmes* | * *Number of women and men trained on gender mainstreaming module of the projects:* | 18 months | * *Project Coordinator* * *ST Green energy ST* * *Head of environmental and social protection* * *In charge of gender monitoring and evaluation* * *Support staff* | 500.000 |
| * *Strengthening gender capacities of the CGES project, members and local actors through Gender Information/Communication in CGES Programmes through: radio broadcasts, conferences, etc.* | * *Number of women's cooperatives in the Village, the CDC, the chiefs, sensitized through the press (local radio, conferences)* * *Number of broadcast messages* * *Number of conferences organised* | 12 months | 500.000 |
| *2 Electrification of 300 rural communities in off-grid/mini grid mode based on renewable energies (solar PV, wind)* | * *Improving Gender Accessibility in CGES Programs,* | * *Number of rural communities (Village, CDC, chiefdom women's cooperative) with off-grid/mini grid access based on renewable energy* | Throughout the project | * *ST Green energy* * *Head of Environmental and Social Protection* * *In charge of gender monitoring and evaluation* * *Support staff* | 1.000.000 |
| *3 supporting beneficiary communities* | * *Community mobilization (Village women's cooperative, CDC, chiefdom, other community leaders from the 70 villages)* | * *Number of women and men associated with or involved in decision-making* | Throughout the project | * *ST Green energy* * *Head of Environmental and Social Protection* * *In charge of gender monitoring and evaluation* * *Support staff* | 1.000.000 |
| *4: Capitalization and scaling up* | * *Development of mechanism for monitoring and evaluating Gender mainstreaming activities* | * *Number of capitalisation workshops conducted* | At the mid-term and end of project review | * *ST Green energy* * *Head of Environmental and Social Protection* * *In charge of gender monitoring and evaluation* * *Support staff* | 500.000 |
| * ***TOTAL GLOBAL*** | | | | | 3.500.000 |
| ***This plan is fixed at an amount of three million five hundred thousand (***3,500,000***) US Dollars*** | | | | |  |

# CONCLUSION

From all the above, it is undeniably established that taking gender issues into account in any development process constitutes Mali's response both to public policies and international commitments in a context of globalization, and even as a democratic requirement.