GESI Manual for OGS Delivery

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Facility**

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
ACE-TAF	Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Facility
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFRN	Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOW-GEN	ECOWAS Program on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access
ECREEE	Ecowas Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
ESPRA	Electric Power Sector Reform Act
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
FCCPC	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICICE	Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IMC	Influential Member(s) of Community
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LEEDS	Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
LGA	Local Government Area
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NEMA	The National Emergency Management Agency
NDHS	Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NEP	Nigerian Energy Policy
NEPP	National Electric Power Policy
NERC	Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission
NPC	National Population Commission
NREP	Nigerian Rural Electrification Policy
NREEEP	National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy
OGS	Off-Grid Sector
O&M	Operations and Maintenance

PIO	Promotion, Information and Outreach
PUE	roductive Use of Electricity
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RA	Reasonable Accommodation
REA	Rural Electrification Agency
RESIP	Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan
REU	Reach Enter Use
REUC	Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Society
RHOs	Rights Holder Organisations
WB	World Bank
SADDD	Sex Age Disability Disaggregated Data
SEEDS	State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SON	Standard Organisation of Nigeria
SWG	Sustainability Working Group
UN	United Nations
VAPPA	Violence against Persons Prohibition Act VAPPA
WGSS	Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning

GLOSSARY

GESI: In the context of energy, this refers to the consideration and inclusion of the diverse energy-specific interests of individuals and groups such as Persons with Disabilities (PWD), women, youth, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable and marginalized groups and households in the production, access, and distribution of power, and off-grid solar products[1] .

Gender Mainstreaming: The assessment of implications for individuals across different genders with regards to planned policy action, legislation, and programmes, in all areas and levels of social development, with strategies to improve the quality of such actions.

Intersectionality: This refers to the interconnectedness of social identities, an overlapping of social categories such as ethnicity, class, and gender in each society or group, that compounds their risk of discrimination. Intersectional disadvantage potentially exposes an individual to more than one form of potential discrimination (e.g. gender plus disability or disability plus ethnic minority, etc).

Off-Grid Solar: This refers to renewable, clean, and decentralized solar solutions that are utilised for electrification purposes in un-served (off-grid) or under-served areas especially last mile communities.

Rights Holder Organisations (RHOs): This refers to organisations representing and promoting the rights of vulnerable groups like women and other people from specific marginalised groups.

Social Exclusion: The process and outcome of the marginalization of individuals or groups from the enjoyment of incentives and inalienable rights, based on the condition of their differentiated identities, as defined by the social system.

Social Inclusion: This is a process of improving the conditions especially for marginalized individuals and groups to fully participate in their society, taking part in all beneficial ventures and services such as electrification, employment, healthcare, education, markets (credit), politics and general socio-economic incentives.

Vulnerable Group: Individuals or groups that have specific social characteristics that makes them at risk of exclusion from social services.

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1   *ACETAF GESI Guide*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Underpinning the GESI theory is the recognition that in addition to women, other groups of people in any given society are also vulnerable, and often excluded from social development opportunities. GESI recognises that women as a group, are not homogenous and the concept of intersectionality acknowledges the overlapping identities that could exacerbate vulnerabilities for each woman. A key part of incorporating GESI in off-grid solar (OGS) involves the understanding of the patterns of exclusion, and how access to affordable energy and OGS products can be enhanced, ensuring that no one is left behind. Inadvertent exclusion in OGS may happen based on gender, vulnerability, age, disability, or location.

At the core of the GESI concept is its rights-based approach, which envisions inclusion in access to energy. Nigeria has acceded to several international, continental, regional, national, and state level policies, protocols, frameworks, regulations, and programmes that uphold these values in various sectors including energy. Consistent with all of them is the discouragement of discrimination and promotion of active participation of people and institutions in social, political, economic, and broader civic activities, including decision-making. The development of this Manual aligns with the country's commitment to GESI in national electrification.

GESI at the Global Level

At the global level, Nigeria accedes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. At the regional level, Nigeria commits to the ECOWAS Policy on Gender mainstreaming in the Energy Sector (ECOW-GEN).[2] The support the implementation of the Policy based on its commitment, Nigeria has also committed to the ECOWAS Energy Sector Gender Plan through the Federal Ministry of Power in collaboration with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).

GESI at the National Level

The country's constitution which describes the rights of all citizens is the primary document on national commitment to GESI. It is supported by strategy documents such as the 2004 National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)[3] adapted by states as State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS)[4] and local government areas as Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS). On energy access, most of the country's energy access documents include GESI albeit to differing degrees. This includes the National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (2015), the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2016), the Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan (2016)[5] , and the Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda (2016).
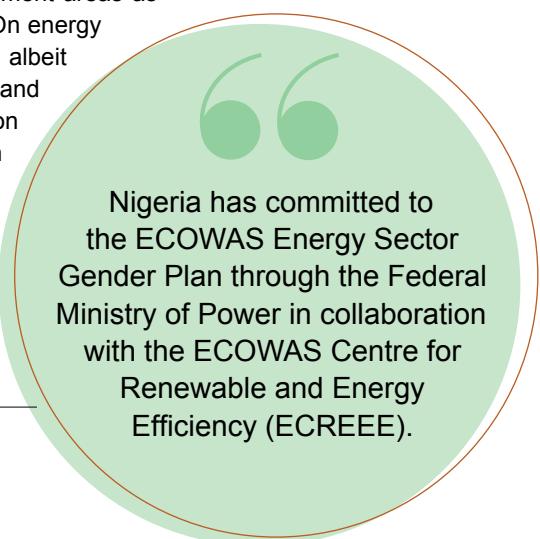
> " Nigeria has committed to the ECOWAS Energy Sector Gender Plan through the Federal Ministry of Power in collaboration with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).

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3   NEEDS Document

4   SEEDS Manual

5   RESIP

GESI at the State Level

Several state governments have developed policies, strategies, and plans to integrate and utilise OGS for clean and sustainable energy access delivery in the state. State Governments such as Lagos, Jigawa, Kaduna and Kano states have developed OGS Policies and Action Plans to guide the OGS policy implementation towards increased OGS delivery in rural communities. A few states have developed and are implementing OGS initiatives, and it is relevant to ensure gender and social inclusion in their design and implementation.

1.2 GESI in Off-Grid Solar Delivery

Electricity is an enabler for socio-economic growth and livelihoods, however 80 million of Nigeria's 206 million population lack access to it. The federal government as part of its efforts to bridge the energy deficit has integrated off-grid solar (OGS) solutions into the national electrification mix through the development of various energy access policies, legislation, and electrification plans. This includes initiatives such as the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), Solar Power Naija Programme (SPN), and the Rural Electrification Fund (REF) all aimed at electrifying unserved and underserved areas, primarily rural communities, through OGS.

This effort is led nationally through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and sub-nationally by state government institutions of energy and power. REA's mandate is to address the rural/urban divide in electricity access by electrifying un-served and under-served rural areas as guided by the Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan (RESIP) and in alignment with the Nigerian Rural Electrification Policy (NREP). It is the focal government institution for off-grid electrification, and its efforts are also supported by the private sector including donor partners, industry associations, financiers, and market support organisations.

REA aims to ensure gender and social inclusion in its delivery of off-grid electrification initiatives which are designed with consideration to GESI. As an agency, REA aims to incorporate and improve GESI through the Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Society (REUCS) set up in 2007 as a platform to mobilize community inclusion for energy access, delivery, and sustainability. The REUCS is operationalised and supervised by REA through its Department of Promotion. In 2019, REA developed a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy which outlines activities to be adopted and implemented in addressing gender gaps in the Nigerian off-grid sector, and set up a Gender Desk to support implementation. The Gender Desk and REA Department of Promotions are best placed as focal responsible entities for gender and social inclusion within REA and its initiatives. REA's Gender Mainstreaming objectives include:

i.   Prioritization of gender integration in all electrification initiatives.

ii. Promotion of equality, diversity, and inclusion of women (and other excluded segments) in the energy sector.

iii. Support to greater entry of women into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to open more opportunities for jobs and economic empowerment. REA aims to have increased capacity and engagement of women in more technical roles than their relegation to non- or lesser technical roles primarily sales and administrative duties.

iv. Address obstacles faced by women and other vulnerable segments in the energy sector.

At the sub-national level, state governments are starting to recognise and incorporate off-grid solar solutions in bridging their energy access gaps and meeting their climate goals. As empowered by the national constitution to develop plans, policies, and regulations to electrify off-grid areas, state governments have begun developing off-grid policies, strategies, and action plans for OGS electrification in states. This will support OGS investment and delivery to un-served and under-served areas in the states. As states begin to integrate OGS into their electrification plans, there is need to ensure that a standardized approach is adopted for GESI.

This GESI Manual is a guide for the federal (REA) and state governments in ensuring women, youth, persons with disability (PWDs) and other vulnerable groups in rural communities are considered in the design and delivery of OGS initiatives. It supports the implementation of the REA's Gender Strategy specific to the inclusion and empowerment

of rural women and vulnerable groups, and aligns with REA's pre-established community engagement processes under REUCS - planning, implementation, and monitoring phases. It also supports the implementation of OGS policies, plans and projects by state governments by ensuring gender and social inclusion in the delivery of energy access through OGS.

1.3 Purpose and Use of this Manual

This Manual serves as a guide for the government at the federal and state level in ensuring gender and social inclusion in OGS delivery for rural communities across Nigeria. It has been developed by REA with support from the Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Facility (ACE TAF) and describes the approach and steps to be considered in ensuring gender and social inclusion for OGS delivery and sustainability. It builds on the existing structure of REUCS which has been designed as a platform for community engagement and inclusion in energy access delivery, socio-economic empowerment, and OGS sustainability.

The REUCS Framework is designed for joint implementation by the federal, state, and rural governments, and serves as an institutionalised and collaborative mechanism by the government across all levels in ensuring community participation in energy access delivery. This Manual guides in ensuring gender and social inclusion in the design and implementation of activities under the REUCS, led by REA at the federal level.

2.0 THE RURAL ELECTRICITY USERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY (REUCS)

REA established the Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Society (REUCS) as a platform to mobilize community inclusion for energy access, delivery, and sustainability. The platform enables the participation of community members in rural electrification projects by empowering them to gain access to affordable electricity and offers ease of purchase and payment for electrification solutions. It equips communities with the collective knowledge on the utilisation, operation, maintenance, safety, and sustainability of OGS community electrification solutions.

2.1 Current Structure and Framework

In 2020, REA through its Department of Promotion and its Sustainability Working Group developed a framework to guide REUCS community engagement activities. The communities are expected to own, operate, and maintain their electricity networks, and are equipped with skills to manage the operation of the OGS systems effectively and efficiently, and utilise the electricity for socio-economic development. The diagram below describes the framework which consists primarily of internal and external stakeholders. Internal stakeholders ensure all external stakeholders act in the best interest of the community.
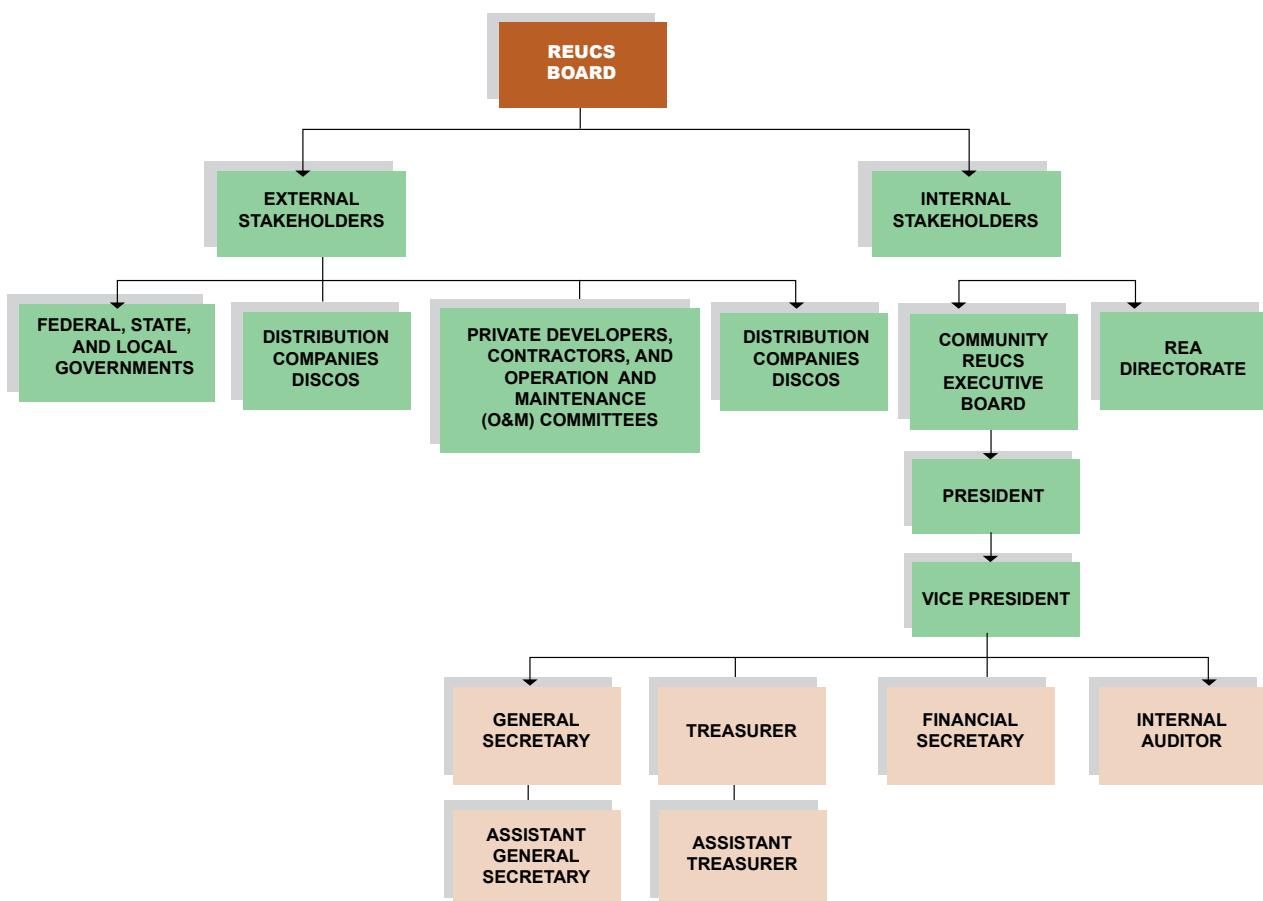

Figure 1: REUCS Organizational Structure

The REUCS framework has procedures for mobilizing, sensitizing, and supporting rural communities form rural electricity customer cooperatives to stimulate demand for electricity and drive socio-economic growth. These cooperatives form the platform for ensuring and sustaining gender and social inclusion in OGS delivery across communities in Nigeria, and the sections below describe how this can be achieved through REUCS being the focal platform for active community engagement.

2.2 GESI Analysis of the REUCS

REA adopts a gender-responsive approach during community engagements through REUCS for more equitable outcome. The REUCS structure includes a Women Empowerment Initiative focused on empowering rural women socio-economically through energy access delivery.

A review of the REUCS framework from a GESI perspective was carried out to ensure it is GESI representative utilising primary and secondary information/data. Specific indicators such as participation, access, decision-making, structures, and well-being were analysed.

Key Findings			
S/N	**Finding**	**Description**	**Recommendation**
1	**Regional Equity**	REA's OGS projects are designed to attain regional equity including the design of REUCS. REUCS has presence in all states across the six regions of the country.	
2	**Women Inclusion**	REUCS adopts an open-door policy for all community members with priority given to women. However, the quality of participation and role of women as decision makers and influencers under REUCS has not been well communicated or evident. Being an inclusive platform, it is expected that all community members and/or groups enjoy similar rights and entitlements with regards decision making. This also includes the REA REUCS team.	Improve women participation as decision makers under REUCS by ensuring gender balance in the Community REUCS Executive Board, and the REA project team
3	**Social Inclusion**	Analysis of individual and institutional participation in planning and implementation under REUCS reveals a social inclusion gap. Presently the framework does not comprehensively define vulnerable groups and does not fully address wider social inclusion concerns such as persons with disabilities (PWD) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It also does not account for the different needs of the vulnerable population and omits information on how an enabling environment can be created for their engagement. While the intention to empower women is made known, considerations of other intersectional issues on GESI is inadequate.	1. Improve participation of vulnerable groups as decision makers under the REUCS structure by ensuring a social inclusion balance in the Community REUCS Executive Board, and the REA project team 2. Review and expand the REA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy to recognise and incorporate vulnerable groups, not just women.
4	**Data Collection & Management**	There are no clearly defined GESI specific measures for collecting and managing GESI-disaggregated data, monitoring & evaluation, and analysing GESI specific impact information in REUCS. This data inadequacy implies that information on GESI is not fundamentally used to shape planning and inform programme development.	Development of a GESI data collection tool inclusive of M&E measures for REUCS

3.0 GESI CONSIDERATION IN OGS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The following are considerations to be made to ensure gender and social inclusion under REUCS in the design and delivery of off-grid electrification.

3.1 Preparation Phase

3.1.1 OGS Project Design

Ensure that the considerations are incorporated for women and socially excluded groups.

a. During community stakeholder mapping, in addition to identifying community gatekeepers and key influencers, also ensure to include women and vulnerable groups as well. Representatives of these groups should be included as community representatives under the REUCS.

b. For meaningful inclusion of women, youth, PWDs, IDPs, and other vulnerable groups, their mere presence is not enough during engagements. There is need to ensure that they are sufficiently sensitized to actively engage and voice their needs.

c. Projects should ensure that they 'do no harm' by either leading to further exclusion of more vulnerable segments, reinforcing existing gender discrimination, or in certain circumstances where empowerment of women inadvertently leads to male emasculation and gender-based violence (GBV). This can be achieved through understanding the GESI conditions and peculiarities of communities and designing OGS projects and community engagements with these conditions and peculiarities incorporated.

d. Ensure that the OGS value chain in the community incorporates GESI. Women, youth, PWDs and other vulnerable groups should be included in roles of community members either as distributors, resellers, sales, and maintenance, etc. This includes ensuring that gender, age, and disability considerations are made during recruitment, promotion, and compensation for OGS projects in the communities.

e. Utilize GESI-disaggregated data at the design stage for planning and decision making to illustrate access and supply patterns in the communities and among different population groups.

3.1.2 Project Team Constitution

Ensure that there is diversity in the composition of the REUCS Community Project team.

a. The team should strive to achieve GESI balance in its composition including lesser represented groups such as youth and PWDs where these are present. This will ensure that decisions are taken from a balanced perspective.

b. In addition, the team members should be sufficiently sensitized on GESI issues so that they can uphold the inclusion principles in the planning, execution, and reporting stages of their activities. This Manual provides guidance on this, in addition to understanding the GESI conditions and peculiarities of the communities for the OGS projects.

3.1.3 Stakeholder Coordination

The REUCS Framework has cross-national participation at the federal, state, and local government level. For project implementation, all parties have their roles and responsibilities, and inclusive participation guarantees that the interest of all parties are represented.

3.1.3.1 The Federal Level

a. If the OGS project is designed at the federal level through REA, the project team should obtain relevant information specific to GESI from relevant federal government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), NGOs, private sector partners, and other relevant stakeholders on the community and state for the project where such exists. GESI disaggregated data and information from geo-spatial tools from platforms such as REA's Energy Access Explorer tool on the community and state can also be useful for this.

b. Utilising the REUCS framework, the project team will engage and plan the project implementation with the REUCS Desk under the focal government MDA for OGS in the state where the project is to be cited. In states where there are no REUCS Desks or Representatives, the project team should engage with relevant state government institutions for energy/power, and local government matters to support and facilitate community engagement and project implementation.

c. If the OGS Project is being implemented at the state level, REA can provide technical assistance and support to the REUCS Desk of the state government MDA leading the OGS Project, based on its experience and resources at the federal level.

3.1.3.2 State Government Level

a. The REUCS Desk under the focal state government OGS institution will coordinate with relevant state government MDAs, NGOS, and private sector partners including development programmes in obtaining GESI relevant information for the project. This can be achieved through the set-up of Project Working Groups.

Steven Miyoba shows the solar panel on his roof, which he bought from Fenix International and pays for through mobile money. Photo courtesy: www.bgfz.org

b. If the project is a federal OGS project from REA, the REUCS Desk will facilitate community engagement and project implementation in the target communities, in collaboration with the REA Project team. This also includes the provision of relevant information, GESI inclusive, to the project team.

c. If the project is a state OGS project, the REUCS Desk will liaise with REA at the federal level to coordinate and get relevant guidance and support in ensuring GESI incorporation in the project implementation.

3.1.4 Data for Planning

OGS projects require accurate and reliable data for decision-making - inception, design, implementation, and evaluation phases of the project. In obtaining, analysing and utilising data for the OGS project, GESI indicators and considerations should be made. Below is a list (non-exhaustive) of relevant datasets with GESI specific information as may be useful for planning:

a. Data from the National Population Commission

b. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics such the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)6 and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)7 in offering household level data on gender and social norms.

c. Data from the National Social Register which is be useful for identifying vulnerable households in these communities.

It is also useful to obtain knowledge on relevant policies, frameworks, and provisions for GESI at the federal and state levels, which are applicable to the target groups or communities[8]. This includes policies guiding different social group rights. While the federal government has its laws and policies that include GESI, many states have also enacted similar laws or created some to address their peculiar GESI considerations. Understanding these will ensure project GESI compliance, and it is useful to look out for any conflict between provisions in federal laws vs state laws (For example, while the federal law addressing discrimination for PWD makes provision for 5% of employment slots to be given in all public organisations to PWD, the Lagos state law for PWD makes provision for only 1%).

It is also important that the project team documents specific experiences in each community for insights and learning. This can be extracted by reviewing existing reports and resources on such communities, and consulting organizations that have executed projects within or around the target communities for experiential knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices, specific to GESI.

3.1.4.1 Data Collection and Evaluation Tools

Specific to GESI data considerations, the project team should:
a. Generate a list of GESI indicators to track gender and social inclusion in the OGS project delivery.

b. Ensure that project tools for data collection to inform needs assessments, and monitoring and evaluation activities include the GESI indicators.

c. The tools should make provision for generating Sex Age Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD)[9] components for monitoring and measuring outcomes.

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6   Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey Report 2018

7   Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2018

8   See annex 2 for policies and frameworks
9   Sex, Age and Disability Disaggregated Data SADDD Minimum Standards & Guidance

10 Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning

11 See table 1 in Annex 1 for sample of SADDD and WGSS tool

d. Make room for generating intersectional data. Intersectionality appreciates that the differences in people's identities, social positions (age, ethnicity, gender, religion, or social and economic background) and life experiences including how they use OGS can be shaped by multiple factors.

e. PWDs remain at greater risk of being restricted from participation in community projects owing to their prevailing difficulties in various functional domains. Tools like the 'Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning' (WGSS)[10] can be incorporated in data collection tools to increase their visibility and inclusion[11].

f. Project team can build on the SADDD tool to incorporate questions to elicit information on the elements below:

   i. Information for baseline data, needs assessment, GESI dynamics, and determine salient identity markers for individuals and groups.

   ii. Ascertain the economic mainstay of the community and GESI groups.

   iii. Ascertain the energy needs and uses of the community and GESI groups.

   iv. Identify the decision-making infrastructure in the community.

   v. Identify numbers of public facilities present in the community paying attention to their functional status.

Collated data will be input into REA's Energy Access Explorer (EAE) Tool to improve GESI targeting for energy access delivery.

3.2 Community Engagement and Sensitization

3.2.1 Community Engagement

OGS delivery in rural communities requires that community members are engaged participatorily and extensively in the project delivery highlighting the livelihood and socio-economic benefits. This should include considerations for GESI groups.

In the case of REUCS, community sensitization provides the opportunity to introduce the REUCS, communicate the establishment procedures to the project community, obtain information on the impact and benefits of the OGS solution, and the role of all stakeholders. The following GESI considerations are to be made for an inclusive rural stakeholder engagement:

a. Ensure that the composition of the community leaders in attendance is diverse, including women and representatives of vulnerable groups in the communities.

   i. This includes groups such as community council of chiefs, women leader, youth leader, leaders of groups for PWDs, religious leaders, CSOs and their networks, trade union leaders, representatives of community settlers, focal persons from MDAs catering for vulnerable groups in the local government, amongst others.

   ii. In sensitizing the communities about OGS, emphasis must be placed on the importance of ensuring equal representation and participation both at leadership and membership levels of the community.

b. Cultural diversity should be appreciated. The awareness of the nuances of cross-culture communication will aid the appreciation of differences and enable the project team to be adaptable through their interactions with communities.

c. Make provision for reasonable accommodation in choosing the locations for meetings and communication modes. The REU (Reach, Enter, Use) principle should be applied in selecting facilities for the meetings, and in mediums of communication to be adopted.

   i. **Reach:** Ensure that the meeting venues are reachable by all, considering time and distance required for diverse community members.

   ii. **Enter:** Ensure that the meeting venue is accessible, and that diverse groups especially PWDs can gain access to it.

   iii. **Use:** Ensure that all facilities can be used by all as need be, including PWDs.

d. Leverage on the opportunity provided by this gathering to educate the community on the importance of gender equality and social inclusion to the project:

  i. Highlight the impact and benefits of GESI to the rural economy.

  ii. Communicate the importance of engaging women and vulnerable groups who are positioned as cultural gatekeepers in ensuring that inequality is addressed through the project.

e. Seek the community's collective definition of vulnerable groups.

  i. The definition of vulnerable groups will differ across communities, for example while most communities may have persons with disabilities dwell amongst them, not all communities may have IDPs or refugees. Also, for some communities, there might be a settler vs indigene power dynamic.

  ii. Using participatory methods and guiding questions (see appendix 1, table 2 on guiding questions), the project team should guide the community leaders to define who the vulnerable groups are within the community. Consideration should be made in OGS project planning for groups identified as vulnerable.

f. Facilitate dialogue on OGS project site selection. Community members should be supported to make recommendations on the facilities that would consume the power generated by the OGS project.

  i. Guide the options of the community members to choices that integrate not just households but public facilities such as primary healthcare centres, schools, markets, and others.

  ii. Public facilities such as the primary health care centres can ensure that all groups especially women, children, and vulnerable persons in the community benefit from the OGS initiatives.

g. Ensure all emerging concerns from community members are adequately addressed, encouraging community members, especially women and vulnerable persons to air their grievances.

3.2.2 OGS Education with emphasis on GESI

During community engagement, the project team engages and sensitizes community members on the OGS project including the benefits and impact – improving household welfare and economic empowerment opportunities-; environmental, health and social concerns; community inclusion - community consent, provision of land and labour; Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM), and other relevant topics.This exercise also sensitises the community on the role of private developers, community payment responsibilities, productive use of electricity, energy efficiency, and the safeguarding measures for OGS equipment.

When providing such education, it is important to also do so from a GESI perspective and emphasis on how OGS solutions benefits GESI groups. The following provides such guidance.

a. **Improving Quality of Life for Households and Individuals:** Highlighting the challenges and negative impact of inefficient energy sources such as kerosene, candles, etc especially for vulnerable persons such as women. Describe the benefits of OGS solutions in improving quality of life including the health and environmental benefits, especially to women and vulnerable groups.

b. **Economic Empowerment through Productive Use of Electricity (PUE):** Women and vulnerable groups are usually at the lowest tire of the socio-economic ladder in communities, with most vulnerable persons such PWD and IDPs dependent on social welfare. OGS solutions provides an opportunity for women and vulnerable groups to empower themselves and earn economic livelihoods such as through PUE and should be highlighted during the community engagement. It also improves existing economic activities through electricity provision and creates job opportunities for women and vulnerable groups across the value chain

c. **Consumer Financing:** Consumer financing platforms such as PAYG, rural cooperatives, and microfinance institutions can be leveraged to improve the ability of vulnerable groups to afford OGS solutions. The project team should assess any consumer financing platforms in the community and how those could be leveraged for consumer financing of OGS products for GESI groups.

d. **After-Sale Support:** For OGS products, access to technicians who are skilled is often limited in remote rural areas. Women and vulnerable persons could be identified and trained by the OGS Provider to provide after-sales service which serves as a means of economic empowerment as well.

3.3 Communication

Communication for OGS projects under REA can be internal (directed towards the community), and external (directed at the public, investors, potential partners and other stakeholders). GESI considerations for communication include:

a. Utilising mediums of communication most suitable for rural communities. Examples are community townhall meetings, use of localised channels such as the town criers, communication conducted in local language, pidgin English and others.

b. In designing information and communication materials for OGS project, include activities and products that incorporate a GESI perspective.

   i. Designing the communication materiala in versions that consider vulnerable groups in the community such as the blind, deaf and dumb.

   ii. Communication products should positively depict and promote the diversity of the project communities, challenge the reproduction of inequalities, exclusion, and be culturally sensitive, adapting to the realities of the multicultural Nigerian society.

   iii. It can be more diverse, appreciating multiple language use, differences in ability status, existing digital divide and generally the fact that no two groups have exact same degree of access and engagement with all mediums of communication.

c. Attention should be given to developing inclusive and accessible communication materials.[12]

   i. Factors such as age, ethnicity (language), disability status, income status are worth considering in designing community communication materials.

   ii. The communication materials adhere to making Reasonable Accommodation (RA) requirements for PWDs[13]. Implementing this requires that the needs of persons with disabilities are put into consideration when designing materials for public use, thus ensuring that they are able to exercise right to access on equal basis with others.

d. Where physical mediums such as town hall meetings are to be utilized as a means of communicating project information, the project team must prioritise equal participation of community members.

   i. This can be fostered by choosing venues that age guided by an REU (Reach, Enter, Use) principle.

   ii. Within the community, choose a facility where everyone can safely reach, enter, and use without barriers that can limit their participation.

e. Through communication initiatives, OGS projects in rural communities can promote gender equality, empowerment, and inclusion by creating and communicating success stories.

f. OGS projects in rural communities can challenge existing societal norms by promoting capabilities of marginalized groups. Communication materials that challenge stereotypes, and challenge established roles and responsibilities.

   i. A communication material showcasing women or PWDs in leadership positions in rural communities and their interest in OGS can be pivotal.

g. Create communication materials that are inclusive and capture diverse interests and perspectives, especially that of the marginalized groups in the society. For example, IDPs can present their interest on OGS products and how it empowers them.

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12 *United Nation's Disability-Inclusive Communications Guideline*

13 *GSDRC Disability Inclusion Topic Guide*

h. Creators of communication materials both for internal and external use should be mindful of adopting the use of non-sexist words and expressions. For example, take note of the generic use of words like 'Man', and pronouns like 'He', 'His', 'Him' as a gender-neutral word[14]. This can aid in omitting distinctive elements of a female experience which is vital to the REUCS project.

i. Communication materials can help challenge biased, discriminatory, or demeaning interpretations and norms. For example, a video focused on the OGS utilization by primary healthcare centres can use women and vulnerable persons to relay the message.

j. To ensure GESI is considered in communication initiatives for OGS, active participation of persons in the marginalized category in the development of the communication materials should be encouraged.

k. It is recommended that communication materials are pre-tested to ensure that it is culturally sensitive, and that it makes reasonable accommodation especially for the needs of PWDs.

3.4 Post-Implementation

3.4.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is critical to ensuring that there is a consolidated source of information that showcases the progress of OGS projects, identifying what set targets have been achieved and providing evidence on what works. For OGS delivery in rural areas, GESI considerations in M&E should be incorporated. REA's Energy Access Explorer platform will be utilised for trend analysis to monitor the effectiveness of activities and if (or if not) they are reaching the demographic that are identified based on programme targets and results.

a. Through the project cycle, the project team is expected to continually collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative data, reviewing and adapting tools as need be.
   i. Generation of a list of GESI indicators is a good place to start in ensuring GESI metrics are considered.
   ii. Conduct a baseline assessment that captures baseline GESI intersectional data. Information collected must be carefully managed.

b. Additionally, measures should be taken to ensure that monitoring and evaluation is conducted with the active participation of the community members
   i. Women, and persons within the excluded group categories, men and other dominant groups from various social levels should be encouraged to take part in monitoring activity.
   ii. An internal reporting mechanism can be established by the project team to make their reporting easy.

c. Midline evaluation is vital for assessing the project in order to provide reliable evidence that the design and strategies are delivering on expectations.
   i. It is recommended to schedule a midline assessment of the OGS project delivery, to determine if the interventions are yielding the results that is expected at the offset especially with regards to GESI.
   ii. Set GESI targets for key areas of the project and evaluate performance periodically.

d. Conduct accessibility audit to identify barriers to communication, physical access, policy, and attitudinal barriers that may limit access and participation in project by vulnerable groups.

e. Evaluate livelihood patterns to measure the extent to which households and businesses by women and vulnerable groups are benefiting from the programme.

f. Evaluate the product base and incentives being offered to see if it meets the community needs, especially those in the vulnerable category.

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14 Guidelines for Non-Sexist Use of Language

4.0 CONCLUSION

This GESI Manual presents an approach to be utilized in achieving inclusive OGS delivery by the government and relevant OGS sector stakeholders. It outlines steps for incorporating GESI in OGS project design, delivery, and post-implementation in rural communities. This covers all relevant aspects such as community engagement and sensitization, communication, data management, socio-economic empowerment, monitoring and evaluation, sustainability, and other factors. It leverages the Rural Electricity Users Cooperative Society (REUCS) platform for GESI inclusion in community energy access delivery.

This Manual has been developed for the government, primarily REA with the support of the Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Facility (ACE TAF).

Annex 1

Table 1 Sample data collection tool

SADDD Tool	
Name:	
Age:	
Sex:	□ Male □ Female
Do you have difficulty walking or climbing stairs?	□ No - no difficulty □ Yes - some difficulty □ Yes- a lot of difficulty □ Cannot perform this function at all.
Do you have difficulty hearing even if using a hearing aid?	□ No - no difficulty □ Yes - some difficulty □ Yes- a lot of difficulty □ Cannot perform this function at all.
Do you have difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses?	□ No - no difficulty □ Yes - some difficulty □ Yes- a lot of difficulty □ Cannot perform this function at all.
Using your language, do you have difficulty communicating (for example understanding or being understood by others)?	□ No - no difficulty □ Yes - some difficulty □ Yes- a lot of difficulty □ Cannot perform this function at all.
Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?	□ No - no difficulty □ Yes - some difficulty □ Yes- a lot of difficulty □ Cannot perform this function at all.
Do you have difficulty with (self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?	□ No - no difficulty □ Yes - some difficulty □ Yes- a lot of difficulty □ Cannot perform this function at all.

Table 2 Checklist: Guiding questions for situation analysis

Questions	
Which group of people in the community are excluded/included in formal and informal institutions?	
Which group in the community makes or influences communal decision-making?	
Who in the community does not take part in the community decision making?	
At what level do women participate in decision making formally and informally?	
Which group in the community benefits most from development intervention?	
Do all community groups have equitable access and control over community resources?	
Who are excluded and most vulnerable in the community?	
Are there groups the community members do not like, if yes why?	
Is there a name for groups of people living in the community with whom the community does not associate with?	
Which right holder organisation is present in the community?	
Who should not be discriminated against?	
Who are the duty bearers?	

Table 3 Checklist: Guiding Questions for M&E

Questions	
Are data collected disaggregated by gender, age, disability and migrant status?	
Are impact of REUCS programme on vulnerable groups being evaluated?	
Can changes in communal gender and social inclusion relations and roles be elicited from the reported data and part of monitoring?	
Are best and poor practices being evaluated?	

Annex 2

Relevant Policies, Frameworks and Regulation

An understanding of institutions, policies, and framework within and outside the energy service context which have been designed to address barriers to accessing services and opportunities within Nigeria in general and within the energy sector is imperative. The table below presents a list of some relevant policies and framework addressing social inclusion that Nigeria accedes to.

Table 4   List of Relevant Policies and Framework

Category	Framework/Policies	Year	Groups Represented	Summary
International	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)[15].	1969	All groups; covering all ethnic groups, nationalities, and religious identity.	ICERD is a human right instrument that addresses all discrimination and manifestation of racial, religious, and national hatred.
	The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),	1981	Women, Girls	CEDAW with its optional Protocols, serves as an international bill of rights for women and girls.[16]
	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, followed by its Optional Protocol in 2010[17]	2008	Person with Disabilities.	This is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations that is positioned to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities globally.
	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).	2015	All groups including women and vulnerable groups.	With its wide-reaching agenda, the SDG goal 7, focuses on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.[18]
Continent/Regional	African Charter on Human and People's Rights[19].	1986	Women, the elderly, children, PWDs, and others.	The African Charter on Human Rights is an application of the UN Declaration of Human Rights for the African Continent. It specifically covers rights of diverse categories of vulnerable groups.[20]
	African Union (AU) Agenda 2063[21]	2013	Citizens of all countries within the African continent.	This is continental strategic framework that presents its goals for inclusive and sustainable development to be achieved by 2063. This incorporates flagship energy projects that ensures access of all Africans to clean and affordable electricity.

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15 *Status of the Implementation of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Nigeria: An Alternative Report*

16 *UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: State Party Report, Nigeria*

17 *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

18 *Nigeria | Tracking SDG7 – ESMAP*

Category	Framework/Policies	Year	Groups Represented	Summary
	ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access[22].	2017	Women and vulnerable groups.	The Policy drives the ECOWAS Program on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN). It foregrounds the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) goals in West Africa.
National	The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN).	1999	Nigerian Citizens	Nigeria's constitution expresses the right of non-discrimination to its citizens irrespective of their differentiated identity. The constitution makes bold the position of the government on inclusion of citizens in all areas of development, including energy development.
	National Gender Policy.[23]	2006	Nigerian Women	The Nigerian national gender policy focuses on addressing concerns of exclusion and marginalization for Nigerian women
	Violence against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPPA)[24].	2015	Nigerians, women, girls and vulnerable groups.	This act is designed eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders
	National Employment Policy.[25]	2017	All Nigerian citizens.	The national employment policy is a national instrument that is set in place to ensure the provision of the fullest possible opportunity to all qualified workers, with specific provisions for job creation for youths, women and PWDs.
	National Policy on Disability in Nigeria.	2018	Nigerian citizens living with Disability	Addresses the inclusion of persons with disability.
	National Youth Policy.	2019	Nigerian Youths.	This is focused on ensuring the participation and inclusion of youth voices in national development.
	The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act	2019	Nigerian citizens living with Disability	This act criminalizes discrimination against persons with disabilities and preserves

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19   *African Charter on Human rights*
     http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/z1afchar.htm
20   *1986 African Charter on Human and People's Rights*

21   *AU Agenda 2063*

22   *Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access*

23   *National Gender Policy 2006*

24   *Violence against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPPA)*

25   *National Employment Policy*

Category	Framework/Policies	Year	Groups Represented	Summary
				5% of employment opportunities for PWDs across public institutions. It establishes a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities that is responsible for ensuring that people with disabilities have access to all social amenities.[26]
	National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).	2021	Internally Displaced persons	This policy caters for the protection of rights of IDPs, with special attention to the intersections such as IDP women, the elderly, children and Persons Living with HIV[27].
Nigerian Power Sector Policies	National Electric Power Policy (NEPP)	2001	All citizens especially rural residents.	This policy addressed amongst other issues, the need for expansion of access to electricity to rural areas in a cost-effective manner.
	Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA).	2005	All citizens with specific attention to under-privileged and special needs consumers.	ESPRAS informed the reform in the power sector, serving as a bedrock for the establishment of institutions (like NERC) that facilitates inclusiveness in efficient power supply. The ESPRA under the mandate of NERC provided for the establishment of the Power Consumer Assistance Fund (PCAF) that aids the provision of subsidy for under-privileged and special needs consumers.
	National Biofuel Policy (NBP).	2007	Rural communities	The NPB prioritizes the economic development and empowerment of rural communities.
	Nigerian Energy Policy (NEP)	2013	All citizens	The NEP indicates among its objectives, a value for partnership, promotion of gender sensitivity, research, availability of power sector data for well-informed sectoral planning[28].

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26   *The Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act*

27   *National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In Nigeria*

28   *IAEA Country Nuclear Power Profile*

List of Reference Materials

- Gender and Social Inclusion in Off-grid Solar: A handbook for Sub-Saharan Africa

- World Vision Toolkit for integrating gender and social inclusion in design, monitoring and evaluation

- World Vision Manual for Trainers and Facilitators on how to integrate gender equality and social inclusion in design, monitoring and evaluation

- World Bank Social analysis sourcebook, incorporating social dimensions into bank-supported projects.

- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Self-Assessment Tool Facilitation guide for WASH project managers, researchers and self-assessment facilitators.

- United Nation's Disability-Inclusive Communications Guideline

- GSDRC Disability Inclusion Topic Guide

- USAID/Power Africa Research on Social Inclusion and Diversity in the Nigerian Power Sector: https://pdf.

- Participatory Approaches: A facilitator's guide

- TOOLS TOGETHER NOW! 100 participatory tools to mobilise communities for HIV/AIDS http://mediatheque.lecrips.net/docs/PDF_GED/S58221.pdf

- Community led action: Covid-19 Field Manual

- Mongolia: Portable Solar Power for Nomadic Herders

- Participatory data collection methodology for disability-inclusive city profile: Guideline

- Guidelines for Non-Sexist Use of Language

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