



10TH FEBRUARY, 2015

**THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMME OFFICE, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF
NIGERIA**

**SUBMISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(UNFCCC) ON THE LIMA WORK PROGRAMME ON GENDER**

BACKGROUND:

The Renewable Energy Programme was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Environment in fulfilment of Nigeria's obligation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol and as part of Nigeria's strategy on voluntary emission reduction.

Nigeria is a leading Partner of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme. We are therefore tasked with sourcing and deploying alternative and sustainable-renewable energy services which will impact positively on the environment as well as create sustainable livelihood for the rural poor and those most affected by the lack of power and energy supply in the Nigeria and African Sub-region. Thereby achieving emission reductions and promoting clean air. Mainstreaming SLCP reduction as part of our National development further positions Nigeria to embrace development with minimal ecological footprint.

PRACTICE:

The Rural Women Energy Security (RUWES) Initiative was developed to build on the MDGs and the Federal Government of Nigeria's Transformation Agenda to empower women and to provide clean and affordable energy for sustainable development. The RUWES initiative is targeted towards the under-served rural woman who is usually off grid, energy poor and has the highest incidence of health related issues from harmful energy practices.

The RUWES in partnership with stakeholders with emphasis on Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) strives to fashion out modalities to make access to energy easier, cost effective as well



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as open up attitude of the rural dweller to new forms of safe energy for use. The RUWES initiative is three-pronged, having the National Clean Cooking Scheme (NCCS), Rural Energy Access Project (REAP) and the training schools.

The National Clean Cooking Scheme (NCCS) is the cooking component of RUWES that aims to encourage and foster clean cooking through the adoption of cleaner cookstoves and fuels. The NCCS is in response to the dangers inherent in kerosene and fuel wood cooking and lighting. Owing to the energy poverty prevalent in rural Nigeria, most households depend on kerosene and firewood for cooking and lighting purposes. This practice degrades our environment and is very inimical to the health of women and children who are the most vulnerable to the effects of burning dirty fuels.

The Rural Energy Access Project (REAP) represents the lighting component of RUWES, designed to address the need to source for and deploy alternative and sustainable clean and renewable energy sources for lighting and heating purposes which will impact positively on income, health and environment as well as create sustainable livelihood for the rural poor and those most affected by the shortage of electricity and energy supply in the country.

REAP is striving for reduction in our National Emission Factor (by using clean, energy efficient LED bulbs) and introducing Household Stand-Alone Solar kits to replace incandescent bulbs, single-wick kerosene and Oil lanterns and small generators in rural areas.

The goal of the project is to ensure affordable and sustainable clean energy access to the rural poor and reduce black carbon emissions by;

- Phasing out single-wick kerosene lighting and oil lamps through the introduction of small off-grid lighting systems that use light emitting diodes (LEDs).
- Provision of Household Stand Alone Solar Solutions (solar lights, barbing kits, grinding machines etc)
- Lead the rest of Africa on the kerosene lantern phase-out in all Nigerian schools by 2020
- Provide clean and healthy alternative for heating during harmattan in Northern States to replace firewood and charcoal.

RUWES Training School - in Partnership with Technology Providers has established well equipped Skills Acquisition Centres that serve as training and assembly workshop for the



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RUWES initiative. Illiterate and Semi-literate women and young girls are trained on assembling of solar lanterns, clean cookstoves as well as repairs, maintenance, sales and distribution of clean energy products.

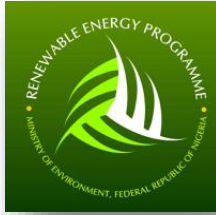
Successful Trainees of the Joint Projects will be equipped with RUWES business starter kits to empower them on business incubation, bookkeeping, profit and loss accounting, sales and marketing of clean energy technologies as they venture into developing the clean energy sector for the benefit of all Nigerians.

The mandate of the RUWES initiative is to ensure a safe, affordable and sustainable clean energy access for all, especially the rural poor and also to reduce emission of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). All these and much more are achieved while turning big challenges to great opportunities of wealth creation. Others include;

- Enhance personal health and physical environment, and the reduction of premature death rates due to black carbon inhalation
- Create awareness and sensitization campaigns in the rural communities, on the need to reduce black carbon emission and adopt cleaner technologies through product demonstrations.
- Create a viable market and sustainable supply chain for improved and clean energy technologies.
- Create a source of income and serving as a means of poverty alleviation by providing energy for homes and small businesses.
- Create access to finance for rural business incubation and entrepreneurship.
- Establishment of fast growing woodlots to serve as feedstock for improved cookstoves and ethanol plants for cleaner fuels

THE PROBLEM:

Over 98,000 women die annually in Nigeria as a result of smoke related ailments and infections from Indoor and Outdoor air pollutants. Millions more suffer every day with difficulty in breathing, stinging eyes and chronic respiratory disease. Moreover, indoor air pollution and inefficient household energy practices is a significant obstacle to the achievement of the



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Millennium Development Goals. **It is important to note that these figures are considerably higher now based on latest WHO report and the rapid increase in our population.**

A recent study has identified Nigeria as the World's highest importer of power generating sets, which makes us the biggest Black Carbon emitter and therefore the biggest contributor to mortality rate index due to indoor and outdoor air pollution as warned by the WHO.

A recent report from WHO says- Air pollution is a major cause of non-communicable diseases (cardio-vascular and chronic respiratory diseases), and childhood pneumonia. Recent estimates attribute around 7 million deaths a year to air pollution, indoors (3.5 million) and outdoors (3.3 million). Some 22% of all ischaemic heart disease attributed to outdoor air pollution. **Over half of all pneumonia deaths of children under the age of five are from indoor smoke from coal and biomass cookstoves and about one-third of adult Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) deaths.**

Black Carbon (BC) contributes to adverse impacts in human health, ecosystems, reduces agricultural yield and causes poor visibility associated with ambient fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Short-term and long-term exposures to PM_{2.5} are associated with a broad range of human health impacts, including premature death, respiratory and cardiovascular effects as well as abnormal birth weight, still birth, tuberculosis and improper development of unborn babies. Globally, PM_{2.5}, both ambient and indoor is estimated to result in millions of premature deaths worldwide, the majority of which occur in developing countries. Women and children are particularly at risk.

BEST PRACTICES:

ENERGIA, the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, published a handbook which offers tools for energy project managers to address gender and social considerations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of their activities. Important elements of the plans for gender mainstreaming are;

- Conducting gender audits of decision-making and management processes



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- Engaging gender experts to assist with institutional and project-level gender mainstreaming plans
- Collecting gender-sensitive budgeting and accounting approaches
- Using gender-based indicators and evaluation procedures. This has also been expanded into a guideline for policy makers and practitioners to further address gender mainstreaming in energy policies, institutions and projects.

This aims to increase women's awareness of household renewable energy technologies, to support women make informed decisions with regards to the most appropriate technology for their particular needs and context

CASE STUDY:

RUWES so far has over Two million registered individual members, made up from women and young girls based groups, business membership and faith based organizations like the 'Market Women Association , Christian Woman Organization of Nigeria, Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria, Police Officers Wives Association, Army/ Navy/ Airforce Officers Wives Association, Association of Female Paramilitary Officers, and many more.

And so far RUWES has carried out its National Launch in the Federal Capital Territory [Abuja] of Nigeria, and in Kaura Namoda Local Government in Zamfara State Nigeria as part of the RUWES- Local Government Partnership [initiated by the chairman of the local government] as pilot . RUWES has also trained over 100 women in the assembly and services support for clean Cookstoves, and plans are on the way to develop the first RUWES training Institute in Abuja, Nigeria and embark on a train-the –trainer program, which would see several hundred more women trained as "Clean Energy Barefoot Engineers'.

SUBMISSIONS TO UNFCCC:

The followings are the Renewable Energy Programme's submissions to the in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy related to mitigation action and technology development



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and transfer scheduled during the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2015).

SCOPE/OUTCOMES - *Organization of the workshop*

- Which sectors/ areas in relation to mitigation and technology transfer would you prioritize for discussion? (*i.e. Gender in relation to energy- use and access, transport, forestry, agriculture, land use, water and sanitation*)
- ✚ **We would like to have gainful discussions on Gender in relation to energy-use and access, as well as Agriculture and Land Use** – The RUWES in partnership with stakeholders with emphasis on Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) strives to fashion out modalities to make access to energy easier, cost effective as well as change the mindset of the rural woman.
- ✚ Under RUWES, we have established skill acquisition centres where women are trained to assemble and repair clean cookstoves and solar lamps including book-keeping and sales of these products
- ✚ We are developing a work-stream to establish fast growing tree plantations for sustainable forest management to serve as feed stock for improved woodstoves
- ✚ We are training RUWES beneficiaries in villages to stop open burning of agricultural waste and instead turn them to Briquettes to fuel clean Cookstoves.
- ✚ RUWES has established Solar Drying Centres for agricultural communities to further improve earnings for perishable farm products and enhanced value chain.
- How would you prioritize the workshop's focus? *For example, showcasing best practices/ case studies on gender-responsive climate action; and evaluating how current institutional mechanisms could be more gender-responsive (i.e. gender-responsive NAMAs)*
- ✚ **We like discussions centered on 'demonstrating impacts' - evaluating how current institutional mechanisms could be more gender-responsive as well as show-casing best practices on gender-responsive climate action.** The RUWES hopes to exchange



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experiences and share knowledge on how to better mobilize and incentivize women to take up careers on climate action

- *Should the workshop outcomes give further guidance to gender-related activities of the Secretariat?*

✚ **Yes**, the workshop should also be a platform where participants can be sensitized on the functions and responsibilities of the Secretariat in the implementation of activities under the Lima Work Programme on Gender.

- *How should the outcomes relate to the Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) under the ADP?*
- *We will like to see Action based milestones that empowers women in Climate Action become real Entrepreneurs. Climate Change should be projected as potential opportunity for women in Africa.*
- *A mechanism must be put in place to such as the carbon market or the " pay-for-performance " tool being developed by the World Bank and is supported by many Developed countries .*

Create a viable information management centre for gender based climate action.

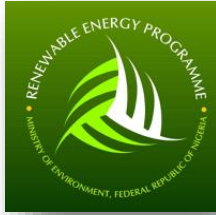
✚ Negotiate to ensure an incremental percentage is set aside for gender responsive climate action from all approved Clean Technology Funds currently being disbursed and also in the future.

EXPERIENCES IN PRACTICE/POLICY- *National and local gender-responsive actions and policies*

CHALLENGES:

- *What challenges have you faced in implementing gender-responsive mitigation and technology development and transfer actions and policies?*

✚ As you are aware, RUWES has registered over 2 million women since its launch in 2013, empowered towards wealth creation by improving the value chain of her enterprise. The Renewable Energy Programme through the RUWES initiative lowers market entry



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barriers to Clean Energy and Off-grid lighting market space at every step, from the design of clean energy products, to their commercial production and distribution.

- ✚ So far, the RUWES initiative is unable to cover most parts of the country as a result of lack of institutional capacity. More women in the rural areas need to be sensitized and educated on clean energy alternatives and climate change mitigation activities to achieve the required scale and objectives of the initiative.
 - ✚ Inability to mobilize the currently registered RUWES women from their respective locations to attend workshops and trainings on gender-responsive actions. Most of these women live under \$1 per day, it is therefore impossible to put any form of financial burden on her current ways of life
 - ✚ Adequate sensitization programmes from the media to address the skepticism that could arise from the introduction and use of clean energy technologies – particularly LPG and Solar products. This will in turn create green jobs in production, assembly and sales of these products.
 - ✚ Seed funds to help more trainees of the RUWES skill acquisition centers set up new clean energy businesses with their business starter kits and engaging the Business Community in using part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) funds for projects such as “Adopt a School” initiative to retrofit secondary schools, prisons and hospitals with high volume firewood and kerosene lamp usage.
- *What tools, resources, or training would be most valuable to better support and facilitate progress on these actions and policies?*
 - ✚ Fiscal and Monetary tools such as incentives, duty waivers, Tax rebate and soft loans are needed in the early stages of these programmes to further jump start the wide adoption of these alternative energy technologies as well as strengthening the value chain
 - ✚ It is very important to include gender-responsive mitigation activities in National Action Planning of Governments which will include support for training and empower women to champion green activities in their own communities. E.g Adoption and use of clean cookstoves and solar lamps for cooking and lighting while being empowered to make briquettes and biogas from agricultural and domestic wastes



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- *Institutionally, what type of guidelines, support, or institutional coordination (i.e. TEC MECH, NAMAs, LEDS, etc.) would facilitate implementation of these actions and policies?*
- ✚ Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and Low Emission Development Strategies are important for Africa and Nigeria
- ✚ It is instructive to note that regarding the RUWES initiative, unless there is a viable and sustainable alternative to firewood and kerosene use, all intervention and tree planting exercises will fail. The women have to cook and in the face of lack of alternatives, they simply revert to tree felling. The Scheme will achieve more success if Governments buy into the RUWES objectives and become involved in the following ways:
 - Make strict regulations against tree felling (deforestation) and sales on charcoal as well as remove all subsidies on kerosene while reinvesting the subsidy in viable market stimulation for clean energy.
 - Develop more projects targeted at clean cooking and lighting to scale-up the activities of RUWES
- *What in your view is the role of a gender-responsive finance / budget in ensuring these actions and policies?*
- ✚ Gender-responsive financing will help African countries develop the necessary policies and framework required for comprehensive awareness creation and inclusion of women organizations/cooperatives both in rural and urban areas to take advantage of activities that brings about better quality of life and increased income opportunities.
- ✚ In this vein, the Renewable Energy Programme has a partnership with the Bank of Industry through its Access to Renewable Energy Projects (AtREP) to incorporate the NCCS into a business model to positively affect the women economically and health wise. The REP has also incorporated Local and State Governments into the National Clean Cooking Scheme. Already some of the communities and States most affected by deforestation and desertification due to excessive tree felling have shown interest in acquisition of these improved cookstoves. The use and incorporation of these clean cookstoves and solar lamps into the daily lives of the women in these



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states/communities will serve as part of their process to halt desertification and foster gender-responsive actions.

When addressing national/regional experiences, best practice and key challenges, Parties and Observers may consider the following:

1. *How do you define a gender-responsive mitigation/ technology action or policy?*

✚ The adverse effects of climate change is increasingly felt more by women who are saddled with the responsibility of small scale family farming for consumption, sourcing for fuelwood to meet basic needs for cooking, lighting and heating. Therefore, gender-responsive mitigation/ technology action or policy refers to those activities, programs and innovations that recognizes the peculiarities of the woman's conditions, needs and capabilities to reduce and eventually cope with the climate challenges on her livelihood systems.

✚ It is the ability of women to contribute to the decisions and apply the tools available to make positive changes to her life. Women must be at the centre of the interventions that seek to foster improved health and environment, food and energy security as well as climate change mitigation.

2. *Do you currently consider requiring a gender-sensitive approach, such as taking into account the different energy, transport and housing needs of women and men, in formulating mitigation and technology development and transfer climate policy such as NAPAs, NAMAs, LEDS, TNAs, and National Communications?*

✚ Yes

3. *Are there any formal mechanisms (i.e. national legislation, national programs, budgetary provisions, incentives, or sanctions) or practices (informal or traditional/cultural) which aim to promote gender-responsive mitigation and technology development and transfer climate policy?*



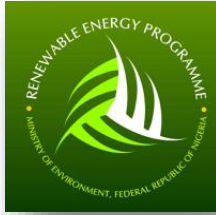
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- ✚ **NATIONAL LEGISLATION** - In Nigeria, we currently have a bill in the National Assembly seeking to establish the CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CACEDA) under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Environment with collaborations with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Agency shall have the responsibility for implementing national climate change policy and market development of clean energy resources, aimed at reducing CO₂ and Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) mitigation, including resource assessment, establishment of standards and quality control for renewable energy technologies, mobilization of finance and the coordination and liaison with relevant stakeholders within and outside Nigeria on matters of climate change and gender-responsive mitigation actions.
- ✚ A whole department in the proposed Agency (CACEDA) will be dedicated to gender based Climate action.

- ✚ **NATIONAL PROGRAMS** - We are currently implementing the Climate Smart Agriculture – that is gender inclusive as well as the National Clean Cooking Scheme and the Rural Energy Access Project both designed to address the need to source for and deploy alternative and sustainable clean and renewable energy resources for lighting, cooking and heating purposes, which will impact positively on income, health and environment as well as create sustainable livelihood for the rural poor and those most affected by the shortage of energy services in the country.

GWIN – The Girls and Women Initiative of Nigeria (G-WIN) was launched by the Federal Ministry of Finance specifically to empower girls and women. The G-WIN project aims to empower self-reliance and sufficiency, create employment and wealth as well as alleviate poverty through the provision of access to funds for girls and women. The Rural Women Energy Security (RUWES) Initiative is currently partnering with G-WIN and other Consultants to achieve our common objectives.

- ✚ **BUDGETARY PROVISIONS** – the Renewable Energy Programme Office receives budgetary allocation to pilot the distribution of clean cookstoves and solar lanterns to rural communities in Nigeria as proof of concept for the NCCS and REAP programs as well as the construction of solar drying and skill acquisition centres in two locations. There has been the National Assembly and Special Presidential Interventions for the



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National Clean Cooking Scheme aimed at stimulating the market for clean energy technologies.

✚ **INCENTIVES and SANCTIONS** – The Ministry of Environment through the RUWES initiative is working with the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment to roll out the new incentives during the upcoming International Women's Day 2015 . The se include the issuance of import duty waiver for all clean energy products and components, Clean energy investors tax rebate, and 5yrs income tax holidays for technology providers and women cooperatives to enable them reduce initial start-up costs.

The Ministry is also considering sanctions through fines on illegal logging and production of charcoal as soon as we make affordable alternatives available competitively for rural people. Thus the Ministry shall update the national forestry policy and embark on cultivation of fast growing trees serving as feed stock for clean cookstoves and sustainable wood lot management.

4. *Are domestic bodies on gender equality and gender equality experts involved in formulating your climate change mitigation and technology development policy?*

✚ Yes, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Women Development Center, Market Women Association, Faith Based Organizations, Development Initiative for African Women, Women Environment Programme and Development Partners Consultants on Gender based issues work with the RUWES network in formulating policies as well as application of climate change mitigation and development technologies.

5. *Are local and national civil society organizations, particularly women's groups, consulted in policy design and implementation in these areas? How?*

✚ Yes, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Women Environment Program, Federal of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria and Catholic Women Association are regularly consulted to contribute to the national communications to the UNFCCC and programmes of the Ministry.



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6. *What are the challenges from your point of view that might prevent the realization of gender-responsive approach in formulating mitigation action and technology development and transfer climate policy?*

In Nigeria as most African countries, women and girls in rural areas are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These women are often very poor, semi-literate, conservative and remote from government policies. Therefore, to achieve any meaningful success, periodic training of these women in the rural areas is imperative on gender-responsive climate mitigation and technology transfer. These can be achieved ONLY through technology demonstrations on what's possible and not just in theory. The rural African women sees to believe.

- ✚ All interventionist programs require aggressive monitoring and evaluation, community ownership and feed back as a basis for re-designing projects, demonstrating impacts and gathering data/information for formulating policies.

7. *What formal and informal structural barriers (i.e. unpaid work, lack of rights, lack of access, education resources, finance resources, mobility, etc.) play a role in exacerbating the lack of gender-responsive mitigation action and technology development and transfer?*

- ✚ Both cultural perception and religious obligations prevents the woman from openly contesting for her civil rights and demanding changes in her way of life. Unpaid work, lack of rights to own properties, lack of access to education and energy resources, finance resources, mobility etc all contributes to the lack of effective gender-responsive participation.

8. *What type of additional support could be provided to help ensure the sustainability of Parties' efforts to mainstream gender-sensitive approaches into national climate action, and where specifically should such efforts be directed (i.e. in which Ministries, departments, climate programmes, etc.; or which Ministries or Departments could provide support/guide these efforts)?*



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- ✚ Every Government Ministry in Nigeria now has a gender desk. Their roles are often duplicated and with little funding to carry out any meaningful projects. It is important to bring all of these gender-officers together by the aid of the intranet or extranet to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas.
- ✚ The Federal Ministry of Environment being the signatory to the Kyoto Protocol on behalf of the Nigerian Government is better placed to receive strengthening in the coordination of gender-responsive mitigation and technology transfer. The Rural Women Energy Security Initiative through its advocacy campaigns and training sessions can serve as a veritable tool to further educate and mobilize women and girls under a single umbrella.
- ✚ The Renewable Energy Programme Office is the focal point for the CCAC's Strengthening National Action Planning to reduce SLCPs working with UNEP , and can use the same model to propagate the gender-responsive approach.
- ✚ Sponsorship of periodic stakeholders workshop on gender-responsive approach to climate change to serve as a monitoring, information and feed-back tool. Development of a communications booklet, and web based platform documenting the before, during and after impacts of women's contribution to climate issues.

9. *What tools have you found to be valuable and effective in assessing gender impacts of national climate policies, measures and programs with regards to mitigation action and technology development and transfer?*

- ✚ We only have one toolkit developed by the Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF) funded by DFID. It's meant to monitor and evaluate impacts of clean Cookstoves and solar home systems dissemination through the RUWES network. It was commissioned 4th November 2014 and is still being utilized.

NEEDS:



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The clean cookstoves and solar market requires a comprehensive policy development and standardization of technologies. **RUWES therefore needs development of a national policy document under which its activities can be guided. This should include** Setting up a special task force in the Nigerian Customs Service for clean energy technologies and establishing HS-Code in collaboration with the Standards Organization of Nigeria

Continuous sensitization programme to address the scepticism that could arise from the introduction and use of clean energy technologies .