

→ Since 2006 energy-saving stoves are produced and sold to private households and small enterprises in Burkina Faso. The original idea of GTZ was to disseminate the new product via women's organisations, but the expected success failed to materialise. The reasons were simple. Although women are the ones to cook and to benefit from the new stoves, it is not only women who buy stoves. Men too are responsible for the purchase, since they have the responsibility over the family budget. A new sales and promotion strategy was needed. Professional advertising campaigns run on television, special sales events and sketches performed by drama groups gave the energy-saving stoves an entirely new image, and sales rocketed. This product is attractive to both men and women. The modern stove technology allows the women to retain their traditional ways of cooking, but saves fuel and reduces health risks associated with smoky kitchens. And that is an advantage not only for cooks and housewives, but also for male wage-earners in Burkinan households. The final user need not then be identical to the purchaser, but both must be convinced of the advantages offered by the stove. Only then are sustainable use and increased distribution assured.

Recommended Reading

- DFID (Department for International Development):
The gender-energy-poverty nexus.
Finding the energy to address gender concerns in development.
Joy S Clancy and Margaret Skutsch.
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
(2004), *Gender and Energy for sustainable development: A toolkit and resource guide.*
- GTZ: *Energiesparherde in Burkina Faso. Programme Decentralization/Development Communal Sous Composante Foyers Ameliores (PDDC/EAFASO).*
Dr. Andrea Reikat. Ouagadougou /Burkina Faso.
- GTZ: *Afghanistan Energy Programme Renewable Energy Supply for Rural Areas (ESRA). Result-based Yearly Monitoring.* Oliver J. Haas.
- <http://www.gtz.de/de/praxis/23198.htm>
- <http://www.fao-faso.org/>

Transport

The Road to the Future. It is often difficult to get from one place to another in rural parts of Bangladesh, where there are frequently only footpaths, and where roads do exist they tend to be in a very poor state of repair. This makes it very difficult for people to sell their wares, but also to go to school or hospital. By building roads, GTZ is laying the groundwork for better living conditions. At the same time, we consciously and actively involve women in the project – at all levels. At workshops, employers are encouraged to hire women in road construction projects and to pay them the same wage as men. In some areas, women already account for 25% of the workforce in this sector. As well as maintenance work on roads, the women plant trees along the roadside and check on vegetation. Once they have undergone special training

they are also clued up on hygiene and health or business management, and can read and write. They save part of their wages over a period of three years. This cash then provides them with the start-up capital they need to launch their own small business. And these roads do not only lead to the nearest school, but also to a better life.

Recommended Reading:

- GTZ (2007), *Gender and Urban Transport: Fashionable and Affordable. Sustainable Transport: A Sourcebook for Policy-makers in Developing Cities.*
- GTZ (2008) *PPT, Transport und Gender.*
- GTZ, *FactSheet Partnership Rural Roads and Markets.*

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Gender Equality and Infrastructure

What do poorly lit bus stops, user manuals for stoves, and water kiosks have to do with gender equality, you may ask.

Good question! In this fact sheet we will explain how gender equality is linked to GTZ's infrastructure projects.

The concept of gender equality is based on the specific roles, entitlements and obligations of women and men, as determined by society. In contrast to the biological sex, these gender roles can be changed and are indeed in a constant state of flux. The German Government's Concept on Gender Equality aims to support gender equality because men and women should:

- have equal access to resources, technology, education and information
- receive equal pay for equal jobs
- enjoy the same rights of co-determination de jure and de facto.

As a matter of fact that women and men have different needs in terms of water, energy and transport.

GTZ would like to see women and men contributing on an equal basis to the development process and having equal access to the services provided by development projects. Women-specific activities can improve the status of women, by involving them in political, social and economic decision-making.

This can only work, however, if all political levels and levels of society are committed to achieving gender equality.

Activities to achieve equality must begin at the political level, and parallel to this within civil society in partner countries at micro, meso, macro and meta levels. Analyses of the gender-specific structures of target groups and partners indicate how

projects can best achieve gender equality. They make it clear that there ought to be a focus on gender equality when projects are planned and personnel are selected, during implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and during training and upgrading for project staff and partners.

Three questions accompany an infrastructure project from beginning to end:

- What is the division of labour between women and men?
- Do women and men have equal access to and control over the necessary resources?
- Do women and men have equal influence over decision-making processes?

Where does gender equality overlap with infrastructure (water, energy, transport)?

The locations and technologies chosen for sanitation facilities and water supply facilities in rural areas and peri-urban areas are crucially important in ensuring the sustainability of water supply and sanitation services. If the sanitary facilities and water sources are too far away, and if they are poorly lit or unsafe, women will be afraid to use them, because there is a high risk of violent attack. If the location is well chosen, women need less time to fetch water and feel safe. Women are frequently responsible for the provision of water for domestic, sanitation and health purposes, but generally have no decision-making authority nor are they entitled to own land. Often they have limited access to safe water. This is the discrepancy that needs to be overcome.

When it comes to decisions about the type and scope of energy sources used, taking into account energy efficiency considerations and the renewable nature of the energy resources, the influence exerted by women and men varies enormously.



Men are often responsible for financing and in some cases for providing domestic energy. Women, by contrast, are mainly responsible for using that energy. For energy projects it is important to know who uses the energy and in what form, and who reaps the benefits or disadvantages of the various possibilities with respect to energy supply.

The needs of women are all too often ignored when transport systems are built and used. Yet women are particularly likely to work in the informal sector and often need to travel to distant, isolated places. They tend to travel outside rush hours. They are laden down with goods, travel with small children and have to wait at lonely unlit bus stops. Where a family owns a car, the husband generally uses it.

The situation of women and girls can often be improved dramatically with the help of very simple measures in the infrastructure sector.



Conclusion

For these reasons, infrastructure projects and programmes must be designed on a gender-specific basis. To ensure that men and women enjoy an equal influence, more women must be represented within the respective bodies and organisations. To this end women need training, capacity building and empowerment. The systematic implementation of gender equality at legal and institutional level allows GTZ to help overcome structural inequality with respect to access to resources and services.

Recommended Reading:

- BMZ (2001): Concept for the Promotion of Equal Participation by Women and Men in the Development Process. BMZ Strategies 112
- BMZ (2007): Gender Equality. The key to realising the United Nations' Millennium Declaration. Available at: http://www.bmz.de/en/service/infobek/buerger/Faltblatt_Gleichberechtigung_engl__final.pdf

Examples from our Practical Work

The following examples illustrate the importance of gender equality for water, energy and transport projects. They can offer orientation for future projects.



Water

Water from the Kiosk. Whereas in Europe we might buy a packet of cigarettes or a newspaper at a kiosk, people living in the slums around Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, go to a kiosk to buy water. It is by no means the norm to have access to safe water at an affordable price. GTZ introduced the concept of water kiosks, more than half of which are managed by women. As start-up capital they were given sales training and learned all they needed to manage a small business. GTZ continues to provide back-up support on a one-off basis as required. The kiosk owners now have a secure income, which they can use to send their children to school, to pay doctors' bills and to buy food. They also put money aside to tide them over in case of sickness or deaths in the family. Each of the 300 kiosks supplies between 1,000 and 1,500 people with water. They are all situated in easily accessible public places. Water availability is guaranteed at certain opening times, which are known to everybody. The water kiosks are also an important forum for teaching the people about hygiene and health (including HIV/AIDS) and for helping them use water responsibly. They share their newly acquired knowledge with the family, and with neighbours and friends.

Wise Women. Strange men are not permitted to enter many Islamic homes in Jordan. If the women are having problems with a water pump or the water pipes, that is too bad. No plumber may enter the house. Under the banner 'Help towards Self-Help' a number of women have now taken the matter

into their own hands, and established the *Water Wise Women Initiative*. They have undergone training and learned all there is to know about greywater use, water saving technology, water resources protection, plumbing and hygiene. They can now perform small repairs themselves. They pass on their newly acquired knowledge to their families, friends and acquaintances in the neighbourhood. Some women have even been trained as plumbers. Thanks to the Water Wise Women Initiative entire districts of towns have become water-aware districts.

With the help of GTZ and our partner organisation they have also discovered the *Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development*, how to use the valuable water more economically. The women use greywater to irrigate their vegetable gardens, which cuts their water bills. Training participants gain a high level of self-confidence and enjoy greater respect within their families.

Recommended Reading:

- Diala Numan-Toll: *Water Wise Women Initiative*.
- Case Study: *Water Kiosks – How the combination of low-cost technology, pro-poor financing and regulation leads to the scaling up of water supply service provision to the poor.*
- Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development: <http://www.johud.org.jo/>.

Energy

Business Women with Solar Expertise. Sustainable development is unthinkable without a secure supply of energy. In rural parts of Afghanistan households are not connected up to the national grid. *Solar home systems (SHS)* are often an important way of running lights, refrigerators, televisions and computers in isolated areas. *GTZ, DED* and the *German-French-Afghan Energy Initiative* have thus got together to build the necessary expertise. The workshop '*Solar Home Systems – A Women's Workshop*' taught Afghan women to build solar lamps and small-scale solar home systems independently. They were also trained in business management, basic English knowledge

and the use of computer software. The women can sell the solar systems they produce at the Information Centre for Renewable Energies in the provincial capital, Faizabad. The impacts this initiative is having in rural areas are dramatic. The newly trained business women are proud of themselves and work well and efficiently. They use their knowledge to plan, install and operate small-scale solar systems and thus provide their neighbourhood with technical expertise.

Attractive for men as well. Stoves that use less energy for cooking are not only good for the family budget. They generate less smoke and help protect the climate. →