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Creating Policies that Foreground Appliances in Achieving Gender Equality and Energy Access for All

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Key findings
- Case study: Refrigeration and cooling in Kenya and Bangladesh
- Policy recommendations



Introduction: Energy efficient appliances can empower women

- If we are to achieve SDG 7 and SDG 5 by 2030, a holistic energy access approach that considers appliances is needed
- Modern, energy efficient appliances are cleaner, more convenient and cost-effective than traditional appliances
- The pathways to women's empowerment are linked to provision, acquisition and use of appliances
 - **Saving time and reducing drudgery:** heavy work and time poverty are two major aspects of gender inequality
 - **Income generation and improved livelihoods:** poverty is closely connected to gender inequality



Key findings: Purchase and control of appliances

- ▶ Households using electricity own an increasing number and variety of appliances.
- ▶ The impact of increased energy access is largely determined by who controls the purchase and use of the appliance/s.
- ▶ Decisions about what appliances to buy are often gendered, with women having less influence than men.
- ▶ The user of an appliance may not be the person who made the purchasing decision or retains ownership.
- ▶ As most appliances are owned by men, much of the data on understanding customers comes from men.
- ▶ This can influence product design, marketing and distribution strategies, as well as policy and donor programme design.

Key findings: appliances can help transform gender relations

Some appliances meet women's practical needs and reduce drudgery in unpaid care work and household tasks and in their income earning activities.

When drudgery is reduced, men are more willing to share household responsibilities and take on some household tasks, introducing small changes.

Our research in Ghana suggested that access to appliances enabled women to enter higher-paying professions as car mechanics and carpenters, which had been barred to them previously.



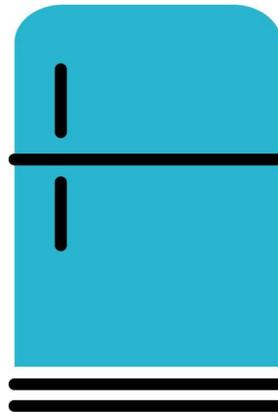
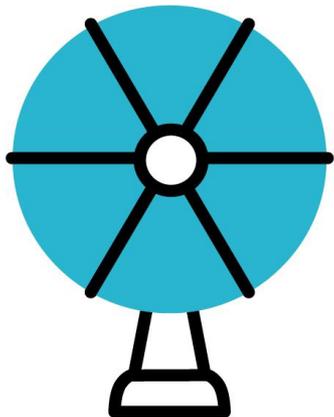
Case study: Refrigeration and cooling in Kenya and Bangladesh

- Cooling technologies can help increase productivity and empower women through time saved and opportunities for income generation
- Refrigerators can empower women by reducing drudgery and freeing up valuable time (M-KOPA 2019).
 - The ability to preserve food decreases the amount of time needed to shop and cook and can reduce food expenditure
- In Kenya, research found that off-grid refrigerator ownership freed up women from time spent on household activities and gave them new micro-business opportunities, such as selling vegetable and fruits, ice or beverages.
 - Pay-as-you-go solar fridges were said to save households over KES 480 (around USD 5) and two hours every week as food was preserved for longer



Case study: Refrigeration and cooling in Kenya and Bangladesh

- Fans are a relatively low-cost appliance, which can help increase productivity and help those at most risk adapt to climate change
- As part of the Global LEAP results based financing programme, 1.614 new customers who purchased fans in Bangladesh were interviewed to verify sales and understand customer experience and impact.
- Most households reported that they were able to work an additional 2 hours and 20 minutes each day on average after purchasing the fan.



Policy recommendations

1. Energy policies which address both women's specific energy needs, and the local existing social and cultural traditions are needed to meet universal energy goals.

► Appliance specific

- 1) Energy efficient appliances should be included as part of a holistic approach to achieving universal energy access.
- 2) Policy makers should create incentives and consumer financing schemes that improve affordability and avoid implicit gender bias.
- 3) Donors and governments should support the private sector to raise consumer awareness for energy efficient and high-quality appliances.
- 4) Donors and policy makers should commission research in areas where there are evidence gaps to inform policy and programme design and maximise impact on women.



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