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USAID/WEST AFRICA: WEST AFRICA REGION GENDER ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT

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The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
ADESCO	Appui au Développement et a La Santé Communautaire
ADVANCE	Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AFDB	African Development Bank
AFJN	Niger Association of Women Lawyers
ANADER	Ivorian parastatal organization providing agricultural support, extension and capacity building
ANDDH	Niger Human Rights Defense Association
APEX-CI	Association pour la Promotion des Exportations de Côte d'Ivoire
ATRUW	Appropriate Technologies for Rural Women Cameroon
AU	African Union
AVCs	Agricultural Value Chains
BICs	Border Information Centers
CAMFFA	Cameroon Federal Farmers Association
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategies
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CELD	Centre for Economic and Leadership Development
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CHP	Care and Health Program
CIC-B	Comité Interprofessionnel des Céréales du Burkina
CIG	Common Initiative Groups (GIC in French)
CNRA	Ivorian parastatal organization providing research
COFENABVI	Confédération des Fédérations Nationales de la Filière Bétail Viande
DFID	Department for International Development (U.K.)
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
dTS	Development & Training Services, Inc.
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Agricultural Policy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States

ECREE	ECOWAS Centre for Renewable and Energy Efficiency
ENAM	Global Livestock Collaborative Research Project's Enhancing Child Nutrition through Animal Source Food Management program
EU	European Union
EVT	Espoir Vie Togo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
FENAFER	Fédération Nationale des Femmes Rurale du Burkina
FETAPH	Fédération Togolaise des Associations de Personnes Handicapées
FIRCA	Ivorian Funding For Research and Extension
FP	Family Planning
FTF	Feed the Future
G&D	Gender and Development
GDF	Gender Dimensions Framework
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEMS3	Growth and Employment in States 3
GIF	Gender Integration Framework
GNI	Gross National Income
ICA	Industries Cotonnières Associés (Benin Association of Cotton Industries)
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFT	Information and Communication Technologies
IICEM	Initiative Intégrée pour la Croissance Economique au Mali (Integrated Initiatives for Economic Growth in Mali)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INERA	Institut National d'Etudes et Recherche Agricoles
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFI	Microfinance Institutions
MFP	Multi-Functional Platform
MSM	Men Having Sex with Men

NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OCPV	Ivorian Agricultural Development Fund
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFACI	Organization of Active Women in Ivory Coast
PFG	La Plateforme des Femmes pour Gagner
R&D	Research and Development
RDCS	Regional Development Cooperation Strategy
REFAO	Network of Women Entrepreneurs of West Africa
RFP	Request for Proposal
RH	Reproductive Health
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOFITEX	Textile Industry
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programs
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCT	Voluntary Counseling Testing
W&D	Women and Development
WA	West Africa
WACIP	West Africa Cotton Improvement Program
WAGN	West Africa Grains Network
WAPP	West African Power Pool
WASCAL	West Africa Science Service Centre on Climate Change and adapted Land Use
WA WASH	West Africa Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program
WEF	Women's Empowerment Framework
WHO	World Health Organization
WLS	Women's Leadership School
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This report documents a gender assessment conducted for the United Agency for International Development/West Africa (USAID/WA) between February and April 2013. In the USAID/WA request for proposals (RfP), the Mission described the region and the assessment effort as follows:

“USAID/West Africa’s (USAID/WA) regional programs cover 18 West and Central African countries, most of which qualify as “rebuilding and developing” countries. With a population of approximately 325 million people, the region is characterized by political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures. To address these challenges, USAID/WA focuses on four functional objectives: (i) Peace and Security, (ii) Governing Justly and Democratically, (iii) Investing in People, and (iv) Economic Growth. To date, USAID/WA has never completed an in-depth, region-wide gender assessment. Instead, each technical office has conducted gender assessments at the project level as needed...Capacity building and good governance are cross-cutting themes that are integral to USAID/WA’s programs.”

This assessment highlights gender based constraints and opportunities within USAID/WA’s target sectors (Agriculture, Governance, Health, Natural Resource Management, Peace and Security, and Trade and Investment) to enable the Mission to develop a Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS), resulting in equitable and sustainable development outcomes. The gender assessment provides analysis of gender equality and female empowerment across the West Africa region. Furthermore, it identifies lessons and best practices for programming at the regional level, particularly addressing identified gaps. Finally, it will serve as a reference point for gender related components of future regional programming.

GENDER ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

This gender assessment is intended to inform the development of USAID/WA’s RDCS by expanding the knowledge base on gender issues in the West Africa region. This assessment identifies gender-based constraints and opportunities for equitable participation and access across the region through:

- Desk study research of existing country and regional gender assessments by USAID and other institutions in five program sectors: (1) trade and investment; (2) agriculture; (3) environment and natural resource management; (4) health; and (5) governance, peace, and security.
- Individual and group interviews with select USAID/WA partner organizations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, and Togo to identify promising best practices for addressing identified gender-based constraints and opportunities.
- Regional level recommendations on opportunities and approaches for enhancing the active participation of men and women.

METHODOLOGY

The gender assessment was conducted in two phases. Phase one involved a desk review where the assessment team reviewed background documents on gender issues in West Africa, relying on existing country and regional gender assessments by USAID and other institutions to identify issues and trends related to gender equality and female empowerment. The desk review responded to a diverse set of research questions provided by USAID/WA for the five sectors mentioned above. Following the completion of the desk study, and after discussions with technical teams in USAID/WA, USAID/WA selected country locations. USAID selected the majority of the key informants that the Gender Assessment team interviewed. The key informants were

interviewed in group or one-one-one interviews to cross-check issues and trends, as well as fill in gaps and collect recommendations for USAID/WA future work. Analysis focused primarily on the implications of gender patterns, lessons, and best practices at the community and country levels to inform the development of regional level recommendations. The West Africa Regional Gender Assessment tools that guided the research can be found in Appendix F.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

As is the case with any assessment, the findings and recommendations found within this report should be measured against its limitations. While the focus of the gender assessment is the 18 countries in the West Africa sub-region, data, research, and analysis at the regional level is limited, as is sector-specific research and analysis at the country level. Additionally, most of the research questions (found in Appendix A) developed for the assessment focused on a wide range of household and community-level issues whose insights and promising practices do not easily translate into regional-level recommendations. Time and resource constraints anticipated in the workplan suggested that field research be conducted in only six of the eighteen countries selected by USAID/WA. Furthermore, in agreement with the mission, field research consisted predominately of individual and group interviews with select USAID/West Africa regional counterpart and implementing partner organizations. While USAID/WA conducts the bulk of its work with regional counterparts and implementing partners, this strategy limited the generalizability of the findings and recommendations. They were further limited by the inability of the gender assessment team to secure clearance from USAID/WA to visit Nigeria and meet with ECOWAS staff, as well as the difficulties the team encountered in contacting ECOWAS by phone or e-mail. This left a gap in the assessment's findings and recommendations, as ECOWAS is the key regional counterpart for USAID/West Africa. Similarly, the Mission's regional health partner, West African Health Organization (WAHO), did not participate in assessment interviews. Given these limitations, the assessment team recommends that the Mission hold validation sessions with regional partners to further ground truth in the resulting gender integration strategies proposed in this report that will be incorporated in the forthcoming RDGS and accompanying results framework.

REPORT SECTIONS

This "West Africa Region Gender Assessment Report" is divided into two sections.

1. **Part A:** Presents the results of a desk review on gender issues in West Africa for five sectors: (1) Trade and Investment, (2) Agriculture, (3) Environment and Natural Resource Management, (4) Health, and (5) Governance, Peace, and Security. Each sub-section of Part A presents a review of the top regional gender issues for the sector along with an overview of sector-specific gender issues for select focus countries. The sub-sections then conclude with lessons learned, best/promising practices, and areas for further research as appropriate.
2. **Part B:** Presents the field interview findings and recommendations for gender integration for five sectors: (1) Trade and Investment, (2) Agriculture, (3) Environment and Natural Resource Management, (4) Health, and (5) Governance, Peace, and Security. Each sub-section of Part B presents key gender issues identified by persons interviewed, lessons from the countries visited for the field interviews, areas for further research as appropriate, and recommendations.

KEY GENDER ISSUES IN WEST AFRICA

GENDER EQUALITY IN WEST AFRICA

In the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, USAID defines¹ gender equality as:

¹ A glossary of gender terms may be found in Appendix D.

Gender equality is a broad concept and a development goal. It is achieved when men and women have equal rights, freedoms, conditions, and opportunities for realizing their full potential and for contributing to and benefiting from economic, social, cultural, and political development. Equality does not mean that women and men become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities, and opportunities do not depend on whether they are born male or female. It means society values men and women equally for their similarities and differences and the diverse roles they play. Gender equality is not a "women's issue" but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. It signifies the results of gender equity strategies and processes. Gender equality concerns fundamental social transformation, working with men and boys, women and girls, to bring about changes in attitudes, behaviors, roles and responsibilities at home, in the workplace, and in the community. Genuine equality means expanding freedoms and improving overall quality of life so that equality is achieved without sacrificing gains for males or females. (USAID, 2012)

Gender equality is an unrealized development goal for West African countries. The region's development profile - conflict and political instability, poverty and slow economic growth, poor health and increasing populations, fragile states, and limited infrastructure - has significant impact on the state of gender equality. While there has been progress in the relative standing of women vis-à-vis men in educational attainment, health, and survival rates, very little progress has been made in the areas of political empowerment and economic participation (World Economic Forum, 2012). Countries in the region exhibit high gender inequality in their underlying social institutions where discriminatory family codes limit and restrict women's and girls' control over their bodies, as well as their resources and entitlements, and son bias abound (OECD, 2012). Key gender issues in the region differ by sector, with each sector holding its own set of distinct challenges and opportunities.

GENDER, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Across the region, women's livelihoods are constrained by their low levels of education, limited access to assets such as land, and a high demand on their time due to their domestic and reproductive roles. While female labor participation increased in some countries, it remained comparatively low to the labor participation of men. Men dominate the export and mining sectors, while women are extensively involved in agriculture production. Women are less prominent at the higher levels of the value chain where men are numerous, such as marketing and international trade. Micro enterprise is a main source of income for women. Female ownership of small and medium enterprises (SME), while growing, is proportionally small in comparison to male owned SMEs. Too often, trade and investment are areas where gender issues are invisible. A focus on strategies for inclusive trade and investment that promotes and delivers greater participation of women can ensure economic returns for families, communities, countries, and the region as a whole. As the energy sector is re-emerging in West Africa, it could be enhanced as an area for women's participation and economic benefits. Additionally, policy and institutional changes that address the special needs of female cross-border traders could assist in multiplying earning potential and spur a burst in economic growth for West Africa.

GENDER AND AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the mainstay of livelihoods for most of the population in West Africa. Women comprise on average some 60 percent of farmers in the region ranging from about 35% in Gambia to almost 80% in Cameroon. However, studies have shown that these female farmers are 30 percent less productive than their male counterparts are, because they have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities (FAO 2011). Agriculture production activities tend to be divided along gender-distinct lines. Access to productive resources including land, yield enhancing and labor saving inputs, technologies, information and training, financial services, water and irrigation; as well as agri-business opportunities predominantly go to men. Women also generally have much less time to farm because they are constrained by household work. With food insecurity growing in the region, enhancing agriculture production is a foregone priority. Food security issues also require a deeper look at the

tradeoffs between cash crops and food crops and the differential impact on male and female farmers. Given the high level of female participation in the sector, it is important to ensure that regional strategies target women's access to productive resources and agriculture technology constraints.

GENDER AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The management of natural resources is critical for their sustained use by current and future populations in the region. Women and men in the region have different roles, responsibilities and knowledge of the natural resources like water, land and forests in their environment. Men tend to play a greater role in the exploitation of natural resources for commercial purposes in the region. There are also different interests and motivations among women and men to conserve, protect or manage these resources. Though the effects of climate change and food scarcity are the same for both men and women, there are differences in their ability to tackle the effects due to gender-differentiated access to assets and resources. Women tend to be more vulnerable to natural resource degradation, and it has a more drastic impact on their livelihood since they are more dependent on these resources. High rates of illiteracy among women reduce their ability to participate in the newly emerging decision-making and policy arenas of climate change and biodiversity. Similarly, some government efforts to promote participatory forest management may include only one half of the community if female community members' meaningful participation is not actively sought. Inclusive consultation processes where all members of the community are engaged results in integrated, effective and sustainable natural resource management.

GENDER AND HEALTH

Women's and men's access to reproductive health care and their health seeking behavior varies across the region. Lower levels of education, limited decision-making, and a lack of access and control over family resources are some of the factors associated with women's disadvantages in accessing health care. Additionally, cultural norms, economic status, age and education also contour women's ability to access family planning and seek necessary treatment. Prevalent practices in the region - early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), fosterage and betrothals – have direct and indirect implications on reproductive health, particularly for women and girls. The proportion of unmet family planning needs in the region is around 25 percent and is related to issues of availability, accessibility and/or quality of services (ICF International 2012). At the same time, fertility in West Africa remains high and contraceptive use low due to male dominance in sexual relationships. HIV/AIDS remains a major health priority for the region and despite progress in the prevention of new cases of infection and a reduction of AIDS-related deaths, the infection rate remain high with nearly 5 million infected people in West and Central Africa. Gender integration in health policies and programs are constrained by a lack of gender data, limited attention to gender training for health professionals and a lack of awareness and sensitivity to gender concerns and disparities in the biomedical community. Gender-disaggregated data on the epidemic in West Africa is limited and varies considerably from country to country. Voluntary counseling, testing, peer health education and community-integrated management of childhood illnesses are promising approaches that could be adapted at a regional level to address family planning and HIV/AIDS in West Africa.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Good governance, peace and security in West Africa are dependent on the inclusion and equal participation of women and men. Gender norms and stereotypes restrict the promotion of women's leadership and decision making at all levels of society from the household to community organizations to national level formal politics. Inclusive governance and participatory democracy are in their early stage for most countries in the region that are characteristically weak and fragile states. Even with a growing body of evidence related to the important contributions women provide to peace and security, women in the region are consistently excluded from participation in peace negotiations and the broader security

sector including the military and police. Initiatives that strengthen political parties' commitment to the inclusion of female candidates on party lists and women's leadership in the party hierarchy, the inclusion of women's voices in community decision-making forums including those related to the mining sector and climate change initiatives, the promotion of women's leadership in civil society organizations, and initiatives that strengthen regional capacity to recruit and promote women in the military and police are promising areas for gender integration in this sector. A regional awareness raising campaign that introduces current female leaders across the region and highlights the benefits of women's leadership can inspire young women in the region to aspire to leadership and build the pipeline for future female leaders in government, civil society and business.

Gender-based Violence

Gender-based Violence (GBV) occurs in private and public life, and in all societies. Many institutions define GBV according to its mandate, the UN defines as: "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (UNESCO 1999 p.53)". In the context of West Africa, GBV occurs in a state through which women are forced into a subordinate position to men. Some typologies of GBV are: domestic violence, Female Genital Mutilation, sexual harassment, rape, child trafficking, child labor, and early/forced marriage. In Cote d'Ivoire, 26% of women are victims of sexual violence (UNFPA 2013). In times of peace, 42% of women revealed being victims of domestic violence (sexual or physical) and the majority view this kind of violence as 'normal behavior' as they accept their subordinate position (Ministere de la Famille de la Femme et de L'Enfant 2012). As for FGMs, 36% of women ranging (15-49 years old) are victims of this practice. The same source confirmed that genital mutilation is practiced in both rural areas (38%) as well as in urban areas (34%).

In Burkina Faso, domestic violence is commonly perpetrated by men. During an assessment of intern-agency programs, experts revealed that 33.5% of the interviewed women declared having suffered violence during the previous twelve months; 30.6 percent of men 'recognized having exercised violence on their wives or daughters in the previous twelve months.' As for genital mutilation, 77% of women have experienced this practice (Kaboré et al, 2008).

Economic violence, which is embedded in traditional practice, deprives women having right of inheritance, land ownership, and management of household resources. Despite adoption of 'Family Code' legislation, this type of violence resists change.

GBV and Political Crises

During the political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, GBV increased tremendously. In 2011, 1976 cases of GBV were registered, and among which 776 victims who received special treatment were victims of gender-based violence (Ministere de la Famille de la Femme et de L'Enfant 2012). The same source specified that among GBV cases, 656 were rapes.

In Northern Mali during the rebellion, women were "subjected to public beatings, gang rape, and stoning..." reported Soyata Maiga, during the 53rd Ordinary Session of the Africa Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Gambian Banjul (<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/5468-gender-based-violence-hits-criminal-dimension-in-mali.html>, April 2013). In addition, a total of 211 cases of sexual violence (including gang rape, sexual slavery, forced marriages and torture) were committed during house-to-house operations or at checkpoints in 2012, according to the Office of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Recommendations

- Special budget to treat GBV
- Involve women in peace talks as they are mostly victims of sexual violence

- Information/communication to ban GBV

A STRATEGY FOR GENDER INTEGRATION

West Africa’s gender gaps are both a challenge and an opportunity for USAID/WA as it develops a new regional strategy for the coming years. What approach should the mission use to promote inclusive and sustainable, stable and effective development across the region? This report includes a set of gender integration recommendations. Specifically, the gender assessment team recommends a three-part strategy for effective gender integration. This strategy will assist USAID/WA in addressing the key gender issues identified in the assessment and link gender-focused assistance to the realization of the Mission’s strategic objectives for the West Africa region. The three-part strategy calls on USAID/WA to:

- Increase collaboration on female empowerment and gender equality by transferring ‘know how’ among regional counterparts and implementing partners via (i) regional centers of excellence, (ii) joint research, analytical sector analysis, and program reviews, and (iii) knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons and best practices.
- Enhance coordination of regional level female empowerment and gender equality interventions through region-wide (i) campaigns, (ii) public dialogue and (iii) consultations.
- Connect regional and national planning on female empowerment and gender equality through coordinated action including (i) capacity strengthening for regional counterparts and implementing partners, (ii) coordinated development of policy and legislative frameworks for gender equality (iii) coordinated implementation and management of multi-country programs and (iv) collaboration with other regional donors.

This three-part strategy is further elaborated on below.

COLLABORATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

To leverage the potential development dividends of gender equality there is a need for improved regional knowledge on pressing gender issues including the “implementation and domestication” of regional gender policies (ECOWAS, 2010). More gender research, knowledge sharing and dissemination are central to increasing understanding on factors associated with the challenges and opportunities for female empowerment and gender equality in the region. Support for regional centers of excellence would fill an important knowledge gap. The development of a consortium of academic and research institutions focused on innovative solutions to the region’s most pressing gender issues holds considerable potential. It would provide the data, information and evidence necessary for advocacy, policy development, new legislation, and innovative program solutions. USAID/WA assistance could focus on gender specific research, knowledge sharing activities, and dissemination of research and analysis findings for the following general areas:

- Sector-specific strategies for inclusion of females and/or males as appropriate
- Sector-specific strategies for legislative policy development
- Sector-specific strategies for equal representation, leadership and decision-making
- Strategies for promoting a gender-friendly workplace for sector agencies and partner organizations

COORDINATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Because several of the underlying factors associated with gender inequality are rooted in shared cultural and religious beliefs and practices, expanding the range and scope of successful national campaigns to the sub- regional (Sahel, Francophone, Anglophone) and regional levels can promote the kind of cross-national attitudinal and behavioral change necessary to reduce gender inequality. Campaigns promoting

male support for family planning or highlighting gender-bias in perspectives on gender-based violence for example are more likely to be effective when organized among groups of countries. The scale-up of successful campaigns for female empowerment and gender equality can reinforce and contribute to success in other program areas like economic growth, health, agriculture, natural resource management and governance, peace and security. It also provides the foundation for cross national program interventions by raising the regional public's awareness, sparking public dialogue and providing space for regional consultations on gender issues with key stakeholders. Here USAID/WA's assistance could focus on campaigns, public dialogue and consultations to increase public awareness in the following areas:

- Gender-based violence
- Women's leadership and decision-making
- Gender, family planning and HIV/AIDS
- Gender, climate change and natural resource management
- Women's land rights

CONNECTING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PLANNING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Key gender and development challenges that cut across national boundaries (e.g. gender-based violence, women's leadership, family planning) can be addressed more effectively by linking regional and national planning and implementation. Regional policy, programs and their corresponding implementation strategies will be more effective when informed by coordinated country level action. Building stronger interconnections with country level gender and development planning involves strengthening the institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming of key regional counterparts (ECOWAS, ECREE, WAHO, WAPP, CILSS and CORAF) and implementing partners as well as civil society organizations. Another strategic partner for connecting regional and national planning for gender equality are the gender ministries for countries in the region. By supporting efforts to connect regional and national planning for gender equality, USAID/WA can reduce institutional barriers to data gathering and promote the design and synergistic implementation of programs and strategies for female empowerment and gender equality within and across sectors. Coordinated policy and program development could be comprised of the following: (i) a network of researchers, nonprofit organizations and engaged community members, (ii) applied research on broad systematic context to shape large-scale or public programming, inform public policy or stimulate public dialogue, and (iii) the translation of research into promising practices, promoting policy solutions and developing technical assistance tools (such as publications, curricula and training). Here USAID/WA's capacity strengthening assistance to key counterpart and implementing partners could focus on the following:

- Improving institutional capabilities to generate, access and use gender information and knowledge
- Enhancing institutional capacities to develop gender policy and legislative frameworks
- Strengthening institutional capacities to implement and manage regional gender frameworks
- Enhancing capacities to monitor and evaluate regional gender impacts and trends

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section outlines overarching findings from the field research and recommendations to assist the USAID/WA as it works to integrate gender equality more effectively into its RCDS and its corresponding future programs. Findings and recommendations are presented by sector and in relation to the proposed three-part strategy for gender integration.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

FINDINGS

Trade and investment field research focused on gender in electric power and cross-border trade. Women's labor force participation in the electric power sector was the primary focus of this portion of the field research. Women account for less than 10 percent of the electric power sector's labor force and are concentrated in finance, economics, law, administration and customer support and the electric power sector is preparing for a skilled labor shortage. These two findings suggest that there is a window of opportunity to increase the number of women in this traditionally male dominated sector. The renewable energy (including energy conservation) sub-sector was found to be the most promising area for increasing female representation in the sector.

The field research (interview with Business Environment officer, West Africa Trade Hub) found that women account for about 80 percent of cross-border trade in West Africa. Most of the trade is informal and centers on agriculture products, cosmetics and plastics. Challenges female cross-border traders face include; (i) lack of information, (ii) limited access to credit and business training, (iii) harassment, (iv) transportation and storage. The West Africa Trade Hub and its Border Information Centers (BICs) are a promising venue from which to address the issues female cross-border traders in the region face.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support the hire of a Gender Specialist as part of USAID/WA capacity strengthening assistance to WAPP.
2. Provide WAPP with gender training tools and resources appropriate for WAPP member utility managers especially those tasked with recruitment and training.
3. Support the West Africa Power Pool's (WAPP) efforts for recruiting female trainees in its five training centers through in-house gender capacity building and outreach (see below), and in sharing promising practices for recruitment of female trainees with the Center for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREE).
4. Provide support for WAPP to conduct outreach to universities, high schools and middle schools to promote careers in energy and engineering with a focus on making the sector an attractive career choice for female students.
5. Support capacity strengthening for the Borderless Alliance to develop an advocacy agenda for gender sensitive cross-border trade policy.
6. Support the development of a Women's Help Desk at the Border Information Centers (BICs).
7. Support the design and provision of regional level gender training for border agents and enforcement officers.

AGRICULTURE

FINDINGS

Field research on agriculture focused on gender value chains, irrigation and the regional Mission's agriculture programs. While women and men are actively involved in the agriculture value chains reviewed for the field study (rice, millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea, livestock, seeds and fertilizers), their commodity choices and levels and scale of involvement vary between them and across countries. Both male and female farmers work on maize and rice while sorghum and cowpeas tend to be female specific crops. Also, men tend to have better access than women to inputs like seeds, fertilizers and technical information. Women in food trade tend to operate at the local and sometimes the national level and there is even a case of a woman breaking the cross-border trade glass ceiling. Men on the other hand dominate the cross-border trade sector with through their ownership of better storage and packaging facilities. Women were found to have fairly good representation in leadership positions of national and

regional agriculture associations, particularly those that benefited from USAID/ WA programs such as the Agribusiness and Trade Promotion projects (ATP/E-ATP). In terms of irrigation where the issue tends to be viewed as too technical for women, few women were found on irrigation management committees. Several promising new programs supported by USAID/WA were reviewed including programs focused on the professional development of women in agriculture, the integration of women in agriculture value chains, food security and nutrition and women's access to land.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Initiate new collaboration with IFDC to explore potential for:
 - a. Taking the agribusiness cluster development model to the next level - linking farmers to inputs and output markets and to micro-finance regionally.
 - b. Leveraging IFDC's ICT experience to develop and pilot an initiative around technical support (I-TechFarms Platform) through which packages of useful technical support information could be developed, commodity adapted to regional and national agro-ecological requirements, and disseminated via the platform and through the use of mobile devices directly to farmers.
- Collaborate with ECOWAS on agriculture input regulations:
 - a. SAI/West Africa facilitates meetings between women's national and regional agricultural associations so they can have conversations about women farmers' specific input needs (types, quantities, packaging, price, etc.) for subsequent presentation to ECOWAS.
 - b. Provide technical and logistic support to the women's agricultural associations in their preparation to present these needs to ECOWAS.
- Explore strategies to support the promising innovative land initiatives that are promoting gender equality and empowering women farmers in Burkina Faso and Senegal. Capture useful lessons from these initiatives and disseminate to the rest of the region through sensitization and advocacy; and explore ways of replicating and/or scaling such initiatives regionally, a few countries at a time. This would require collaboration with regional partners such as ECOWAS, as well as with land rights advocacy groups and other land rights champions that may exist in the region.
- Encourage the creation of national networks of gender professional, teams/units under the umbrella of women/gender ministry and facilitate communication between national networks at a regional level. Support annual meetings of delegates from national networks around specific areas of regional importance and facilitate technical, capacity building and idea exchanges.
- Support the conduct of gender evaluations of existing national irrigations initiatives to capture gender patterns and most promising practices and lessons that can guide regional programming in irrigation going forward. The lessons learned could be disseminated through workshops and exchange events that bring together national and regional stakeholders.
- Support the development and rollout regionally, of rural financial services adapted to the needs of small farmers, particularly women. This could include: i) Supporting the development of tontines into more formal (micro) financial institutions, linked to existing more established institutions (MFIs or credit unions) where possible. ii) Promoting the development of in-kind and produce marketing-linked credit services similar to the innovative approach adopted by USAID/MARKETS. iii) Support training and capacity building for market partners and financial institutions involved in lending to female and other marginalized small farmers.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

FINDINGS

Field research on natural resource management focused on integrated water management and conservation and management of natural resources. Both males and females were represented on water management committees however, in countries like Ghana, where there are female representation requirements; representation was higher than in a country like Burkina Faso where there is no representation requirement. The field research also found that female members of water management committees were less educated than their male counterparts resulting in less decision-making capacity. Interviews revealed that many water and sanitation projects do not integrate gender for two reasons: (i) it is not a donor requirement; and, (ii) most implementing organizations do not have the requisite gender integration expertise.

For the conservation and management of fisheries and forestry, field research found that women tended to be engaged in areas perceived to have a lower return. In Gambia, for example, men were predominantly involved in the more lucrative fisheries while women were engaged in the less valuable oyster fishing. A similar pattern for forestry incomes was found in Ghana where men were engaged in the more lucrative area of logging and women mainly worked in the trade of nontraditional forests products. Even with these typical patterns in the gender division of labor, persons interviewed felt that the low return areas mentioned above could be entry points for women to become more active in natural resource management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Liaise with academic and research institutions to form a Regional Knowledge Center on Gender and Natural Resource Management to generate and share knowledge that will provide evidence to inform the development of gender sensitive policies and programs. A Regional Knowledge Center could be a forum or working group, and does not necessarily entail setting up a brand new institution. It can also be a wing of existing research institutions in the region.
 - a. Link research institutions to identified women groups in natural resource management to develop experiment fields for joint research between women's groups and researchers.
 - b. Support experts to develop consistent monitoring and evaluation systems for natural resource management programs that will, among other things, measure the impact of activities on the rehabilitation of natural resources.
- Support and invest in capacity enhancement of actors, both men and women, in natural resource management
 - a. Develop the capacity of promising women groups to act as advocates for the promotion of gender equality in the management of natural resources in the region.
 - b. Support the training of promising young women in the area of natural resource management to serve as experts in the area and also as a resource base for the proposed regional knowledge center. A scholarship fund can be instituted for this purpose.
 - c. Strengthen women focused groups to enter into co-management agreements with governments for exclusive rights to specific natural resources.²
 - d. Support the formation or strengthening of a Regional Journalist Network for Women in Natural Resource Management.

² This can be enforced. There is evidence in Gambia – the Oyster Women Association, as indicated in the findings. They have been able to gain exclusive rights to Oyster fishing within specified areas.

- Support research development to create a knowledge base for gender and NRM.
 - a. Support cutting edge research for instance on gender mapping of climate change mitigation and adaptation to improve knowledge

HEALTH

FINDINGS

Field research on health focused on four factors related to family planning and HIV/AIDS: (i) men as obstacles to women's health, (ii) child mortality, (iii) early/forced marriage and (iv) lack of health knowledge among women. Persons interviewed highlighted the persistent issue of men preventing their wives from contraceptives use and the continuing need for women to get permission from their husbands to seek reproductive health care. Women's poverty and health project staff distribution of health products like mosquito nets to heads of households who tend to be men were factors identified as factors associated with high child mortality rates in the region. Early marriage and women's lack of knowledge on health options and issues were also identified by persons interviewed as obstacles to better reproductive health, family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- USAID/WA should include a male engagement component as relevant for health programs to ensure more effective reproductive health service results.
- Expand the use of women's associations for regional mobilization efforts to increase women's access and use of family planning services.
- Support research with a focus on innovative ways of improving the quality of health care including strategies for scaling up voluntary counseling and testing; peer health education programs and community-integrated management of childhood illnesses and effective strategies for providing accessible reproductive health care services to women with disabilities, whose needs are often neglected

GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

FINDINGS

Field research on governance, peace and security focused on women's political participation and representation, women's role in supporting extremist's ideologies, gender and the security sector and gender in governance tools. Persons contacted noted that political parties are an important area of focus for increasing the proportion of women in formal politics. While national level representational quotas are important they are only as effective as political parties that ultimately implement them. Differing views on women's role in supporting extremists' ideologies were uncovered in the field research. Some persons contacted suggested that women's "second class" status in location with conservative views of Islam make it less likely that women would support extremist views, while others suggested that there is no difference between women and men on this issue. The field research also uncovered women's growing integration in the security sector particularly in police and security guard occupations. Female police associations are progressing and in many communities female police officers are welcome and well received. The USAID funded governance tools: the Afrobarometer and ECOWARN were not known to the majority of the persons contacted for peace and security interviews. The recent round of the Afrobarometer does include a set of questions on gender issues and ECOWARN includes indicators calibrated to identify gender factors as part of the region's early warning system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with political parties to promote diversity within the party ranks and increase women’s political leadership and representation.
 - a. Support the design and launch a “Leading Women” regional campaign with elected female parliamentarians from the region targeting high schools and college students’ particularly female students leveraging the role model effect and promote women’s leadership at the local level. This could complement work with female parliamentarians focused on strengthening their connections and responsiveness to their constituents.
 - b. Include male parliamentarians on the regional tour to promote and demonstrate the notion of joint decision-making and demonstrate male buy in to the notion of women’s political leadership.
 - c. Support the creation of a regional network of elected female parliamentarians to promote women’s leadership and decision-making in regional networks like the Network of Alliance of Environmental Parliamentarians and the West Africa Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB).
- Support research that will guide strategies for promoting women’s political leadership and representation, including such research as:
 - a. A regional research consortium on women, peace and security issues. This does not need to be a new organization but rather an association of likeminded individual researchers and organizations with a shared research agenda. An institution of higher education is a strategic location for a consortium of this kind.
 - b. The development of a regional databank on gender-based violence
 - c. Design and inclusion of questions on gender and violent extremism in the Afrobarometer
- Build regional networks and exchange by:
 - a. Promoting and supporting women’s regional networks for peace, female police officers associations, teacher’s associations and official government women’s ministries
 - b. Supporting and convening regional dialogues with willing religious leaders on women’s and gender issues when appropriate.
- Strengthen capacities for supporting women’s leadership and political representation at all levels including:
 - a. The development and regional dissemination of capacity building for elected female representatives in analysis, advisory, influence and community mobilization skills
 - b. The strengthening of mainstream civil society organizations to promote women’s rights and inclusive participation and leadership
 - c. Partnering with ECOWARN to strengthen the gender analysis capacity of the institution’s analysts

MISSION LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The gender assessment team has also developed a set of Mission-level recommendations to facilitate the sector-specific recommendations for gender integration. These include:

- Ensure consistency in the integration of gender considerations in program objectives, requests for proposals (RFPs), contracts, project plans, project management plans (PMPs), reporting and assessments.
- Include gender analysis in feasibility studies, baseline studies and market assessments.
- Develop gender targets particularly where female representation or participation is low for program outreach and program impact.
- Maintain the collection and analysis of gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data for all projects to inform future program design.
- Include gender disaggregated, pre- and post-training capacity and participation measures and gender baseline data to enhance assessments and evaluations strengthening programs of capacity.
- Hire a full time Gender Specialist that can be supported by USAID/Washington Gender and Development office to support USAID/WA, counterpart and partner organizations in integrating gender into programs.

PART A: GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

Opportunities and challenges for development in West Africa are as diverse as the countries that make up the region. While no two countries in the region are mirror images of each other, the level of gender equality in, and across countries in the region plays an important role in the achievement (or lack thereof) of national, regional, and international development goals. The 18 countries covered by USAID/West Africa Mission are rebuilding and developing countries challenged by decades of political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing populations and environmental pressures. With a population of approximately 325 million people, including a sizable youth bulge, the region has enough human resources – if channeled strategically – to address its social, political, and economic challenges. The inclusion and equal participation of the region’s male and female counterparts in peace and security, governance, economic growth, and capacity building efforts is the key to securing significant development dividends, of which the byproducts are sustainable development and human security.

The ECOWAS Gender Strategy for 2010-2020 (ECOWAS 2010) presents an overview of gender in West Africa. The following twelve points describe the gender issues ECOWAS sees as central in the region:

- The existence of several international and regional gender legal instruments that member states have signed onto, but which still face challenges in implementation and domestication.
- Most of the citizens of the sub-region are unaware of the legal instruments and national gender policies and so are unable to participate and contribute effectively to the implementation.
- In almost all the countries in the sub-region there are still issues surrounding women’s participation in decision-making
- Though the girl-child enrolment in education has improved the problem lies with retention, enabling them attain professional and academic qualifications
- There are still traditional practices which are abusive to women’s rights
- There is a need for consistency in addressing the gender and sexual based violence which still exist and persist in member countries
- Women’s health is impacted by a lack of basic services, especially in rural communities, including increased maternal and child death rates
- There is lack of political will and commitment of some national governments to implement and or domesticate gender instruments they have signed onto or even national gender policies developed.
- With the exception of a few countries, such as Liberia, there are limited or no systems and structures to enable effective gender mainstreaming in member countries
- ECOWAS has limited or no mandate to follow-up to ensure that states are implementing legal instruments and policies for effective gender equality
- The traditional perception on the role and function of women continues to impact policy making and implementation
- Due to lack of access to employment, women have low incomes and are constantly in a cycle of poverty and its attendant consequences for development

The ECOWAS Gender Strategy notes that the real impact of ratified international conventions, including the Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, Millennium Development Goal 3, and the African Union Gender Policy are variable and limited. In focusing on the development of the region's women, the ECOWAS Gender Development Center priority areas include (i) education and health; (ii) economy and trade; (iii) governance, representation and decision-making; (iv) agriculture and the environment and (v) peace and security. These priority areas correspond with the sectors USAID/WA is working on and bodes well for future deepening of collaboration with USAID/WA key counterpart.

GENDER EQUALITY AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Global gender indices help to provide a snapshot of the current state of gender equality in West Africa. The following three indices are particularly useful in highlighting the state of gender equality in the region today:

- Global Gender Gap Index
- Gender Inequality Index
- Social Institutions and Gender Index

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, for instance, offers a comparison of women's positions (*vis-à-vis* men's) in four areas: (1) economic participation and opportunity, (2) educational attainment, (3) health and survival, and (4) political empowerment.

The Index is designed to measure gender-based gaps in terms of access to resources and opportunities in individual countries rather than the actual levels of the available resources and opportunities in those countries. In other words, the Index is constructed to rank countries on their gender gaps not on their development level (World Economic Forum, 2012).

In 2012, Cape Verde led the region with the smallest gap (.718) between women and men, while Chad had the widest gap (.559). Most of the countries in West Africa are closing the gap between males and females in education attainment (particularly in primary education) and in health and survival. However parity in economic and political participation remains elusive.

The UNDP's *Gender Inequality Index* (GII) reflects the loss of human development due to gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity (see Table I). Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent fertility rates. Empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by each gender and attainment of secondary and higher education by each gender. Economic activity is measured by the labor market participation rate for each gender. The GII replaced the previous Gender-related Development Index and Gender Empowerment Index. In 2012, Senegal boasted the lowest inequality score due in part to the high percentage of West African countries included in the index with a high adolescent fertility rate and low female participation in the country's labor force.

Table 1. 2012 Global Gender Gap Index – West Africa³

Countries (out of 146)	Overall		Economic Participation and Opportunity		Educational Attainment		Health and Survival		Political Empowerment	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Cape Verde	35	0.7180	84	0.6231	97	0.9681	1	0.9796	25	0.3011
Ghana	71	0.6778	26	0.7543	113	0.9055	105	0.9674	100	0.839
Senegal	90	0.6657	59	0.6737	122	0.8270	75	0.9734	41	0.1887
The Gambia	93	0.6630	18	0.7716	127	0.7634	1	0.9796	70	0.1375
Burkina Faso	104	0.6455	32	0.7376	125	0.7864	100	0.9685	94	0.0897
Nigeria	110	0.6315	81	0.6299	124	0.8159	121	0.9607	83	0.1193
Cameroon	112	0.6291	52	0.6834	126	0.7816	111	0.9612	92	0.0902
Benin	117	0.6258	23	0.7591	134	0.6446	111	0.9612	69	0.1383
Mauritania	119	0.6129	119	0.4955	119	0.8565	1	0.9796	82	0.1201
Mali	128	0.5842	103	0.5677	132	0.7094	57	0.9761	101	0.0835
Cote d'Ivoire	130	0.5785	111	0.5468	131	0.7095	1	0.9796	104	0.0782
Chad	133	0.5594	56	0.6772	135	0.5197	111	0.9612	102	0.0796

* Out of 146 countries, the following countries did not have available data to be ranked in the Global Gender Gap Index of 2012: Togo, Guinea, Niger, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

³ The Global Gender Gap Index is constructed using a four- step process:

1. First all data are converted to female/male ratios. Variables used to create the index are from publicly available indicators from international organizations. The Economic Participation and Opportunity sub-index is comprised of five variables (i) Ratio: female labor force participation over male value (ii) Wage equality between women and men for similar work (converted to female-over-male ratio), (iii) Ratio: estimated female earned income over male value, (iv) Ratio: female legislators, senior officials and managers over male value, and (v) Ratio: female professional and technical workers over male value.
2. As a second step, these ratios are truncated at the “equality benchmark”. For all variables, except the two health variables, this equality benchmark is considered to be 1, meaning equal numbers of women and men.
3. The third step in the process involves calculating the weighted average of the variables within each sub-index to create the sub-index scores.
4. The fourth step is the calculation of final scores. In the case of all sub-indexes, the highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality), thus binding the scores between inequality and equality benchmarks. An un-weighted average of each sub-index score is used to calculate the overall Global Gender Gap Index score.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) *Social Institutions and Gender Index* (SIGI) was created to complement other existing gender indices (see Table 2). While other indices such as the UNDP's *Gender Inequality Index* (see Table 3) and the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index measure gender inequality in terms of outcomes, such as education attainment or labor market participation, the SIGI focuses on the underlying social institutions that influence gender roles and relations; as such the SIGI provides additional insight into the causes of gender inequality.

Table 2. 2012 Social Institutions and Gender Index

Countries	Rank out of 86	SIGI Value 2012
Senegal	41	0.230692
Mauritania	48	0.253909
Ghana	50	0.261148
Cote d'Ivoire	61	0.339677
Liberia	62	0.344013
Sierra Leone	66	0.360516
Togo	67	0.360838
Burkina Faso	70	0.368684
Cameroon	71	0.369592
Niger	72	0.372019
The Gambia	76	0.393300
Guinea	78	0.439627
Nigeria	79	0.442831
Chad	80	0.452535
Benin	81	0.456945
Mali	86	0.600977

* Out of 82 non-OECD countries included in the index, the following USAID mission countries were not included in the SIGI of 2012: Equatorial Guinea and Cape Verde.

The indicators for this index were categorized by the evaluation of gender inequalities in areas of **Discriminatory Family Code** (legal age of marriage, early marriage, parental authority, inheritance); **Restricted Physical Integrity** (violence against women, female genital mutilation, reproductive integrity); **Son Bias** (missing women, fertility preferences); **Restricted Resources and Entitlements** (access to land, access to credit, access to property other than land); and **Restricted Civil Liberties** (access to public space and political voice).

In 2012, the underlying social institutions that influenced gender roles and relations in Senegal were lower than those for the other 16 countries in the region for which there was available data, followed by Mauritania and Ghana. Nigeria, Chad, Benin, and Mali had the highest scores indicating the existence of high discrimination in social institutions for women.

Table 3. Gender Inequality Index 2012

Countries (out of 148)	GII Value	GII Rank	Maternal Mortality Ratio	Adolescent Fertility Rate	Female seats in Parliament (%)	Population with at least secondary education (%)		Labor force participation (%)	
						Female	Male	Female	Male
Senegal	0.54	115	370	89.7	41.6	4.6	11	66.1	88.4
Ghana	0.565	121	350	62.4	8.3	45.7	61.8	66.9	71.8
Togo	0.566	122	300	54.3	11.1	15.3	45.1	80.4	81.4
The Gambia	0.594	128	360	66.9	7.5	16.9	31.4	72.4	83.1
Burkina Faso	0.609	131	300	117.4	15.3	0.9	3.2	77.5	90.4
Benin	0.618	135	350	97	8.4	11.2	25.6	67.4	78.2
Cameroon	0.628	137	690	115.1	13.9	21.1	34.9	64.2	77.4
Cote d'Ivoire	0.632	138	400	105.7	11	13.7	29.9	51.8	81
Mauritania	0.643	139	510	71.3	19.2	8	20.8	28.7	79.2
Sierra Leone	0.643	139	890	104.2	12.9	9.5	20.4	66.3	69.1
Mali	0.649	141	540	168.9	10.2	11.3	9.2	36.8	70

I. GENDER, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT IN WEST AFRICA

Women's and men's roles in West African trade and investment are presented with special attention on how and why women participate in certain roles, and whether these roles empower or diminish the livelihoods and economic opportunities of women. Women's largely informal trading activities have always been integral to the region's rural and urban livelihoods (Life Impact Foundation, 2010). Women have been instrumental in establishing distribution systems, often without any support from business-enabling environment (such as credit facilities or land title registration). Despite constraints, West African women are influential leaders, decision-makers, and entrepreneurs that are currently underrepresented in trade and investment policy-making.

OVERVIEW

In West African countries women's livelihoods are constrained by attainment of lower levels of education, lack of access to real assets (e.g., land), and a higher demand of their time for domestic household activities, in comparison to men. This is found to be the true (British Council, 2012; 19) for rural- as well as urban-based women across the region. Formal sector jobs opportunities are few, given the aforementioned constraints in education and heavy domestic work burden. As a result, women are more highly represented in small-scale agricultural production and local sales/trading of foods for domestic consumption or in retail trade and services. Female informal workers become micro entrepreneurs by choice, and at times by default. Women run only 20% of enterprises in the formal sector in Nigeria and 23% of these are in the retail sector (British Council, 21).

Female participation in West African labor markets has increased significantly over the last decade, corresponding to a period of economic trade liberalization in the region, although this is still far lower than in developed Western countries. Studies show increases in formalized female employment in industrialized sectors and economies where export industries are expanding in more female friendly sectors, such as apparel and textiles (e.g., Ghana, Senegal). Men are more active in export-oriented sectors including cash crops (e.g., cocoa) and mining (Cockburn, Decaluwe, 2010). Women are not widely represented in the wood, metals, chemical, construction, and transport industries.

Women's relatively poor access to decent employment in West Africa is also constrained by the reproductive roles that women play, which predisposed them to part-time, poorly paid and low quality work usually in small-scale family agriculture, retail, and informal sector trade (British Council, 19).

As mentioned at the outset, access to assets underpins the livelihood challenge of West African women. In particular access to land is important for women for food and income production and as collateral for obtaining financing. Land access is often restricted by the way land is inherited, owned, and passed on to male descendants in patrilineal ethnic groups in Nigeria and across West Africa. Although women comprise more than half (between 60-79% in Nigeria) of the rural labor force, men are five times more likely to own land than women. In 2006, an estimated 7.2% of women owned land in Nigeria, a 6% decrease from 2003. The source document (British Council, 2012) cannot provide an explanation as to why the levels have fallen. Since land ownership is key to women's ability to access finance and because lack of land access limits potential agriculture earnings for women in the region, many rural women's primary income and family food sources may be diminishing. This decline is continuing even though trade and investment in West Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa are increasing in value and volume due to trade liberalization and an increasing demand for natural resources and agricultural products in the global economy.

The importance of micro-enterprises as the main source of income for women in West Africa makes it a strategic area for promoting the empowerment of women. Ethnographic research suggests that women play an active role in market associations. These associations, at their best, are effective

marketing and sales agents for women's goods and services (Porter et. al. 2010 as cited in British Council, 21).

Poor transportation networks and the lack of post-harvesting facilities and technologies often hamper producers and traders of West African products (export and domestic). In the case of shea nuts, only a fraction of the total production of shea nut is collected and marketed due to a shortage of labor for collection. In this case, timing is the constraint for increasing women's participation in harvesting this cash crop. Shea nut collection happens during the rainy season, which is the same time that most women are working full time each day preparing and planting their field crops (Bromley, 27).

According to economist, David Bromley (2011), trade and income are impeded by transport costs in West Africa, which are approximately double those found in Western Europe. When bribes and the cost of enforced delays are added in, the cost burden represents a serious impediment to increasing the export of cash crops such as shea nuts. High transaction costs reduce the offer price to farmers – men and women alike – and discourages production. The shea industry offers a fairly unique opportunity for women to benefit from an export-oriented cash crop.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN SME'S

Female managers and entrepreneurs are not rare occurrences in Sub-Saharan Africa, and West Africa is no exception. Case studies of exemplary women managers and entrepreneurs from Sub-Saharan Africa can be found throughout the region (International Finance Corporation, AfDC). Less prevalent are trends of women holding top leadership positions in West African enterprises. Since agriculture is the primary economic sector in West African countries, women leaders of agricultural cooperatives and associations, as well as SMEs, are included in most project level capacity-building programs. There is no comprehensive regional baseline data that highlights the overall emerging trends and longitudinal impacts from leadership programs and activities supported by a project.

WOMEN IN REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY MAKING

The overall conclusion from the desk review is that women are underrepresented in trade and investment related policy development on all levels (local, national, regional, and international) and especially at the critical formative stages, where men are the primary decision-makers. Trade policies, Zo Randriamaro (2011) notes, affect men and women differently, and generate different responses due to pre-existing gender inequalities in access to and ownership of resources such as land, capital, credit, education, health, time, and income; as well as access to power, decision-making, and the division of labor, which assigns the unpaid reproductive labor to women (Randriamaro; 183,184, 194).

ENERGY SECTOR

Energy is reemerging in development programming as a key driver to global and West African economic growth and stability – this is true for the USAID West Africa Mission. On the large-scale industrial development level, reliable electricity supply is a critical factor in the decision to locate a manufacturing or processing facility in West Africa. On the domestic-level, grid electricity for a rural community relieves West African women of the time-burden of collecting wood or charcoal for cooking. The electric power sub-sector (generation and distribution of renewable and nonrenewable electric power sources), which is the primary focus of the desk review and field work, is a male dominated industry in West Africa, as well as in developed economies and is bracing for skilled labor shortages in the short- to mid-term.

The desk review revealed no consensus or baseline data on the level of employment or the type of jobs women held in the energy sector of West Africa. Based on circumstantial reports, women's employment is low in this technically-oriented male dominated industry sector (European Foundation).

Despite the lack of data to support the feasibility of selected recruitment targets of female trainees in the electric power sector, WAPP and ECOWAS Center for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREE) have both set goals of 20 percent rate of female participation in its capacity building and training activities. While these goals may be overly ambitious they do provide an initial benchmark for these efforts. A World Bank Project funded project to support renewable energy in Ghana (source: interview with David Quansah, Energy Centre, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) set a target of 25 percent of female participation in its activities. Although the goal was not attained during the 22-month duration of the project, they did report a significant increase in female participation compared to prior years. One of the West Africa Program's key strategic partners in the energy sector, ECREE, was officially launched in July 2010 in Praia, Cape Verde. The ECREE Business Plan (ECOWAS ECREE 14, 35, 41) states that ECREE is committed to providing renewable electrical energy to West African households for cooking and domestic uses. It cites Veronica Utz's work as the underpinning rationale for interlinking renewable energy, energy efficiency, and gender in West Africa. Utz (2011) makes a compelling case of the heavy time burden and potential health and safety issues unfairly put upon women from collecting firewood or charcoal sometimes miles away from their homes.

Another key strategic partner with the West Africa Program is the West African Power Pool (WAPP) headquartered in Cotonou, Benin. It was established under the ECOWAS umbrella in 2006 with the goal of integrating the national power systems of ECOWAS States into a unified, sustainable regional electricity market. The WAPP has received support from USAID and is administered by a private sector contractor, Nexant, to address industry-wide human resource constraints. In line with this need, the Secretariat has agreed to give careful consideration to gender concerns and issues in the selection of training participants, exchange programs, and opportunities for women to secure staff positions at WAPP member utilities. The WAPP appears to be in the early stages of adopting a gender-sensitive policy.

Strategic plans of two major regional energy institutions—both a part of ECOWAS—aim to increase the percentage of women who are provided technical training in the energy field, as well as increase the number of women within their organizations. The ECREE five-year operating plan includes: (a) increasing the number of women trained to 20% by 2016, and (b) to increase the percentage of women on staff at ECREE to 50% by 2016. The plan does not provide details on how it will realize these targets or their current baseline.

GENDER RELATED BENEFITS OF RELIABLE ENERGY

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) found (Gill 7-11) that energy (and agricultural) technology can enhance women's economic advancement through two pathways: (a) the use of technology to improve productivity in women's existing activities, and (b) the creation of new economic opportunities for women. For example, women's marketing and selling of energy generating technologies.

Access to reliable sources of energy has shown to benefit women's micro-enterprises, which can lead to higher earnings and returns. Key findings and suggestions of the ICRW include engaging women within the supply chain, particularly in retail and marketing which has the potential to create meaningful options for women to earn additional income. For energy technologies to be adopted by women for household and enterprise uses the technology must be affordable; easy to use and maintain; time saving (or at least not adding to the time for a task); and meet basic needs such as cooking, refrigeration, or lighting. From the seller's perspective, it must be profitable but not to the extent that it is too costly and stifles customer demand.

Because of traditional responsibilities for collecting fuel and water throughout West Africa, women and girls would benefit from access to improved grid or renewable energy services. The time and physical effort expended by women and girls in gathering fuel and carrying water seriously limits their ability to engage in income-generating activities (Utz 1). Much of women's time is taken up with difficult and time-consuming activities related to producing and processing food, without mechanical or electrical equipment, and cooking, without clean-burning fuels and energy efficient appliances. Utz (2011) asserts that many women and girls also suffer from health problems related to gathering and using traditional fuels, such as serious long-term physical damage from strenuous work without sufficient recuperation time. Women and girls also face dangers such as falling, snakebites in the bush, and threats of assault during fuel gathering ventures. Women are also exposed to a variety of health hazards from cooking over poorly ventilated indoor fires, which account for close to 2 million premature deaths per year.

A 2012 study of productive uses of energy in enterprises in slums in Accra, Ghana (King, Amponsah, Quansah 1) documents the negative impacts on livelihoods when reliable energy sources were not present. One key finding is that the supply of electricity in the Accra slums was irregular while the supply of kerosene, firewood, and charcoal was regular and always available. A woman hairdresser said "during periods of low voltage my customers patronize the services of other hairdressers who may have normal power supply or use generators as stand by sources, but that income becomes lost to me" (Utz, 2011)

In conclusion, the electric power sector can greatly improve women's daily lives when it reduces the burden of collecting firewood or charcoal for domestic cooking, lighting, and other uses. When electric grid power is irregular or too costly, alternative sources of energy are used. Thirdly, the generation and distribution of grid electricity to West Africans will require more skilled labor and could create opportunities for women as technical, administrative, and professional workers within the electric power utilities and regulatory bodies.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC GENDER ISSUES

The four focus countries lack current, or any, baseline data with respect to gender issues and women's roles in trade and investment and the second area of investigation, the gender role in the electric power sector. The role of women in cross-border trade from Nigeria into its neighboring countries has, however, been studied in the last few years and present some insights into women traders across the region (Life Impact Foundation, 2010, Life Impact Foundation, 2011). A myriad of gender issues from the desk review in the focus countries include higher rates of illiteracy as constraints to capacity-building, the desire to reduce traditional energy sources like wood with renewable and grid energy supplies, lack of access by women to productive assets and information sources, women's civil society organizations, and a new women's leadership program in Cameroon.

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso's high rate of illiteracy (over 75%) constrains capacity-building, skills, and leadership development of female and male entrepreneurs. There are few studies that investigate gender and private sector issues in Burkina Faso and baseline data for this area are yet to be collected. The government of Burkina Faso is attempting to meet the growing demand for energy services, reduce the cost of energy, and to expand energy services to rural and sub-urban populations (Burkina Faso Embassy website). As previously noted, women's income and livelihoods are closely intertwined with access to energy (King, 2012; 1). Efforts to introduce renewable energy sources and technology and reduce the reliance on wood were successfully adopted by a women's shea butter production cooperative. The new energy source reportedly significantly reduced the time and labor for cooking shea nuts. This innovation has not only boosted production, but also left women with more time for other income producing, domestic, and community activities (Ndow, 10).

CAMEROON

Documentation of trade and investment issues and gender issues in Cameroon are scarce and dated. However, secondary sources note that cultural constraints in the North restrict women's access to land titles, credit, and livelihood choices. In rural Cameroon men dominate commercial agriculture while the majority of subsistence farmers are women (61%) (Nana-Fabu, 2006; 154). Rural women have had an increased workload since many male heads of households have left the villages and gone to seek wage-earning employment in the cities or on plantations. Rural Cameroon women must work twice as hard to make ends meet, fulfilling domestic duties as well as engaging in income producing activities (Nana-Fabu, 2006; 155). The lack of information available to women about new economic opportunities and related technology were cited as a limiting constraint stemming from cultural traditions of the predominantly Muslim North.

Comprehensive baseline data or surveys of women in the private sector in Cameroon are not currently available. Research on the roles and inclusion of urban Cameroonian women in trade and investment is especially lacking, though occasionally articles on women in business are produced (e.g., *WATH Trade Winds*). A new UN Democracy Fund-sponsored leadership school was recently established in Cameroon to promote women in public sector service and could serve as an organizational platform to support and inform policy and decision-making with respect to trade, investments and the private sector.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The role of women in trade and investment in post-conflict Cote d'Ivoire is unclear and urgently requires additional primary research and attention as the Cote d'Ivoire reemerges from its latest internal political conflict. The majority of the unemployed in Cote d'Ivoire are young—two-thirds of them are under 30 years old. The poor have less access to credit (9.0%) than the non-poor (12.7%). Poor, who have not applied for credit, attribute unemployment to lack of a project (25%), high cost of credit (15%), lack of credit structures (13%), and lack of information (11%) (Republic of Cote d'Ivoire 11). Constraints at the structural and organizational level of the private sector are: (a) low promotion of entrepreneurship, (b) high cost of production factors, (c) decline in the competitiveness of national enterprises, and (d) lack of alignment between available skills development/training and economic need – incidents of fraud and smuggling are also increasing. Trade (most notably cocoa exports, a male dominated sector) represented 13.6% of GDP on average from 2002–2007. The Strategy Paper of 2009 notes challenges to formalized trade, including regional and international competition that accompanies increasing trade liberalization, poor quality products, weaknesses of civil society advocacy organizations to advocate for women in trade and enterprise, and the low-level of funding for the promotion of domestic trade. In 2005, women occupied only 12.71% of jobs in the formal economy. There does not appear to be any women-focused trade and entrepreneurial advocacy groups in Cote d'Ivoire – many of the women-focused groups and NGOs are addressing post-conflict, peace, and reconciliation issues.

NIGER

Although women account for half of the population in Niger they benefit relatively less than men from economic and social progress. As in other West African countries, there are disparities between men and women in access to productive resources and employment, health, and education (IMF Niger, 2007; 51). Today, Niger's economy is based primarily on livestock, agriculture, and mining, including uranium. Livestock, commercial agriculture, and mining are heavily male dominated (as throughout West Africa) and account for 40% of GDP and 80% of the country's exports. Less than three employed workers out of ten (27.4%) are women, although women comprise half of the population. Similarly, female unemployment rate is twice as high as the male rate for the female working population. The unemployment rate for men is at 11.8% as opposed to 25% for women (IMF Niger, 2007; 51). The daily workload of women, especially those in rural areas, is estimated at between 16-18 hours and reflects their daily domestic workload, including time consumed for the collection of fuel sources (IMF Niger,

2007). Niger does not have comprehensive national gender baseline statistics and women's progress (or lack thereof) in trade and investment could not be determined.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

Women in West Africa are constrained from fully participating in, and benefiting from, trade and investment in the region due to restrictive gender roles that impede their access to assets and resources that would allow them to start or scale-up enterprises and participate at the higher end of the value chain (British Council, Cockburn & Corong). Lack of access to assets and the inequitable burden of domestic responsibilities need to be addressed and mitigated through policy and institutional reform. Women's level of participation in the West Africa energy sector is undocumented but is said to be relatively low. However, ECREE has set ambitious goals to increase their organizational representation to 50% by 2016 and increase women's participation in their technical programs to 20% (ECREE Business Plan).

Comprehensive baseline data and historical trends on all of the sub-topics addressed (women's roles, the energy sector, leadership in SMEs and laws, policies, and institutions) are lacking on a country-specific and regional basis. Some countries including Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, and Senegal have made greater inroads on conducting gender assessments and integrating gender into policy development. Cote d'Ivoire, in particular, has fallen behind in putting the gender lens to its reemerging economy after the latest round of internal political conflict (Bogetic, 2007).

Randrimaro (2011; 198) notes that a new approach to gender mainstreaming in trade and policy has emerged which goes beyond the traditional 'winners and losers'. It incorporates the social content of trade policies, as well as human development and rights-based approaches. It emphasizes the need for understanding of the interactions between gender inequalities and trade policies, and for a democratization of policy-making. It evaluates trade policies, not in terms of flows of goods and services, but in terms of equity, social inclusion, poverty, human capabilities, human rights, democratic governance, and environmental sustainability (Ibid). The core elements promote gender awareness in trade issues; integration of gender perspectives into all levels of regional and international trade policy development; provisions for gender-disaggregated data for trade analysis; and more visible gender-trade links and roles in value chain and trade analysis.

Strengthening of women's leadership capacities, including decision-making and negotiations, should continue through proven women's focused civil society groups. The most effective level of intervention and support may be on a sub-regional basis. To be more inclusive of working women, efforts in capacity-building of leaders and decision-makers should represent women in agriculture, women-run micro and small enterprises, as well as women in private sector managerial positions and in advocacy professions, such as law. These efforts to strengthen women as leaders in their communities, and on behalf of their productive work, should be inclusive of all women regardless of their economic class (Nanu-Fabu, 2006). Finally, all initiatives need to include women's inputs in policy from program design to implementation in order to enhance gender equality and women's economic empowerment (Randrimaro, 2011).

2. GENDER AND AGRICULTURE IN WEST AFRICA

Agriculture is the mainstay of most developing economies and a vital engine for economic growth and reduction/eradication of extreme poverty and food insecurity (Ibrahim Forum, 2011). It is the profession of choice (or lack thereof) for men and women, particularly the rural poor and a large majority often being women. However, women farmers are 30% less productive than their male counterparts because they have limited access to land, inputs, tools, information, and training. Women also have much less

time to farm because they are constrained by household work (FAO 2011, quoted by Caren Grown, 2012). The West African agricultural sector epitomizes this description.

Gender differentials characteristic of agricultural production in West Africa, like in much of Sub-Saharan Africa, are mostly based on social norms, beliefs, and perceptions that govern women and men's access and control of productive resources and their roles and levels of participation. This is not meant to minimize other more institutional constraints, which are to some extent also influenced by social norms – as most modern statutory laws and regulations in the region tended to be anchored on existing social norms and practices.

This section is organized as follows:

- Sub-section 1 provides a brief overview of gender roles, with an emphasis on women's roles in Agriculture Value Chains (AVCs), bringing out regional patterns, constraints, and opportunities.
- Sub-section 2 discusses lessons learned.
- Sub-section 3 denotes some best practices emerging from the desk review.
- Sub-section 4 highlights some areas for further research.
- Sub-section 5 summarizes the main salient points arising from the desk review.

OVERVIEW

This sub-section looks at regional gender patterns in AVCs, constraint to women's participation and benefits, and some opportunities for promoting gender equality in AVCs in the region.

REGIONAL PATTERNS

West Africa is a very diverse region in terms of climate, agro-ecological zones, and agricultural production potential. It is equally diverse when it comes to the types of agricultural activities, actors and spheres, and scale of activities. One crosscutting feature across the region is that there are substantial distinctions in the roles men and women play in agriculture. These gender differences, which vary over time, country, and region, are for the most part, governed by social norms and practices. Men and women are actively involved in agriculture across the whole value chain from production (planting crops and raising animals), post-harvest transformation, to processing and distribution (household consumption and marketing). Yet, most of activities are divided along fairly gender-distinct lines, as far as resource endowments, production roles and functions, and production choices and output are concerned. Access and control over productive resources as well as agri-business opportunities tend to go predominantly to men. For instance, the control and management of land, the primary agricultural production resource, is generally vested to men while female farmers' access to land is for the most part mediated through male kin – fathers, husbands, siblings' relationships. While men and women's crop and livestock choices vary vastly across the region, in general men tend to go for the more marketable commodities – larger livestock and traditional exports (cotton, cocoa, coffee, tea, rubber, ground nuts) on their individual farms. Women tend to generally raise small ruminants (sheep, goats)⁴ and cultivate the basic staples (maize, sorghum, millet, cowpeas) and vegetables for both household consumption and the market. In much of the Sahel and other parts of the region, every household member is expected to provide labor along gender-distinct lines on the family farm controlled by the male family head, who also controls the harvest for the welfare of the family (cf. Ouoba et al. 2003; Naylor, R. 1999).

Some of these gendered patterns are progressively succumbing to forces of the market, while others have stronger staying power. Access and control of land continues to be vested in men (Davison J., 1988: 4-10; Naylor, R. 1999: 39-48; Fisiy F.G., 2004; Cultural Practice, LLC USAID/Ghana, 2011), and as

⁴ In much of the Sahel, women, particularly the Peulh, who do not usually farm, tend small animals (goats, sheep, and chicken) and process and sell dairy products.

such men and women's fields are fairly distinct – with male-owned fields generally larger and of better agricultural quality (Ouoba et al. 2003; 3D 2006; Coppendstedt et al. 2013). The distinction between men and women's crops is very fluid and at times, it is more in people's minds than in practice. Doss (2001), relates a discussion with a Ghanaian woman who emphatically informed him that yams are men's crops, ending the discussion by inviting him to see her yam farm (Cited Duflou and Udry, 2004:16). The driving force today is the market, where farmers tend to go for what sells rather than just what is socially considered "proper" products for men and women within the agricultural value chain. There are still some struggles to reinvent gender roles, such as the case of male food farmers in Santa, North West Cameroon, who call themselves 'gardeners' to distinguish themselves from women farmers. Like male farmers in much of the West African Region, these male gardeners generally produce more for the market than for household consumption while women, for the most part, combine subsistence and market-oriented production. Due to gender-related constraints men are much more likely to produce on a larger-scale than women (Fisiy, 2004: 206-242). In Niger, cowpeas have historically been considered 'women's crops', but are now grown by men because of their marketability – becoming a new cash crop (3D: 2006:4).

In a few countries in the region women are also involved in traditional cash crop production, on their own account or as wage workers (Ouoba et al. 2003; Fisiy 2004; Gimpa, 2013 - forthcoming). Burkina women are entering into cotton production through more subordinate positions as small-scale organic producers (Gimpa, op. cit.) and Ghanaian women grow cocoa at par with men (Cultural Practice, LLC, 2011). Fisiy (2004) also documents similar trends in Cameroon where there is a growing tendency for a man to pass inheritance of his coffee farm and co-operative membership to his wife/wives, who promoted his coffee business.

FOOD TRADE

Documented evidence confirms that West African women are generally very active in food trade. Many female farmers sell their produce in rural/local markets. Some women serve as bulk buyers and sellers, locally and inter-regionally. This is the case for some Ghanaian women who may not be directly involved in the production of a commodity, but benefit enormously from buying, bulking, trucking, and transporting the product to distant local, inter-regional, or export markets (dTS 2012:81).

IRRIGATION

The vast majority of rural farmers in West African depend on rain-fed farming, which makes them very vulnerable to the effects of climate change that are becoming increasingly rampant in parts of the Sahel. Irrigation is not well developed in the region. In the few documents that explicitly mention the existence of irrigation schemes (Cote d'Ivoire and Niger), the data provided was either silent on the involvement of men and women, or gender neutral/insensitive.⁵ For instance, in Cote d'Ivoire where some 361 hydro-agricultural dams are reported to have been constructed for irrigation of crops (Government of Cote d'Ivoire 2009:37), there is no clear indication of involvement therein, different experiences and/or benefits by male and female farmers. This is similarly the case with the pilot irrigation scheme in Niger, the Pilot Private Irrigation Project (PIIP), which has been (reportedly) highly successful. Reference is made to poor farmers, small-scale irrigators and pastoralists as if they were homogeneous and non-gender differentiated groups. How men and women participated and/or benefitted in similar or different ways; and how their involvement influenced or was influenced by pre-existing gender dynamics is not evident, making it difficult to gauge the impact and/or learn any gender-related lessons from this project.

⁵ The IMF Country Report No. 08/149, 2008: *Niger Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)* and the IEG, World Bank Performance Assessment Report NO. 44366 of 2008 exemplify such gender neutrality and insensitivity.

MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT AND BENEFITS

The desk review brought to light a number of binding constraints to West African women's participation and benefits from AVCs, vis-a-vis men, similar to those amongst women in other parts of African and the developing world at large.⁶ These limitations include: (a) access and control over land; (b) access to credit; (c) access to yield enhancing technologies (inputs, tools) and information; and (d) labor/time constraints. Some of these constraints cut across all countries in the region and others are specific to certain countries. The following sections discuss these constraints briefly with specific examples from four countries – Niger, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, and Cameroon - and provide some lessons learned and best practices emerging from the literature.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC GENDER ISSUES

ACCESS AND CONTROL OF LAND

The literature has suggested that in many West African countries, including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire⁷, and Niger, for the most part women farmers only have minimal land use rights. This is also the case within the few matrilineal systems where one would expect women to have a stronger hold in land matters (Davison J., 1988 (4-10); Naylor, R. 1999 (39-48); Fisiy F.G., 2004; Cultural Practice, LLC, 2011). Women's right to own land is limited despite the fact that these countries have land regulations that explicitly uphold people's equality before the law and the freedom to own (buy, inherit, lease) and sell land. The main challenge is that contemporary land laws are anchored to other pre-existing laws (customary, religious), and do not completely replace these laws, but either co-exist with or co-opt them, resulting in confusing and often contradictory pluralistic legal systems.⁸ This situation often gives socially sanctioned land owner/guardians (men and others in power) the basis on which to interpret the law to their own advantage – consolidating power over land and women; eliminating any incentive a woman may have to invest in land management for increased output. This affects not only a woman's individual yield, but also household food security. In a country like Niger, household food security is exacerbated by the challenges of climate change. With only 15% of arable land, Nigerien female farmers' marginal pieces of land are increasingly threatened by desertification and low productivity is the norm (3D 2006:4).⁹

A noteworthy exception is Ghana, which has conflicting statistics. Some studies put Ghana among very few "countries in which female-headed households are more likely to own land than their male counterparts" (Croppenstedt et al. 2013:6), others (Cultural Practice, LLC, USAID/Ghana gender assessment, 2011) find women having more limited access to land than men, similar to the rest of the region.

ACCESS TO CREDIT

Credit markets are generally not gender-neutral – rather they are invested with gender constraints – collateral (most often land or landed property), high interest rates, and complicated application procedures that require more than basic literacy – all of which are beyond the reach of a majority of women farmers in much of Western Africa. Again, Ghana has conflicting findings with some studies finding no gender gap in the use of credit by Ghanaian male and female headed households (FAO,

⁶ See also Croppenstedt et al. 2013.

⁷ The literature on Cote d'Ivoire was not specific enough on the legal framework but was clear on the fact that women's access to land depended on their relation to men.

⁸ Land tenure systems governed by more than one legal framework, written or unwritten. In this case the customary laws (unwritten, governed by social norms and traditions of a people) and the modern tenure systems, which are enacted policies with set rules and regulations.

⁹ The more fertile larger tracks of land are reserved for male controlled cash crops.

2011:33); while Cultural Practice, LLC, USAID/Ghana gender assessment (2011), again finds Ghana amongst the rest of the region with collateral as a gendered constraint to access to credit.¹⁰

Issues of credit access within countries around the region include ignorance, lack of collateral, high interest rates, and ill-timed disbursement of loans, to preference for other non-formalized loan avenues. In the case of Niger, many rural female farmers in Niger may be fairly ignorant about the need and use of agricultural credits (OCSD: 2004) or have only recently been introduced to the idea through projects like the USAID Niger Food Security Project. In Burkina Faso, issues of credit access for female farmers are connected to the loan guarantees required by commercial banks, interest rates charged by micro-finance institutions, and inappropriate loan disbursement schedules for their farming calendars. Alternative credit sources like the *tontines* (thrift and loans groups) seem very popular among female entrepreneurs in Niger,¹¹ among rural farmers, particularly women in Cameroon, and poor farmers in Cote d'Ivoire (Fisiy, 2004:287-288; Government of Cote d'Ivoire's 2009, Development Re-launch Strategy Paper).

In Nigeria, the lack of knowledge/understanding of agricultural lending was noted in the case of the USAID/Nigeria MARKETS,¹² a program with an otherwise very useful/innovative approach to linking rural farmers to credit. MARKETS trained farmers and linked them to formal credit, inputs and guaranteed markets, through an innovative approach in which: identified farmers were networked to a commodity buyer (processor) who also provided them in-kind loans (inputs) payable after harvest and produce sales; and/or facilitated their access to loans from commercial banks by serving as loan guarantor. Farmers have hailed the in-kind loans and credited them with easing their adoption of new technologies, which promoted their gains in high yields and income. Yet they were very dissatisfied with bank loans because they were generally late and inadequate - the banks did not understand their business, they concluded (USAID MARKETS Evaluation, September 2012). The issue of poorly timed disbursements also suggests a lack of knowledge and/or understanding of the agricultural calendars on the part of financial institutions.

ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES

Limited access to credit reduces women's access to yield enhancing inputs, modern farming tools, and innovative technologies across much of the West Africa region. In Burkina Faso, where credit opportunities exist, the use of inputs like fertilizers and pesticides is still largely a male preserve.¹³ The USAID/Ghana 2011 Gender Assessment, points out that extension systems, whether public or private, have not developed content appropriate to women's needs or promoted delivery of advisory services to women. In Niger, Cameroon, and Cote d'Ivoire, the literature indicates that there are gender gaps in both agricultural research and development (R&D) and agricultural training, whose main target is export crops.¹⁴ The organization of extension services often fails to take into consideration women's busy schedules and mobility constraints. These factors, coupled with women's lower literacy rates and their focus on food staples, limits their access to and use of agricultural innovations (3D, 2006:3; Goldstein & Udry, 2008; FAO 2011; Croppenstedt et al. 2013). Randriamaro (2011:193-194) points out that the preference accorded to cash crops over food crops by government policies is in itself, discriminatory

¹⁰ In this particular case, the two studies were carried out in the same year, the one with no gender gap in access to credit (FAO 2011) coming almost a year earlier than the other.

¹¹ http://www.wikigender.org/index.php/Gender_Equality_in_Niger#cite_ref-8.

¹² USAID's Maximizing Agricultural Revenue and Key Enterprises in Targeted Sites (MARKETS) is a five-year multi-component program designed to strengthen agricultural competitiveness and food security in Nigeria, implemented in 31 states between 2005 and 2012.

¹³ It turns out that there is a perception among women (perhaps also men) that the use of such inputs is bad for women's health. This is one of the main reasons for women's preference of organic cotton production. – Personal field communication.

¹⁴ See Fisiy, 2004; 3D, 2006 & Government of Cote d'Ivoire's 2009, Development Re-launch Strategy Paper.

against women who do not benefit from government support. These women, for the most part, derive little direct benefit from the cash crops, owned mainly by men, despite the fact that they often assist men with their cash crop activities.

Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) and liberalization in the 1980s and 1990s only aggravated the situation for rural women. SAPs prescribed disengagement of the state in favor of market forces. In the agricultural sector, this led to the end of much of the state's support to farmers, including input subsidies. While liberalization in some cases created women friendly structures, like Common Initiative Groups (CIGs) in Cameroon, the removal of subsidies on which the traditional agricultural exports thrived, meant that food crops and women's crops (in most cases) never got the boost subsidies provided to export crops. Consequently, female farmer's income and household food security suffered significant declines (Randriamaro, 2011).

Chronic cases of feminized food insecurity are growing in the region, particularly in the Sahel. Niger suffers from yearly food insecurities due to both natural and man-made disasters— volatile climate change, often exasperated by other acts of nature; and the government's exclusion of women and domestic food production from agriculture development policies. The challenges posed to the production of food staples affect women and household food needs disproportionately. As commercial farmers with much larger and high quality pieces of land, men produce primarily for the market. However women as subsistence farmers, who are also responsible for household food needs, use marginal pieces of land that are becoming increasingly threatened by the encroaching desert. According to 3D (2006), food produced lasts just three months beyond the harvest and women (typically) have no incomes to fill this gap. Men have also reportedly hoarded food (including food aid) during such periods while their women and children starve (ibid:5).

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Due to the persistent gender-division of labor, women across the region have to manage numerous daily activities, such as domestic chores, childcare, and care of the sick and elderly. Additionally, women also engage in agricultural activities that they have to complete for themselves or others, which can contribute to time as a scarce resource.

With the exception of Cote d'Ivoire, where male and female household members are reported as having a mutual exchange of labor on individual farms (Duflo & Udry, 2004),¹⁵ women generally having less access to household labor than men. Within households, norms, age, and gender juxtapose to constrain women's access to household labor. In Burkina Faso and Mali, women must supply labor on the communal family farm controlled by men and are also expected to assist on their husbands' farm, leaving little time for their own personal farms. In North East Ghana only senior women or those in large households have considerable access to household labor (Whithead, 1996). In North West Cameroon, women farmers are required to put in extra effort in order to produce enough food for both household consumption and the market; requiring them to complete food production and household responsibilities concurrently (Fisiy 2004). Women farmers also lack capital for hired labor and have less access to laborsaving technologies (Coppenstedt et al. 2013). The solution to these heavy burdens may include exploring strategies to

"Time remains a very scarce resource for women [in Burkina Faso]. They have no time for themselves ... they carry out several activities simultaneously" Ouoba et al. 2003.

"Time poverty is a major factor to the feminization of poverty" Knabe & Nkoyok, 2006.

"The tasks carried out by [Nigerien] women are heavy, particularly in the rural areas where women have between 14 and 18 hours of work per day" ADF, 2004.

¹⁵ The reciprocity scarcely extends to domestic chores, which are seen as typically women's work.

introduce more laborsaving technologies, particularly those that target women's time consuming domestic chores.

ENTRY POINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

While there are several constraints to women's participation and benefits from agriculture production, there are also entry points and opportunities for the promotion of gender equality in agriculture in West Africa. The following are some thoughts inspired by and/or emerging from the desk review.

1. **Enabling Environment – Policy.** The desk review has suggested that some West African governments – Niger and Burkina Faso – have shown political will and commitment through repeated endeavors to reform agriculture and land policies, making them more inclusive and gender friendly. Despite persistent challenges, these efforts exhibit the governments' desire to change the long-standing gender inequalities, towards more sustainable and equitable development.
2. **The growing potential of regional and international market linkages catalyzed by ECOWAS and the trade hub activities presents immense opportunities for agricultural trade, incomes, jobs, and poverty reduction particularly if women are provided equal access to these opportunities.**
3. **Access to Credit - role of *tontines*.** Whereas it is likely that women's preference for alternative credit sources like the *tontines* is also due to their lack of information and collateral, *tontines* provide an entry point for developing farmer-friendly rural financial services. This could be done through exploring ways to support and promote the development of these *tontines* into more formal (micro) financial institutions, linked to other more established institutions (MFIs or credit unions) where possible. In Cameroon, for instance, many rural branches of the Cameroon Cooperative Credit Union League (CAMCUL) began as thrift and loans groups, laying the foundation for the self-help through mutual help and co-operation, exhibited by co-operative credit unions. Access to credit would also facilitate access to other production assets and inputs.
4. **Women's local knowledge as untapped potential for resilience.** Women farmers in the fragile ecosystems of the Sahel are still 'hanging in there' despite the immense challenges and threats to their livelihoods. This seems to suggest that they may have developed adaptation strategies that promote their resiliency to the challenges of climate change and the gender division of labor in agriculture. These women farmers may be at the heart of significant untapped potential to mitigate or cope with the growing threats to the resource base and tapping their knowledge and their coping strategies could revamp agricultural growth in West Africa. Harnessing this knowledge before it disappears under the growing threats of climate change is an urgent necessity. This will require future research, human and social capital and engagement with female knowledge guardians. Engaging them is empowering and transformative, and could facilitate community buy-in and encourage more open sharing beyond their households and communities.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

EXPORT/CASH CROPS VERSUS FOOD CROPS AND FOOD SECURITY

Factors surrounding food insecurity in Niger could become problematic as a result of far reaching negative externalities by seemingly well-intended commercial agriculture promotion programs. The Nigerien government has persistently promoted export/cash crops at the expense of domestic food crop production, and this is in part responsible for the persistently low yields of food stable and the chronic food insecurity in the country. This suggests that in some cases commercial agriculture and food security could be mutually exclusive. Since USAID/West Africa's Feed the Future goals include

promotion of commercial agriculture, exports, and food security. Considering unintended outcomes at program design through selective impact assessments on a case-by-case basis, might help expose such challenges and lead to better-tailored context-specific programs.

For instance, while Ghana may be ripe for emphasis on export promotion, the focus in Niger may well be on re-focusing agricultural development interventions on domestic food production and empowering the traditional actors – women and men, based on their needs, experiences, and constraints.

The Best Practices identified for promoting gender equality in agriculture are mainly bilateral and multi-country projects that target women's inter-related time and technology constraints. The first three of these are promising practices identified by Cultural Practice, LLC, 2011 (27-28) and the fourth is from the recent Gimpa (2013) Gender Analysis for Cotton Project in West Africa.

1. *Park 2010, KITE 2010, UNDP 2007: Tamale, Northern Ghana*: This is women-governed project that provides diesel-powered engines to power appliances, including grain mills. It is credited with helping women increase their incomes by freeing up time from food processing and travel for food processing that can be more profitably applied to agriculture and other business efforts.
2. *Expanding women's control over technologies*: This is a Multi-Functional Platform (MFP) Project, which responds to the extreme labor burden on women and provides technology to mechanize domestic tasks such as milling maize and other grains. Implemented in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal, this program is said to have freed up two to four hours of women's time every day. MFPs are creating the conditions for both men and women to benefit from the technology, particularly in ways that support women's access and control over technology.
3. *Enhancing Child Nutrition through Animal Source Food Management (ENAM)*: This is a Global Livestock Collaborative Research Project, which linked microcredit, business development skills, and nutrition education. This program worked with mothers of young children, providing both nutrition education and credit to help them start or expand income generation activities. Also promoted useful partnership, and resulted in the development of adapted nutrition extension courses designed and implemented by University of Ghana staff.
4. *USAID/West Africa: West Africa Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP)*: WACIP is implemented in C-4 countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali since 2006. Recent gender assessment has confirmed its sustainability. The rotational crop concept is a great idea – rotation enhances productivity of both the rotation crop (maize, cowpea, soy and groundnuts) and cotton and could be useful in enhancing food security. Training and demonstration provide good technical skills to both men and women that can be employed elsewhere on their other farming activities.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Despite enormous efforts made to enhance the policy environment through more inclusive gender sensitive regulations, access to land has remained a major constraint for greater female participation in agriculture across the region. Hence, policy is a necessary but not sufficient condition for gender equality in agriculture land issues. There is a need for further research into alternative strategies that would enhance women's access to land.
2. In few countries – Ghana, in particular, some gender constraints (access to credit and to an extent access to land) is on the decline. What is Ghana doing differently? Are there lessons for the region?
3. Agency and Resiliency: Across the region women farmers are doing their best often under difficult conditions to safeguard their livelihoods and provide for their families. This is an opportunity. Women farmers in the Sahel continue to hang in there despite enormous natural

and gender related constraints. The question is, do they harbor an untapped potential for resiliency that could make a difference to the region's agricultural performance and food security?

SUMMARY

In this section on gender and agriculture in West Africa women's roles in AVCs, constraints and opportunities were reviewed and opportunities and best practices for promoting gender equality in agriculture were identified.

This assessment has illustrated that while men and women are active participants within the AVCs across all countries in the West Africa region, their levels and extent (scale) of participation can vary from one country and community to another. One crosscutting feature is the fact that participation is characterized by gender-based inequalities, which tend to provide more constraints for women than men, limiting their full participation and benefit. The main gender-based constraints for women farmers that cut across the region as mirrored through four focused countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and Niger) are: (a) access and control over land; (b) access to credit; (c) access to yield enhancing technologies and services; and (d) labor/time constraints. The limitations arising from these constraints are a problem, not only for women farmers; their families, households, and food security; they are also a problem for the individual countries and region as a whole – limiting the realization of full agriculture potential.

3. GENDER AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resources are the primary source of livelihood and socio-economic development for majority of the population in West African countries. Natural resources in West Africa include land and agricultural products, solid minerals, oil, water and water resources, and livestock (Alao, 2011). The management of these resources is critical for their sustained use, both for present and future populations. Women and men have different gender-based roles, responsibilities, and knowledge of natural resources.

Understanding gender issues in natural resource management plays an important role in developing solutions for the more sustainable use of these resources. Available documents including assessments, evaluations, reports of programs, and relevant articles were reviewed to identify crosscutting gender issues in natural resource management in West Africa. Gender issues identified from the desk review have been discussed under three broad sub-headings related to access and control, participation, and policy. Country specific examples in the management of land, water, and forest resources are also used for illustration.

OVERVIEW

A desk review showed a general pattern of gender-based disparities related to access to and control over natural resources in most West African countries (Muntemba 1989, IIED 1999, FAO 2009, IFAD/World Bank 2009, Monimart 2011). Customary systems have more often than not defined the operational rules governing control over resources. In land access for instance, with few exceptions among the Akans in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and among some Yoruba groups in Nigeria where women due to matrilineal systems of inheritance enjoy significant access, women generally in have limited access and control to land. Women's user rights have often depended on their social or marital status, and these rights are often lost when they become widowed or divorced (Monimart & Tan, 2011, Freudenberg, 2000). Insecure land tenure reduces incentives to make improvements in farming practices necessary to cope with environmental degradation. Without secure land rights women and men farmers have little or no access to credit to make investments for the improvement of natural resource management or conservation practices (IFAD/World Bank 2009).

GENDER AND PARTICIPATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Documentation on women's participation in natural resource management is limited. For some West African countries, it was difficult to find documented evidence of women's participation in the management of natural resources. However, limited evidence available indicates existing gender relations in most societies influence how men and women use existing natural resources. Men play a greater role than women in the exploitation of natural resources for commercial purposes, whilst women focus on domestic uses. Women and men have different interest and motivations to conserve, protect, or manage natural resources because of gender roles. A study conducted in the Bamana region in Mali found that the introduction of exotic vegetables for market production resulted in men taking over women's traditional vegetable gardens to establish commercial enterprises. Women's exclusion from the garden showed a reduction of local plant diversity and overall environmental stability (Wooten 2003, cited in IFAD/World Bank, 2009).

Women's participation in natural resource management is constrained by high rates of illiteracy and heavy domestic workloads. This is supported by case studies amongst farmers from Senegal and some communities in Northern Ghana (IFPRI, 2010). Men tend to also dominate in the newly emerging decision-making and policy arenas of climate change and bioenergy. Women's limited participation in decision-making processes at both the local and national-levels restricts their capacity to influence decisions that can impact their needs.

GENDER AND POLICY IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Most governments in West Africa have enacted national policies and signed onto regional and global conventions that recognize women role and contribution to natural resource management. In Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali, decentralization of responsibilities has not been accompanied by the transfer of powers and resources to local governments. Regulation and procedures in Natural Resource Management (NRM) are often complicated, hence inaccessible to women in some countries. In the case of Cameroon and Burkina Faso, where although women have legal rights to land, property is still controlled by men often because women are not aware of their land rights (Population Reference Bureau, 2001).

Policies, guidelines, and regulations in NRM should be understandable and accessible to local people and organizations. Women groups should be encouraged to integrate women into political processes, so they can take full part in policy decisions affecting their lives in all sectors, including the management of natural resource.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC GENDER ISSUES

NIGER

Niger is a landlocked country with limited natural resources. Access to natural resources is governed by three overlapping systems of customary, religious, and statutory law. The system of legal plurality allows those with power and influence to manipulate their way to secure their interest often to the detriment of the less informed and less powerful (Monimart and Tan, 2011). Women have a subordinate role in society and this is reflected in their access to resources. Traditionally, women's access to land and other natural resources is dependent on their marital status. Married women have more access to land and other natural resources than single or divorced women. The demands of privatization have also resulted in women competitively losing out on productive resources because older men often privatize family property.

Niger's natural resource sector is beset with conflicting and outdated regulations with multiple ministries and departments having overlapping and conflicting roles and responsibilities further complicated by insufficient mechanisms for participatory decision-making (Maercklein, 2008). This situation presents limited opportunities for women's participation in the sector.

Women in Niger are constrained by a generally low level of awareness and knowledge of modern sustainable practices in the management of natural resources. Literacy among women is 15.1% (BTI, 2012). The country was at the bottom of the Human Development Index (HDI) ranking in 2007 and has maintained this position for years (BTI, 2012).

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso has scarce natural resources. Customarily, women do not have direct access to land except for indirect right of access through their husbands or male kin. Women's social status is limited to their family role and they are therefore underrepresented in key decision-making activities in all sectors, including the management of natural resources. Burkina Faso's new Land Tenure Law adopted in 2009 aims at improving access to land by all and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources. The new law enables local communities to develop local land charters based on custom and land use through a participatory process. The land charters contain rules governing land ownership and management, as well as conserving shared natural resources. Having these laws in place however does not guarantee women's access to these resources. For example, studies in Burkina Faso and Cameroon show that despite women's legal right to own land men still control nearly all property (Population Reference Bureau, 2001), which is why it is important to go beyond enacting laws, in order to empower women and support their right to natural resources.

Water, agriculture, and forests have been identified as the most vulnerable sectors affected by climate change in the country. The impact of climate change is the same for both men and women. However, men have more access to assets and resources that can mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Climate change adaptation practices in Burkina Faso, such as reforestation and water and soil-conservation techniques, have been provided to men more than women (Romero et al, 2011). In some regions in Burkina Faso and Niger, deforestation has led to the virtual disappearance of natural forests and women can no longer rely on natural forests for firewood. They now depend almost entirely on the trees they grow on the land cultivated by their families (Floris & Nederlof, 2010).

COTE D'IVOIRE

Cote d'Ivoire's diverse natural resources include minerals, natural gas, and agricultural products. Women play an active role in the natural resource sector, providing 90% of the labor force in agricultural food production (Cote d' Ivoire, 2012). Women produce mainly food crops such as rice, yam, cassava, plantain, maize, and vegetables, whilst men produce cash crops. A study in Côte d'Ivoire found that while women work both inside and outside the home, men work almost exclusively outside the home. Women's responsibilities include housekeeping, cooking, and fetching water and wood. In addition to this, both men and women work in agriculture to sustain food production for household income (Population Reference Bureau, 2001). Women spend most part of their day fetching water as 85.9% of women in Côte d'Ivoire are in charge of supplying their family with water (UNICEF, 2009).

Under the country's civil code, women and men have equal land ownership rights but in practice, under customary law, land cannot be registered to a woman.

Participation, particularly by women, in the decision-making process in civil society is low. Civil society groups' face organizational and credibility challenges that hinder the performance of their role as intermediaries between rulers and the overall population (Cote d'Ivoire, 2012).

CAMEROON

Cameroon is endowed with a wide variety of natural resources, climates, and biological diversity. The country is generally referred to as "Africa in miniature" because of its diversity in terms of ecology, farming systems, and human cultures (Amungwa, 2011).

Cameroon has two different legal systems operating in different parts of the country; French-oriented civil law operates in eight eastern provinces and English common law in the remaining two western provinces. The legal system recognizes customary law, with Islamic law incorporated in Muslim regions primarily in the north. Women in Cameroon generally have insecure rights of access to land and other resources.

Cameroon scored below average and ranked 112 out of 132 countries in the 2012 Environmental Performance Index. Cameroon and Nigeria performed the least among the West African countries ranked as indicated in Table 4. This in a way indicates the little attention given to environment and natural resource related issues.

Cameroon has almost 45% forest coverage (see Table 5). The country lost 18.1% of its forest cover due to deforestation from 1990–2010. Deforestation has since been a major contributing factor to climate change in Cameroon accounting for 25% - 30% of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere each year (FAO, 2006, 2010, cited in Geosas).

Table 4. Environmental Performance Index 2012 for Selected West Africa Countries

Country	Score	Rank
Nigeria	40.1	119
Ghana	47.5	91
Togo	48.7	85
Benin	50.4	80
Ivory Coast	53.5	67
Senegal	46.7	98
Cameroon	43	112
Gabon	57.9	40

* Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, 2012

The government of Cameroon is now implementing new policies that integrate all sectors of the populations in the process of managing natural resources. This policy acknowledges the important role of women and considers them a privileged target group in conservation strategies. The state as well as other development organizations has encouraged the establishment of Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) that involve women in environmental protection.

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone hosts an impressive variety of biodiversity and landscapes. Sierra Leone’s ecosystem is listed on the World Wildlife Fund’s (WWF’s) Global 200 list of critical regions for conservation and is designated as one of Conservation International’s 34 global biodiversity hotspots (Brown & Crawford, 2012). Sierra Leone’s landscape provides several opportunities for both men and women to engage with natural resources. Male and female engagements in the country’s natural resource sector are gender differentiated. For example in 2006, Statistics Sierra Leone found gender differences in agricultural activities with women dominating in the crop and poultry sub-sectors while men dominated livestock, hunting, forestry, and fishery sub-sectors (ADB, 2011). According to Statistics Sierra Leone, women’s dominance in the forestry sector was under-captured considering their role as gatherers of fuel wood, fruits, vegetables, nuts, and herbs from forests. This under representation could have negative implications for women in terms of policy. For example, under the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) program, women issues have been

ignored and misleading evidence could be used to support why women have not been given adequate attention in the area of forestry.

Sierra Leone has serious environmental challenges including land and forest degradation, inadequate water and sanitation facilities, loss of bio-diversity, pollution of fresh water resources, and coastal area degradation. The country has lost 85% of its natural rainforests due to the influence of various drivers of deforestation such as illegal logging, legal logging for export, expansion for resettlement, agriculture, and wild fires; all of which have contributed to Sierra Leone's high deforestation rate of 1.6% in the region (GoSL/UNDP, 2007 & ADB, 2011).

The government has embarked on reforms including Participatory Forest Management (PFM) in all forested districts or communities as part of the REDD program. Strategies will need to be developed to ensure the proper integration of women into these reforms.

GAMBIA

Gambia depends heavily on natural resources for survival and socio-economic development. Both customary and formal legal structures co-exist and interact with Islamic laws, while influencing the rules governing resource management especially at the local-level. Women in Gambia are secondary right owners; their right to ownership is not definitive and is determined by their marital status. Their right to land use is derived from either their male kin, with secondary rights owners usually having restrictive access (Freudenberger, 2000). The country is one of the few West African countries that exceeded the 40% target indicator under MDG7, Ensure Environmental Sustainability (see Table 5).

Table 5. Forest Area Cover in West Africa

Country	Forested Area (km ²)	Land area (%)
Gabon	227,517	85.00%
Cameroon	212,450	44.68%
Mali	125,720	10.14%
Chad	119,210	9.28%
Niger	112,000	8.00%
Nigeria	110,890	12.00%
Senegal	86,730	44.09%
Guinea	67,240	27.35%
Benin	61,860	54.93%
Liberia	31,540	28.32%
Côte d'Ivoire	30,000	9.30%
Sierra Leone	27,540	38.39%
Ghana	24,600	10.20%
Guinea-Bissau	20,720	57.36%
Equatorial Guinea	16,320	58.18%
Togo	8,000	14.00%
Gambia	4,857	43.00%

* World Fact Book, 2011

The government's decentralization program crosscuts across all sectors and recognizes the need for community participation. This has offered an opportunity for the active participation of women in

various sectors of NRM. For example women have participated actively in the harvesting of forest products especially the collection of fuel wood and charcoal, but not in industrial wood processing or woodcarving.

The Country's National Water Resources Policy 2006 takes into account the crucial role of women and the need for a participatory approach in its management and provision, as well as the coordinated development of water, land, and related resources for maximum, equitable, and sustainable socio-economic welfare.

There is an increase in the recognition of women through statutory laws and policies. Although this recognition has the potential to increase women's participation, awareness creation and sensitization will be required to ensure the effective implementation of these laws at the local-level.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

- Community-Managed Wells in Mali show how an initiative can fail if women are not involved in planning. The Macina Wells project in Mali failed to incorporate an understanding of gender roles and inequalities in project planning. Management of the wells was handed over to (male) community leaders without consulting women in the planning of the new resource or its continued management. Women were allocated cleaning tasks. The systems and equipment set up were impractical for women, though they were the ones primarily responsible for collecting water from the well. As a result, at peak times, women dismantled the equipment and went back to their old ways of collecting water. Moreover, the men who were involved as caretakers failed to adequately fulfill their roles since water and sanitation was seen as women's domain (SDC, 2005).
- Good consultation processes resulted in integrated and effective natural resource management. In Nigeria, the construction of a tourist resort on the Obudu Plateau led to deforestation and exacerbated preexisting pressures on water resources and the environment, such as overgrazing. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) started a Watershed Management Project on the Plateau in 1999, and encouraged women to get involved in the project's decision-making process. Women leaders were elected on the management committee and became involved in the construction and maintenance of a water reservoir. The reduced time spent collecting water allowed women more time for generating income through farming and marketing. A conflict between the Becheve women and the Fulani tribesmen over access to water was resolved through negotiation, and the women were ensured timely access to water (GWTF, 2005).
- A study by the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) of community water and sanitation projects in 88 communities in 15 countries found that projects designed and run with the full participation of women are more sustainable and effective than those that do not. This supports an earlier World Bank study that found that women's participation was strongly associated with water and sanitation project effectiveness (GWTF, 2005)

SUMMARY

The issues and evidence from this desk review indicate a similar pattern across most West African countries. Access, control, and the use of natural resources are gender differentiated. Women generally have limited access and control over natural resources and this has influenced the way in which they use these resources. Evidence drawn from various countries has suggested that sustainable resource management cannot be possible without the active role of women. There is a need to go beyond mere rhetoric to practically deal with the gender issues in national resource management. Citizen action groups can also be supported to serve as pressure groups on governments to remain committed. Further research will be needed to investigate most of the assumptions and generalizations on the roles

of men and women in resource management to provide evidence for better and effective programming in natural resource management.

4. GENDER AND HEALTH ISSUES IN WEST AFRICA

This section presents the general picture of gender and health issues within West Africa. It also provides an overview of women and men’s access to reproductive health care services in the sub-region, and discusses the major gender issues and constraints related to health seeking behaviors in West Africa. This section will offer insights into country-specific gender issues that are related to family planning and HIV/AIDS (as well as prevalence rates for the selected countries identified in this assessment), and highlights lessons learned and promising approaches that can be adopted and applied regionally for achieving better results in Family Planning service and HIV/AIDS prevention. The section also provides the context for rethinking programming opportunities that would address issues of gender inequalities within the West African health sector.

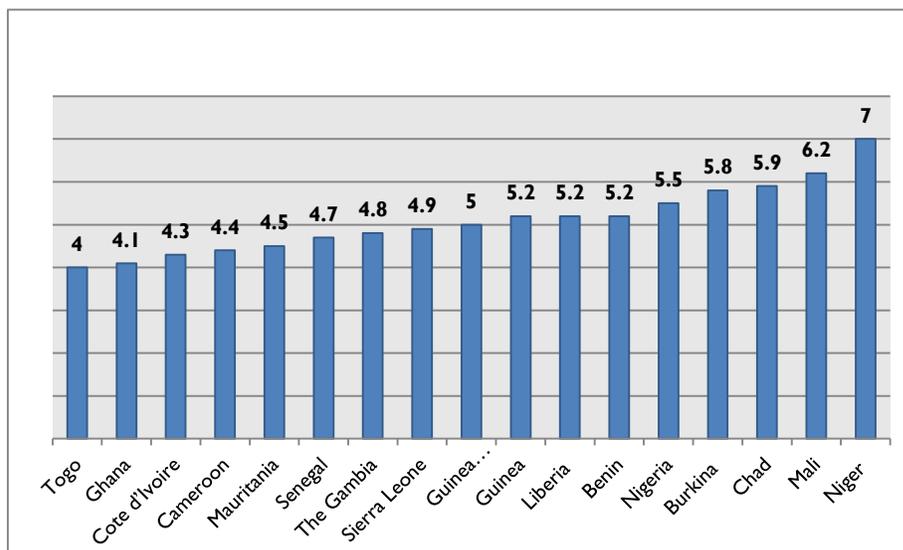
OVERVIEW

Generally, women in this sub-region face particular disadvantages in accessing health care as a consequence of lower levels of education, limited decision-making, and lack of access to and control over family resources. Women’s dual reproductive roles and work responsibilities place themselves and their children at greater risk of poor health outcomes. Several studies have concluded that a woman’s decision to access family planning services and seek treatment may be influenced by existing socio-cultural norms, including her position in the household, economic status, age, and education (Akinlo, A. et.al (2013); DFID/UKAid, 2012). It is believed that women who have higher education are more likely to seek antenatal care and give birth in a health facility as opposed to uneducated women (DFID/UKAid, 2012).

GENDER AND FAMILY PLANNING IN WEST AFRICA

Although family planning services in West Africa date back to the 1960s, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to record the highest fertility rates in the world, averaging 5.5 births per woman a year. The figure below shows 2011 total fertility trends in West Africa.

Figure 1: Total Fertility Rates in West Africa – World Bank 2011



*World Bank: www.data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN

In spite of high mortality rates in many of the countries, the region's population (836 million in mid-2009) is projected to increase to 1.2 billion by 2025 and to 1.75 billion by 2050, slightly more than double today's number. A major factor in the rapid population growth is low use of modern contraception. Only 17% of married women in Sub-Saharan Africa use modern family planning methods as compared to 60% in Asia and 70% in Western Europe (USAID, 2010).

Despite the essential role family planning plays in reproductive health of both men and women, there is still a wide gap of unmet family planning needs in West Africa at an average 25% for the West African sub-region. For Ghana, Senegal, and Togo it is over 30%. In six other countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Mali the reported unmet need is 20-30%. In Niger and Nigeria the need is 16% and 20% respectively. The unmet need for family planning is related to availability, accessibility, and/or quality of services according (Sai, 2005). See Table 6 for statistics on unmet family planning needs in West Africa.

Table 6. 2012 Percentage of Currently Married Women with Unmet Need for Family Planning

Country	Survey Source	Percent
Benin	2006 DHS	27.3
Burkina Faso	2010 DHS	24.5
Cote d'Ivoire	1998-99 DHS	28.9
Ghana	2008 DHS	35.7
Guinea	2005 DHS	21.9
Liberia	2007 DHS	35.7
Mali	2006 DHS	27.6
Mauritania	2000-01 DHS	32.1
Niger	2006 DHS	16.1
Nigeria	2008 DHS	20.2
Senegal	2010-11 DHS	30.1
Sierra Leone	2008 DHS	28.4
Togo	1998 DHS	35.0

* ICF International, 2012. MEASURE Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) STATcompiler - <http://www.statcompiler.com> - June 27 2013.

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS IN WEST AFRICA

AIDS remains a major health priority and development problem in the region. Heterogeneous HIV epidemics exist both within and between the 15 countries in West Africa. Sexual transmission accounts for the largest portion of HIV transmission. Despite the considerable progress made in the prevention of new HIV infections and reduction of the number of annual AIDS-related deaths, a relatively high number of new HIV infections continue to be registered (ECOWAS 2011). Sub-Saharan Africa is the region most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic with 71% of people infected with HIV, including nearly 5 million people in West and Central Africa, according to the 2009 UNAIDS Report.

The boundaries in sexual relationships are dominated by men in many of the countries in West Africa, meaning that women cannot always practice safe sex even when they know the risks involved because they are unable to negotiate condom use. In Sub-Saharan Africa, most countries have seen an increase in condom use in recent years. Even when condoms are available, there are still a number of social, cultural, and practical factors that may prevent people from using them. Evidence from some countries such as Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and Rwanda indicates that the provision of Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing (VCT) is an important part of any national prevention program.

Despite many of the reasons for incorporating gender issues in health policies and programs obstacles remain, including the lack of gender data in health, attention to gender in the training of health

professionals, and the lack of awareness and sensitivity to gender concerns and disparities in the biomedical community. Gender-disaggregated data on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in West Africa is weak and varies considerably in quality from country to country.

Against this backdrop there is one policy document that provides the context for gender and health programming in the sub-region – the African Union (AU) Gender Policy. This document is not only informed by several international laws, but provides a framework for the Africa Region’s commitment to social economic development, which takes into account the diversity in social, cultural, and traditional settings; making an effort to address cultures and practices which militate against the enjoyment of freedom and rights by women and girls. Commitments to the AU Gender Policy serve as the basis for the elimination of barriers to gender equality on the continent. It also guides gender equality actions for the continent in implementing other global commitments on gender including MDG 3 targets.

MAJOR REGIONAL GENDER ISSUES

Fertility remains high and contraceptive use is low due to women’s limited decision-making power. In many of the countries in the sub-region, the different social roles, work, and household obligations of women and men often prevent them from seeking health care services during hours when health care centers or clinics are open for business. Within the region, when it comes to women making choices and decisions about their own reproductive issues, the onus lies on men to make those decisions that affect women’s health directly. The constraining factors associated with the lack of power for women to make reproductive health decisions has been identified as one of the major reasons why health initiatives have not been successful; they fail to target men in reproductive health interventions, which invariably, tends to weaken the impact of reproductive health care programs (Mbizvo, M. T and Assett, M. T, 1996).

There is sufficient evidence in most of the countries in the sub-region to suggest that the decision by women to obtain healthcare at a clinic or hospital is mostly defined in Africa by the social construction of the different gender roles. Across the sub-region, men make decisions that affect women’s health directly, because they are the ones with the income to pay for medicine and services. Decisions by women to seek reproductive health care service and/or to practice any form of contraceptive use are often made by their husbands or partners. Consequently, women’s limited decision-making power, and lack of access to and control over family resources, negatively affects their use of contraception and full participation in health initiatives and programming.

Women in West Africa also face disadvantages in accessing health care as a consequence of lowered levels of education, time and mobility constraints, limited decision-making, and lack of access to and control over family resources (Akinlo, A. et.al, 2013). Women’s subordinated position in society limits their decision-making and economic abilities regarding access to health services. The disadvantage position of women in West Africa as compared to men is a core focus of most of the international and national initiatives designed to promote gender equality.

Perceptions, beliefs, and practices exist among many ethnic groups that continue to impede access to health care. The reliance on spiritual interpretations of physical health conditions result in delayed treatment and even death. Women with difficult pregnancies may turn to spiritualists for treatment until the situation gets complex. For example, in Ghana many pregnant women prefer consulting spiritualists as well as herbalists for care treatment often based on socio-cultural beliefs and perceptions. Among the Akans and the Ga’s in Ghana, a high cultural value is placed on conception and this is true for most societies across the country. Perhaps this is the reason why many pregnant women consult their ancestral spirits for care and protection during pregnancy. For example, at the time of writing this report, there was a very startling media report on April 10, 2013, in Ghana, about a religious practice in Bibiani in the Western Region, where the doctrinal teachings of a church forbid the utilization of orthodox medicine (www.myjoyonline/news/201304/104230.php). And some cultural and religious

beliefs forbid the exposure of a woman's body to men other than their husband. These beliefs discourage women from reporting ailments affecting their sexual and reproductive health to male physicians (ADBF, 2008).

Socio-cultural beliefs about sexuality and sexual conduct impose different freedoms and restrictions on men and women. HIV risk and vulnerability factors, biological, socio-cultural, or economic, are different for male and female populations. For example, in Ghana and many parts of West Africa, it is culturally unacceptable for a woman to deny the husband sex or negotiate condom use, even when she may be aware of his multiple sexual relationships. This power relation is identified as one of the most basic factors for the transmission of HIV. The limited sexual/reproductive rights of women in marriage restrict women's ability to negotiate safe sex, thus causing vulnerability to sexual violence and the spread of sexually transmittable infections. In many parts of the sub-region the HIV/AIDS epidemic is aggravated by social and economic inequalities between men and women. Women and girls commonly face discrimination in terms of access to education, employment, credit, health care, land, and inheritance. These factors put women in a position where they are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, around 59% of those living with HIV are females. The proportion is even more inequitable for young people, with women making up 70% of young people in the region living with HIV (www.avert.org). Recent data from Benin suggests that the estimated number of people living with HIV is 64,000, with women (aged 15 and over) making up more than half of this total at 33,000 (UNAIDS, 2011). In striking contrast, the number of people living with HIV in Cote d'Ivoire is 360,000, displaying the extreme variability of HIV/AIDS prevalence within the region. Despite this variability, in all the West African countries presented in Table 88 below, women make up nearly half of those infected. Other key indicators of HIV/AIDS in several West African countries are also presented in Table 7 below:

Table 7. 2011 Key HIV/AIDS Indicators

BENIN	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	64,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	1.20%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	55,000
Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	33,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	9,400
Deaths due to AIDS	2,800
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	47,000
BURKINA FASO	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	120,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	1.10%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	94,000

Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	56,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	23,000
Deaths due to AIDS	6,800
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	130,000
CAMEROON	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	550,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	4.60%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	490,000
Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	280,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	60,000
Deaths due to AIDS	34,000
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	340,000
COTE D'IVOIRE	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	360,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	3%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	300,000
Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	170,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	61,000
Deaths due to AIDS	23,000
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	410,000
GHANA	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	230,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	1.50%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	200,000

Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	110,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	31,000
Deaths due to AIDS	15,000
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	180,000
NIGER	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	65,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	0.80%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	55,000
Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	33,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	N/A
Deaths due to AIDS	4,000
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	60,000
TOGO	
Indicator	Average
Number of people living with HIV	150,000
Adults aged 15 to 49 prevalence rate	3.40%
Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV	130,000
Women aged 15 and up living with HIV	73,000
Children aged 0 to 14 living with HIV	19,000
Deaths due to AIDS	8,900
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	89,000

Source: UNAIDS, 2011.

Gender disaggregated data on the HIV epidemic in West Africa is generally weak and varies considerably in quality from country to country. Though there are limited gender-disaggregated data on HIV in the sub-region, the trends in the table suggest that it is essential for the region to address the core gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, which are identified as: (a) risk factors and vulnerability are substantially different for men and for women, as is most evident in the significant age- and sex-differentiated; (b) the impact of HIV/AIDS differs along gender lines, which has implications for care, treatment, and coping

mechanisms, including addressing the needs of AIDS orphans; and (c) tackling the AIDS pandemic is fundamentally about behavior change (Benin, 2002).

Incidence of practices such as early marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), fosterage¹⁶ and betrothals¹⁷ are prevalent in the sub-region of West Africa. All these have direct or indirect implications on women's reproductive health. Several studies have shown that women with the most serious form of genital cutting are more likely to have complications in delivery.

In Nigeria, there are evidence to suggest that the women who are likely to die during childbirth are not only poor and uneducated, but are also mothers giving birth under the age of 18 years; with 30% of women with the most serious form of genital cutting are likely to have complications in delivery (DFID/UKAid, 2012). There is also evidence from Benin to indicate that between 5- 50% of women undergo the practice of FGM (Benin 2002).

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC GENDER ISSUES

NIGER

The 2010 maternal mortality rate for Niger was 820 per 100,000 births. The under-five mortality rate, per 1,000 births is 167 and the neonatal mortality as a percentage of under-five's mortality is 22 (UNFPA, 2011). The average number of people living with HIV was estimated around 65,000 in 2011 by UNAIDS.

BURKINA FASO

According to the WHO in 2005 an estimated 72.5% of Burkina Faso's girls and women have suffered female genital mutilation. School enrolment is very low, especially for girls. Contraceptive use is low and fertility rates remain high. HIV prevalence appears to be declining in Burkina Faso. In 2011 the adult HIV prevalence rate was around 1.5% (UNAIDS 2011).

COTE D'IVOIRE

Evidence shows that health indicators and infrastructure have deteriorated in Côte d'Ivoire as a result of years of instability and conflict. Intense fighting has further deteriorated the already limited access to health care for the population of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire's biggest city. 'Most health facilities are closed while those still operating are understaffed and face critical shortage of medical supplies' says Dr. Mamadou Ball, WHO Representative in Cote d'Ivoire. There are shortages of medical supplies and a lack of salary payments for health workers, bringing the health system close to a halt due to the escalation of conflicts. Fighting and snipers also prevent residents from reaching health facilities for treatment. Health partners have faced great peril and security remains the main condition for coordinated action in ensuring regular medical supplies and financial support to health workers are considered in country programming.

The 2010 maternal mortality rate was 470 per 100,000 births for Cote d'Ivoire. This is compared to 580.3 in 1990 and 944.1 in 2008. The under-five mortality rate, per 1,000 births is 121 and the neonatal mortality as a percentage of under-five mortality is 33. Approximately 60% of females undergo FGM. The average HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Cote d'Ivoire was estimated around 3% per adult population in 2011. There were an estimated 23,000 deaths from AIDS in 2011 and approximately 360,000 people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the country (UNAIDS 2011).

¹⁶ In West Africa, the practice of relocation or transfer of children from their biological parent(s) to homes other than their natal homes, where they are brought up or cared for by their foster parents, is generally referred to as child fosterage.

¹⁷ Betrothals are mutual promises or contracts for future marriage.

CAMEROON

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births for Cameroon is 600 as at 2010. This is compared to 522.6 in 1990 and 704.6 in 2008. The under-five mortality rate, per 1,000 births is 155 and the neonatal mortality as a percentage of under-five mortality is 24. In Cameroon the number of midwives per 1,000 live births is 0.2 and 1 in 35 shows us the lifetime risk of death for pregnant women. As of 1999, only an estimated 19% of the country's married women (ages 15 to 49) used any type of contraception. The infant mortality in 2005 was 65 per 1,000 live births. An estimated 29% of children under the age of five suffered from malnutrition.

The HIV/AIDS prevalence in Cameroon was estimated around 6.90 per 100 adults in 2003. There were an estimated 49,000 deaths from AIDS in 2003. As of 2004, there were approximately 560,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the country. The current adult HIV prevalence rate of 5% rate is among the highest in region (UNAIDS 2011).

TOGO

The infant mortality rate is approximately 50 deaths per 1,000 children in 2012. Male life expectancy at birth was at 60.6 in 2012, whereas it was at 65.8 for females. As of 2010, the maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births for Togo is 350, compared to 539.7 in 1990 and 447.1 in 2008. The under-five mortality rate, per 1,000 births is 100 and the neonatal mortality as a percentage of under-five mortality is 32.

Cases of transactional sex present an increased risk of HIV infection in Togo. The adult infection rate was around 4.2% in 2003 with 110,000 people living with HIV/AIDS around the same year. As at 2005, there were an estimated 280,000 orphans less than 18 years of age with 88,000 of them orphaned by AIDS.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

VOLUNTARY COUNSELING TESTING (VCT)

The provision of VCT has become easier, cheaper, and more effective as a result of the introduction of rapid HIV testing, which allows individuals to receive a test and the results in the same day. Various different strategies to increase access to VCT have been tried out. Mobile testing, where tests are performed in a vehicle that travels to different places, had proven to be more accessible for many difficult to reach communities. Additionally, a study has found that inviting people personally and offering them incentives such as food vouchers, can reach people who are less likely to otherwise decide to be tested.

In Cameroon, the Care and Health Program (CHP) is working with Population Services International /John Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics (PSI/JHPIEGO) to integrate VCT into the PSI cross-border program and health centers that are currently part of the cross-border program to enhance service delivery capabilities. This includes necessary renovations and equipment purchases, training of trainers and counselors, and the development of monitoring and evaluation systems. CHP has completed integrating VCT into the four AWARE-supported cross-border sites in Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Togo. CHP provides on-going technical assistance to the Center for Information, Counseling and Documentation (CICDoc) based in Burkina Faso, to build its institutional capacity as a Regional Learning Center (RLC).

PEER HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Peer Health Education Programs have proven to improve the health and well being of youth by empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take responsibility for their own health. In Ghana the successful "Stop AIDS, Love Life" communications campaign developed with technical assistance from John Hopkins University/Center for Communication Program (JHU/CCP), Family Health International's impressive programs with the uniformed services and youth, Planned Parenthood

Association of Ghana (PPAG's) "Young and Wise" program, and similar programs focused on creating awareness about HIV and its prevention.

These programs established well-informed, well-trained teams of school-based peer health educators in senior secondary and upper basic schools. The methods used by the peer educators included a variety of strategies (drama, small group, in-class presentations, and special events) to engage their peers and encourage healthy behavior and attitudes.

COMMUNITY-INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES (C-IMCI)

Outcomes of a West Africa health assessment study carried out in 2006, revealed that community case management of malaria and acute respiratory infections as part of integrated management of childhood illnesses had proven to be best practices/approaches emerging through the AWARE-RH project. In addition to promoting these best practices, other child health and malaria activities, including advocacy, institutional capacity-building, technical assistance, and facilitation and networking, helped promote better child health policies and programs in the region. The project identified as a best practice a community-IMCI model in Senegal that included acute management of respiratory infections and malaria at the community-level by community health workers. This model encouraged health authorities to sensitize community leaders to select community health workers that can be trained to assess sick children for signs of pneumonia and malaria, administer the proper doses of antibiotics and anti-malaria drugs or refer children to health care centers, and counsel parents on how to follow the recommended treatment regimen and provide supported home care.

The outcomes of these programs suggests that an integrated approach to community health management is a good and promising approach which can be adopted and used for family planning as well as HIV/AIDS interventions across the sub-region.

CONCLUSION

Health systems in West Africa are particularly weak, have become more so due to poor resource allocation and major shortages of financial and human resources in most part of the sub-region. Maternal mortality is a leading indicator of women's unequal status. The risk of maternal mortality and morbidity is even greater for adolescent girls, particularly from induced abortion and as a result of the practice of female genital cutting/mutilation in the sub region. *Goal number five (5) of the Millennium Development Goals seeks to improve maternal health by reducing maternal deaths and improving access to reproductive health care by 2015.* The specific target is to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters between 1990 and 2015 yet, most countries are far from reaching this goal. Although most countries in the West African region particularly Ghana, Nigeria, and Benin have been working towards achieving progress in maternal mortality, they all still need to make significant reduction in maternal deaths to reach the goal.

The desk review found that Family Planning had been identified as one of the most effective strategies to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs as related to maternal and newborn health in Africa. It is known to be one of the strategic approaches to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity, as well as improving the health and wellbeing of women, men, and youth. Documented evidence of success of Family Planning particularly from Rwanda shows the Rwandan government supported and encouraged family planning with a high level of commitment.

HIV/AIDS still remains a challenge, particularly for women and girls. Though Demographic Health Surveys in West Africa have demonstrated the existence of high levels of HIV prevalence in the sub region, there is generally limited gender data in the West Africa region for strategic programming. There are country-specific gender information gaps to inform program planning at the various levels. Available regional, national and sub-national are scanty, and where data are available does not provide adequate gender information on HIV and AIDS.

Finally, outcomes of review of available literature including a number of gender assessment reports from the region suggest that opportunity exist for USAID/WA in health programming in the following areas:

- Expand efforts to reach teens and youth with age- and gender- responsive interventions and messaging. This could be achieved through Peer Health Education Program, which focuses on improving the health and well being of youth through empowering them with knowledge, skills, and confidence to take responsibility for their own health.
- Integrate attention to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence initiatives into all USAID’s family planning, HIV, and maternal health programs.
- Support the collection of gender statistics and gender-disaggregated data at both the regional, national government level and at the implementing partner level. In addition, research and sector specific gender analysis would be useful to identify appropriate gender indicators for inclusion in progress monitoring, measure impacts and program effectiveness.

The literature also suggest that across the West Africa region, political commitment, institutional leadership, and legal/policy frameworks to address drivers of the HIV epidemic, which are illegal or stigmatized (i.e. sex work, male-male sex) are insufficient to allow a robust programmatic response that will have population-level impact. Additionally, cultural and social intolerance of such behaviors contribute to stigma and discrimination against marginalized populations, resulting in decreased availability of and access to appropriately targeted HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. One policy document that may provide the context for Gender and health programming is the AU Gender Policy.

5. GOVERNANCE, PEACE, AND SECURITY

INTRODUCTION

In theory, the achievement of good governance, peace, and security in West Africa are partly contingent on the inclusion of and equal participation of women and men from all levels of the various communities in the countries comprising the region. Challenges abound in promoting women’s leadership and joint decision-making with men in formal politics, civil society, community organizations, and within households. Additionally, while evidence has shown that women’s participation is central to the effectiveness of peace and security efforts around the world (UNIFEM, 2002), women in the region are consistently excluded from participation in peace negotiations and broader security sector efforts. While comparative research on patterns of gender and governance, and peace and security issues in West Africa is growing, a review of selected documents suggests that inclusive governance and participatory democracy are in their early years and that gender relations equally shapes and is contoured by peace and security issues. Since there are many questions yet to be explored, there is a need for more primary research on the gendered dimensions of governance, peace and security.

OVERVIEW: GOVERNANCE

In West Africa, women account for more than 50% of the population. They are active in all sectors and contribute to their communities’ well being. They produce more than 80% of the region’s food, leading the FAO to state, “women feed the world” (FAO, 1998). UNICEF highlights the centrality of women’s contribution in the socio-economic development of a country and refers to it as a ‘double dividend’ that empowers both women and their children. Despite their important contribution to their countries’ advancement, women continue to be deprived of their civil and political rights to make decisions about themselves, their families, their communities, and their countries.

Women's under representation at the decision-making table has been challenged by women organizations in the region, advocating for the promotion of their inclusion in political processes. However, there is a long way to go to achieve parity. At the national-level, women's advocacy has led to the creation of Women's Ministries in most of the countries in the region to address women's under-representation. Despite these efforts, women's representation and equal decision-making as compared to men remains relatively low.

In this section of the desk review, we discuss the major issues related to women's political participation and institutional representation in West Africa. Here we find that representational quotas have been identified in the literature as a key strategy for the improvement of women's political participation. This is followed by a review of women's role in decision-making in the wider community. The section concludes with a special focus on the mining sector, community participation (including the equal participation of women and men), and transparency. Lessons from the desk review are presented along with recommendations and conclusions for future programing.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL POLITICS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Women's political participation as elected representatives is an indicator of women's political empowerment. While there has been progress in the region, socio-economic and political realities continue to constrain the effective and efficient participation of women in formal politics. Based on stereotypes and stigmas of women as 'the weaker sex' to lead community, women have low skills/or capacity to challenge their male rivals, women lack of mobility to attend meetings, they also do not have time to manage their schedule as they struggle to meet their productive and reproductive responsibilities, all constitute great barriers to overcome. In some cases, men are opposed to their wife's ambition to run for political office "... The husband may say that, 'I do not want for my wife to run in election.' And that is actually a problem," says an opposition candidate for a legislative district in Montserrado County in Liberia. In addition, women's inability to raise funds and finance campaigns undermines their chance to win elections (Kellow 2010; Bari 2005). Security is another issue in many African fragile states as witnessed by the Executive Director of the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) who says, "It is a structural problem as Kenya's elective politics is organized around money and violence; and this greatly disadvantages women." Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire are concrete examples of similar patterns of electoral violence and its impact on women's political participation in West Africa.

Quality of representation is reflected in many barriers women face when they are electoral candidates: lack of time and mobility, skills to mobilize electoral voters and to raise funds for campaigning, risk of violence, etc. There is a strong relationship between women's effective and efficient participation as electoral candidates and women considered as simple voters or supporters in the sense that women candidates advocate change which affect their lives such as: maternal mortality, girl's education, teenage pregnancies, domestic violence, women's low literacy rates etc. In Sierra Leone, Kailahun, women are involved in awareness campaigns to be involved in politics "We [women] have to advocate for change in the issues that affect us," said Member of Parliament for Bombali district, Marie Jalloh, one of Sierra Leone's 17 female parliamentarians. "And we need to take informed decisions about our lives – our health, our children's education, economic empowerment of women. The best way to do this is by getting into power" (IRIN, 2009).

Many international organizations partner with women's groups to help them participate in elections and to gain power as a means of sustainable development. Evaluating women's participation in voting remains a challenge. In West African countries, published election results are not disaggregated by sex, but by localities (districts, regions and provinces) and there are no official documents about the percentage of women voters. To better assess women's political participation as voters, countries' partners on governance can draw the attention of governments to publish results disaggregated by sex and locality.

PREPARING WOMEN FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

Research to promote democracy and participation has shown that there is “no magic formula” to women’s political participation and representation apart from education, training and/or capacity building of women. The United Nations and IDEA (*International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance*) are involved in implementation of “Education for Democracy” programs worldwide. International IDEA recognizes the resolution that: “education is key to the strengthening of democratic institutions, the realization of human rights and the achievement of all international goals, including the MDGs.” Education for Democracy focuses on integration of education for promotion of democracy into national education standards, development of national and sub-regional programs of education through curricula and extra-curricular activities. The BRIDGE curricula focus on both adult education and formal education.

In partnership with the UN and other international actors, IDEA has developed global training curricula on electoral processes, known as BRIDGE (Building Resources for Democracy, Governance and Elections). BRIDGE is widely used in political transitions for training election administrators on the basis of adult education techniques. BRIDGE also focuses on civic education including areas of rationale for citizen participation in the democratic processes as well as strategies for increasing participation of key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (women, youth, media and people with disabilities). BRIDGE curricula also and focus on techniques for identifying different educational needs of all stakeholders in the civic education processes, by considering both community.

The first training of BRIDGE for francophone Africa was held in Burkina Faso in Sept 2004. Participants were from Benin, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Senegal. English speaking country session was held in Ghana in 2005 and involved 26 participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Liberia. IDEA is supporting efforts to develop ECOWAS Elections Unit’s capacity to deliver on electoral issues and completed a mapping exercise on electoral assistance requirements in the ECOWAS sub-region in 2004. IDEA is nurturing strong partnerships with BRIDGE for wide dissemination, for example, in collaboration with UNDP and the European Union, Togo organized two training sessions of BRIDGE facilitators and women’s participation was 29% for each training session in April and May, 2013. BRIDGE is expanding in Liberia and Rwanda. Such efforts could be strengthened and extended in the West Africa region.

DISSEMINATION OF BRIDGE CURRICULA IN WEST AFRICA

USAID has nurtured strong partnerships with the region for Sustainable Education (formal and informal) and many achievements have been realized, therefore it’s an opportunity to fully integrate BRIDGE curricula in countries’ educational system where they do not exist. National programs can easily complement USAID support to implementing partners working on democracy and governance such as those of NDI (National Democratic Institute), Electoral Knowledge Network and International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES). The BRIDGE curricula can also be shared widely with female political leaders, leaders of CSOs and NGOs so they can use the tools and curricula for larger dissemination at the grass-root level. At sub-regional level, cooperation and collaboration among key stakeholders in the education for democracy field can be strengthened.

ROLES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

CSOs and NGOs have been strategic channels for women’s political participation in many countries. They are channels for women to learn how to lead and influence policies. CSOs and their international partners not only encourage women to vote, to monitor elections but also to stand as candidates and run campaigns. For example in Mali, almost all Women’s/Gender Ministers are chosen from leaders of CSOs or NGOs as well as many appointed as ambassadors.

Women’s political candidates’ partnership with the international development institutions such as the UN may not be sustainable in some cases. During assessment of women’s political participation in Sierra Leone

and Liberia in 2010, Tim Kellow reported criticisms of the approach the international community adopts to promote female candidates. The UN program for capacity building of female candidates is viewed as very short ‘just six month before elections’ and they disengage soon after results are released; so some respondents reacted that “you cannot change mindsets or pass effective legislation six months before an election” (Kellow, 2010). This short duration of technical assistance to build women’s capacity does not allow them to have necessary skills on fund raising for proper and campaigns, therefore, some women are left ‘high and dry’ as they cannot mobilize electoral voters to gain power. CSOs and NGOs heavily rely on external funding, and sustainability is another issue since projects operate in very remote localities at grass-root level.

WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES

In theory, leadership in political parties is opened to all women, but in practice the promotion of women within political parties is not generally required by the regulations governing political parties. In some circumstances, political parties co-opt highly influential women to mobilize other women during electoral campaigns but their roles and responsibilities in the party dissipate after the electoral campaign concludes. Clair MacDougall, a journalist reporting on Ghana’s 2012 election notes, “In politics, women are perceived as trespassers, decoration, or as supporters of the actions of men who sit higher up in the political establishment (often brought out to win votes for them during campaigning).” In Ghana, the recent election of Samia Yaba Christina Nkrumah, daughter of the first President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame N’Krumah as the chairwoman of the Convention of People’s party in 2011, illustrates hurdles women face to hold higher position within political parties. Despite the historical influence she exercises on party, her election destroyed unity of party as its leaders thought she might aspire for presidency later in her career (Clair MacDougall, 2012). Other isolated cases such as election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the first female president in the continent was proof of the importance of a number of factors in getting women elected. These include: female solidarity, being well known and accepted by the international community and the candidate’s general charisma.

It is important to not dissociate women in politics and women working in other domains such as the media, the private sectors and CSOs. There is an interconnection among all sectors, women holding higher positions in any domain are likely to influence policies and change the discriminatory mindsets in society and the attitudes of women on female aspiration for political power.

Data on the number of seats and the number and percent of female parliamentarians for select West African countries can be found in Table 9 below.

Table 9. Female Representation in West African Parliaments

Country	Seats	# of Women	% of Women
Senegal	150	64	42.7%
Cape Verde	72	15	20.8%
Burkina	127	20	15.7%
Chad	188	28	14.9%
Guinea Bissau	100	14	14.0%
Cameroon	180	25	13.9%
Niger	113	15	13.3%
Sierra Leone	121	15	12.4%
Togo	81	9	11.1%
Liberia	73	8	11%

Country	Seats	# of Women	% of Women
Cote d'Ivoire	249	26	10.4%
Ghana	273	28	10.3%
Mali	147	15	10.2
Benin	83	7	8.4%
Gambia	53	4	7.5%
Nigeria	360	24	6.7%

*Inter-Parliamentary Union (February, 2013) at: <http://www.ipu.org/english/Whatipu.htm>

LGBT POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

In West Africa, LGBT have the same political rights as other citizens regarding their political participation as voters or to stand for political seats in the sense that they do not use anything to claim their sexual orientation. This practice is still slow with some isolated cases in West Africa and there are no public LGBT organizations visible in many countries. For example, LGBT persons in Mali may face legal challenges not experienced by non-LGBT residents. According to the 2007 Pew Global Attitudes Project, 98 percent of Malian adults believe that homosexuality is a way of life that society should not accept, which was the highest rate of non-acceptance in the 45 countries surveyed.

MINING SECTOR, GENDER AND GOVERNANCE

Mining and other extractive industries are on the rise in West Africa and with the potential for employment and financial opportunities as well as the possibilities for environmental degradation, community involvement in decisions on mining activities that can affect the community are an important part of the process of development for the industry. Ensuring community voice in these decisions is easier said than done and guaranteeing the participation of socially excluded members of the community like women is even more challenging.

There are two types of mining in the region, traditional mining and modern mining. Modern mining is managed by multi-national industries under formal contracting conditions of two parties, the country and the mining company. Engagement in such a formal market necessitates application of the national code committed in laws and regulations governing the sector. Laws safeguard benefit of local communities and the central government. In modern mining, women do not directly participate, however they can benefit from the improvement of services such as health services, boreholes, water pumps, and schools.

In Mali, SEMOS, SA adopted the Relocation Plan in line with the national mining code and undertook major activities in local communities as well as the central government, creating unskilled work for young people (75%) and paid taxes. The plan is based on a 20% share in the dividends of the joint ventures' equity asset. In Mali's traditional mining, extraction is performed by local communities and people who pay taxes to the local decentralized government. At this level, women and men perform work and the income is equitably shared.

In Cote d'Ivoire, the mining sector is not well organized due to the absence of mining codes. As such, communities and workers don't have information about the sector. Mining is performed with traditional methods or in an artisanal fashion. The sector hires immigrants from neighboring countries. Corruption and nepotism are commonly practiced in the industry, therefore the mining sector is forced to deal with nepotism for exploitation titles. Women do not benefit from the sector, with the exception that they do have ancillary businesses such as restaurants that are frequented by miners, and they are employed as domestic work in expatriates' houses.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

Here are some lessons learned on women's political representation in the region:

- Quotas are the go to strategy for the inclusion of women's political participation and institutional representation in the region. However, the impact of quotas on women's political empowerment is unclear.
- In order to not only increase the political representation women, but also ensure that women participate effectively in their jobs, women's leadership and skills training can help women sustain their participation within the political realm.
- National mining codes can be applied in line with the AU 'community code' and registration with the Extractive Mining Transparency Initiatives and women's and other community members' perspectives on the costs and benefits of the industry on the lives and their community should be solicited regularly.
- CSO, NGOs, and women's groups are agents of social change in the region. Their capacities should be reinforced in order for them to hold their governments accountable to their citizens. These organizations can also be harnessed to mobilize community participation in mining sector issues in their communities.

OVERVIEW: PEACE AND SECURITY

Almost all of the countries in West Africa have experienced at least one *coup de état* and a majority of the governments are weak and fragile. This backdrop affects and is affected by the state of gender relations. United Nations (UN) Resolution 1325, on women, peace and security highlights the importance of women's inclusion, participation and leadership in this area yet women are consistently excluded from the negotiating table as peace agreements are hammered out and the broader security sector continues to be a majority male domain. With a growing interest in women, peace and security issues in the region, the time is ripe for further research on the gendered dimensions of peace and security-the answers promise to be of high relevance for the future stability, security and sustainability of the countries in the region.

REGIONAL GENDER ISSUES

While conventional wisdom suggests that male and female roles in crisis, conflict and post-conflict are clearly delineated - with combat and protector roles predominantly assigned to men and guarded roles assigned to women. Observed patterns, however, are quite different. Women play multiple roles ranging from combatants to peacemakers, to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, to actors in terrorism to financial and psychological supporters of rebels in insurgencies and war (O'Neil, 2005; Hudson, 2006; Badmus, 2009). In fact Charles Taylor's bodyguards were female (Eklyor, 2012). Conflict and war has also been known to transform gender roles. For instance, men's role as breadwinner and head of household is often taken over by females in the household when the men go off to fight. This switch in gender roles is sometimes difficult to reverse particularly for men who may have been injured during the conflict and are unable to regain their leadership position within the household (Hudson, 2006). This role swap sometimes leads to male resentment increased domestic violence.

Even in the wake of this gender role swap during periods of conflict and war, observers argue that the underlying gender elations remain the same and in several instances gender roles have been rolled back through a return to the pre-conflict status quo (Hudson, 2006). A process some call *re-domestication* where women who have served as combatants are expected to cast off their military or protector role and return to their reproductive roles.

In countries like the ones in West Africa where the governments are weak and/or fragile, the absence of government public services and limited livelihood opportunities increases public discontent particularly

for male youth. The lack of employment opportunities accompanied by limited social inclusion for youth -the fastest growing sector of the population- is said to enhance the attractiveness of violence. This is particularly apparent in West Africa where males are the predominant victims of small arms and light weapons (SALW), militia groups and criminal gangs (Alaga, 2011).

The security sector in West Africa like most other parts of the world remains a male dominated sector. The portfolios of defense, the military and foreign relations are usually assigned to men. In fact, only 8 percent of senior security sector posts in West Africa are held by women (Alaga, 2011). While there are women holding security sector positions in the military and police most countries in West Africa face difficulties in achieving the regional target of 20 percent (Alaga, 2011). These patterns are further exacerbated by reports of sexual harassment for females in the region's police (Alaga, 2011) and discrimination against male ethnic minorities in the region's militaries.

Gender based violence is another in the growing list of regional security issues. Conflict and instability worsens the incidence and prevalence of violence against women and gender-based violence. This increase in sexual violence is surrounded by a culture of silence and a history of impunity spilling over from the impunity in the pre-conflict period.

Women's role in formal peace building activities in West Africa has been limited. Most of the region's peace agreements are gender neutral with little if any reference to differences in security, human rights, disarmament, demobilization and/or reintegration (DDR) for males and females. Women are underrepresented in peace negotiations and DD processes facilitated by the UN have been gender-blind to the existence and differing needs of female combatants. On the informal side of peace building, putting an end to violent hostilities and promoting peace has resulted in global recognition through the award of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work" (NobelPrize.Org, 2011).

Early warning efforts in the region have included a gender perspective. In the case of the regions early warning system, ECOWARN, the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) has included a set of gender indicators in the system. A review of ECOWARN applauds the inclusion of the gender indicators but also points out that very few women are involved in this conflict prevention framework. Instead it is mostly men who are responsible for data collection, analysis and response (Alaga, 2011).

FOCUS COUNTRIES

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Conflict, crisis and war in West Africa have left their mark on the region's population as civilians have borne the brunt of the brutality of violence. Rape continues to be used as a weapon of war and women and children (boys and girls) have been attacked, exploited and killed. Sexual violence is used to terrorize and humiliate women and girls during times of conflict and survivors suffer further victimization by family and society. A significant proportion of the populations in the regions were affected by the sexual violence that accompanied years of internal conflict and strife. For example, in Liberia over 40 percent of the population have been affected by sexual violence and the impact this fact will have on the country's future development remains unclear.

In West Africa, different forms of gender-based violence remain alarmingly high and security sector remedies are not designed to address this problem. In Cote d'Ivoire sexual violence is high with cases

Cote d'Ivoire

31 percent of girls admitted having been forced or coerced into non-consensual sexual relations.

Guinea Bissau

Sexual violence against women by Senegalese soldiers at military checkpoints

Liberia

40 percent of the population (women, men, boys and girls) affected by sexual violence during the 14 year war

Sierra Leone

Over 250,000 women raped during the conflict
(Alaga, 2011, pp.12)

of reported sexual violence in Duekoue three times higher in the second quarter than during the first quarter (IDMC, 2012). UN Women (2010) aptly outlines the problem as follows:

Indeed, sexual violence challenges conventional notions of what constitutes a security threat. It is often invisible: the world does not witness rape in the same way as landmine injuries. Cheaper than bullets, it requires no weapons system other than physical intimidation, making it low cost, yet high impact. This may also render sexual violence resistant to disarmament processes and ceasefire monitoring, aimed to rid communities of conventional weapons and ensure the cessation of shooting and other openly hostile acts. Yet Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) without psychological debrief, rehabilitation or follow-up may exacerbate sexual violence by reinserting ex-combatants into civilian settings in closer proximity to women and children, or by integrating past perpetrators into the national armed forces without a credible vetting process. (UN Women, 2010, 10).

Sexual and gender-based violence in times of conflict and war is only one side of the GBV coin. Other common forms of sexual violence include intimate partner violence; sexual abuse by non-intimate partners; trafficking, forced prostitution, exploitation of labor, and debt bondage of women and girls; physical and sexual violence against prostitutes; and the deliberate neglect of girls. Perpetrators of GBV include spouses and partners, parents, other family members, neighbors, and men in positions of power or influence. Most forms of violence are not unique incidents but are ongoing, and can even continue for decades. Because of the sensitivity of the subject, GBV is almost universally under-reported.

In a study on GBV in West Africa, the International Rescue Committee, (IRC) found domestic violence to be the most common form of violence on the region. The organization reported that six out of every ten women who come to the IRC in West Africa seeking assistance after experiencing violence are reporting violence at the hands of a partner or spouse. Additionally, over two-thirds of survivors of domestic violence in Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone who have sought support from the IRC since 2010 have reported experiencing at least one prior incident of violence from the same partner and 53% of those cases required medical attention. And in a region where basic services are frequently lacking, domestic violence survivors see few reasons to report incidents, since no assistance is available. This environment of silence perpetuates the impunity through which the perpetrators get away with their crimes (IRC, 2012).

Other forms of GBV are growing in the region. Cross border female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) for instance is on the rise. Up to 140 million girls and women worldwide live with the consequences of FGM/C, and three million girls in Africa risk undergoing the procedure each year (IRIN News, 2012). The World Health Organization (WHO) says FGM/C includes all procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Additionally, according to the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking research has identified several human trafficking trends in West Africa. These include child trafficking within national borders and across the region for labor and sexual exploitation as well as recruitment in armed conflict; women and girls trafficking within and out of the region for sexual exploitation; and large-scale trafficking within national borders (UNGIFT, 2013).

Best practices for GBV prevention and response include legal recourse, support services, response centers, and law enforcement training along with culturally sensitive awareness campaigns directed at both men and women. Combined these multi-sector and multi-level responses promise to bring about long-term solutions to the GBV problem. Some states have embraced legal avenues to prevent and respond to GBV. Dating to 1981, Cote d' Ivoire laws include articles protecting women from physical assault and abandonment by their spouse, and a 1998 amendment that outlawed forced marriage, sexual harassment and female genital mutilation. However, despite progressive legal action on behalf of women, there is no specific law on domestic violence, and enforcement of existing laws remains weak.

In 2007, Sierra Leone passed legislation making domestic violence a criminal offense. It also strengthens protections from domestic violence through enhanced police responses, protection orders and support for victims.

ORGANIZED CRIME

Transnational organized crime is a growing security threat in West Africa. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) transnational organized crime markets and the vast profits they generate continue to fuel instability and hinder development in West Africa (2013). The fragile and weak state of many of the governments in the region coupled with this growing threat exacerbates the likelihood that countries could experience even more instability.

Like most endeavors around the world, transnational organized crime is gendered. Some of these gendered patterns have been highlighted for West African countries. In Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger trafficking and the illegal transport of goods are growing. Males are the predominant actors in these activities though women also play a strategic role in trafficking of goods. Loss of life due to these illegal activities is skewed more towards men because of their higher involvement in gangs and militia groups. However women are also victims in these activities. Some women have been known to conceal and transport weapons using guises such as carrying babies. Other goods transported illegally include stolen property, drugs, weapons, and nuclear material. The trafficking of children and human organs is also prevalent in the region (Alaga, 2011).

GENDER INEQUALITY AND FAILED STATES

There is a growing body of evidence that supports the concept that the promotion of gender equality and investment in women and girls will deliver better development outcomes. The World Bank's 2012 *World Development Report* on gender and development offer evidence that proves that the inclusion of women and girls improves outcomes in development. More significantly, the report demonstrates that gender integration improves productivity. For example, in Ghana, if women farmers were to have the same access as men to fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, maize yields would increase by almost one-sixth. The report concludes that investing in development for women is investing in development for children. Evidence also illustrates that improvements in women's education and health in Senegal have been linked to better outcomes for their children, in what UNICEF calls the "double dividend" (UNICEF, 2006). Lastly, the inclusion of women in leadership and decision-making structures benefits the entire community. Increases in women's political power at the local level have led to increases in the provision of public goods, such as water and sanitation (World Bank, 2012).

If gender equality results in better development outcomes we can assume that it is likely that gender inequality is associated with levels of state fragility. In 2012, the Fund for Peace developed the Failed State Index (see Table 4). In this index all West African countries were below the midpoint and were categorized as increasingly unstable¹⁸ (Fund for Peace, 2012). In 2012, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Nigeria topped the list as the most insecure states in the region while Cape Verde and Ghana were the most stable states in West Africa. Research on the link between gender inequality and state fragility is

¹⁸ The Fund for Peace collects thousands of reports and information from around the world, detailing the existing social, economic and political pressures faced by 178 countries. Scores are apportioned for every country based on twelve key political, social and economic indicators (which in turn include over 100 sub-indicators). The 12 indicators cover a wide range of state failure risk elements such as extensive corruption and criminal behavior, inability to collect taxes or otherwise draw on citizen support, large-scale involuntary dislocation of the population, sharp economic decline, group-based inequality, institutionalized persecution or discrimination, severe demographic pressures, brain drain, and environmental decay. The rank order of the states is based on the total scores of the 12 indicators. For each indicator, the ratings are placed on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being the lowest intensity (most stable) and 10 being the highest intensity (least stable). The total score is the sum of the 12 indicators and is on a scale of 0-120.

required warranted before causal statements could be supported; however, the low rates of gender equality and the high rates of state fragility in the region may well be more than a spurious correlation. If this turns out to be the case, it will be an addition to the growing evidence of the centrality of gender equality to sustainable economic growth, social development, and peace.

Table 9. 2012 Failed State Index for West Africa

World Rank	Country	Total FSI Score	Demographic Pressures	Refugees and IDPs	Group Grievance	Human Flight	Uneven Development	Poverty and Economic Decline	Legitimacy of the State	Public Services	Human Rights	Security Apparatus	Factionalized Elites	External Intervention
4	Chad	107.6	9.3	9.5	9.1	7.7	8.6	8.3	9.8	9.5	9.3	8.9	9.8	7.8
11	Cote d'Ivoire	103.6	7.9	9.0	9.0	7.6	7.7	7.4	9.6	8.3	8.3	8.9	9.9	10.0
12	Guinea	101.9	8.3	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.9	9.5	8.6	8.7	9.4	9.2	7.3
14	Nigeria	101.1	8.4	6.5	9.7	7.6	8.9	7.5	9.1	9.1	8.6	9.2	9.8	6.6
15	Guinea Bissau	99.2	8.7	7.5	5.7	7.7	7.8	9.0	9.3	8.5	7.5	9.4	9.2	8.9
18	Niger	96.9	9.3	6.9	7.7	6.0	7.6	8.6	8.4	9.2	7.9	8.2	8.6	8.4
25	Liberia	93.3	8.4	8.9	6.5	6.7	7.7	8.6	6.9	8.8	6.1	7.0	8.4	9.3
26	Cameroon	93.1	8.2	7.0	7.5	7.5	8.1	6.5	8.9	8.1	7.8	7.9	9.2	6.5
31	Sierra Leone	90.4	8.9	7.8	6.2	7.7	8.2	8.3	7.6	8.7	6.4	5.7	7.9	7.1
38	Mauritania	87.6	8.0	6.5	7.5	5.4	6.3	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.3	7.7	8.1	7.6
39	Togo	87.5	8.1	6.8	5.1	6.9	7.6	7.7	8.2	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.8
41	Burkina Faso	87.4	8.9	5.9	5.2	6.0	8.2	7.7	8.0	8.4	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.7
43	Equatorial Guinea	86.3	8.2	3.0	6.6	6.9	8.8	4.8	9.4	7.8	9.1	7.8	8.2	5.7
63	Gambia	80.6	7.8	6.1	3.7	6.8	6.5	7.4	7.8	7.2	7.5	5.8	6.8	7.2
71	Senegal	79.3	7.8	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.0	7.5	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.0
74	Benin	78.6	8.0	6.8	3.6	6.3	6.9	7.6	6.4	8.3	5.4	6.0	6.4	7.0
79	Mali	77.9	8.8	5.5	6.0	7.3	6.4	7.5	5.3	8.0	4.6	7.1	4.5	7.0
91	Cape Verde	74.7	7.0	4.0	4.2	8.4	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	5.4	5.7	5.7	7.9
112	Ghana	67.5	6.7	5.2	5.2	7.6	6.2	6.0	4.8	7.6	4.5	3.3	4.7	5.7

*Failed States Index Data 2012, The Fund for Peace at <http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2012-sortable>

LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES

Lessons from a review of the literature on gender, peace and security highlight the importance of investigating the varying roles women and men play. Working on stereotypical assumptions about what women and men do and do not do in conflict settings or peace processes reduces our ability to understand the complexity of peace and security and also guarantees that our responses will not miss opportunities and not address real challenges. It is equally important for us to focus on the growing youth population both male and female and ensure that their voices and perspectives are heard and heeded. Programming for youth livelihoods is an important counter instability strategy.

A review of gender-based violence issues in West Africa point to the importance of engaging men in ending violence and promoting gender equality. Involving religious leaders and civil society organizations is an equally important strategy for ending violence and empowering victims of sexual violence.

The literature also suggests that policy frameworks for peace and security are a necessary but not a sufficient condition for realizing a gender perspective in peace and security. There are a significant number of frameworks and policies at the regional, continental and international level that outline the rationale for and approach to integrating gender in peace and security (Alaga, 2011). The problem is not one of a lack of policy but rather a lack of implementation and alignment of policies to institutional processes and procedures.

Some promising practices for integrating gender in security sector work are emerging and been notice:

- In Liberia the police force has introduced an accelerated learning program for young women to increase their enrollment in the police force.
- In Sierra Leone and Liberia community sensitization campaigns have been developed with the objective of changing stereotypes about security as a male preserve. The campaign promotes female role models in the security sector to attract the interests of girls and help them to consider careers in the security sector.
- Sierra Leone's Defense White paper is undergoing a gender review and the country has established an Equal Opportunities Unit within the Ministry of Defense.
- In Liberia and Sierra Leone capacity building workshops on how to conduct security sector oversight have been held for members of parliament.

CONCLUSION: GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Governance, peace and security require the meaningful participation of both women and men but the sector is one that mirrors the gender stereotypes abundant in society. These stereotypes prevent women for leadership roles and meaningful political participation. Gender stereotypes also fuel the fires of conflict, strife, war and instability. While many women are peace builders, not all women are and while many male youth are involved in gangs and militia, not all male youth are. Given the high numbers of weak and fragile states in West Africa it is important to use a gender lens in assessing and programming for good governance, peace and security.

PART B: FIELD INTERVIEW FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER INTEGRATION

I. GENDER, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN WEST AFRICA

GENDER AND THE ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR

The West African electric power sector is reemerging as the strategic sector that underpins the future economic growth of the region. Electric power shortages and load shedding are frequently covered in the media of both Ghana and Nigeria. Assessing gender inclusiveness as well as advancement and policy in the electric power sector is an important step for the USAID/West Africa's future programming and its cooperative agreements with its regional partners --the most notable of these being the ECOWAS West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREE). Understanding the primary benefits to West African women from a reliable and affordable electric power supply is critical for programs to be responsive to the most pressing regional needs of all consumers of electricity—from the household level to large-scale industrial complexes.

This gender assessment addresses the current state of the electric power industry, women's roles and constraints to greater participation, and the emerging renewable energy sector's focus on the various cooking fuels used by women. The reported findings are from face-to-face interviews, phone interviews, and e-mails with 15 individuals based in Benin, Ghana, Tunisia and Cape Verde. These individuals included two female electric utility executives, six managerial level staff at WAPP (of which five are male), the gender specialist at ECREE, two academicians in engineering and sciences, a gender consultant to the West Africa energy sector, a female engineering student, a female regional utility commissioner at ECOWAS and a woman with 25 years' experience as an electric power engineer

KEY GENDER ISSUES IN THE ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR

This section addresses women's current level of employment in the electric power sector, the nature and culture of the electric power industry, women's beliefs and perceptions about the industry, and the emerging sector in renewable energy resources and energy conservation as an entry point for new women graduates.

Women in West Africa account for 5 to 10 % of the sector's labor force and are concentrated in finance, economics, law, administration, and customer support services. As a point of comparison, women's employment in US utilities (2011) is 23.3% and 15% of the EU regional utility employment.¹⁹ The electric power sector in West Africa is bracing for a shortage of skilled labor as utility engineers

¹⁹ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, "Trends and Drivers of Change in the European Energy Sector Mapping Report" 2008. www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-male-dominated-industries-and-occupations-us-and-canada

and technical staffs retire at the same time as the electrical power system continues its expansion across West Africa.

The electric power sector has held an image of being a male dominated industry for many years. Fieldwork includes harsh conditions, extensive time away from home, and seems in contradiction with traditional reproduction and child rearing roles of women. So far little has been done to make jobs in the electric power sector more appealing to women.

West African electric utilities are culturally conservative with no gender policies in place and are at the early stages of engaging in proactive practices to promote gender balance. The two women who were interviewed and had worked many years in the technical and engineering side of the industry reported feeling isolated, unsupported, and having to work harder to prove themselves to their male superiors and colleagues. They also spoke of the difficulties of balancing the demands from work with child rearing and household responsibilities. There are currently no regional associations for women in the electric or energy power sectors.

The emerging renewable energy sector, including energy conservation, is seemingly more attractive to women and could be a good entry point for women into the industry according to one woman utility executive and former Parliamentarian. For example, at the Energy Center of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, there is a Women in Energy students' association and a Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Development support group with women participants. Female engineering students comprise slightly over 11% of the engineering school student body.

The overall picture for women in the electric power sector is mixed with women's traditional domestic responsibilities and child rearing limiting the selection of job opportunities to those that are office based and do not require overtime. At this time there are no professional associations for women working in the electric power sector in West Africa. Energy conservation and renewable energy is of growing interest to university level women who are exploring alternative career paths.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

This subsection reports on highlights of promising practices reported by interviewees in electric power generation and in energy conservation and renewable energy. A Ghana university based program funded by the World Bank and the ECREE multi-faceted initiatives to mainstream gender in energy access are highlighted.

The renewable energy subsector is seemingly more proactive than the electrical utilities in mainstreaming women into renewable energy careers and as end user beneficiaries of energy services. The ECOWAS mandate is discussed below as well as how a World Bank project West Africa designed to attract more female students into training and conferences in renewable energy and conservation topics. In addition, the interviewees offered their recommendations on increasing and sustaining women's participation and advancement in the electric power sector over the long-term. Finally, affirmative action hiring policies are recommended by both industry representatives and an energy sector gender consultant.

The regional renewable energy sector is being promoted in part through the ECOWAS Initiative on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access. The initiative, adopted in October 2012 by the relevant national ministries of the ECOWAS member states, is focused on providing women, especially in rural areas, with clean renewable energy services for domestic and income producing uses. ECREE is focusing on renewable energy sources for cooking, providing education, and technical skills at the local level that are appropriate for women as well as men. In ECREE's five-year capacity building plan, by 2016 at least 20% of the trainees in sustainable energy aspects and technologies are to be women. ECREE also aims to

have an internal staff of 50% women by 2016; although these strategies were not forthcoming during the interview phase of this gender assessment.

The Energy Center at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi Ghana targeted 25% participation by women in the World Bank's three-pronged 'Learning Project for Renewable Energy'. Incentives for women's participation were integrated into the project design and included a 25% reduced registration/training fee and direct outreach to the Ghana Institute of Engineers for recommendations and referrals of women engineers. Preliminary outcomes indicate that although the 25% participation rate West Africa not achieved, the incentives and outreach increased women's participation in short courses (4% in 2009 increasing to 13.6% in 2012).

The majority of interviewees said that attracting more women into the industry is essential in order to address the anticipated short fall in skilled labor within the electric power sector. The long-term solution to greater participation by women is to proactively engage with girls and young women who show an aptitude in their studies in science, math, and engineering. This would involve sensitizing and educating the teachers and the parents as well as students from the age of ten years on, of the opportunities within engineering and science. One such program was in Benin at the time of the fieldwork. The Empowering and Bringing Women at Pre University levels to choosing Scientific Study (EBUSS) is a one-year grant program funded by the alumnus of the US Department of Education. The project will survey 5000 female students (ages 12 – 18) across Benin about their interests and skills in the sciences and math. A book is to be published on the research results. Weekly after school programs and a science camp are also planning to be offered.

Advocates of women in science and engineering recommend that female engineering students and professionals meet with and mentor younger girls and women who show an interest and aptitude in sciences and math. There could be a linkage of this approach with the proposed vocational level Centers of Excellence that WAPP and the USAID/West Africa have previously discussed. .

Interviewees also agreed that greater participation by women in the electric power sector can be addressed, in part, by imposing affirmative action type policies at the utilities, regulatory agencies, and national ministries of energy policy and affairs. They typically cite mandates for filling national ministries (e.g., 30% minimum quota in Nigeria) with female Ministers.

The lessons and promising practices presented here reflect new and proven approaches to attract women into technical areas that are heavily male dominated. For example, ECREE is providing education and technical skills at the local level that are appropriate for women as well as men. Mentoring of young women by female advocates of women in science and engineering is underway under grant-funded programs. Both examples show promise but are still limited in scale.

ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are presented here which address opportunities for increasing women's employment in the electrical power industry that may mitigate the skills shortage anticipated by the industry over the next five years. Several promising initiatives are underway including the Regional Centers of Excellence and capacity building within WAPP and are in the early design stages. Specific recommendations for gender inclusiveness and advancement and policy development build upon these new initiatives.

Gender Inclusiveness and Advancement

Vocational level regional skills development will be augmented with the conversion of five training centers of member utilities into Regional Centers of Excellence. The WAPP is issuing Terms of Reference for business plans for these centers. The West Africa Program can encourage WAPP to expand the Terms of Reference to include a detailed design strategy for the attraction of an agreed upon target (e.g., 20%) of women trainees/students. Further it can pilot some of the approaches used by the

KNUST Energy Center World Bank-supported project to increase women's participation as previously cited.

WAPP is also updating its Capacity Building Program Initiative that was issued in 2008 with funding support from the USAID/West Africa. The Terms of Reference could be expanded to include a gender specialist with expertise in the West Africa energy sector. The gender consultant could work with the Human Resource Director and an appointed Gender Focal Point at WAPP to draft a gender policy affirming a commitment to gender equality and to develop proactive strategies to promote gender balance in middle and senior management positions. WAPP expressed a need for a gender awareness seminar of member utility managers (e.g., human resource managers and managing directors), which could be a part of the work scope. Gender awareness training is in itself not sufficient. Tools and timeframes for the member utilities to develop gender policies and practices are necessary follow-on.

The first step would be to encourage WAPP and its members to begin dialogues with science and engineering universities in their locales in order to ensure that energy and engineering studies provide the necessary skills sets required by the electric power sector. The second step would be to promote outreach by universities to high school and middle schools to attract more female students into science and engineering studies. This is an ideal opportunity for the West African utility industry to rebrand itself and update its image as a women friendly work environment and to reflect the multi-disciplinary aspects of the industry such as strategic planning, energy conservation, utility economics, and finance. Women in the electric power sector can be promoted by the media with encouragement from WAPP utility members and universities as role models. This provides a potentially powerful means of outreach to attract new professionals. The women interviewed for this assessment said that they would be very willing to participate in an outreach program to female students in the lower grades.

Policy Development

The recommended adoption of affirmative action employment quotas for female hires may see resistance from senior level managers who are wary of imposed policies that could create unknown or undesirable consequences. For example, would minimum job qualifications and performance be reduced or compromised with female hiring quotas? A desk study that looked at the impacts of affirmative action policies in the electric power (or related sector) in Sub Saharan Africa would be useful information to decision makers. If a positive business case can be made for affirmative action based on the desk study, implementation of female hiring quotas will be a smoother process and can be better planned for by the hiring organizations.

In conclusion, the recommendations for gender inclusiveness and advancement within WAPP and the West Africa region hold good promise given that WAPP is actively looking to increase female participation in the industry and the program initiatives are in the design phase. Since terms of references are being drafted or finalized, input and support from USAID should be provided in the near future. The policy issue of the adoption of affirmative action was recommended by many of the interviewee key informants and may fall outside the area of interest USAID. However, since little is empirically known about the consequences on affirmative action policies within the West Africa Electric Power sector, a study of potential outcomes could be encouraged by USAID for WAPP to undertake.

CROSS-BORDER TRADE: REGIONAL GENDER ISSUES

This section addresses the challenges and opportunities of female West African cross-border traders. The traders are briefly profiled including the types of commodities traded and their most common challenges. Opportunities and promising practices for empowering trade associations and allied organizations that can advocate for women traders are provided. Out of the key issues, challenges and opportunities, recommendations are to build women-focused services on two existing platforms that USAID/West Africa supports through the West Africa Trade Hub.

The reported findings are from a combination of face-to-face and phone interviews and emails with four individuals. One interviewee founded a NGO that advocates for women in cross-border trade. Three interviewees are cross-border trade program managers. The fieldwork included a visit to the Krake Benin border crossing and the Krake Border Information Center.

GENDER ISSUES IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Women account for approximately 80 percent of cross border trade in West Africa (interview with the Director of Business Environment, West Africa Trade Hub). Although there is no census of the number of women traders or the value of their products, it is significant. Informal women traders are involved in trade of agricultural products, cosmetics and plastics. Common challenges female traders face include lack of information, limited access to credit and business training, security and harassment, transportation and storage, and low adult literacy. The traders normally work independently but will work with other women to consolidate their goods and to get to sufficient quantities that can be transported on a truck.

Informal traders tend not to have invoices or to undervalue their goods. These women face challenges at customs when it comes to valuation. The lack of a precise invoice may lead to harassment and unpleasant negotiations with officials. According to Ometere Omuluabi, formerly with the West Africa Trade Hub, most women traders belong to some women's trade association, but many of these groups are not very professional.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

Liberia, like other countries in the region, has a vibrant informal and formal economy where women actively participate in cross-border trade. In 2012, 165 women met over four days to adopt the constitution of the Liberia-based Association of Women in Cross-border Trade (AWICBT). A primary aim of the association is to help inform women traders so that they can better advocate for their rights and access greater economic opportunities. In support of its members the Association urged ECOWAS and the Mano River Union to pressure member states to address issues of extortion and sexual exploitation at the hands of security officials. This national level association appears to be the most focused and organized in the region and could be a model for other associations across West Africa and perhaps even a regional level organization.

Another civil society organization with the agenda of increasing and recognizing women's leadership in public and private sector arenas in West Africa is the Centre for Economic and Leadership Development (CELD). CELD is headquartered in Abuja Nigeria and hosts a West African Women in Leadership Summit that is an annual high-level meeting of West African Women.

The West Africa Trade Hub with longstanding support from the USAID/West Africa has worked to improve cross-border trade with the creation of the Borderless Alliance and the Border Information Centers (BICs). Both offer a promising platform for improving the environment for regional border crossing by women traders. The Border Alliance is a private sector advocacy organization and platform for freer trade movement. BICs were formed in collaboration with the national level Shippers Councils of Ghana, Senegal, Benin and Nigeria. Their current focus is to reduce the level of bribes and corruption at the border crossings but the activities could be extended to support and inform women traders.

WOMEN'S CROSS-BORDER TRADE RECOMMENDATIONS

Gender Inclusiveness, Advancement, and a Gender Friendly Business Environment

A women's help desk for women traders could be added at the BICs. The services could include the most relevant trade information and protocol most commonly needed for invoicing and valuation of goods and links to credit facilities, trade associations, business skills development, and literacy. The desk could establish a baseline census of the daily number of women cross-border traders and value of their products with the aim of demonstrating the economic contributions of women traders and giving them a

voice in ECOWAS and national cross-border trade policies and export promotion. As there is no formal mechanism for lodging complaints, the women's help desk at the BICs could create a facility such as an Ombudsman's Office. It is crucial that women know their rights, understand trade rules and comply with them to avoid harassment at the borders.

Policy Development and Advocacy

As an advocacy platform for the freer trade of goods across West Africa, the Borderless Alliance is well positioned to extend its advocacy to women in cross-border trade. The Alliance has an executive committee of seven members (two of them women) and a gender component could be added to the Committee's subgroups/subprograms. All of the interviewees in this study highlighted the need to mainstream the issues of women cross-border traders into national and regional trade policy development. Women traders could be encouraged to become part of the Borderless Alliance either independently or through their women's associations. The Alliance would act as an umbrella organization to carry out policy advocacy on a sub-regional level on women's and associations' behalf.

CONCLUSION

The field visit, interviews and studies of women in cross-border trade (Eniola Dada, Life Impact Foundation) strongly suggests the needs to further explore and record the economic contributions of women in cross-border trade so that their voice can be heard in trade policy development forums. The identification and empowerment (provision of information and best practices) of women-focused cross-border trade associations, such as that in Liberia, is also needed. Several interviewees recommended further sensitization of border agents and enforcement officers on gender specific issues, notably gender and sexual violence, as well as gender neutral issues such as border procedures and documents, financial services and access to credit facilities and regional trade bodies. There appears to be growing momentum in demanding support to, and recognition of, female cross-border traders and their economic contributions to West African trade despite their challenges and limitations. The West Africa Trade Hub has gained valuable insights into the issues of women traders and has already established the foundation for gender specific support through the Border Information Centers and its Borderless Alliance advocacy association. As the trade hub begins a new program funding cycle opportunities to design and implement initiatives focused on women in cross-border trade are promising.

2. GENDER AND AGRICULTURE IN WEST AFRICA

The field findings presented in this section arise from interviews with a cross-section of USAID/West Africa partner organizations, government representatives, regional and national agriculture and related institutions, farmer associations/networks, agricultural value chain actors, USAID bilateral missions and opinion leaders and other persons with deep insight and knowledge on agriculture development in the West African region.

Information was collected through one-on-one and group interviews, phone and Skype discussions, and e-mail correspondence. The main in-person interviews, which turned out to be a more accurate means of data collection, were conducted in Burkina Faso and Ghana. In all, over 40 people (women and men) from 16 organizations (including 5 Bilateral USAID Missions) were reached though the field data collection process²⁰. Unfortunately, all efforts to reach ECOWAS and CORAF failed, due to phone and internet connectivity issues and prior commitments respectively.²¹

A large amount of information was collected, details of which are found in the field notes. This field report presents the salient information relative to the main goals of the assessment. The rest of the

²⁰ Details on people contacted in separate document (appendix)

²¹ CORAF was running a World Bank supervision mission and could not find time to discuss.

report is organized in four main parts: agricultural value chains, irrigation activities, gender programming in USAID bilateral missions, lessons and promising practices, recommendations, and ends with a brief summary of the findings.

WOMEN AND MEN'S PARTICIPATION IN USAID/WEST AFRICA SELECTED AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

This section looks at women and men's participation across the agricultural value chains (AVCs). Their participation was followed from production, to processing at local/national/regional food marketing, and finally their representation within national and regional farmer networks and associations. The AVCs discussion focuses particularly on the USAID/West Africa targeted value chains - rice, millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea, livestock, seeds, and fertilizers.

The field research has largely confirmed the gender patterns brought out by the desk review. Women and men are actively involved in the targeted agricultural value chains in most parts of the West Africa region, but their commodity choices and levels and scale of involvement vary from one country and community to another.

PRODUCTION AND CROP CHOICES

Maize and rice figured high for both women and men in the West African member countries and sorghum and cowpeas stood out as women specific crops. As far as livestock is concerned, larger animals, such as cattle, are seen as male specific. Women are involved in the production and fattening of small ruminants (sheep, goats), improved traditional poultry²², and in feed and fodder production.

ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES

Men have better access and use of inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, and technical information than women. The same is true for the production and multiplication of improved seeds. In Senegal, for instance, the agriculture sector is male-dominated and women are often overlooked during the distribution of new technologies. The gender team within the Burkina ministry of agriculture lauded the ministry's support to women in cowpea production, but went on to point out that women not only need assistance in access to inputs and credit, but also in agricultural extension services and access to improved technologies.

PROCESSING AND THE FOOD TRADE

Women are leading the way in processing across the region, in both numbers and types of commodities processed. They are the main processors of the staples grains, cowpeas, and dairy products. They also do a large amount of packaging and selling. Women are also very dominant in fish processing (smoking). In Ghana some are reported to have a fleet of fishermen whose activities they pre-finance. Yet, in comparative terms, their processing activities are generally artisanal. Men are fewer in grain processing, but do it on a much larger industrial scale, including processing for breweries.

Both women and men are food trader. While women food traders generally operate on local and national markets, in some countries (Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso) women have broken the glass ceiling of the hitherto male dominated cross-border food trade in both scale and variety. Madam Velegda of Burkina Faso is one such female trader and also food processor – she is hardly educated but her business acumen is only comparable to that of the best of her male counterparts. Some male traders of renown have admirably referred to her as “*occupying a man's place*”. Men are generally larger scale food traders and have better storage and packaging facilities.

The food processing and trade sector is one in which women are said to have complete decision-making autonomy. “They, however, dedicate the greater part of their incomes to family welfare, whereas their male counterparts may also use theirs to marry additional wives,” indicated a male informant who comes from the Islamized parts of the region where polygamy is the norm.

²² The Guinea fowl is also produced in Burkina Faso and is a good source of income. It is controlled mainly by men, despite that fact that women are also involved in the actual production.

Many farmers associations (mixed and otherwise) have been formed along the AVC at community level, particularly around processing and marketing, some of which have grouped together to form national and regional networks. Women and men are very active in such associations. Some informants with deep insights and experience in the region have cautioned against any rush to amalgamate women’s community based associations, as, ‘the higher up you go, the weaker these associations become’ – and there is little or no added value, as the focus of such higher level associations becomes much more on donor money than on the needs of their base. There are also some noteworthy non-agriculture national civil society associations advocacy activities have an impact on agriculture related gender issues – case of AFJN and ANDDH²³ in Niger. Following is a list of some national level agriculture and gender related civil society Associations identified in Burkina, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire and Niger.

Table 10. National Level Agriculture and Gender Related Civil Society Associations

Country	Association	Membership	
Burkina Faso	<i>La Confederation Paysanne</i>	Mixed	State umbrella structure for coordination of farmers’ organizations
	FENAFER - Federation Nationale des Femmes Rurale du Burkina	Female	National Federation of Rural Women of Burkina Faso-member of La Confederation Paysanne
	Federation des eleveurs de Burkina	Mixed	Apex structure for Animal husbandry Associations
Cameroon	Cameroon Federal Farmers Association (CAMFFA)	Male managed	Union of 5000 Farmers in Cameroon. Contact: Jan Palmer at gm@camffa.com and for Sales contact our Import & Export, Trading and Sales Manager at sm@camffa.com for general
Cote d’Ivoire	Association pour la Promotion des Exportations de Cote d’Ivoire (APEX-CI)	Male managed	Promotion of Ivorian Exports
Niger	Niger Association of Women lawyers (AFJN)	Female	Not agriculture focused but actively campaigns for a range of issues, from women’s economic empowerment, including their legal right to land; to female genital mutilation (FGM); as well as supporting public efforts towards the implementation of development actions.
	Niger Human Rights Defense Association (ANDDH)	Mixed	Not agriculture focused but actively campaigns for a range of issues and provides support to public efforts towards the implementation of development actions.

WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATIONS

Data obtained from the field has suggested that women are fairly well represented in leadership positions within national and regional farmer associations and networks, particularly those that have benefitted from USAID regional and bilateral assistance like CIC-B, WAGN, and COFENABVI (See Table 11). It may not always be 50/50, but assuming that numbers also reflect real voice and influence, one must admit that women are well represented, particularly considering their levels of education and scales of activities on which representation is often based.

²³ Niger Association of Women lawyers and Niger Human Rights Defense Association, respectively

Table 11. Women’s Leadership in Regional and National Agriculture Associations

Organization	Regional/ Country	Leaders/ Management	
		Men	Women
West Africa Grains Network (WAGN)	Regional	12	6
Confédération des Fédérations Nationales de la Filière Betail Viande de L’Afrique de L’Ouest (COFENABVI)	Regional	22	5
Comite Interprofessionnel des Cereales du Burkina (CIC-B)	Burkina Faso	20	9
Benin association of Cotton industries (ICA -Industries Cotonnières Associees)	Benin	3	3
Association pour la Promotion des Exportations de Cote d’Ivoire (APEX-CI)	Cote d’Ivoire	5	0
Association Afrique Agro Export (AAFEX)	Regional and beyond	63	37

Sources: Communication from Association leaders - 1st three. Gimpa WACIP report; internet source for APEX-CI and 2012 member catalogue for AAFEX.

Women’s absence within APEX-CI, a cotton (a male dominated crop) association, is understandable. One of the reasons for women’s visible increase within leadership positions in farmer associations is the gender training, coaching, and sensitization received through ATP/E-ATP programs. WAGN and affiliate farmer association - CIC-B, also have a quota system and this seems to have made a difference.

AAFEX is a large (99 members in 2012) network of African Agro-food sector enterprises and associations that spans beyond the West Africa Region – members from 13 WA countries, Gabon, Madagascar and Uganda²⁴- with headquarters in Senegal. Per 2012 statistics, the top leaders (director, president, delegate) of 37% of AAFEX member enterprises are women, including the presidency of the association held by Mme Marie-Andree Tall, director of FRUITALES, a fruit, herb and vegetable processing enterprise in Senegal. The original goal of AAFEX seems to have been to promote members’ food export trade, as well as mutual cooperation in solving problems encountered in their agro-food industries, particularly food processing. From its current membership, it would seem that AAFEX’s activities do cover the whole value chain. AAFEX members are both small and larger scale enterprises and their activities cut across all the sub-sectors – crops, livestock, fisheries, apiculture – and across the whole value chain from production through processing and the local/regional and export trade.

With the mix of activities, scale, actors (men and women) and regional coverage, AAFEX could be a useful partner for the regional Mission. Through this association, the Mission could gain more information on its members and be able to reach/identify specific members to rally around specific issues (gender and otherwise) at a regional level. The different national level member enterprises, particularly the more gender sensitive and women owned/headed, could also provide an entry point for partnerships for regional gender programming – capacity building, advocacy, dissemination of best practices, etc.

MAIN GENDER ISSUES

The main gender related constraints to female farmers’ participation and benefits from agricultural value chains at par with their male counterparts that emerged from the desk review – limited access to land²⁵, credit, improved technologies and information and time constraints – are confirmed (explicitly or

²⁴ See list of countries and member agro-industrial enterprises and associations in Appendix E.

²⁵ Women’s land problems figured in all discussions in Burkina Faso.

implicitly) by the field findings, for similar reasons as provided in the literature. Another related constraint that emerged from the field interviews is the fact that gender units, focal points, POCs and initiatives within government departments and research and training institutions, are dispersed and disconnected, and this makes gender related data also dispersed and disconnected.

From discussions with various gender teams in Burkina Faso, it became clear that the numbers, while reflecting the political commitment to a gender equitable society, could also lead to unnecessary duplication, confusion, and wasted effort. There does not seem to be much communication between the different units. Each gender team interviewed presented an issue and/or asked questions whose answers were held by other teams. This lack of information sharing was also recognized within the different gender teams. The team at Institut National d'Etudes et Recherche Agricole (INERA) raised the idea of bringing the gender units together for better coordination and information sharing. This was an idea they'd had for some time but could not implement due to shortage of funds. Ideally this would be an initiative that could be replicated across other organizations and countries creating national networks with a potential for inter-country linkages and beyond.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation is not well developed in the West Africa, reflecting the situation in Sub Saharan Africa as a whole where on average only 3.5% of cultivated land is irrigated (IFPRI, 2010:4)²⁶. Field informants in Burkina Faso indicated that irrigation generally needs much higher investments than many men can afford, let alone women and are typically developed and managed by government or through public private partnerships

While a few women may be represented on irrigation committees, thanks to affirmative action promoted by the government, it is mainly household heads that have a voice of any sort, and the labor and cash required to access irrigated land. Irrigation is also perceived as too technical for women, and thus is a man's domain par excellence in Burkina. Even when women benefit from irrigation in Burkina Faso, they are perpetually at the bottom of the ladder. Their involvement is in the smallest scale semi-traditional and traditional irrigated perimeters (10-20 square meters); just enough for vegetables.

Informants indicated that some changes are occurring in the gender dynamics around irrigation – in which women are able to rent plots owned by men and/or use male relatives to access irrigated land, but no clear patterns were available. A deeper probe into such changing gender patterns may provide pointers on how they can be supported to empower women and promote longer-term measureable changes at a national level. This could be leveraged for gender sensitive programming in the sector regionally.

USAID MISSIONS GENDER PROGRAMMING IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Per request from the regional agriculture team, five bilateral missions (Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal) were contacted to find out the gender programs which they were implementing, identify best practice, and explore potentials of scaling some of them regionally.

The areas of gender programming identified ranged from professional development of women in technical fields, to AVCs targeting incomes, food security and nutrition, and women's access to land. Many of these were either new initiatives or still in the initial implementation phase with no concrete idea on outcomes.

GHANA

The Africa Women in Agriculture Research and Development (AWARD) Project.

Launched in 2008, AWARD is a project of the Gender & Diversity Program (G&D) of the Consultative

²⁶ IFPRI: *What is the Irrigation Potential for Africa*, Discussion Paper # 00993, June 2010

Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), supported by USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, empowering them to contribute more effectively to poverty alleviation and food security in sub-Saharan Africa. The project was launched in Ghana in 2011, and scholarships were awarded to 6 women in the first round.

AWARD fills a recognized gender gap in technical training. In Ghana like elsewhere in the region, women lag behind men in training in sciences and other technical fields.

Agriculture development and value chain enhancement (ADVANCE).

Implemented in the three northern regions of Ghana, ADVANCE promotes smallholder farmers in three AVCs – Rice, Maize and Soy. It also provides basic numeracy and leadership training to women.

LIBERIA

Food and Enterprise Development (FED).

FED has its project level strategy and specific activities targeted to increase women's participation (and impact) in all aspects of the program. Project staff is currently being trained in gender mainstreaming. The program is just a year and half in its implementation and the scalable gender approaches are yet to emerge.

MALI

USAID/Mali is doing quite a lot to strengthen integration of gender into programming at all levels. It just recently issued an RFP for a Cereal Value Chain, which has high targets for women's involvement.

SENEGAL

Three projects, two of them multi-component programs, include AVC components and a special focus on Senegalese women and adolescent girls' access to incomes, food security, land, and nutrition support.

USAID/Yaajeende.

These AVC activities focused more on women and adolescent girls' farming and food security activities – gardening, access to land, direct nutritional interventions - because women have a marginal position in a male-dominated agriculture sector. Senegalese women are disproportionately affected by malnutrition. High achievements recorded in all the areas covered including, serving 3577 farmers (80% women).

USAID/Wula Nafaa.

A community forestry project that has invested heavily in land reclamation in communities where horticulture and rice cultivation in lowlands are female-dominated activities.

USAID/COMFISH.

Works in the fisheries sector, where gender stakes show that women dominate the processing, marketing, and sale of the fisheries commodities segment of the value chain. The project's gender strategy addresses the weak representation of women, and promotes the mainstreaming of women's interests, concerns, and values into policies and strategies.

USAID MISSIONS PROGRAMS AND IDEAS WITH SCALABLE POTENTIAL

Unfortunately, intermittent phone discussions did not permit a good exchange of ideas during the interviews with the Senegal team. But the two multi-component programs - USAID/Yaajeende and Wula Nafaa look very promising. These are programs to watch out for in terms of their ability to be replicated. They tackle several of women's gender related constraints with a reasonable degree of success. Assessing their scalability could be part of the objectives of their eventual assessment.

TAKE AWARD TO SCALE REGIONALLY

Scaling up AWARD to regional level makes sense. Every country in West Africa needs to fill the gender gap in Agriculture specialists. The Regional program could include training in gender and agriculture development, training within the region in an exchange program in which awardees are admitted in universities outside of their countries of origin, and regularly come together to share ideas and experience. This gives AWARD scholars a region wide experience in their sectors, making them regional, not just national experts. This would also promote a regional education system. Training them in the region, may keep them here at least for some time to help promote regional agricultural development²⁷.

A GENDER POINT OF CONTACT (POC) REGIONAL NETWORK

USAID/Ghana has a POC in every office and/or sector. They are planning to start a POC network meeting soon with the goal to exchange ideas, experiences and strategies. Such networks could be developed in all USAID bilateral missions in the region. The bilateral gender POC networks could be further developed into a regional network that will help improve capacity through exchange of ideas, experiences and strategies. It would also lead to a better understanding of regional gender issues, thus creating a pool of regional gender experts. Such a network could be encouraged to team up with gender experts contracted by USAID in carrying out assessments, evaluations, and other various items thus building their capacity at no additional cost.

WHERE/HOW WOULD USAID/WEST AFRICA HELP?

USAID/West Africa could serve as regional coordinator of AWARD and collaborate directly with the CGIAR implementers. Coordinate also the exchange activities between the scholars while they are in school. AWARD could still maintain a contact with USA educational institutions through a one-time visit per student, or by including supervision by professors from US institutions. Bilateral Missions could retain role of country level selection of candidates. Appoint a regional gender POC to coordinate activities and events of the gender POC network.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

ACCESS TO LAND: NEW STRATEGIES TO RESOLVE OLD ISSUES

Access to land is a top challenge for female farmers in West Africa. In the search for ways to promote gender equality and empower women farmers, new strategies are springing up around land issues nationally that could gain regional relevance. Two examples are MCC's land and agricultural development activities in Burkina Faso and the two USAID/Senegal programs mentioned above. The innovative strategies used in both cases have made it possible for women to access newly developed (irrigated, reclaimed) farmland.

MCC has taken gender integration as a truly crosscutting issue in its multi-component project (COMPACT) in Burkina Faso – introducing gender sensitivity in every aspect, from diagnostic studies, through program design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Collaborating with the government and local communities the MCC's work is gradually bridging the identified gender gaps in access to land. Strategies used include making gender equity a priority in the distribution of land developed under its agriculture development program. Land access is facilitated for farmer groups (women's, youth, and the less privileged). Access to the land by household heads is in some cases contingent on their commitment to give part of the land to female household members. Through this many women have received plots of improved land. In the case of Senegal, USAID/Yaajeende's involvement in reclaiming a community's marginal land is based on the community's commitment to

²⁷ Women who win the AWARD scholarship are trained mainly in the USA. USAID/Ghana is aware that many Africans who train abroad and excel in their fields, hardly come back home.

provide 25-year land leases to women's groups. 74% of the 1783 participants on 110+ hectares reclaimed through this project are women. USAID/Wula Nafaa invested heavily to reclaim lowlands where horticulture and rice cultivation are female-dominated activities; making a total 260 hectares of reclaimed land available to women.

PROMISING PRACTICES AND PIPELINE INITIATIVES BY IFDC

1. IFDC's cluster approach to agricultural value chain development successfully creates/promotes linkages between input and output markets and is anchored on a value chain driver – the main buyer (aggregator) who assures an outlet for cluster farmers' produce, and links them to inputs and credit through in-kind loans or through product pre-finance.
2. An online initiative, the MFarms platform (MFarms.org), which provides production and market info at national and regional levels, linking suppliers and consumers daily.
3. IFDC's pipeline ICT idea that will provide adapted technical and market information to small farmers in real time through an automated mobile phone interface. For instance, send out text messages to farmers saying now is the time to sow seeds for a good and quality harvest. Provide information on the right inputs (seeds, fertilizer, chemicals) to use in conjunction with reminders on exact period/crop cycle and quantity to apply. This idea is inspired by the activities of some of IFDC's AVC cluster drivers, and to an extent by Grameen Foundation's ICT initiatives that are now very adaptable for providing technical support to farmers along the commodity cycle and across the value chain. This is a great idea for a regional initiative that could start with a pilot at national level in one or two countries before taking to scale via both mobile interface and a type of ICT platform similar to the MFARMS.org – an IFARMS.org or I-TechFarms.org.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Initiate new collaboration with IFDC to explore potentials for:
 - a. Taking the agribusiness cluster development model to the next level - linking farmers to inputs and output markets and to micro-finance regionally.
 - b. Leverage IFDC's ICT experience to develop and pilot an initiative around technical support (I-TechFarms Platform) through which packages of useful technical support info could be developed, adapted to regional and national agro-ecological requirements and disseminated via the platform and through the use of mobile devices directly to farmers.
2. As a next step regarding collaboration with ECOWAS, having not had the opportunity to discuss the gender implications of ECOWAS's input regulations, the assessment team would recommend:
 - a. UASID/West Africa facilitate meetings between women's national and regional agricultural associations so they can have conversations about women farmers' specific input needs (types, quantities, packaging, price, etc.) and present these directly to ECOWAS.
 - b. Provide technical and logistic support to the women's agricultural associations in their preparation to present these needs to ECOWAS
3. Explore strategies to support the promising innovative land initiatives that are promoting gender equality and empowering women farmers in Burkina Faso and Senegal. Facilitate the capture of useful lessons from these initiatives to disseminate to the rest of the region through sensitization and advocacy; and explore ways of replicating and/or scaling such initiatives regionally, a few countries at a time. This would require collaboration with regional partners such as ECOWAS, as well as with land rights advocacy groups and other land rights champions that may exist in the region.

4. Support the development and rollout regionally, of rural financial services adapted to the needs of small farmers, particularly women. Could include: i) Supporting the development of tontines into more formal (micro) financial institutions, linked to existing more established institutions (MFIs or credit unions) where possible. ii) Promoting the development of in-kind and produce marketing-linked credit services similar to the innovative approach adopted by USAID/Nigeria MARKETS. iii) Support training and capacity building for all market partners and financial institutions involved in lending to female and other marginalized small farmers.
5. Encourage the creation of national networks of gender professional, teams/units under the umbrella of women/gender ministry if applicable and facilitate communication between national networks at a regional level. Yearly meetings of delegates from national networks around specific areas of regional importance allow technical, capacity building and idea exchanges.
6. Gender evaluations of existing national irrigations initiatives, ex. PIPP in Niger, to capture gender patterns and most promising practices and learn lessons that can inform regional programming in irrigation going forward. The lessons learned could be disseminated through workshops and exchange events that bring together national and regional stakeholders.

SUMMARY

This report has highlighted the main salient points emerging from interviews conducted with USAID/WA partner organizations, agricultural associations and other relevant stakeholders across parts of the region. The report covers five main areas: agricultural value chains, irrigation, gender programming in USAID bilateral missions, lessons and promising practices and recommendations.

Apart from highlighting a more institutional gap caused by dispersed and disconnected gender units and initiatives that tend to also result in information and knowledge gaps, the field findings largely confirmed those arising from the desk review. They provide more lucid insights on gender patterns in processing and the food trade. Women are exceling in food processing across the region in both numbers and types of commodities being processed and traded. This has allowed some to break the glass ceiling of the hitherto male-dominated cross-border trade. Yet, in comparative terms, their processing activities are generally artisanal, and the bulk of their food trade is in local and national markets. These gender differentials are very reflective of women's gender based production constraints discussed elaborately in part one of this report.

While irrigation is still a male preserve, as exemplified by the case of Burkina Faso, some gender related changes are occurring. A deeper probe into the case may provide pointers to the way forward for gender sensitive programming in the sector regionally.

Overall, there are many promising practices within the agricultural value chains in the West African Region that point to a greater potential for progressive change in the gender dynamics. These range from nascent innovative strategies to alleviate the most pertinent land issue, to various avenues for improving women access to improved technologies, services, information and credit. While many of these promising practices are country specific in nature and much more instructive to bilateral than to regional programming, with the right set of partnerships and synergies in place, some are likely to be leveraged at a regional level and others may be more replicable nationally and eventually also gain regional relevance.

3. GENDER AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

dTS conducted interviews with organizations located in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Niger through one-on-meetings, by phones and Skype. The field survey focused on two areas; integrated water management and sustainable fisheries. Key organizations interviewed were the West Africa

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (West Africa WASH) Program and the Water and Sanitation for Africa Program in order to review the area of Integrated Water Management. The Coastal Resources Center was also interviewed to better understand the sustainable fisheries project. dTS interviewed other NRM organizations and programs including Global Communities (formerly CHF), West Africa Science Service Centre on Climate Change and adapted Land Use (WASCAL), Rainforest Alliance and Care International.

The research findings will be presented under the two key areas of integrated water management and conservation and natural resource management related to the identified gender issues. The lessons learned, best practices, and the recommendations will be discussed generally for natural resource management in the region.

KEY GENDER ISSUES IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

Findings on key gender issues in water management will be discussed under three key areas of participation, capacity, and policy.

PARTICIPATION

It was discovered that both men and women were represented in water management committees and boards. In Ghana, where this observation was made, there is a national policy requirement of 40% representation of women on water and sanitation committees. This could account for the relatively high representation of women in committees. This unfortunately was not the case in Burkina Faso, where there is no such policy or legal provision. Respondents indicated women were less represented in water management committees in Burkina.

Respondents also observed that women use water for small businesses such as hair dressing and food vending. This pattern in the use of water for productive purposes among women was found to be common in both Ghana and Burkina Faso.

In Ghana there were indications of both men and women benefiting from trainings. There were reports of trainings conducted for women in small businesses on business related topics. Both men and women on the water management boards and committees undergo training in x, y, to help them in their work.

In terms of payments for water, two types of payments were identified, initial bulk payment for the infrastructure and then payments for daily water use. Respondents observed that their interactions with community members seem to suggest that men tend to contribute towards one-off payments for the infrastructure whilst daily payments for water were more the responsibility of women. This suggestion could possibly be based on the fact that daily water gathering is traditionally viewed as a woman's responsibility.

Overall, women and men are involved in similar and sometimes different ways in the water sector. Though both men and women seem to be represented on water management boards in some countries, it is not clear whether they both participated equally in decision making on the boards. Further investigation is needed to establish the level of participation of men and women on the management boards.

CAPACITY

Capacity was looked at from two angles; capacity of men and women to participate in water management at the local level and the capacity of partners to integrate gender into program work.

Respondents indicated that baseline studies and observations have shown that women in local level committees tended to be less educated and less informed than their male counterparts. For instance in

Ghana, it was observed that though women were represented on committees their participation in decision-making was quite minimal. This, most respondents hypothesized, could be attributed to their limited ability to contribute towards certain technical decisions in water management. This confirms findings in this desk review of some studies in northern Ghana that showed females were less likely to participate in decision-making on water management in communities. However, the low participation could also be a reflection of existing gender power relations where women are expected to be less expressive in the presence of men in most communities.

Respondents also noted that WASH sector players usually do not have the capacity to integrate gender into their programs. There were instances where partners explained that gender was not integrated into their programs because it was not required by the funding agency. This to some extent shows how gender integration was not perceived as part of mainstream program work. Most partners have resorted to the use of gender experts or consultants in integrating gender into programs. The use of such specialist was seen by some respondents to have produced mixed results. On one hand, it has provided an opportunity for most programs to make significant progress in terms of gender integration, but on the other hand it has made program staff seem not to view gender as part of their work. For some organizations one way they have dealt with this is to integrate gender into their programs initially at the proposal writing stage. This ensures that gender is properly mainstreamed into programs.

Overall, there seem to be a generally low capacity on how women and men can be properly integrated into natural resource management. Capacity building will therefore be very essential to enable women and men play their roles more effectively in managing natural resources.

POLICY

There are gaps in most gender policies and the way they are implemented. Most policies in WASH have either not fully addressed the issue of gender or have not been fully implemented. In Ghana, there was perception that gender was better integrated than countries like Burkina and Niger in terms of mainstreaming gender into WASH. Although Niger and Togo are leaders in national gender policies, the contents are not well known by WASH sector players. In Benin, there is a provision in the policy to have dedicated staff for gender in WASH activities at the relevant departments yet this has not yet happened in practice. Respondents cited resource constraints and lack of political will as some of the reasons for poor policy implementation.

In conclusion, though women are gaining recognition in policy documents, their plight has not changed much because most of the policies have remained good intentions with no actions. Advocacy groups including women groups can serve as pressure groups on governments to get them committed. Governments could also be supported to develop and implement gender sensitive policies.

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

It was found that women and men were involved in conservation and the management of natural resources in different ways. For instance in the areas of both fisheries and forestry, it was found that women were engaged in the areas perceived to have lower returns. In Gambia for instance, while men control most of the fisheries, oyster fishing is perceived as a woman's activity with women dominating in the harvesting, collection and marketing of oysters. Oyster fishing in Gambia was considered not valuable enough to attract the attention of men. In the forestry sector in Ghana men dominated logging and chain saw operations whilst women were mainly worked in the trade of nontraditional forest products.

It was also found that the areas dominated by women attracted little attention from government in terms of regulation and support. For instance, the department of fisheries had no recorded data or information on oyster fisheries and no staff dedicated to it because it had no huge financial returns and therefore left it for women in Gambia.

It was found, however, that women's focus in these neglected areas presented them with a unique opportunity. In the Gambia, a women's association²⁸ was able to attain the government's approval for a co-management plan, which grants them exclusive rights to oyster and cockle fishing in areas within the Tanbi Wetlands National Park. Respondents suggested that low stake areas in natural resource management could be considered as good entry points for women as there are fewer issues with power struggles compared with integrating women into highly male dominated areas.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

- Low stake areas, such as oyster and cockle fishing in the Gambia, attract less attention from people with political and economic agendas and so have fewer issues with power struggles and are therefore good entry points for women in natural resource management.
- Success of an initiative depends on the innovation, dynamism, and vision of local leadership. Women leaders that can connect with community members at the local level, and have the ability to speak of relevant issues at regional and national levels are necessary. For instance, through competent leadership, the TRY Oyster Women Association in Gambia was able to bring together fifty fractured communities on shares issues. Their association was able to enter into a co-management agreement with government, gaining exclusive use rights of a national recognized fishery, possibly the first of its kind in West Africa.
- Providing space and time in programming in ways that acknowledge women's schedules as well as their literacy issues is essential for program success. This allows for a participatory process in a pace appropriate for women.

BEST PRACTICES²⁹

- **Gender mainstreaming contributes to the success of NRM projects.** In the Province of Est-Mono, Togo, earlier attempts to address the problem of water and sanitation in a school projects failed. Lack of a gender perspective and consultation were identified as the causes of failure. The Regional Centre for Cost-Effective Fresh Water and Sanitation (CREPA)³⁰ corrected these limitations through a new pilot project. CREPA ensured the participation of all villagers in the design of the project through schools including boys, girls, men, women, and teachers. The project provided water and sanitation facilities for schools in the village. Gender balanced committees were established in each village to manage the income, maintenance, and repair of equipment. The schools were able to generate income and the women had more time to dedicate to income generation activities. Many people identified sources of gender imbalances and women were empowered and motivated to organize public debates to address gender inequality issues in their villages.
- **Using Participatory Action Research to promote sustainable fish management practices.** The Ba Nafaa Project in Gambia³¹ provides a good example of this. Rather than recruit external technical consultants to conduct stock assessment or technical studies, the project worked with women who conducted low technical action research. Through support from the department of fisheries and technical support from the project, the women were able to conduct simple experiments to understand the biology of oysters. As a result they were able to determine seasons of the year that would bring a higher yield in the production of oysters. Based upon this the project made management decisions as to when to enforce closed seasons to allow for reproduction of the fisheries to provide a higher yield. This process enabled the project to make sustainable

²⁸ Try Oyster Women Association

²⁹ West Africa WASH and WSA are relatively new programs and are yet to start documenting best practices.

³⁰ Now Water and Sanitation for Africa

³¹ Gambia-Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project

management decisions. It was also very empowering for the women as they played an important role in the process

- **Integrated Approach produces multiple results.** The Ba Nafaa Project addressed other factors for sustainable fisheries management such as water, sanitation, hygiene, climate change vulnerability, and adaptation. Water points and latrines were provided at harvesting and processing sites. Linking sanitation to economic livelihoods like fisheries served as a motivation to adopt good sanitary practices. Improving sanitation was seen as something that was going to improve the value chain of fisheries, reducing the likelihood of hygiene related diseases. This approach was perceived as highly successful.

Men and women have different roles in natural resources management. These roles largely reflect existing gender disparities in most West African countries, where women traditionally have little control of resources and decision-making. Low capacity and poor policy implementation have hindered the proper integration of women into natural resource management. Though women's roles are being increasingly recognized in policy documents and laws, there has not yet been much impact because of limited resources and in some cases low political will to fully implement such policies. Sustainable resource management cannot be possible without the active role of women. There is the need to go beyond rhetoric to practically deal with gender issues in natural resource management. Governments need to develop and fully implement gender sensitive policies. Citizen action groups can also be supported to advocate for gender equity so that governments remain committed. Experts can be supported to improve both the scale and depth of research to increase knowledge and provide evidence as basis for developing effective models for program work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the general findings from both the desk review and field research, two key recommendations are proposed and some implementation strategies suggested for addressing gender issues in natural resource management in West Africa.

- Support research development to create a knowledge base for gender and natural resource management. Some suggested strategies include:
- **Strategies for Policy and Inclusiveness**
 - Liaise with academic and research Institutions to form a regional knowledge center to generate and share knowledge that will provide evidence to inform the development of gender sensitive policies and programs.
 - Support consistent documentation of case studies and best practices in integrated gender natural resource management.
 - Link research institutions to identified women groups in natural resource management to develop experiment fields for joint research between women's groups and researchers.
 - Support experts to develop consistent monitoring and evaluation systems for natural resource management programs that will among other things be able to measure the impact of activities on the rehabilitation of natural resources.
- Support and invest in capacity enhancement of actors, both men and women in natural resource management.
- **Strategies for female inclusion and advancement**
 - Develop the capacity of promising women groups to act as advocates for the promotion of gender equality in the management of natural resources in the region.

- Support the training of promising young women in the area of natural resource management to serve as experts in the area and also as a resource base for the proposed regional knowledge center. A scholarship fund can be instituted for this purpose.
- Strengthen women focused groups to enter into co-management agreements with governments for exclusive rights to specific natural resources.
- Support the formation or strengthening of a Regional Journalist Network for Women in Natural Resource Management. Their responsibility will be to highlight the gender issues in natural resource management and promote the visibility of women in natural resource management. Similar networks already exist in Ghana³² and Africa³³ related to the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, but they do not specifically focus on gender issues. Country level networks can be formed where they don't exist and encouraged to join the regional network as an umbrella organization. This can be encouraged for all the sectors natural resource management.

4. GENDER AND HEALTH IN WEST AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report discusses field findings of interviews with key USAID/West Africa partners including government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Burkina Faso, Togo and Ghana. It summarizes the key findings from the country-level that relate to gender and health issues from a sub-regional level perspective. Discussions of the field findings highlight four key issues related to gender and health. It ends with recommendations for consideration and the way forward for gender integration.

MEN AS OBSTACLES TO WOMEN'S HEALTH

Several stakeholders interviewed cited numerous examples to indicate that men often can be a barrier to women's health seeking behaviors. In Burkina Faso, one stakeholder stated: "the notion of men not wanting their wives to use contraceptives still persists". Particularly in Togo, it was indicated that there is data at the national level related to men creating barriers to women's health.

Socio-cultural factors were repeatedly cited as underlying factors to this problem. This however, confirmed what already exists in the literature that was reviewed. Culturally in Africa men are the heads of the family or households. For example, in order for women to leave the house to seek services they need the permission of their partners or husbands.

One stakeholder interviewed in Burkina Faso, had this to say: "the major gender and health issue for the entire sub region is that barriers confront women's access to family planning services in the past, while this seems to be changing theoretically, in practice/reality the situation for women in West Africa has not changed... women in the sub region need permission from their partners in order to seek reproductive health services... You may say women do not need written approval from their husbands, yet, the cultural thinking is that they need to have permission to seek services".

Several reasons were cited to explain why women need the permission from men to seek healthcare services. Among them was economic reason. For a woman to seek healthcare services, she often needs a means of transport to access a clinic or healthcare facility. Due to traditional social roles, men are

³² Ghana WATSAN Journalist Network – (GWJN)

³³ West Africa WASH Journalist Network <http://washjournalists.wordpress.com/>

expected to provide money for the cost of the transport even where reproductive health care services are free.

CHILD MORTALITY

This has to do with the marginal role and positions as well as the lack of health knowledge among women across the sub region. The disadvantaged positions of women in West Africa affect all aspects of family health. The main area of concern for most stakeholders interviewed was not the general lack of experienced health care professionals particularly at the 'hard-to-reach' areas in the region, but the socio-economic status of women in West Africa and the implications for children's health. According to one stakeholder, "It is always the mothers who take care of these children; they send them to hospitals or clinics for treatment... yet, women face economic and social constraints if they want to send their children to hospitals...how can women be supported economically to empower them to take decisions not only about their own health but their children's health as well?" (Source: Interviewee from Burkina Faso - Deliver/John Snow Inc.).

In addition, this stakeholder lamented about the gender gaps in actual program implementation with particular reference to the Malaria Program. There are gender gaps in targeting beneficiaries. Often program implementation targets only one group to the disadvantage of the intended direct beneficiary. It was mentioned for example that "with the Malaria Program, there is a component of mosquito net distribution...here, household census target or focus on head of households where in the sub region they are mostly men; so you go and count men mainly as heads of household/family and distribute mosquito nets to them; these men may be heads of more than one household or family, yet, they are targeted and are given the mosquito net; the men benefit, and they in turn, divert the nets by either giving it to their girlfriends or selling them for money. Is it possible to redefine the indicator for household identification in order to reach out directly to women?" There is a direct correlation between this issue and child morbidity and mortality in the sub region.

EARLY/FORCED MARRIAGE

This is an issue for the entire sub region, particularly in specific areas of Togo along the south. Most communities do not see the benefits of girls' education and therefore prefer giving their young girls out for marriage. In Togo, there is a saying that attempts to deter certain ethnic groups from forcing their young girls into marriage. Literally, the saying translates as "Do you know that forced marriage is a bad practice? Your girls will be killed, abused and maltreated...but ours will go to school...progress and become future leaders and rule yours...and your girls will become slaves and servants to our girls..." (Source: Interviewee from Peace Corps office in Togo).

LACK OF HEALTH KNOWLEDGE AMONG WOMEN

Many of the stakeholders interviewed expressed the view that while education is known to be the key to empower women to seek family planning services, the majority of women in the sub region lack basic health knowledge due to their low level of education. They added that while girls' education and enrolment in school, is a very important issue, most young girls do not go to school for several reasons. Those who are enrolled in school often do not progress from one level to the other due to dropouts resulting from early pregnancies and forced marriages. In the view of one stakeholder, "we need them to be educated to acquire basic health knowledge; yet, the question is; how can we provide the girls the opportunity to go to school and remain there? ...and for the out-of school population; what type of education is needed and how do we reach or target them?" (Source: From Burkina Faso - Deliver/John Snow Inc.).

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

This section provides insight into examples of country level key gender and health issues for particular attention from a regional -level perspective. It brings to the fore i) how disabled women in the sub

region had been underserved with friendly reproductive services in the region, ii) the plight of MSMs in the sub region and the fact that they are not empowered; and therefore afraid to come out openly to access services, and iii) the vulnerability of sex workers and female-partners of MSMs in West Africa.

Togo

Family Planning Services for Women with Disabilities

Access to reproductive health services for women with disabilities, particularly during antenatal visits and delivery, is a real challenge in the sub region. In an interview with Fédération Togolaise des Associations de Personnes Handicapées (FETAPH) a local NGO in Togo, it became clear that special attention and care is needed for this vulnerable group of women in West Africa.

Even though women with disabilities have the same reproductive rights, the example from Togo revealed that these women, who visit clinics and hospitals to seek reproductive health services, often become victims of insults, harassments, maltreatment, stigmatization, and discrimination. Apart from their enormous challenge with physical accessibility to health facilities, the heights of delivery tables are not disability-friendly. According to FETAPH, when they ask for help to climb the delivery table, they are often told by health workers “how were you able to climb into the sex bed?”

Health workers by their negative attitudes discourage women with disabilities from seeking services. In sharing experiences of pregnant women with disabilities, FETAPH explained “A pregnant disabled woman goes to the midwife and this is what they are told...in your situation, how did you get yourself pregnant?”

The good news is that through the activities of FETAPH, the midwifery school in Togo has raised awareness and built the capacity of the staff on how to handle women with disabilities who seek reproductive health services. Although only five staff members of the school have received Training of Trainers program on how to handle disabilities, it is believed that they will be able to bring a change in teaching midwifery students to enable them to provide disability-friendly family planning services to these women.

MEN HAVING SEX WITH MEN (MSM)

Stakeholders interviewed mentioned repeatedly that the issue of MSM in the sub region is a sensitive one. In an interview with ‘Espoir Vie Togo’ (EVT), it was discussed that gender issues of MSM are not different from female sex workers but can be more complex. They tend to have multiple partners and many MSM in the sub region are bisexuals. As a result, if they are not targeted, they may present an increased risk of HIV infection.

MSM generally do not have rights and access to good health services in West Africa, and, when they do, it is often the ‘female-male’ partners who avail themselves for health services. The male partners are difficult to reach. The male partners of MSM often turn to the Internet to discretely seek health services. Strong social norms and cultural values often prohibit MSM from coming out openly to seek health services - this statement may be general but that is the reality in West Africa. Human rights lawyers in most of the sub region become ‘voiceless for the voiceless’ in their efforts to defend MSMs. For example, in Ghana during the January 2013 vetting of the current Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection who also doubles as a Gender Advocate & Human Rights Lawyer, could not openly defend her stand to protect rights of MSMs in Ghana. Her earlier position on the issue while serving as the Regional Coordinator for Africa at the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in Ghana to protect the rights of all including homosexuals attracted social ostracisms from a cross section of the country including religious leaders, chiefs, community elders, the media and off course politicians when she was nominated as a minister. As was obvious her subsequent vetting and confirmation for the position attracted weeks of national debate with the call to exclude her from the government just because of her

professional stand on the practice of homosexuality, which was seen as very dangerous to the Ghanaian society.

More revealing were the abuses that occur between MSM partners. According to EVT, when a female partner of MSM is diagnosed with HIV, it is usually difficult to disclose to the male partner out of fear of being assaulted physically. In such situations EVT peer educators/counselors 'hand hold' the infected partner to help him or her deal with the disclosure to the partner in order to prevent physical abuse by the partner.

Most MSM are afraid to come out openly due to stigmatization and discrimination. The EVT program therefore, provides drop-in centers for MSM where they meet to socialize and get the opportunity to discuss and share issues that affect them. The center provides a favorable environment for MSM friendly psychosocial services.

SEX WORKERS

Through the programming activities of 'Forces en Action pour le bien-être de la mère et de l'enfant' (ONG Famme) in Togo, partners and clients of female sex workers are provided with Voluntary Counseling Services (VCT). Interviews with Famme revealed that partners and clients often create obstacles when sex workers want to seek services. In order to deal with this issue, male clients are targeted as well. Beneficiary sex workers of the program are used as a proxy to reach male partners and clients. In most cases, the women are encouraged to come with their partners so as to reach men and make it easier for the female sex workers to seek counseling services.

The strategy for encouraging men's involvement included targeted education in order to understand the services provided by Famme; and this has helped to remove the barriers for the sex workers. There is evidence to show that once men are educated they become sympathetic to their partners. When the men come with the sex worker, they benefit from a free diagnosis. It was revealed that partners of sex workers who come in for diagnosis are often infected. The program then ensures they are counseled to seek treatment.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

Interviews with key USAID partner organizations uncovered these lessons and best practices from different countries that can be replicated for achieving better results in Family Planning service and HIV prevention.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN APPROACH

A number of stakeholders interviewed acknowledged that a community-driven approach ensures community ownership and sustainability. In Togo, Appui au Développement et a La Sante Communautaire (ADESCO) stated that the success of its family planning program was a direct result of this approach. ADESCO is local NGO that adopted community-led approach in two districts to select and train 300 community leaders including chiefs as well as religious leaders and community health workers to provide family planning services in every community in which it is working. The selection, of the communities ensured equal balance of males and females.

The NGO was able to build the capacity on how to integrate women, provide counseling services, and provide advice as well as make referrals where necessary. There is evidence to show that the approach did not only succeed in involving men, but has produced high quality family planning and child health prevention services. There is now high demand for these types of services at the community level. The government of Togo may want to replicate this program and its community development approach in other districts.

ENGAGING JOURNALISTS THROUGH MEDIA ADVOCACY

Most of the collaborating partners NGOs work with journalists and use the media to create debate/dialogue on very sensitive issues. Examples from Togo and Burkina Faso have shown that working with journalists and the media provides positive images to reduce stigma and change in perceptions as well as some social norms about MSM and female sex workers.

Stakeholders interviewed stated that men prefer private consultations on their reproductive health, which makes their engagement in family planning very difficult. However, examples from Senegal, Burkina Faso and Togo gathered from the interviews suggested that media engagements for dialogue and discussions on family planning had provided positive results for men's involvement in family planning and HIV initiatives.

Community health with radio programs were repeatedly cited by most of the partners as an excellent channel for both social mobilization and discussions on very sensitive, as well as difficult or complex health issues.

MOBILE HEALTH TEAMS

In Burkina Faso, Marie Stopes International reported success with the ability to reach those who need family planning services with the activities of the mobile health teams. Through their activities the monthly mobile team move into communities to provide family planning services. The services include provision and administration of contraception methods such as injectable and simple procedures or minor operations such as tubal ligation for women. Women who ordinarily would require transportation to access these services are targeted and reached with the service.

GAP ANALYSIS

Both the desk review and field research uncovered wide gaps in gender data particularly. It was evident from persons interviewed that while there is international and national commitment to monitor interventions for men, women and children particularly for the Prevention of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers and their Children; disaggregated health data needed to guide monitoring of progress towards the achievement of gender equality in health remains a challenge in the sub region. This section highlights two key areas that provide important public health and cultural research opportunities in West Africa.

MSM

There is generally a lack of research on Men having Sex with Men. Although evidence from the fieldwork suggests that gender issues of MSM are more complex and violence is a regular occurrence among partners, there is little or no research to provide an understanding of the nature of the complexities and the subculture of the MSM dynamics in West Africa. More research is required to better understand how to improve the health of MSM.

LACK OF RESEARCH ON ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Outcomes of the interviews suggest that women with disabilities who seek family planning services are often victims of verbal assaults, stigmatization and discrimination. They face physical challenges when accessing health facilities and delivery tables are not disability friendly. There is, however, limited information and knowledge in West Africa about handicap women's access to family planning services.

CONCLUSION

In spite of the health program initiatives in the sub region, outcomes of the field interviews reveal critical gaps of gender integration in the sub region of West Africa. There are still constraints related to gender and health in West Africa. Across the sub region, the health of women and men are affected by the social, economic, political and cultural context that influences health-seeking behaviors. Although there were differences in responses expressed by interviewees, the general consensus however was that socio-cultural beliefs, social norms and values about sexuality and sexual conduct impose different freedoms and restrictions on men and women particularly for sex workers and MSMs. Given the strong socio-cultural barriers that hinder particularly women and girls as well as men from asserting their reproductive health rights, it can be concluded that a major area for action by USAID/West Africa, would be how to sustain HIV/AIDS education as well as family planning campaigns and translate the knowledge gained into behavioral change across the sub region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings from both the desk review and the field interviews the following recommendations are being suggested for consideration by USAID/West Africa:

STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION

- USAID/WA should include a male engagement component as relevant for health programs to ensure more effective reproductive health service results. Consulting Men's Engagement (CME) as a strategy for men's inclusion and engagement can transform gender roles in the sub region. USAID/West Africa should make men's engagement a component of all health programs to make the difference in reproductive health services.
- Explore and identify regional strategies on how to best target women with disabilities with accessible reproductive health care services.

STRATEGIES FOR FEMALE ADVANCEMENT

- Expand the use of women's associations for regional mobilization efforts to increase women's access and use of family planning services.
- The Coalition of Regional Women's Association can work to support national level women's groups to be more independent from and to empower women in the sub region at all the different levels. Observations from the interviews were that women associations have proven to be effective in mobilizing women in accessing family planning services.
- As a best practice, women's associations such as Association de Burkina Faso (ASBF) plays key roles in promoting the use of reproductive health services and the practice of modern family planning methods. Started in 1997, the association has clinics that provide services to women in Burkina Faso.
- Similar associations exist in Togo and other countries in the sub region. This kind of initiative can be replicated regionally across the sub region. USAID/West Africa could coordinate the Regional Coalition of Women's Association to improve their advocacy efforts.

RESEARCH

- Support research with a focus on innovative ways of improving the quality of health care including strategies for scaling up voluntary counseling and testing; peer health education programs and community-integrated management of childhood illnesses and effective strategies for providing accessible reproductive health care services to women with disabilities.

5. GENDER, GOVERNANCE, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

OVERVIEW: GOVERNANCE

Women's political under-representation has been in the agenda of the international community since the 1990s and it is still a critical matter for West Africa to achieve its development goals. Despite national and international campaigns of different stakeholders to reduce all socio-economic and political obstacles to women's political representations and decision-making, change is slow. Some perspectives exist to improve the current situation with strong political will from different countries. In addition, great investment in physical and human capital would influence other factors, social stigmas, and religious perceptions.

Field information on gender and governance was carried out in Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. It consists of meeting government departments, USAID funded projects, CSOs and NGOs. There were two key questions on which the discussion was focused. First, to identify major gender governance issues which are also similar to those of the region, and secondly to provide best and research questions practices or lessons learnt from governance and make political or programming recommendations.

Field research has two parts. The first part is focused on women's political participation in the region. In this section quota as a perspective for women's political inclusion is discussed. Women's participation in CSOs and NGOs and the international community was developed and lessons learnt were described. The second part concerns the mining sector and its implications on women and youth employment opportunities, corruption and economic growth, and further research in the mining sector. Finally, recommendations were made for the mission future programming.

MAJOR ISSUES

WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

The West Africa region is diverse and this diversity is reflected in women's political participation across the region. In Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, all stakeholders interviewed strongly believed that quotas for women in formal politics can boost women's parliamentary representation.

PRO QUOTA AND ITS SUCCESSFUL USE IN BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, quota systems have been successfully adopted by political institutions. Aminata KASSE, NDI country resident and former young parliamentarian in Senegal, experienced the pre-quota period and post-quota period in Burkina Faso, as she actively participated in the advocacy campaigns for quota enactment. She strongly acknowledged quota use and its positive impacts on women's political participation as best strategy to promote women's massive political participation. She noted that, "females candidates rate improved from 15%-18%, the number of females candidates increased as women got positive attitudes on politics." In fact, achieving quota is part of the process of empowerment as many obstacles exist. To reduce obstacles, NDI strategy focuses on the 'consolidation phase'. Women elected candidates have been trained to address real issues without wasting time. NDI activities include capacity building of political parties (opposition and the ruling parties). They made films and other visual aids on success stories as advocacy tools to attract other women in the political sphere.

HIGH EXPECTATION FOR QUOTA USE IN COTE D'IVOIRE

In Cote d'Ivoire, quota is not adopted yet and women's political participation rate is low, and change is slow. CSOs, NGOs and their national and international partners are strong activists for quota use as a mechanism to increase and improve women's political participation. Women's current representation rate in parliament is 10.4%. Namizata SANGARE, President of 'Organisation des Femmes Actives de Cote d'Ivoire' drafted a project for legal adoption of quota on elected positions as well as on all nominated

positions in private and public sectors at 30%. The project draft is waiting to be approved. Natalie KONE TRAORE, Chair of “Centre Feminine pour la Democratie et les Droits Humains” en Cote d’Ivoire hopes that quota laws on elected and appointed positions will improve women’s political participation faster. Kanyatsi Quentin, Common Ground Country Director in sustaining NDI’s view on quota, added ‘that proposing financial incentives to political parties for adopting quota’ can be addressed by the government. He also acknowledged that better legal environment is critical for quota efficiency. Later, he stressed that, ‘strong synergies of women and advocacy groups’ are critical to obtain political quota for women representation in political appointments. Dominique DIEUDONNE, NDI country representative also confirmed that, ‘quota is an institutional push forward’ for women’s integration in the political sphere.

WEAKNESSES OF QUOTA

Quota is sometimes inefficient and does not guarantee full achievement of women’s political representation. Ghana and Mali with quota and low rates of women’s parliamentary representation at 10% is due to two main reasons. First, the optional or voluntary character of the quota used by political parties means that quota application may vary from one year to another and hence instability of quota rates. Political motivation itself is strongly related to political stability, as such the trends of women’s political participation will remain slow.

Gaining quota means engaging to new phase (as the case of NDI in Burkina). Quota needs to be sustained so it can make positive effects. Continuous advocacy and capacity building for both elected candidates and political parties are good activities to sustain quota. In this regard, NDI Burkina Faso assisted elected women to implement ‘CEDAW’ in their communities as one major gender activity during their terms.

Efficiency of quota also depends on the state of advancement of women to overcome other factors such as socio-cultural barriers and their related stigmas on women’s political engagement. Some of these barriers tend to confine women to the home. For example, François BEAULNE, COP of University at Albany highlighted that women’s priorities are meeting their household immediate needs and their concerns are not politics, especially in resources scarce environment.

WOMEN’S REPRESENTATION AT DECISION-MAKING LEVELS IN BURKINA FASO

Women’s under-representation is tied closely with strong political engagement in Burkina Faso. The Ministry of Agriculture organized a competition exclusively targeting female candidates in order to recruit more women into the water sector after women failed during a mixed-sex competition. This was not due to the lack of capacity by the female candidates, but because of a lack of qualified female candidates. Monique Ilbodoul, farmer’s organizer and Lucie Ouedrago, Director acknowledged that those holding higher positions push to integrate and promote women in the agriculture and waters sectors. These women hold many jobs varying counselors to technicians. Gender related bias on work is not great concerns; men are taking positions of secretaries. In 2011, the Ministry of agriculture census showed that there are 1821 men and 294 women.

The Minister of Women’s Promotion and Gender, Dr. Nestorine Sangare remains optimistic and noted that, the government is looking for more women technicians. Currently women are appointed to technical ministries in water, sanitation, education and literacy, finance, human rights, and citizenship. Dr. Sangare is encouraged even though only five of the thirty ministries are currently held by women.

WOMEN’S REPRESENTATION AT DECISION-MAKING LEVELS IN COTE D’IVOIRE

In Cote d’Ivoire, CSOs, NGOs and numerous national and international partners are actively engaged in addressing critical issues in the country. Despite their efforts, female representation in decision-making positions is low. There are currently nine women that hold the position of mayors. This represents only 4.6% of all mayors. In addition, there are twenty-five women in parliamentary positions out of the 230

available accounting for 10% of the total number of parliamentarians. Women occupy five ministries out of thirty-one ministries.

Unemployment rate in Cote d'Ivoire is 19.8% for women and 12.1% for men. A recent study showed that gender based violence affects more women than men, the rate is 26% for women against 12% for men. Female genital mutilations rate is 36% of women between 15-49 years old (UNFPA).

At the international level, Cote d'Ivoire has made major achievements for women's advancement, the most important of which are 'Domestic Violence Law', international law on Peace Talks 1325, and Protocol on CEDAW.

All these achievements notwithstanding, many challenges still remain. The post conflict trauma threatened many women and security issues undermine their political engagement. The government stressed its speech on 'Reconstruction', but it did not say anything on the roles of women in the reconstruction process, pointed out Namizata Sangare, a woman's leader.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN CSOS, NGOS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

In West Africa, women engaged in CSOs and NGOs starting at grass-root level to seek solutions to local issues. Later, their activities reached the national and international levels as they reflect communities' realities. In Cote d'Ivoire, 'Organisation des Femmes Actives de Cote d'Ivoire's leader Sangare Namizata became more prominent during the political crisis to address women's issues including rape, domestic violence, peace negotiation, and many more. In Mali, APDF leader, Fatoumata Sire Diakite's activities were on girls' education, women's rights, domestic violence, female genital mutilations, to name a few. In Burkina, Madeleine Madelein Amsetou Ouedrago, President of NGO Koom, focused on multiple problems including women's and men's literacy, health (genital mutilations, family planning) and advocacy on women's political participation. In addition, income-generating activities were initiated to support her local communities.

Female leaders continue to become more prominent on the international stage. They continue to strive to keep pressing issues affecting West Africa at the forefront of the international communities' mind. Many are becoming "reference leaders" and representing their countries to the world. Examples of this could be seen at the Beijing Platform of Action on women's political inclusion (1995), Beijing to review Beijing Declaration and Platform for action in (2000); ten year Review and Appraisal of the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (of Women (2005) and Meeting on Commission of Women's Advancement (2005).

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

Quota was the best way to increased women's representation in the parliament in Burkina Faso. In rural areas, it also increased female candidates at the communal elections. Women had increasingly positive attitudes for female political participation, a trend that moved women forward from social to political spheres in the Burkina Faso.

LESSON ON QUOTAS

The characteristics of quotas have continually boosted women's political participation in the region. However, use of quota is not fully understood in its implementation. Quota users themselves ignore if quota is legally voted in the legislation of political parties or if it is a temporary use of quota. In addition, quota itself becomes efficient if only it is sustained by strong capacity building of elected candidates, political parties and the CSOs (NDI Burkina). Quota does not remove other socio-cultural barriers preventing women's political inclusion (religious perceptions, social stigma); therefore, quota efficiency is associated with the political context and the level of community empowerment (economic and political conditions).

FURTHER RESEARCH ON FEMALE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Because women's presence and leadership in formal politics is persistently low in the region as it is around the world, further research on the following issues in the region would be useful and informative and help guide future programming:

- What role do political party rules play in women's political leadership?
- What context specific strategies can be developed to increase women's political participation?
- What are the best ways to assist female politicians build their political career within political parties?
- What are effective ways to involve and attract women in political, governance and decision-making roles and positions?

THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR IN WEST AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

The extractive sectors concern natural resources: gold mining, diamond, oil, uranium, and manganese etc. The extractive industrial sector is supplying 9% of the world's bauxite (dominated by Guinea), 8% of the world's gold, leading by Ghana and Mali; iron ore is produced by Mauritania; phosphates by Senegal; uranium, manganese and diamond are largely produced. The sector is expected to grow during the next decade.

Local participation to the extracting sectors is achieved through improvement of infrastructures of local communities and access of local entrepreneurs to procurement opportunities. Local people's low skills may prevent full participation to the opportunities. The extractives are expected to improve infrastructures, create jobs and alleviate poverty in Africa, unfortunately the extractives experienced illicit flow of billions of dollars. "It is estimated that developing countries experienced approximately US\$1.2 trillion in illicit flows during 2008, 10 times the amount of overseas development assistance provided by members of the OECD" (Billon 2011). International cooperation and extracting countries can associate their efforts to reduce the illicit financial flows by a strong cooperation. In Chad and Cameroon, "the World Bank urged to allocate most of the oil revenues in poverty reduction programs" says the same source.

DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT OF THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR ON WOMEN

The extractive sector creates jobs opportunity and brings huge profits to companies and individuals that are engaged in it. If properly managed, it improves infrastructures: schools, health services, electricity in the communities. As for women, the extractive sector provides little benefit to them comparing to men who are directly employed for incomes and women benefit through their communities.

In West Africa, the presence of natural resources and the potential wealth that they generate does not guarantee social progress, and in fact can work against it. Despite the socio-economic and environmental assessment of extractive sites, poorly managed non-renewable resources can undermine a country's social development, especially with women most often paying the heaviest price. The destruction of fauna and flora, loss of land, and degradation of the natural environment (lands, wildlife, water sources) are only some of the effects. As a result, environmental degradation has negative effects on women and their daughters: "The negative outcomes of degradation of natural resources often fall most heavily on women, adding to their responsibilities and multiple roles in families and communities," says a poverty and environment advisor with CARE. Environmental degradation also affects girls' education since daughters help mothers in collecting firewood and water. Time allocated to these chores affects girls' school attendance and performance while mothers miss opportunities to improve their income generating activities. Working for long distance and for longer hours to fetch water and to collect firewood degrades women's and their daughter's health.

The mining communities attract newcomers, transform the socio-cultural environment and influence traditional culture. Communities and women in particular, are vulnerable to HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in general as consequences of the extractives. Youth and male migration to extractive communities' increases women's responsibilities for their households, as women become breadwinners while their men are away and long absence of males from the household may result in divorce in some cases. Other results of male migration to extractive communities include the breakdown of family relations, increased tension and domestic violence.

Additionally in the extractive communities, men and women are not equally consulted or involved in decision-making. Women are often left out of the decision-making processes particularly in decisions regarding investment of monies from the extractive sector. Men and women have different priorities and concerns on how resources from the sector should be invested. For example while men's preferences are infrastructure development such as roads and bridges, women's main concerns are health and school facilities. Therefore, there is strong evidence showing "more sustainable outcomes where women have more say in setting priorities for investments" (World Bank 2009; UNDP, 2010).

Women and men participate more in the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). Women have specific roles, especially to carry gold ore and water and pounding rock whereas men are responsible for digging. "Approximately 90 percent of mineral processing activities are conducted by women in Burkina Faso and Mali, where women constitute approximately 45 percent of the ASM workforce" World Bank (2009) quoted from Gueye (2001) and Keita (2001). Women play specific roles in ASM and benefits are equally shared with men. Health and safety risks are great issues for sustainable participation. ASM contributes to countries' GDP and improves local markets. For example, in Liberia among the 50 000-75 000 diamond minors 10-20% are women and their incomes are expected to improve the local market by about 13.5 million (World Bank 2009).

BENEFITS OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MINING SECTOR

Good governance for sound management of the extractives requires participation of all communities, stakeholders including women in all phases of projects. Policies and regulations regarding transparency better benefit women's well-being as well as their communities. The Beijing Platform on women's advancement advocated the tremendous contribution of the extractives on women's well-being. In 2010, UNDP stressed: "Improving gains from the extractive industries for women stakeholders will not only leverage their untapped potential in increasing growth, reducing poverty, and fostering positive conditions for sustainable development, but also improve the development effectiveness of oil and mining operations for communities and countries as a whole."

Many countries are shy on how wealth from the extractives is spent and managed and this fact has increased corruption. Governments' adoption and application of country mining code, ECOWAS mining code, the African Unions mining code which all sets out the guiding principles for harmonizing mining regulatory regimes across member states as well as their conformity to the Extractive Mining Transparency Initiatives; are initiatives to attract foreign investors, and to commit themselves to efficiently manage their wealth. When governments disclose how much they are receiving from oil and mining companies it will create a favorable environment for debate in which women's issues can be put into consideration. Then that debate can translate into beneficial investments in sectors like health and education. If investments of the monies that come from the extractive industry are invested wisely then the status of women will improve.

OVERVIEW: PEACE AND SECURITY

Field research also focused on gender, peace and security issues and was conducted in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Niger and conference calls to Nigeria. Persons contacted included USAID/WA program staff, staff of counterpart organizations including ECOWAS, representatives of implementing partner organizations, representatives from gender machineries including government agencies and international agencies and country-level mainstream women's organizations and women's organization's networks.

Due to time limitations, interviews were not conducted with individuals representing religious organizations, conservative groups or youth representing organizations. Hence the findings are representative of the groups and individuals consulted and should not be construed as being generalizable to the wider community of the countries where the interviews were conducted. The findings remain instructive and relevant because they are based on the insights of USAID/WA trusted partners who are engaging on the issues on a daily basis.

Discussions in the field research individual and group interviews focused on three major topics related to gender, peace and security: (i) gender and extremists ideologies, (ii) peace and security tools (the Afrobarometer and ECOWARN), and (iii) women in the security sector. Findings from the interviews are presented in the following sub-section. This is then followed by examples of country-level interventions that provide a basis for the regional-level recommendations that complete this section of the report.

GENDER AND EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

The governance technical team at USAID/WA was particularly interested in the question of women's role in supporting extremist ideologies in hopes of gaining insight on how to best design future programming. While there were differences of opinion on the issue, the majority of the person's interviewed highlighted women's role as peace builders not their role in supporting extremist ideologies. A good part of many of the conversations also focused on what respondents meant by extremism as there were times when respondents equated extremism (here we use the term to mean support for violent remedies) with conservatism. For some respondents extremism appeared to be tantamount to the use of political violence including terrorism. For others indicators of extremism were tied to conservative religious beliefs (including strict adherence to outward observable behavior like dress, prayer schedule and/or disapproval of western values and behavior) and a threat or propensity to force other's compliance. Still others viewed extremism as a politico-cultural worldview where traditional and cultural hierarchical social relations of male dominance and female subordination rule. Interestingly enough, where the conversation moved to discern a respondent's definition of extremism, all respondents would concede that what they were describing was not violent extremism. This amalgamation of definitions and meanings warrants further research to tease out what extremism means in different West Africa contexts and how it affects and is affected by conceptualizations and perceptions of gender.

GENDER AND EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

On average, there were basically two responses on the question. One that did not see gender as having an impact of the support for extremist ideologies and one that did not. Several persons interviewed suggested that gender did not have an impact on extremist ideologies, suggesting that because women are second-class citizens in locations with conservative views of Islam, overt roles in supporting extremism and violence would be unlikely. A different explanation given for the unlikely role of women in supporting violent extremism focused on the fact that women themselves have been targets of extremism (in terms of dress code, limitations on movement, absent role in decision-making and domestic violence) making it unlikely that these women would support an ideology that is the source of their own oppression. Other responses focused on women's inherent peace build capacities suggesting that women-mothers in particular- are "the best counter terrorists in the world." Many respondents pointed to the role women and grassroots women's organizations have played in ending conflict and were in West Africa and some highlighted women's role in conflict resolution in the household, the community and at the regional level. Lastly, in explaining the unlikely possibility of female support for extremists' ideologies some respondents focused on the impact of the type of religious belief. For instance a civil society representative in Niger argued that "real Muslims" see violence as un-Islamic and as such, Muslim women in the region (and Muslim men) would not embrace violent extremism. It was

also pointed out that a recent assessment of religious ideologies in Niger³⁴ found little support for violent extremism in the country. While many of the Islamic leaders in Niger are conservative particularly in regards to women's roles, they have been a buffer against extremist ideas from groups on the boarder like Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Some of the person's contacted strongly believed that gender plays a role in a person's support for violent extremism. Male youth were presented as an example. Here respondents pointed to the lack of livelihood opportunities and good jobs for male youth as a significant contributing factor in the attractiveness of violence for them. Citing issues like a lack of political voice and growing social exclusion, some respondents believed that male youth are the most susceptible members of the population to calls for violence. In interviews on this topic, some respondents shared a growing concern for the female youth susceptibility to violent extremism. Here they pointed to the growing numbers of female Islamic fundamentalists groups popping up across the region as a development for concern imply that the prevalence of these groups may eventually bring with it favorable views on the use of violence. In Niger where girls are attending madrassas and are beginning to espouse conservative and fundamentalist Islamic religious values, person's contacted were concerned not only for the implications for maintaining and expanding women's rights but also for the growth of a culture of violence.

No all the person's contacted agreed with the assertions above. Some argued that there is no discernible difference in the perspectives of males and females in regards to support of extremism, implying that we should look to other factors to explain individual support for violent extremism.

AFROBAROMETER AND ECOWARN

The governance technical team at USAID/WA was also interested in partner perspectives on the integration of gender in two governance tools- the Afrobarometer and ECOWARN- and their usefulness. Round five (2010-2012) of the Afrobarometer includes the following set of gender questions:

1. In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are people treated unequally under the law?
2. In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are women treated unequally by traditional leaders?
3. In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are women treated unequally by the police and courts?
4. In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are women treated unequally by employers?
5. In your opinion, how often, in this country: Do officials who commit crimes go unpunished?
6. In your opinion, how often, in this country: Do ordinary people who break the law go unpunished?
7. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.
 - a. Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women.
 - b. Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.
8. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.
 - a. Statement 1: In our country, women should have equal rights and receive the same treatment as men do.

³⁴ USAID Niger has commissioned an assessment on religious ideologies and counter-extremism however the assessment was not available for public dissemination so the gender assessment team was not afforded a copy of the study.

- b. Statement 2: Women have always been subject to traditional laws and customs, and should remain so.
9. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.
 - a. Statement 1: If funds for schooling are limited, a boy should always receive an education in school before a girl.
 - b. Statement 2: If funds for schooling are limited, a family should send the child with the greatest ability to learn.

When respondents to the Afrobarometer were asked about whether men make better political leaders than women, or if women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men, non gender-differentiated responses from the West African countries in the sample skewed heavily towards **agree very strongly with the second statement** that women should have a chance to be elected to political office. Mali had the highest percentage of respondents (24 percent) that **agree very strongly with statement 1** that men make better political leaders than women, followed closely by respondents from Nigeria at 22 percent. More than half of the respondents from Cape Verde and Togo (55 percent) **agreed very strongly with statement 2** that women should have equal chances to be elected to political office as men. These responses suggest that women's involvement in the public, political sphere has become more acceptable at the same time that there is still a significant percentage of respondents in West Africa who still believe in an inherent gender difference between men and women when it comes to political leadership. The full set of results on the Afrobarometer gender questions and other select questions can be found in Appendix C.

A surprising finding of the field interviews was that almost all of the person's contacted that did not work on one or the other of these tools was completely unaware of the tools and had not had an occasion to make use of them. One of the person's contacted who did know about the Afrobarometer explained that their organization did not use the tool because the organization relied on ECOWARN instead. In interviews with people contacted that work with or on ECOWARN, they highlighted the fact that ECOWARN includes indicators calibrated to identify gender pointers for conflict. An International Alert study posits the following three hypotheses on the relationship between gender and early warning:

- Incorporating gender-sensitive indicators into the collection and analysis processes of early warning makes existing models more comprehensive and allows for 'early' early warning by anticipating macro-level conflict through micro-level events.
- An incorporation of micro-level changes, and interactions between men and women, fine-tunes the formulation of political and humanitarian response, in order to address the specific vulnerabilities of men and women and ensure that discriminatory policies are not perpetuated in post-conflict situations.
- Early warning and preventive activities can be made more effective by utilizing the untapped potential of women, women's networks and women's organizations as actors for peace. (Schmeidl, 2002)

These hypotheses provide the rationale for why gender indicators should be included in early warning systems like ECOWARN. ECOWARN indicators are not readily available so an assessment of their alignment with the hypothesis above was not possible at the time of the gender assessment.

When probed on the assertion in the research literature that ECOWARN staff collecting, analysis and address conflict are predominantly male, explanations given for the pattern were the low number of female staff in the ministries of member countries from which monitors and focal points are selected.

WOMEN IN THE SECURITY SECTOR

The final area that received a special focus during the field research and interviews with selected informants was the issue of women's participation in the security sector in West Africa. Here conversations focused mostly on female police officers as the number is growing and the idea is catching on across the region. People contacted and interviewed thought that this was a significant development particularly because they found that community members were embracing the idea. Some noticed that both male and female community members liked having female police and hope the trend will grow. Other people interviewed argued that female police officers are better able to handle domestic violence cases. An interesting development observed in Niger related to women's participation in the security sector is the growing number of female security guards employed by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and UN agencies. Most of these guards are unmarried young females and people interviewed expected that in the Niger context these young women would only remain employed in their security guard posts until marriage and are unlikely to keep their positions post wedding.

LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES

During the interviews in field countries, several lessons and best practices were identified by the persons contacted. These lessons and best practices were in four areas: (i) gender, elections and conflict prevention, (ii) gender balance in staffing, (iii) training and capacity building, and (iv) community development and resilience to violence.

GENDER ELECTIONS AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

In interviews, person's contacted pointed to the strategic role female police officers played in conflict prevention during the latest elections in Senegal and Ghana. For instance in the 2012 elections in Senegal, one respondent explained that female peace activists set up a Women's Situation Room and were successful in convincing UN elections envoy president Obasanjo to amend his terms of reference to include meeting with all the leaders of political parties to get their agreement to support a violent free elections and assurances that they would denounce election violence. People interviewed believed that this intervention was the key to a violence free election. In the Ghanaian election of 2012 female police officers were key to prevention electoral violence according to one informant. When rowdy youth threatened to spark violence, female police officers were able to take control of the situation without weapons and restore calm. The information went on to suggest that if male police officers had taken the lead they would have relied on their weapons and violence instead of calm would have ensued.

GENDER BALANCE IN STAFFING

Two NGOs working on peace and security issues in the region were able to showcase their success in achieving gender balance in staffing. The West Africa network for Peace (WANEP) was proud of their achievement in having their Peace Monitoring Center managed by a majority female staff. This is quite a different pattern from that of ECOWARN where most of the posts are held by male staff. It suggests two things first that it is possible to find qualified women for these kinds of position and second that there is a need to recruit more women in government agencies to fill these positions. International relief and Development, a US-based INGO has achieved gender balance on both their staff and beneficiaries in Niger. The main office in Niamey has about 40% local female staff. The managers there believe that this is a function of location as much as it is a function of capabilities as they have not been as successful in identifying qualified female staff for the regional offices across the country.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Two approaches to training and capacity building on peace building programs provide lessons for replication and results. The WANEP was able to facilitate "transformational" change in roles and adaptive strategies from a regional training on mediation for 30 West African female peace builders. They attribute the training results to the cross cultural/cross country exchange among training program participants. The management at WANEP strongly believes that dialogue, networks and interchanges on

a regional level are the keys to development, equality and peace in the region. They see it as a kind of secret sauce that builds, strengthens and sustains learning, relationships and solid action for change. The Peace through Development II (PDEV II) program in Niger also shared an important lesson from their capacity-strengthening project targeting female Koranic schoolteachers. Because of the social difficulties encountered in bring female teachers to the capital city (women are not allowed to travel overnight or stay in hotels without their reputation being disparaged), the program has decided to hold training workshops in the regions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE TO VIOLENCE

Two programs in Niger and Burkina Faso have also been able to achieve program success and meet project objectives in strengthening community resilience to violence. The PDEV II project has received excellent feedback from their listening clubs for radio programs that address domestic violence and violent extremism. According to one of the PDEV II program managers, both female and male youth listening to the program reported a change in their perspective on joining Boko Haram in the Mali campaign. In Burkina Faso, the Niger Education and Community Strengthening Program (NECS) used female leaders in communities to serve as role models to encourage more female participation in community decision-making. During monitoring visits, staff tracked how many female and males participated in meetings and found a marked difference. The NECS program staff also share a national best practice for increasing the number of female teachers. In Burkina Faso where only 27 percent of the teachers are female and 90 percent of them were working in urban locations, a national policy requiring all new teachers to be assigned to rural schools helped to reduce the imbalance in the work location of female teachers.

GAP ANALYSIS

During the field interviews, person's interviewed identified five categories of gaps in information, capabilities, programming or strategies for integrating gender equality in peace and security efforts. The five gaps and details of the elements comprising the gaps are presented below:

- **Resources and Capacity**
 - Many Women's Ministries lack resources, capacity and influence
 - Strategies to secure women's participation in capacity building projects where their mobility is restricted
- **Research**
 - Little research/understanding of the security to development cycle (which comes first and how to build the appropriate enabling environment)
 - Anecdotal information but little research on rise in and impact of fundamentalist women's group and rise in and impact of girls education at Madrassas
 - Limited to no focus on GBV assessments of extremism
- **Gender Integration in Programs**
 - Lack of systematic approach to gender integration in programs and projects
 - MCC 3-fold strategy: (1) Gender and Social Diagnostic/Assessment, (2) Action Plan Development and (3) Recruitment of Gender Specialists for project is a good model to replicate
- **Regional Level Programing**
 - Strategies to maintain women's movement in post-conflict settings and strategies for coalition building that is resilient to organizational competition and survival-based mission creep due to funding/fundraising constraints
 - Strategies to bring Muslim and mainstream women's organizations together for dialogue

- Strategies for market-relevant livelihoods for male and female youth
 - Strategies to reduce women’s need to fight for respect on the jobs
 - Strategies on how to integrate GBV in regional programs
- **Program Approach**
 - Some say for better and more relevant programming the region should be divided along language and religious characteristics
 - Others say more regional collaboration, especially among women leads to transformational results

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the findings from the desk study and the field research and interviews, three sets of recommendations for integrating gender in USAID/WA governance, peace and security programming were identified and are presented below:

- Work with political parties to promote diversity within the party ranks and increase women’s political leadership and representation.
 - Support the design and launch a “Leading Women” campaign with elected female parliamentarians from the region targeting high schools and college students’ particularly female students leveraging the role model effect and promote women’s leadership at the local level. This could complement work with female parliamentarians focused on strengthening their connections and responsiveness to their constituents.
 - Include male parliamentarians on the regional tour to promote and demonstrate the notion of joint decision-making and demonstrate male buy in to the notion of women’s political leadership.
 - Support the creation of a regional network of elected female parliamentarians to promote women’s leadership and decision-making in regional networks like the Network of Alliance of Environmental Parliamentarians and the West Africa Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB)
- Support for research that will guide strategies for promoting women’s political leadership and representation, including such research as:
 - A regional research consortium on women, peace and security issues
 - The development of a regional databank on gender and security issues
 - Design and inclusion of questions on gender and violent extremism in the Afrobarometer
- Build regional networks and exchange by:
 - Promoting and supporting women’s regional networks for peace, female police officers associations, teacher’s associations and official government women’s ministries
 - Supporting and convening regional dialogues with religious leaders on women’s and gender issues
- Strengthen capacities for supporting women’s leadership and political representation at all levels including:
 - The development and regional dissemination of capacity building for elected female representatives in analysis, advisory, influence and community mobilization skills
 - The strengthening of mainstream civil society organizations to promote women’s rights and inclusive participation and leadership
 - Partnering with ECOWARN to strengthen the gender analysis capacity of the institutions analysts

CONCLUSION

The preceding section focused on three important areas related to gender, peace and security for USAID/WA: (i) gender and extremists' ideologies, (ii) two governance tools and (iii) women in the security sector. While there were differences in responses to interview questions the majority of those questioned did not see a particular difference in women's support for extremists' ideologies. Similarly, most respondents when questioned on the governance tools (Afrobarometer and ECOWARN) were not aware of the tools and had not used them in their work. Lastly, almost all the respondents queried believed that the growth of female police officers was a positive development and the community members also shared their positive responses to this development.

Recommendations for USAID/WA future programming were extrapolated from the field research findings. These include (i) supporting research that will guide strategies for promoting women's political leadership and representation, (ii) building regional networks and exchange programs and, (iii) strengthening capacities for supporting women's leadership and political representation at all levels.

APPENDIX A: WORK PLAN

FEBRUARY-APRIL 2013

OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Task Order (TO) is to conduct a regional gender assessment for USAID/West Africa (USAID/WA) that is compliant with ADS 201.3.9.3, and informs strategic planning, policy, and program implementation for the next five years (2013-2018). USAID/West Africa seeks a robust gender assessment report that includes practical, forward looking recommendations to strengthen the Mission's integration of gender concerns in its work. The assessment will highlight gender based constraints and opportunities within USAID/WA's target sectors (Agriculture, Governance, Health, Natural Resource Management, Peace and Security; and Trade and Investment) to enable the Mission to develop a Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCCS), resulting in equitable and sustainable development outcomes.

USAID/WA's regional programs cover 18 West and Central African countries, most of which qualify as "rebuilding and developing" countries. With a population of approximately 325 million people, the region is characterized by political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure and increasing population and environmental pressures. To address these challenges, USAID focuses on four functional objectives: Peace and Security, Governing Justly and Democratically, Investing in People, and Economic Growth. The West Africa Mission has never completed an in-depth, region-wide gender assessment. Until this time, each technical office has conducted gender assessments at the project level as needed. This assessment will serve as a significant pillar at the Mission's strategic, policy, and project design levels. Capacity building and good governance are crosscutting themes that are integral to USAID/West Africa's programs. The proposed gender assessment approach acknowledges two of the greatest challenges in the region – weak, ineffective governance and a lack of capacity at regional, national, and local levels to adequately respond to development challenges in all sectors. This integrated approach is reflected in the mission's 2013 Mission Strategic Resource Plan and is key to USAID's efforts to address the myriad issues that plague the region. The West Africa Regional Gender Assessment will be a pillar of the upcoming RDCCS.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The West Africa Regional Gender Assessment will provide analysis of gender equality and female empowerment within and across the West Africa region. It will serve as a baseline for gender related components of future regional programming. The assessment will identify best practices for programming at the regional level particularly practices designed to address identified gaps. The West Africa Region Gender Assessment will address the following objectives:

1. To expand USAID/WA's knowledge base on gender issues in the West Africa region and to identify opportunities and approaches for enhancing active participation of men and women in the regional program.
2. To ascertain the prevalence of gender based violence and how it affects the population in the region.
3. To identify the gender-based constraints and disparities to equitable participation and access in the program sectors supported by USAID/WA toward achieving its development objectives.

4. To identify and prioritize issues (economic, social, and political) to be addressed in order to level the playing field for men and women in these sectors, taking into consideration ethnicity, class, the level at which a regional mission works and other key variables.
5. To discuss best or promising practices to address gender constraints and disparities identified above.
6. To make recommendations for addressing these issues in order to achieve USAID/WA's anticipated development objectives. Recommendations should identify opportunities and entry points, including:
 - a. Potential results (and associated indicators) that could be incorporated into program planning and activity design;
 - b. Potential supporting strategies and resources of individual countries, including activities or initiatives by other donors, host country government institutions, and civil society groups, and any potential areas of collaboration or partnership;
 - c. Potential for specific activities, as related to gender equality in the regional programs and the possible need to target particular issues relating to gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - d. Resources required to strengthen the gender equality dimensions of the regional programs, including human resources, training needs, and additional planning/design tools; and
 - e. Anticipated areas of constraints and how to cope with such.
7. To assess the policies and programs related to gender of key regional institutions such as ECOWAS, CILSS, and WAHO, and to identify opportunities for collaboration and mutual strengthening of gender-related efforts of USAID/WA and those institutions.
8. To identify local women's focused organizations which can be effectively strengthened to become agents of change at the local, national or regional level.
9. Resilience is an important aspect of USAID programming. Though the definition of resiliency is quickly evolving, currently resiliency includes how people respond to repeated shocks in food security and climate change. Therefore, this lens should also be applied to the gender assessment whenever possible.

ASSESSMENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

As specified in the Task Order (TO) Statement of Work (SOW), this gender assessment is meant to provide USAID/WA with answers to the following sets of questions:

1. **Cross-sectoral**

- a. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as LBGT citizens?
- b. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
- c. What kind of differences in impact appear in both food security and water, sanitation and health (WASH) issues in rural versus urban areas? How are these differences connected to gender dynamics?
- d. What seems to be the greatest hurdles for resiliency to repeated climatic and food shortage shocks and how are women and men coping the same and differently?
- e. Are there women's focused organizations identified at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be a capable partner with USAID/WA with some capacity building assistance? Which ones and what is their mission or focus?

2. **Agriculture**

- a. What is women's and men's involvement in the production, processing, marketing, and regional trade of: staple crops (rice, millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea), livestock, seeds, and fertilizer? Has there been a change in women's and men's roles over time?
- b. Why do women participate in these sectors and are there ways that these specific sectors empower women? How can women's involvement in these areas be increased?
- c. What specific roles do women play and men play in irrigation/agriculture activities? What is women's and men's involvement on regional agricultural associations (COFENABVI, ROPA, WAGN) and national agricultural associations (CIC-B, CPC, FUCOPRI) and how can women's involvement be increased?
- d. What is women's and men's involvement in agricultural policy, regional trade policy, and nutrition policy formulation, adoption, and enforcement in the region and in non-presence countries? How can women's involvement be enhanced?
- e. Within the West Africa Mission's targeted value chains, which value chains have the greatest involvement of women and girls at what level of the value chain do women and girls have the greatest participation and decision-making?

3. **Trade and Investment**

- a. Are women taking different roles in asset control, decision making and in trade and investment related business? Has their leadership roles increased or decreased over time and why?
- b. What are barriers for women vis-à-vis crossing borders, accessing markets, finance, and transportation? Where are the opportunities?
- c. What are the benefits for grid electricity for women and for men?
- d. What is the level of participation of women in the energy sector, and how might greater participation be encouraged at the level of utilities, regional organizations, developers, and government ministries?
- e. What strategies and approaches can be used to advance women's leadership roles in trade and investment? In trade and investment focused small and medium enterprises (SMEs)?
- f. How can we implement programs that break through the barriers?
- g. How will clean energy initiatives impact women? Few women are represented in WAPP. What is the reason? Where are opportunities?

4. **Environment and Natural Resources**

- a. Do women and girls share equal access to natural resources with men and boys?
- b. In Sierra Leone and Gambia specifically, how can girls and women impact sustainable landscapes?
- c. How are men and women using resources, especially water, and for what purpose(s)?
- d. How are contributions (labor, time, payments, and contributions in kind) to the development and management of natural and water resources divided between men and women?
- e. Who makes the decisions and controls their implementation, at the various levels?
- f. Who gets the project or program resources, such as jobs and training?
- g. To whom go the benefits and the control over these benefits, such as status, water, products produced from natural and water resources, income resulting from products and functions and decisions on how this income is used?
- h. What roles do women play in household water management? How long do women and girls spend throughout the day in water gathering activities?

5. **Health**

- a. What approaches have been most effective in increasing access and use of modern family planning methods in the sub-region?
- b. How men are currently engaged in family planning decisions and choices?

- c. Which strategies targeting men have been effective in expanding use of family planning in the sub-region?
- d. How are religious and community leaders engaged in, and driving or impeding family planning use in the sub-region?
- e. What approaches have been effective in changing behavior in order to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS?
- f. What behavior change approaches have been effective for
 - i. the general population?
 - ii. for youth (10-35)?
 - iii. for most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
- g. How is access to HIV prevention, care and treatment affected by gender differences?

6. **Peace and Security**

- a. What role do gender issues play (if any) in instigating or supporting ideologies or political programs that justify violence and actual acts of violence?
- b. How sensitive are our existing tools (e.g. Afrobarometer surveys, conflict early warning systems) to gender issues?
- c. What is the impact of sexual and gender-based violence in the region on peace and security? What are the differential risks based on gender that men and women face in conflict situations?
- d. Are there any issues on gender, peace and security that are not well understood and may require further more detailed research to better inform programs at the sector level?

7. **Governance**

- a. What is the level of participation in government of women and LGBT candidates and elected officials?
- b. What is the prevailing attitude to such candidates in local, regional and national elections?
- c. How sensitive are our existing tools (e.g. Afrobarometer surveys, conflict early warning systems) to gender issues?
- d. Do government policies related to governance in the extractives sector create or maintain gender disparities?
- e. Are there any issues on gender and governance that are not well understood and may require further more detailed research to better inform programs at the sector level?

The West Africa Region Gender Assessment will conduct a regional level gender assessment of the 18 countries covered by the West Africa Mission³⁵ along with country level assessments for the four countries where USAID/WA has staff on the ground: Niger, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, and Cameroon.

METHODOLOGY

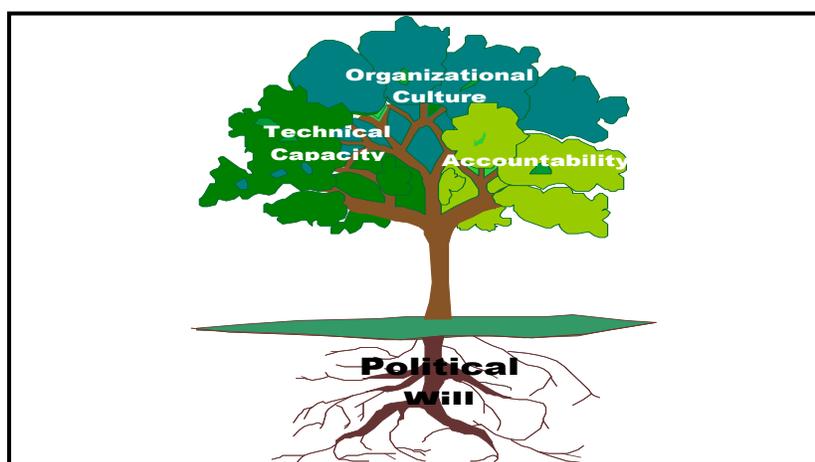
ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORKS

³⁵ USAID/WA covers the following 18 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

GENDER INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK

Two gender analysis frameworks will guide the West Africa Region Gender Assessment. The first is InterAction's *Gender Integration Framework* (GIF), an organizational assessment framework and tool designed to promote gender mainstreaming in organizational systems, processes and programs. The GIF's theory of change suggests that institutional transformation in support of gender equality occurs when four organizational dimensions are ready for gender integration. These four elements are political will, technical capacity, accountability, and organizational culture, and they can be viewed as akin to a tree (See Figure 1). Political will constitutes the roots of the tree and is essential in making equitable organizational change possible. The other three elements comprise the branches of the tree and are also necessary in equal measure for successful gender integration. While most capacity strengthening interventions focus on building technical capacity for select *individual* staff, the GIF focuses on building *institutional* capacity by assessing organizational processes across the four dimensions and providing recommendations for improvement on each dimension.

Figure 1. InterAction's Gender Integration Framework³⁶



Definitions of the four components of the GIF are as follows:

Political Will - Ways in which leaders use their position of power to communicate and demonstrate their support, leadership, enthusiasm for and commitment to working toward gender equality within the organization and in the organizations programs and outreach.

Technical Capacity - Level of ability, qualifications and skills individuals in an organization need to carry out the practical aspects of gender integration for enhanced program quality, and level of institutionalization of gender equitable organizational processes for program implementation and monitoring.

Accountability - Mechanisms by which an organization determines the extent to which it is "walking the talk" in terms of integrating gender equality in its programs and organizational structures, including job descriptions, performance evaluations, program reporting requirements and evaluation systems.

³⁶ Patricia T. Morris, Ph.D., *The Gender Audit: Questionnaire Handbook*, (Washington, DC: InterAction, 2003).

Organizational Culture - Norms, customs, beliefs and codes of behavior in an organization that support or undermine gender equality - how people relate; what are seen as acceptable ideas; how people are "expected to behave" and what behaviors are rewarded by the organization.

InterAction's experiences with international relief and development member organizations and their partner organizations consistently highlight the significance of these four elements in transforming *gender-blind* organizations into *gender-responsive* ones. Organizations that design and successfully implement actions on all four components simultaneously strengthen and sustain institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming that promoting organizational transformation that endures ensuring that women and men contribute to and benefit from the assistance and contributions civil society organizations make to their communities.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK

The second analytical framework the West Africa Region Gender Assessment will rely on is the *Women's Empowerment Framework* (WEF) developed by Sara Hlupekile Longwe, a gender expert from Lusaka, Zambia. The WEF is intended to assist planners to identify what women's equality and empowerment would mean in practice, and to determine to what extent a development intervention supports greater empowerment. As such the framework is appropriate for use in determining the extent to program design and implementation promotes women's equal involvement and participation in West African development initiatives.

The WEF examines elements of a project's design to determine the extent to which it affects the five different levels of equality outlined in the framework--either negatively, neutrally, or positively. The five levels of the WEF from lowest level of equality to highest level of equality are (1) welfare, access, awareness raising or conscientisation, participation and joint decision making/control (See Figure 2).

Figure 2. Women's Empowerment Framework³⁷



The WEF postulates five progressively greater levels of equality that can be achieved in a manner akin to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The five levels are listed from highest to lowest:

- (1) **Joint Decision Making or Control** – equal control in decision-making.
- (2) **Participation** – equal participation in decision-making processes related to policymaking, planning and administration.

³⁷ Candida March, Ines Smyth, and Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay, *A Guide to Gender-Analysis Frameworks*, (London: Oxfam Publishing, 1999).

- (3) **Awareness Raising or Conscientisation** – attaining equal understanding of gender roles and a gender division of labor that is fair and agreeable.
- (4) **Access** – equal access to the factors of production by removing discriminatory provisions in the laws.
- (5) **Welfare** – having equal access to material welfare (food, income, medical care).

GENDER DIMENSIONS FRAMEWORK

The Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF) was adapted from another analytical tool, the Six Domains for Gender Analysis³⁸ that is used by USAID for its work in social sectors.³⁹ USAID explains that the GDF looks at the following four key factors that shape gender within value chains:

- **Practices and participation.** Gender shapes several aspects of behavior that affect participation in value chains, including time allocation, mobility, labor decisions, membership of associations and involvement in other collective activities.
- **Access to assets.** Ownership, control and use of assets is influenced by gender relations. Important assets in an agricultural context include land, information and extension services, and education.
- **Beliefs and perceptions.** Beliefs mediate the behavior of both genders in areas including appropriate economic activities, employment opportunities and legal rights. In cases where gender-neutral laws are in place, perceptions can influence how they are actually applied to each gender.
- **Laws, policies and institutions.** Varying legal rights impact the capacity of each gender to access support services (e.g., finance) or to establish horizontal linkages and therefore to participate in value chain opportunities.⁴⁰

GENDER POLICY TYPOLOGY

In the gender and development and gender and organizational change literature organizational policies are placed into one of two categories: gender blind or gender aware. Gender blind policies do not recognize the differences in women's and men's roles and the impact they may have on development interventions. Gender blind policies are built on the underlying assumption that program interventions and assistance will not have differential impact on women or men. Instead it is assumed that the program effects will be the same for women and men. Gender aware policies on the other hand, recognize both women and men as development actors and acknowledge that the nature of women's and men's involvement is determined by gender relations, which contours their involvement in different ways. Consequently women and men have different needs, interest and priorities that have an impact on and are impacted by development assistance. Organizations that adapt a gender aware policy may take one of three approaches in their work. The three types of gender aware policies are (1) gender neutral, (2) gender specific and (3) gender-redistributive.⁴¹

GENDER EQUITY STANDARDS

Because capacity building and good governance are crosscutting themes in USAID/WA programs, the gender assessment team will also apply InterAction's *Gender Equity Standards* in its review of USAID/WA's key partners. InterAction's *Gender Equity Standards* are part of the coalition's *PVO Standards* that are a set of statements of principles that embody the organizational values and quality standards member organizations share. Each year, InterAction members voluntarily participate in a self-certification process

³⁸ http://www.esdproj.org/site/DocServer/The_Six_Domains_of_Gender_Analysis_Analytical_Tool.pdf?docID=464

³⁹ <http://microlinks.kdid.org/good-practice-center/value-chain-wiki/gender-dimensions-framework>

⁴⁰ <http://microlinks.kdid.org/good-practice-center/value-chain-wiki/gender-dimensions-framework>

⁴¹ Candida March, Ines Smyth and Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay, *A Guide to Gender Analysis Frameworks*, Oxfam, 1999, pp. 21

where they review and report on their compliance with the *PVO Standards* inclusive of those related to gender equity. “Humanitarian and development NGOs,” Interaction says, “need to ensure that operational systems—including hiring practices, evaluation and reward processes and leave policies—is equitable and fair and they must also create mechanisms that require gender analysis at all program stages: conception, proposal development, program design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.”⁴²

USAID GENDER REQUIREMENTS

USAID’s Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) requires USAID Operating Units to review, analyze, and draw evidence-based conclusions from assessments and evaluations to produce country strategies, results frameworks, including an analysis of what has worked or not worked in achieving results through past programs, projects and activities. Missions are directed to reference the analysis and evaluations used to reach significant conclusions in its CDCS. In justifying the strategic choices in the CDCS, a mission should reference its gender analysis, sector-specific analyses and evaluations. Gender analysis is also required at the project level. To ensure that USAID assistance makes possible the optimal contribution to gender equality, the Agency’s Gender Automatic Directive System (ADS) requires the consideration of the following two questions in a gender assessment:

1. How will the different roles and status of women and men within the community, political sphere, workplace, and household (for example, roles in decision-making and different access to and control over resources and services) affect the work to be undertaken?
2. How will the anticipated results of the work affect women and men differently?

An assessment of program and policy alignment with USAID’s *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy*, the *US National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security* and the *US Government’s Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally* will be included in the review of regional programs.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

The West Africa Region Gender Assessment will be conducted in four phases: (1) Planning and Preparation, (2) Desk Study, (3) Field Research, and (4) Report Preparation.

PHASE I. PLANNING AND PREPARATION

dTS will prepare a draft work plan that will be discussed with Mission staff in a conference call. Team members will hold initial conference calls with technical teams to identify critical questions that are relevant to the regional gender assessment. Team members will then review recent USAID guidance on gender integration, as well as multi-year regional strategies for the West Africa region and for specific initiatives such as Feed the Future, Global Health, and Climate Change. The Team Leader, Dr. Morris, will guide team members in the development of semi-structured interview guides and other data collection and gender analysis instruments that will yield information relevant to the critical questions. Phase I milestones include: TO Work Plan; Pre-Assessment Mission Brief Conference Call; Conference Calls with Technical Teams; and Data Collection Instruments and Data Analysis Plan.

PHASE II: DESK STUDY

The team will conduct a desk study, relying on existing country and regional gender assessments by USAID and other institutions to identify issues and trends related to gender equality and women’s empowerment. Given the scope of the desk study, the Team Leader will provide the team with tools to organize their findings. Following the completion of the desk study and in discussion with technical teams in USAID/WA, each team member will identify key informants to interview for cross checking issues and trends and to fill in gaps. Key informant interview guidelines will be developed based on the critical questions identified in Phase I and the gaps identified for further exploration through the desk study. Finally, the TO work plan and methodology will be

⁴² <http://www.interaction.org/gender-integration>

finalized based on comments received from USAID/WA and findings from the desk study. Phase II milestones include: Final TO Work Plan; Key Informant Interview Guidelines; Desk Study Gender Analysis Document; and an Inception PowerPoint Report detailing key findings from the Desk Study.

PHASE III: FIELD WORK

All team members will travel to Ghana for meetings with USAID/WA and then divide up to interview key informants from the relevant regional organizations for their particular sector. Each team will analyze trends and issues by applying a modified version of Naila Kabeer's Social Relations Framework. The Framework uses an institutional analysis to uncover gender relations. Four key inter-related institutional locations are used (state, market, community, family/kinship) which produce, reinforce and reproduce social difference and inequalities. This Framework has been modified to incorporate the "Gender Dimensions Framework" frequently used in USAID's gender analyses. Analysis will focus primarily on the larger roles of the state and market as they operate at a regional level or are common between countries in the region. The analysis of gender inequality and women's empowerment in Niger, Burkina, Cote d'Ivoire, and Cameroon will give sufficient attention to the national and subnational levels, including the community and family level. The team will examine gender disparities as they adversely affect men and boys, women and girls, and lesbians, gays, bi-sexual and transgender persons (LGBT). The team will also be attentive to differences in economic status, ethnicity, religion, age and rural/urban residence as they affect gender relations.

For each sector, the responsible member will also identify best practices for addressing the gender gaps relevant to regional programming, as well as key regional institutions and CSOs who are effectively reducing gender inequality and empowering women. An inventory of best practices will be presented in the form of several case studies. The team will meet regularly to review the sectoral analysis to deepen the analysis across sectors. Weekly progress update calls will be held with the TO COR to update the Mission on progress. At the end of data collection activities, the team will prepare a draft set of recommendations that will be vetted as part of a "validation workshop" to be delivered to select USAID/WA staff and key stakeholders. The validation workshop will include a gap analysis. Phase III milestones include: Weekly Progress Updates; Preliminary Recommendations; and Validation Workshop.

PHASE IV: REPORT PREPARATION

Based on the analysis and feedback, the team will come to a consensus on the priority gender-related concerns relevant to the current and emerging West Africa RCDS. The team will agree on the priority recommended objectives, program results, associated indicators, and an implementation plan for integrating gender into USAID/WA programming. Phase IV milestones include: Draft and Final Gender Assessment Report.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

DATA COLLECTION

Systematic methods of data collection and analysis such as document reviews, in-depth interviews and focus interviews and focus group discussions will be employed to collect data and information for the regional gender assessment. Best practices for gender integration in sector programs will be identified and presented.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Proposed documents that are expected to be reviewed include program progress reports, program strategy documents and descriptions of program interventions. Further, program assessments, evaluations, research or other reports and documentation by international and country experts and organizations related to gender and sector programming in the West Africa region will be reviewed and assessed through a gender equality and female empowerment lens.

The document review process for the development of the literature reviews will employ a *Systematic Review* to

integrate lessons learned and evidenced-based findings across studies and program reports. By comparing and contrasting results and learning's from different studies, reports and analysis we will be able to identify patterns among study results, sources of disagreement among those results, or interesting findings surrounding gender and development issues in the region. The Gender Assessment Team will review information and analyze data to identify, appraise, select and synthesize research evidence relevant to the assessment questions and the program portfolio of the USAID/WA Mission.

INTERVIEWS

The field research phase of the regional gender assessment will consist of semi-structured interviews with gender officers and other points of contact for key regional organizations, select implementing partners as well as sector and technical experts from civil society. Interviews will focus on organizational approaches to gender integration, best practices, persistent challenges in promoting gender equality and female empowerment and recommendations for future USAID programming and partnership. In some cases focus interviews with small groups of representatives from the same organization or sector will be held. Unlike a focus group discussion, participants will not be rating program services or building consensus on a future policy direction instead they will reflect on and respond to the interview questions.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

For the natural resource management (NRM) sector of the West Africa region gender assessment, focus group discussion will be held with select program participants since this section of the gender assessment will focus on project level analysis. Here the assessment team will be gathering in-depth information on perceptions, insights, attitudes, experiences or beliefs as they pertain to the gender and NRM project.

Table 1. Assessment Research Tasks, Methods, Purpose and Expected Outcomes

TASK	METHOD	DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
Conduct Desk Study	<i>Document Review</i>	To collect background, context and program implementation information on gender issues related to select sectors in the West Africa region including a review of regional program objectives, milestones, activities, methods and approaches, deliverables and outputs. Document review guidelines and checklists will be developed and used to systematize the review process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns of gender relations and change in gender relations over time • Sector and country-specific gender related constraints and opportunities • Sector-specific best practices for gender integration and gender programming • Promising new and effective approaches for future programs

TASK	METHOD	DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
Conduct country visits to review programs, identify best practices and new policy and promising program directions	<i>Key Informant Interviews and Group Interviews</i>	To collect information via select one-on-one semi-structured interviews with key informants including gender officers and points of contact for key regional partners and select implementing partners as well as technical experts from civil society. Managing scale up GBV interventions. A set of interview questions per sector listed above will be used with all informants for comparative purposes. Follow up questions may be asked to provide context and deeper understanding of reported gender patterns, best practices and recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional similarities and differences in gender relations and the impact on sector programming and policy • Enabling and disabling factors associated with sector-specific regional programming and organizational capacity building • Sectoral difference in gender impact of regional policies • Lessons and best practices for promoting gender equality and female empowerment • Recommendations for future equitable and sustainable regional programs
	<i>Program Participant Focus Group Discussions</i>	To collect information on the gender dimensions and impact of NRM programs. Select group discussions with NRM program participants will be held. A set of standard questions will be used with all focus group discussions based on the NRM sector questions above. Follow up questions may be posed to provide context and deeper understanding of gender issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants' perspective on gender impact on NRM issues and the NRM program they participate in • Participants' perspectives on change in gender relations over time and on the NRM program effectiveness • Participants' notions of indicators of NRM program success in producing lasting social change • Participants' perspective on ongoing needs and future directions for NRM programs
Conduct gender analysis using select gender analysis frameworks	<i>Gender Analysis</i>	To conduct qualitative and quantitative analysis of gender data and information to assess the level of gender integration progress and change in gender relations and to develop recommendation for further gender integration in regional programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender assessment report with recommendations.

WORK PLAN

The regional gender assessment will be implemented according to the division of responsibilities listed below and the step-by-step work plan outlined in Tables 2.

ASSESSMENT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

The Team Leader has primary responsibility for:

- Leadership and supervision of the assessment team
- Decisions on approach and focus, leading meetings, allocating responsibilities
- Overall analysis, evaluation, lessons learned and recommendations
- Lead work planning, lead/develop data collection protocols, lead/conduct review of reports and documents
- Overall completion and coherence of research reports and USAID/WA presentation

The Gender and Sector Specialists have primary responsibility for:

- Providing support in development of analysis design
- Conducting key informant interviews and focus interviews (and focus group discussions as appropriate)
- Reviewing reports and documents for assigned sectors of desk review
- Contributing to data analysis and recommendation development
- Conducting country and sector field research and ensuring accuracy in data collection
- Supporting validation workshop and debriefing
- Preparing written draft and final report for assigned sectors and sections
- Contributing to and participate in USAID de-briefing and presentations
- Assisting team leader in compiling and completing the final report

ASSESSMENT TEAM MEMBERS

Team Leader:

Dr. Patricia T. Morris, Senior Gender, Peace and Security Advisor

Team Members:

Dr. Grace Forgwei Fisiy, Senior Gender, Food Security and Agriculture Advisor

Muniratu Issifu, Senior Gender, Environment and Natural Resource Management Advisor

Emily Miller, Senior Gender, Economic Growth, Trade and Investment Advisor

Vivian Fiscian, Senior Gender and Health Advisor

Hadji Diakite, Senior Gender and Governance Advisor

ASSESSMENT WORK PLAN

Table 2 below outlines the work plan for the West Africa Region Gender Assessment. The assessment is scheduled to be completed over an eight-week period from early March 2013 to the end of April. This includes on the ground field research in select West African countries for a two-week period.

Table 2. Step-by-Step Gender Assessment Work Plan

Tasks & Activities	February 26- March 4	March 6-8	March 11-15	March 11-27	March 27	April 2-3	April 3-15	April 15	April 15-21	April 22	April 30	Benchmarks	Status
1. Pre-assessment mission conference call briefing with dTS and COR from USAID/West Africa												Expectations, methodology, and work plan discussed. Documents requested and conference calls scheduled.	Completed
2. Conference calls with USAID/WA Technical Teams												Determine questions for sectors in the gender assessment and clarify/finalize field research locations	Completed
3. Submit draft workplan to USAID/WA												Draft workplan submitted for review and approval	Completed
4. Draft data collection guidelines and tools, review strategic and project documents												Develop technical team interview protocols and focus group discussion guides in line with gender analysis frameworks and sector specific assessment questions	In progress
5. Draft Table of Contents (ToC) for Gender Assessment Report												Draft ToC submitted USAID/WA for review and approval	In progress
6. Collect and review country-level data and documents, national planning and strategy documents for desk review												Review and assess relevant data, information and reports; conduct gender analysis of data and information	In progress
7. Complete draft desk review report												Draft desk review submitted to USAID/WA	Pending

Tasks & Activities	February 26-	March 4	March 6-8	March 11-15	March 11-27	March 27	April 2-3	April 3-15	April 15	April 15-21	April 22	April 30	Benchmarks	Status
8. Prepare Desk Review Inception Report													Summarize findings from desk review and recommendations on data to gather during field research in a PowerPoint Presentation	Pending
9. Hold in-country briefing, USAID Gender Issues and Policy Training and Field Research Training at USAID/WA													In-country briefing and workshops completed	
10. Interviews with key organizations and regional travel													Conduct one-on-one interviews, group interviews and focus group discussions with USAD/WA key partners, select implementing partners, and technical experts from civil society in Ghana and select regional countries	Pending
11. Conduct out briefing and gap analysis workshop with USAID/Africa Technical Teams and select stakeholders													Field work and outstanding issues discussed, gap analysis facilitated and recommendastions discussed. Next steps and work to complete assessment discussed	Pending
12. Draft final gender assessment report													Draft assessment including comprehensive, annotated bibliographed, raw and analyzed dat, a list of key informants, and a list of gender experts and organizations	Pending
13. Submit draft final gender assessment report													Draft Final West Africa Region Gender Assessment submitted to USAID/West Africa for review and comments	Pending
14. Revise and finalize the final gender assessment report													Comments from USAID/West Africa incorporated and final deliverable produced ans submiotted	TBD/Pending

Table 3. West Africa Region Gender Assessment Tentative Field Research Travel Schedule

	M-T April 1 - 2	W April 3	Th April 4	F April 5	Sa April 6	S April 7	M April 8	T April 9	W April 10	Th April 11	F April 12	Sa April 13	S April 14	M April 15	T April 16
Pat Peace and Security	Int'l Travel	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Travel	Burkina	Burkina	Burkina	Travel	Niger	Niger	Niger	Travel	Ghana	Ghana & Int'l Travel
Grace Agriculture	Int'l Travel	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Travel	Burkina	Burkina	Burkina	Travel	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana & Int'l Travel
Emily Trade and Investment	Int'l Travel	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Travel	Benin	Benin	Benin	Benin	Travel	Ghana	Ghana & Int'l Travel
Vivian Health		Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Travel	Burkina	Burkina	Burkina	Travel	Togo	Togo	Togo	Travel	Ghana	Ghana
Hadji Governance	Int'l Travel	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Travel	Burkina	Burkina	Burkina	Travel	Niger	Niger	Niger	Travel	Ghana	Ghana & Int'l Travel
Muniratu NRM		Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Ghana	Travel	Niger	Niger	Niger	Travel	Ghana	Ghana

DELIVERABLES MATRIX

dTS plans to submit nine deliverables during the course of the West Africa region gender assessment. Table 4 includes the outputs dTS will deliver to USAID/West Africa during this project:

Table 4. Deliverables Matrix

#	Description	Target Completion	Person responsible
1	Pre-assessment briefing conference call with USAID/WA COR	March 4	Team Leader
2	Conference calls with USAID/WA Technical Teams	March 5-7	Assessment Team
3	Assessment Work Plan	March 11	Team Leader
4	Data collection guidelines and tools	March 15	Assessment Team
5	Gender Assessment draft ToC	March 15	Team Leader
6	Gender Assessment Desk Study Report	March 27	Assessment Team
7	An Inception Report (PowerPoint) to include a summary of findings from desk study, and recommendations on data to gather during Phase III	March 27	Assessment Team
8	Draft Gender Assessment Report divided into the following sections: peace and governance, agriculture, environment and natural resource management; trade and investment; health; and best practices identified.	April 22	Assessment Team
9	Final Gender Assessment Document, including a comprehensive, annotated bibliography, raw and analyzed data, list of key informants, and a list of gender experts and organizations in the West Africa region	April 30	Assessment Team

APPENDIX C: AFROBAROMETER ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

Not only does the total sample of countries differ between each round of the survey, but there is also inconsistent representation of West African countries within the rounds. Round 4 (2008/2009) has the highest number of West African countries represented (8): *Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal*.

Of the rounds, Round 1 (1999/2001) has the least number of questions and categories, and most of them are quite general, as opposed to later rounds in which questions are very specific and target issues beyond basic physical, economic, and psychological needs and perceptions. Successive rounds delve further into questions about politics, public policies, crime, security, and even gender. Notwithstanding this fact, the independent, nonpartisan research project seems to be heavily focused on issues of democracy, governance, and politics, with nearly each of these categories getting their own separate module of survey questions. Both of Afrobarometer's published books also cover these issues: *Voting and Democratic Citizenship in Africa* and *Public Opinion, Democracy, and Market Reform in Africa*.

This document examines survey responses to four different questions in separate categories over time. Only questions that were included in at least three of the five rounds were selected. Selection was also based on questions with broad-based appeal across countries and sectors, so anything too specific was not considered for inclusion. Results are presented by country (West African countries only) and by gender of respondent.

The selected questions for the total sample over time are:

QUESTION (SHORTAGE): Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or your family gone without: Enough food to eat?

QUESTION (MENTAL HEALTH): In the last month, how much of the time: Have you been so worried or anxious that you have felt tired, worn out, or exhausted?

QUESTION (ECONOMY): In general, how would you describe: Your own present living conditions?

QUESTION (DEMOCRACY): Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

- Statement 1/A: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.
- Statement 2/B: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.
- Statement 3/C: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

A set of questions specifically addressing issues of gender and equality was included in the most recent round – Round 5 (2011/2012). This document also provides a brief analysis of the data collected in response to the survey's questions about gender. The results will again be disaggregated by country (West African countries only).

The following six questions specifically addressed gender issues:

GENDER QUESTION 1: How often women treated unequally by traditional leaders?

In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are women treated unequally by traditional leaders?

GENDER QUESTION 2: How often women treated unequally by police and courts?

In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are women treated unequally by the police and courts?

GENDER QUESTION 3: How often women treated unequally by employers?

In your opinion, how often, in this country: Are women treated unequally by employers?

GENDER QUESTION 4: Men only as leaders vs. women leaders

Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

- Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women.
- Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.

GENDER QUESTION 5: Women have equal rights vs. subject to traditional laws

Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2:

- Statement 1: In our country, women should have equal rights and receive the same treatment as men do.
- Statement 2: Women have always been subject to traditional laws and customs, and should remain so.

GENDER QUESTION 6: Education recipient priority: boy vs. ability

Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

- Statement 1: If funds for schooling are limited, a boy should always receive an education in school before a girl.
- Statement 2: If funds for schooling are limited, a family should send the child with the greatest ability to learn.

RESPONSES OVER TIME, TOTAL SAMPLE

Of the results presented in the accompanying document for the total sample, not disaggregated by gender, rural/urban or age, there is not a large discrepancy over time/between rounds for the questions about food shortage, living conditions, and democracy. Table 1 presents results of the food shortage question over time. The question was asked in all five rounds. Over time, an average of 47% of survey respondents said they never experienced food shortage in the past year. A significantly higher number responded to having experienced food shortage once or twice in round 1 (32%), a number that was almost halved in later rounds. Of those who responded to always having experienced food shortage, the number peaked at 5% in Round 3. It should be noted, however, that the diverse sample of countries may skew these results quite dramatically.

Table 1. Total Sample Results of Food Shortage (over time)

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Average
Never	43%	47%	47%	44%	54%	47%
Just once or twice	32%	15%	16%	17%	16%	19%
Several times	-	21%	20%	21%	17%	20%
Many times	13%	15%	13%	13%	10%	13%
Always	1%	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	0%	*	0%
Missing	11%	0%	0%	-	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2 presents the results of the question regarding mental health. The question was only included in the survey during Rounds 1, 2, and 3. There was a lot of missing data in round 1 – more than a quarter of the data. Notwithstanding this fact, only 15% responded that they never felt tired, worn out, or exhausted from stress or worry, versus 40% and 42% of respondents in later rounds. A quarter of respondents across the rounds often felt this way, indicating the need for broader psychological issues to be considered in addressing health concerns that go beyond the physical.

Table 2. Total Sample Results of Mental Health Perceptions (over time)

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Average
Not at all/Never	15%	40%	42%	32%
A little/Sometimes	27%	27%	26%	27%
A lot/Often	23%	26%	24%	24%
Rarely	8%	-	-	8%
Always	-	5%	7%	6%
Don't know	0%	1%	1%	1%
Missing data	26%	0%	-	13%
Total (# of respondents)	21,530	24,228	25,086	-

Table 3 presents the results of the question regarding personal living conditions. The question was asked in Rounds 2-5. Overall, results remain fairly consistent over time and a quarter of the population finds their living conditions to be fairly good, with a slightly higher number finding their living conditions to be fairly bad. It looks like not much has changed economically at a household level in the past decade since the survey has been conducted.

Table 3. Total Sample Results of Present Living Conditions (over time)

	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Average
Very Bad	18%	23%	20%	23%	21%
Fairly bad	30%	27%	29%	29%	29%
Neither good nor bad	20%	21%	23%	18%	21%
Fairly good	28%	25%	23%	26%	26%
Very good	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Missing	0%	*	0%	0%	0%
Total (# of respondents)	24,228	25,086	27,713	20,411	-

Table 4 presents the results of the question regarding perceptions of democracy. Results do not vary much over time and a majority of respondents indicate a preference for democracy, especially in the most recent round (78%).

Table 4. Total Sample Results of Perceptions About Democracy (over time)

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
STATEMENT A: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government	70%	65%	62%	70%	78%
STATEMENT B: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable	11%	13%	10%	11%	9%
STATEMENT C: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.	13%	11%	12%	12%	9%

Don't know	4%	11%	16%	7%	3%
Missing	1%	0%	-	-	-
Total	21,530	24,228	25,086	27,713	20,411

RESPONSES OVER TIMES, BY COUNTRY AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT

Afrobarometer allows users to disaggregate data by several different factors. For the purposes of this project, I have chosen to do so by country and gender of respondent. Only results for the West African countries in each round's sample are reported. Not all countries in a given sample had results for one of the four questions selected. All available data is presented in the attached spreadsheet.

BENIN

For the questions about food shortage, mental health, and living conditions, Benin is only represented in Round 3. More than half of the respondents – both male and female – reported never having experienced food shortage in the past year; 43% reported never having felt tired or worn out because of stress; 39% reported their living conditions as being “very bad.”

For the question about democracy, Benin is represented in the sample for Rounds 3-5. Country-level responses remain consistent with the overall sample, with 70% preferring democracy to other forms of government. However, there is some discrepancy between male and female respondents, with males more heavily favoring democracy (77%) than females (63%). A significantly higher number of females (22%) than males (9%) also responded “don't know” to this question, indicating the existence of a possible gender dynamic that prevents or deters women from thinking about or speaking up about issues like democracy and governance.

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso is scarcely represented within the data for the questions selected and data only appears for the country in Round 4 for the questions about food shortage, living conditions, and democracy. The country data reveals trends similar to Benin.

CAPE VERDE

From Round 2 to 3, a higher percentage of respondents indicated that they had never experienced food shortage in the past year (from 69% to 75%), and a lower percentage reported having experienced food shortage many times or several times, indicating an improvement in food security in the country.

While the percentage of respondents who reported always feeling tired or worn-out because of stress did not change much from Round 2 to 3, a much higher percentage (54%) reported never having felt this way in Round 3, up from 36% in Round 2.

Over time, respondents' perceptions about their present living conditions in Cape Verde remained fairly consistent over time, with more than half responding ambivalently as neither good nor bad.

Over time, a higher percentage of female respondents tended to favor democracy – from 60% in Round 2 to 78% in Rounds 4 and 5. Concurrently, the percentage of female respondents who

reported “don’t know” steadily declined from 19% in Round 2 to an all-time low of 4% in Round 5.

GHANA

Of all the West African countries represented in the data, Ghana is the best represented across rounds with regards to the questions selected for this analysis. However, respondents’ views and perceptions about food shortage, living conditions, their mental health, and democracy have not changed much over time. Moreover, male and female respondents tended to respond similarly, indicating a greater level of gender parity in access to information and resources, and ability and willingness to speak up.

One of the most marked differences comes from the response “To people like me, it doesn't matter what form of government,” where 20% of female respondents in Round 1 selected this response and in Round 5 this was halved to only 10% expressing this opinion.

LIBERIA

In contrast to other West African countries in the sample, respondents in Liberia reported an increase in food shortage from Round 4 to 5. While the percentage increase is not very significant (up 1% for those responding “always,” “many times” and “several times”), the trend is still troubling.

Yet, the number of respondents who found their living conditions “very good” increased from Round 4 to 5, from 12% to 18% - the highest numbers from all West African countries in all samples across all rounds.

MALI

Based on the results, a large percentage of Malians surveyed find their present living conditions to be fairly bad – 39% in Round 2, 44% in Round 3, 40% in Round 4. While those who find it very bad are declining (from 23% in Round 2 to 18% in Round 4), respondents who indicated very bad or fairly bad still make up almost two-thirds of the sample.

In contrast to other West African countries in the sample, Mali has a higher percentage of respondents who think that a non-democratic government is preferable in some circumstances, which may be an important indicator in light of the current ongoing conflict. In Round 1, 16% of respondents suggested their preference for non-democratic governments. This number decreased to 12% in Round 2, but again increased to 18% in Round 3 and dipped back to 12% in Round 4, with little difference by gender of respondent.

NIGERIA

Much like Ghana, Nigeria is also well represented in the survey data with regards to the questions selected for this analysis. However, unlike a lot of the other countries examined, food insecurity seems to be increasing as a greater number of respondents indicated experiencing food shortages several times, many times, or always. In Round 1, 6% indicated experiencing food shortage several times. This jumped to 21% in Round 4. The number of those who indicated never having experienced food shortage in the past year also declined by 12%, from 59% in Round 1 to 47% in Round 4.

SENEGAL

In contrast to countries like Ghana and Cape Verde, the number of female respondents who favored democracy over other forms of government declined from 68% in Round 2 to 61% in Round 4 and, somewhat alarmingly, the number of women who reported that they don’t know

increased by more than half from 20% in Round 2 to 31% in Round 4. There was also a slight upward trend in those who favored a non-democratic government in some circumstances – from 4% in Round 2 to 6% in Rounds 3 and 4.

RESPONSES TO GENDER QUESTIONS, BY COUNTRY

GENDER QUESTION 1: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In response to the question about the frequency of unequal treatment of women by traditional leaders, responses among the West African countries in the sample do not display a clear trend. Respondents in Liberia reported the highest incidence of women **never** being treated unequally by traditional leaders at 37 percent, followed closely by Togo with 34 percent and Ghana with 33 percent. By contrast, respondents in Mali reported the highest incidence of women **always** being treated unequally by traditional leaders at 32 percent, with respondents in Burkina Faso not far behind at 29 percent. What is most revealing is that a similar percentage of respondents in all the West African countries reported that women are **often** treated unequally by traditional leaders (ranging from 23 to 40 percent), suggesting the continuing existence of prejudice against women by the traditional leadership establishment that is likely male-dominated. Table 5 below presents all of the data.

Table 5. How often women treated unequally by traditional leaders – West Africa

N=34,790; Weighted results	Total	Benin	Burkina Faso	Ghana	Liberia	Mali	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	Togo
Never	29%	23%	26%	33%	37%	28%	16%	14%	34%
Rarely	28%	35%	11%	28%	14%	13%	37%	24%	28%
Often	26%	31%	28%	29%	23%	25%	33%	40%	23%
Always	12%	10%	29%	7%	18%	32%	11%	19%	8%
Missing; Unknown	0%	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	-
Don't know	5%	1%	5%	3%	8%	2%	3%	3%	7%
Total	34,790	1,200	1,200	2,400	1,199	1,200	2,400	1,190	1,200

Total includes samples from the following countries: Benin 2012, Botswana 2012, Burkina Faso 2012, Burundi 2012, Cape Verde 2011, Ghana 2012, Kenya 2011, Lesotho 2012, Liberia 2012, Malawi 2012, Mali 2012, Mauritius 2012, Mozambique 2012, Namibia 2012, Nigeria 2012, Sierra Leone 2012, South-Africa 2011, Tanzania 2012, Togo 2012, Uganda 2012, Zambia 2012, Zimbabwe 2012.

GENDER QUESTION 2: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In response to the question about the frequency of unequal treatment of women by the police and courts, responses among the West African countries in the sample are relatively evenly distributed towards a lower frequency, with a majority responding as **never** or **rarely**. The most notable exception to this is Sierra Leone, where a majority of respondents (40 percent) said that women are **often** treated unequally by the police and courts, and only 15 percent said women are **never** treated unequally. The largest percentage of respondents to report that women are **never** treated unequally by the police and courts were from Burkina Faso with 42

percent, followed by Togo with 41 percent and Liberia with 39 percent. The highest percentage of respondents that reported unequal treatment of women by the policy and courts **always** occurring were from Mali at 19 percent, followed by Liberia and Sierra Leone at 15 percent each. Table 6 below presents all of the data.

Table 6. How often women treated unequally by police and courts – West Africa

N=37,198; Weighted results	Total	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Ghana	Liberia	Mali	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	Togo
Never	32%	30%	42%	27%	34%	39%	28%	15%	15%	41%
Rarely	31%	38%	17%	24%	32%	15%	23%	40%	23%	28%
Often	23%	21%	22%	20%	24%	21%	24%	29%	40%	15%
Always	9%	6%	8%	14%	6%	15%	19%	12%	15%	6%
Missing; Unknown	0%	-	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	-
Don't know	6%	4%	10%	15%	4%	10%	6%	4%	6%	10%
Total	37,198	1,200	1,200	1,20	2,400	1,199	1,200	2,400	1,190	1,200

Total includes samples from the following countries: Benin 2012, Botswana 2012, Burkina Faso 2012, Burundi 2012, Cape Verde 2011, Ghana 2012, Kenya 2011, Lesotho 2012, Liberia 2012, Malawi 2012, Mali 2012, Mauritius 2012, Mozambique 2012, Namibia 2012, Nigeria 2012, Sierra Leone 2012, South-Africa 2011, Tanzania 2012, Togo 2012, Uganda 2012, Zambia 2012, Zimbabwe 2012.

GENDER QUESTION 3: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In response to the question about the unequal treatment of women by employers, a clear pattern among respondents from West African countries does not emerge. Few respondents said that women are **always** treated unequally by employers, with the highest number of respondents from Mali at 18 percent, followed closely by Liberia at 17 percent. The majority of respondents from Burkina Faso (34 percent) indicated that women are **never** treated unequally by employers, but a similar percent (29 percent) also indicated that they are **often** treated unequally. Among the countries, a majority of responses regarding the unequal treatment of women by employers avoided extremes, with most responses indicating that women were either **rarely** or **often** treated unequally.

Despite mixed responses about the frequency of employers' unequal treatment of women, the incidence of such treatment being observed **often** or **always** is still rather high, with more than half of respondents (57 percent) from West African countries like Sierra Leone indicating that such unequal treatment occurred **often** or **always**, and 49 percent of respondents from Nigeria indicating the same. Table 7 below presents all of the data.

Table 7. How often women treated unequally by employers – West Africa

N=37,198; Weighted results	Total	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Ghana	Liberia	Mali	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	Togo
Never	25%	27%	34%	20%	29%	31%	31%	12%	14%	33%
Rarely	29%	39%	15%	25%	29%	14%	21%	35%	23%	24%
Often	28%	24%	29%	24%	29%	24%	27%	36%	41%	23%
Always	10%	6%	10%	16%	10%	17%	18%	13%	16%	7%
Missing; Unknown	0%	-	-	0%	-	1%	-	-	-	-
Don't know	8%	4%	12%	15%	4%	13%	4%	4%	7%	13%
Total	37,198	1,200	1,200	1,208	2,400	1,199	1,200	2,400	1,190	1,200

Total includes samples from the following countries: Benin 2012, Botswana 2012, Burkina Faso 2012, Burundi 2012, Cape Verde 2011, Ghana 2012, Kenya 2011, Lesotho 2012, Liberia 2012, Malawi 2012, Mali 2012, Mauritius 2012, Mozambique 2012, Namibia 2012, Nigeria 2012, Sierra Leone 2012, South-Africa 2011, Tanzania 2012, Togo 2012, Uganda 2012, Zambia 2012, Zimbabwe 2012.

GENDER QUESTION 4: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

When asked about whether men make better political leaders than women, or if women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men, responses from the West African countries in the sample skewed heavily towards **agree very strongly with the second statement**. Mali had the highest percentage of respondents that **agree very strongly with statement 1** that men make better political leaders than women with 24 percent, followed closely by respondents from Nigeria at 22 percent. More than half of the respondents from Cape Verde and Togo (55 percent) **agreed very strongly with statement 2** that women should have equal chances being elected to political office as men.

These responses suggest that women's involvement in the public, political sphere has become more acceptable and that only respondents from a few countries in West Africa still believe in an inherent gender difference between men and women when it comes to political leadership. Table 8 below presents all of the data.

Table 8 Men only as Leaders. women leaders ok – West Africa

N=37,198; Weighted results	Total	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Ghana	Liberia	Mali	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	Togo
Agree very strongly with 1	15%	18%	15%	7%	18%	14%	24%	22%	12%	6%
Agree with 1	12%	9%	14%	7%	9%	6%	18%	24%	23%	6%
Agree with 2	25%	25%	26%	28%	23%	34%	19%	26%	31%	32%
Agree very strongly with 2	47%	49%	41%	55%	49%	45%	38%	27%	32%	55%
Agree with neither	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Missing; Unknown	*	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	-
Don't know	1%	-	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Total	37,198	1,200	1,200	1,208	2,400	1,199	1,200	2,400	1,190	1,200

Total includes samples from the following countries: Benin 2012, Botswana 2012, Burkina Faso 2012, Burundi 2012, Cape Verde 2011, Ghana 2012, Kenya 2011, Lesotho 2012, Liberia 2012, Malawi 2012, Mali 2012, Mauritius 2012, Mozambique 2012, Namibia 2012, Nigeria 2012, Sierra Leone 2012, South-Africa 2011, Tanzania 2012, Togo 2012, Uganda 2012, Zambia 2012, Zimbabwe 2012.

GENDER QUESTION 5: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

When asked about the equal rights and treatment of women versus men, a majority of the respondents in the West African countries in the sample **agreed very strongly with statement 1** that women should receive the same rights and treatment as men, with the highest percentage of respondents (60 percent) from Cape Verde. The highest percentage of respondents that **agreed very strongly with statement 2** that women have always been subject to traditional laws and customs and should remain so are from Mali, with 38 percent, suggesting that gender parity (perhaps related to external factors like religion) still has a ways to go in that country. Table 9 below presents all of the data.

Table 9. Women have equal right vs. subject to traditional laws – West Africa

N=37,198; Weighted results	Total	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Ghana	Liberia	Mali	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	Togo
Agree very strongly with 1	48%	47%	39%	60%	57%	53%	21%	34%	38%	53%
Agree with 1	27%	22%	30%	29%	28%	28%	18%	34%	34%	34%
Agree with 2	11%	10%	17%	6%	7%	9%	22%	18%	19%	6%
Agree very strongly with 2	12%	20%	11%	4%	8%	9%	38%	14%	6%	6%
Agree with neither	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%
Missing; Unknown	*	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	-
No answer	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Total	37,198	1,200	1,200	1,208	2,400	1,199	1,200	2,400	1,190	1,200

***Total** includes samples from the following countries: Benin 2012, Botswana 2012, Burkina Faso 2012, Burundi 2012, Cape Verde 2011, Ghana 2012, Kenya 2011, Lesotho 2012, Liberia 2012, Malawi 2012, Mali 2012, Mauritius 2012, Mozambique 2012, Namibia 2012, Nigeria 2012, Sierra Leone 2012, South-Africa 2011, Tanzania 2012, Togo 2012, Uganda 2012, Zambia 2012, Zimbabwe 2012.*

GENDER QUESTION 6: RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

When it comes to the value of girls' education over that of boys, a majority of respondents from all of the West African countries in the sample tended to either **agree with statement 2** or **agree very strongly with statement 2** that in the case of limited funds for schooling, families should send the child with the greatest ability to learn and not just favor the education of boys. The highest percentages of respondents to agree very strongly with statement 2 are from Ghana, at 63 percent. Of the countries that **agree very strongly with statement 1** that boys should always receive an education before a girl if funds for schooling are limited, Benin topped the charts at 15 percent, followed closely by Mali with 12 percent. Table 10 below presents all of the data.

Table 10. Education recipient priority: boy vs. ability – West Africa

N=37,198; Weighted results	Total	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Ghana	Liberia	Mali	Nigeria	Sierra Leone	Togo
Agree very strongly with 1	7%	15%	6%	4%	7%	8%	12%	9%	8%	5%
Agree with 1	7%	8%	6%	5%	5%	5%	8%	19%	18%	5%
Agree with 2	23%	28%	25%	18%	21%	20%	29%	29%	26%	27%
Agree very strongly with 2	48%	30%	41%	22%	63%	41%	39%	40%	43%	36%
Agree with neither	13%	19%	20%	47%	4%	24%	12%	2%	4%	26%
Missing; Unknown	*	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	-
Don't know	1%	0%	2%	4%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Total	37,198	1,200	1,200	1,208	2,400	1,199	1,200	2,400	1,190	1,200

Total includes samples from the following countries: Benin 2012, Botswana 2012, Burkina Faso 2012, Burundi 2012, Cape Verde 2011, Ghana 2012, Kenya 2011, Lesotho 2012, Liberia 2012, Malawi 2012, Mali

2012, Mauritius 2012, Mozambique 2012, Namibia 2012, Nigeria 2012, Sierra Leone 2012, South-Africa 2011, Tanzania 2012, Togo 2012, Uganda 2012, Zambia 2012, Zimbabwe 2012.

APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY OF GENDER TERMS⁴³

SEX, GENDER AND FEMINISM

Sex is a biological construct that defines males and females according to physical characteristics and reproductive capabilities. USAID policy calls for the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data (male vs. female) for individual-level indicators and targets. Gender and sex are not synonyms.

Gender is a social construct that refers to relations between and among the sexes, based on their relative roles. It encompasses the economic, political, and socio-cultural attributes, constraints, and opportunities associated with being male or female. As a social construct, gender varies across cultures, is dynamic and open to change over time. Because of the variation in gender across cultures and over time, gender roles should not be assumed but investigated. Note that “gender” is not interchangeable with “women” or “sex.”

Feminism⁴⁴ is the belief in women's rights specifically the belief in the need to secure rights and opportunities for women equal to those of men, or a commitment to securing these. Feminism is also defined as a movement for women's rights –a movement committed to securing and defending rights and opportunities for women that are equal to those of men.

GENDER ANALYSIS, GENDER ASSESSMENT AND GENDER INDICATORS

Gender Analysis refers to the identification and interpretation of gender differences and relations and their impact on achieving development objectives. Gender analysis also gauges the implications of development interventions that may shift the power dynamic between women and men. A gender analysis is required to inform the design of country strategic plans, Assistance Objectives, and projects/activities. Gender analysis is an analytic, social science tool that is used to identify, understand, and explain gaps between males and females that exist in households, communities, and countries, and the relevance of gender norms and power relations in a specific context. Such analysis typically involves examining differences in the status of women and men and their differential access to assets, resources, opportunities and services; the influence of gender roles and norms on the division of time between paid employment, unpaid work (including subsistence production and care for family members), and volunteer activities; the influence of gender roles and norms on leadership roles and decision-making; constraints, opportunities, and entry points for narrowing gender gaps and empowering females; and potential differential impacts of development policies and programs on males and females, including unintended or negative consequences.

Gender Assessment involves carrying out a gender analysis of an organization’s programs and of the organization’s ability to monitor and respond to gender issues throughout the program cycle. USAID Missions often carry out a gender assessment of their portfolio to determine whether gender issues are

⁴³ Unless otherwise noted, these definitions are derived from several USAID documents including *USAID Guide to Gender Integration and Analysis* at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACP506.pdf; *USAID Gender Terms Definitions* at http://agrilinks.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/USAID_Gender_TermDefinitions.pdf ; and *USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy* at <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1870/GenderEqualityPolicy.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Commonly used definition of the term.

being effectively addressed in Mission-supported programs and projects. Findings from a gender assessment can be used, for example, to inform a Mission Gender Plan of Action.

Gender-sensitive Indicators point out *to what extent* and *in what ways* development programs and projects achieved results related to gender equality and whether/how reducing gaps between males/females and empowering women leads to better project/development outcomes.

GENDER EQUALITY, EQUITY AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality is a broad concept and a development goal. It is achieved when men and women have equal rights, freedoms, conditions, and opportunities for realizing their full potential and for contributing to and benefiting from economic, social, cultural, and political development. Equality does not mean that women and men become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities, and opportunities do not depend on whether they are born male or female. It means society values men and women equally for their similarities and differences and the diverse roles they play. Gender equality is not a "women's issue" but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. It signifies the results of gender equity strategies and processes. Gender equality concerns fundamental social transformation, working with men and boys, women and girls, to bring about changes in attitudes, behaviors, roles and responsibilities at home, in the workplace, and in the community. Genuine equality means expanding freedoms and improving overall quality of life so that equality is achieved without sacrificing gains for males or females.

Gender Equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must often be available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on an equitable basis, or a "level playing field." Equity leads to equality.

Female Empowerment is when women and girls acquire the power to act freely, exercise their rights, and fulfill their potential as full and equal members of society. While empowerment often comes from within, and individuals empower themselves, cultures, societies, and institutions create conditions that facilitate or undermine the possibilities for empowerment.

GENDER INTEGRATION AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender Integration involves identifying and then addressing gender differences and inequalities during program and project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Since the roles and relations of power between men and women affect how an activity is implemented, it is essential that project and activity planners address these issues on an ongoing basis. USAID uses the term gender integration in planning and programming.

Gender Mainstreaming⁴⁵ is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

⁴⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) widely used definition of the concept of gender mainstreaming. (1979)

GENDER PLANNING⁴⁶

Gender Planning is a planning tradition in its own right. The goal is the emancipation of women from their subordination, and the achievement of equality, equity and empowerment. The gender planning process involves three interrelated stages: (1) policy making, (2) planning, and (3) implementation.

GENDER POLICY TYPOLOGY⁴⁷

Gender blind policies or programs do not recognize the differences in women's and men's roles and the impact they may have on development interventions. Gender blind policies also assume that their program interventions and assistance will not have differential impacts on women or men. Instead it is assumed that the program effects will be the same for women and men.

Gender aware policies or programs recognize both women and men as development actors and acknowledge that the nature of women's involvement is determined by gender relations –as is the case for men-which make their involvement different. Consequently women and men have different needs, interest and priorities that have an impact on and are impacted by development assistance.

Gender aware policies or programs may be one of three types: (1) gender neutral, (2) gender specific and (3) gender-redistributive.

Gender-Neutral –Use the knowledge of gender differences in given society to overcome biases in development intervention in order to ensure that interventions target and benefit both sexes effectively while working within the existing gender division of resources and responsibilities.

Gender-Specific – Use knowledge of gender differences in a given context to respond to the practical needs of women and men working within the existing gender division of resources and responsibilities.

Gender-Redistributive – Intended to transform existing distributions of power and resources to create more balanced relationship between women and men. Programs may target both sexes or women and men separately.

⁴⁶ Moser, Caroline O.N. (1993) *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*, Routledge, New York.

⁴⁷ Candida March, Ines Smyth and Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay, *A Guide to Gender Analysis Frameworks*, Oxfam, 1999, pp. 21.

APPENDIX F: GENDER ASSESSMENT TOOLS

DOCUMENT REVIEW PROTOCOL⁴⁹

Instructions:

1. Use this protocol to review all background documents, reports and assessments.
2. Rate documents on the scale below and document evidence, data or examples in your document review notes.

Gender Aspects of Document/Rating	None	Slight	Some	Much	Substantial
1. Does the document use a gender lens to review, assess or describe governance, trade, NRM, health, governance and/or peace and security issues in West Africa?					
2. Does the document identify needs and opportunities for West African women, men, boys and/or girls? What needs and opportunities for promoting gender equality are identified in the document?					
3. Have gender related needs and opportunities changed over time? If so how? If not, why?					
4. Is there evidence that women, men, boys, girls and/or civil society organizations have been directly consulted in identifying gender needs and/or opportunities?					
5. Does the document identify challenges and constraints in achieving gender equality for women, men, boys and girls?					
6. What challenges and constraints to gender equality are identified in the document?					
7. How have these challenges and constraints changed over time? If not, why?					
8. Have women, men, boys, girls and/or civil society organizations been directly consulted in identifying challenges and constraint to equality and empowerment?					
9. Does the document discuss, identify or address inequalities among women and men; among boys and girls? If so what are they?					
10. Is gender equality in access to resources and program benefits explored, addressed or reflected in the documents? If so what are they?					
11. Is gender equality in control of resources and program benefits reflected in the documents? If so what are they?					
12. Are differential factors in participation among women and men or among boys and girls included, analyzed or explained in the document? If so what are they?					

⁴⁹ This tool will provide data and information for a Gender Gap Analysis.

Gender Aspects of Document/Rating	None	Slight	Some	Much	Substantial
13. Does the document explore how gender relations among West African males and females affect development, democracy or security efforts? If so what patterns have been identified? What are the implications for future programming?					
14. Does the document explore how development, governance and security efforts affect gender relations in West Africa? If so what patterns have been identified? What are the implications for future programming?					
15. Does the document identify best practice or lessons learned for gender programming and the promotion of equitable relations among females and males and the empowerment of women and girls? If so what are they? What are the implications for the direction and content of future programming?					
16. Does the document identify additional or new areas for research on West African gender relations? If so what are they?					

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL – AGRICULTURE

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON GENDER RELATIONS:

1. What impact has the current conditions in the West Africa region (political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures) had on men, women, boys and girls?
2. How have the prevailing attitudes, religious and cultural norms and practices affected men, women, boys' and girls' ability to contribute to and benefit from development?
3. What has changed
4. Are there particular strategies and approaches you have used or witnessed that help overcome barriers to women's and men's equal participation in development?
5. Does the context in which women and girls find themselves, such as urban or rural location, individual ethnicity or religion affect gender relations in particular parts of the countries in the region?
6. What are the top gender and agriculture issues in West Africa? Have you seen differences by country? For men, for women?
7. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
8. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
9. Can you recommend women's focused organizations at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be capable partners with USAID/WA?

SECTOR QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of differences in impact appear in food security issues in rural versus urban areas? How are these differences connected to gender dynamics?

2. What seems to be the greatest hurdles for resiliency to repeated climatic and food shortage shocks and how are women and men coping the same and differently?
3. What is women's and men's involvement in the production, processing, marketing, and regional trade of: staple crops (rice, millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea), livestock, seeds, and fertilizer? Has there been a change in women's and men's roles over time?
4. Why do women participate in these sectors and are there ways that these specific sectors empower women? How can women's involvement in these areas be increased?
5. What specific roles do women play and men play in irrigation/agriculture activities? What is women's and men's involvement on regional agricultural associations (COFENABVI, ROPA, WAGN) and national agricultural associations (CIC-B, CPC, FUCOPRI) and how can women's involvement be increased?
6. What is women's and men's involvement in agricultural policy, regional trade policy, and nutrition policy formulation, adoption, and enforcement in the region and in non-presence countries? How can women's involvement be enhanced?
7. Within the West Africa Mission's targeted value chains, which value chains have the greatest involvement of women and girls at what level of the value chain do women and girls have the greatest participation and decision-making?

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL –TRADE AND INVESTMENT

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON GENDER RELATIONS:

1. What impact has the current conditions in the West Africa region (political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures) had on men, women, boys and girls?
2. How have the prevailing attitudes, religious and cultural norms and practices affected men, women, boys' and girls' ability to contribute to and benefit from development?
3. What has changed
4. Are there particular strategies and approaches you have used or witnessed that help overcome barriers to women's and men's equal participation in development?
5. Does the context in which women and girls find themselves, such as urban or rural location, individual ethnicity or religion affect gender relations in particular parts of the countries in the region?
6. What are the top gender and agriculture issues in West Africa? Have you seen differences by country? For men, for women?
7. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
8. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
9. Can you recommend women's focused organizations at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be capable partners with USAID/WA?

SECTOR QUESTIONS:

1. Are women taking different roles in asset control, decision making and in trade and investment related business? Has their leadership roles increased or decreased over time and why?
2. What are barriers for women vis-à-vis crossing borders, accessing markets, finance, and transportation? Where are the opportunities?
3. What are the benefits for grid electricity for women and for men?

4. What is the level of participation of women in the energy sector, and how might greater participation be encouraged at the level of utilities, regional organizations, developers, and government ministries?
5. What strategies and approaches can be used to advance women's leadership roles in trade and investment? In trade and investment focused small and medium enterprises (SMEs)?
6. How can we implement programs that break through the barriers?
7. How will clean energy initiatives impact women? Few women are represented in WAPP. What is the reason? Where are opportunities?

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL – ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON GENDER RELATIONS:

1. What impact has the current conditions in the West Africa region (political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures) had on men, women, boys and girls?
2. How have the prevailing attitudes, religious and cultural norms and practices affected men, women, boys' and girls' ability to contribute to and benefit from development?
3. What has changed
4. Are there particular strategies and approaches you have used or witnessed that help overcome barriers to women's and men's equal participation in development?
5. Does the context in which women and girls find themselves, such as urban or rural location, individual ethnicity or religion affect gender relations in particular parts of the countries in the region?
6. What are the top gender and agriculture issues in West Africa? Have you seen differences by country? For men, for women?
7. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
8. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
9. Can you recommend women's focused organizations at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be capable partners with USAID/WA?

SECTOR QUESTIONS:

1. Do women and girls share equal access to natural resources with men and boys?
2. In Sierra Leone and Gambia specifically, how can girls and women impact sustainable landscapes?
3. How are men and women using resources, especially water, and for what purpose(s)?
4. How are contributions (labor, time, payments, and contributions in kind) to the development and management of natural and water resources divided between men and women?
5. Who makes the decisions and controls their implementation, at the various levels?
6. Who gets the project or program resources, such as jobs and training?
7. To whom do the benefits and the control over these benefits, such as status, water, products produced from natural and water resources, income resulting from products and functions and decisions on how this income is used?
8. What roles do women play in household water management? How long do women and girls spend throughout the day in water gathering activities?
9. What kind of differences in impact appear in food security issues in rural versus urban areas? How are these differences connected to gender dynamics?
10. What seems to be the greatest hurdles for resiliency to repeated climatic and food shortage shocks and how are women and men coping the same and differently?

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL – HEALTH

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON GENDER RELATIONS:

1. What impact has the current conditions in the West Africa region (political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures) had on men, women, boys and girls?
2. How have the prevailing attitudes, religious and cultural norms and practices affected men, women, boys' and girls' ability to contribute to and benefit from development?
3. What has changed
4. Are there particular strategies and approaches you have used or witnessed that help overcome barriers to women's and men's equal participation in development?
5. Does the context in which women and girls find themselves, such as urban or rural location, individual ethnicity or religion affect gender relations in particular parts of the countries in the region?
6. What are the top gender and agriculture issues in West Africa? Have you seen differences by country? For men, for women?
7. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
8. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
9. Can you recommend women's focused organizations at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be capable partners with USAID/WA?

SECTOR QUESTIONS:

1. What approaches have been most effective in increasing access and use of modern family planning methods in the sub-region?
2. How are men currently engaged in family planning decisions and choices?
3. Which strategies targeting men have been effective in expanding use of family planning in the sub-region?
4. How are religious and community leaders engaged in, and driving or impeding family planning use in the sub-region?
5. What approaches have been effective in changing behavior in order to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS?
6. What behavior change approaches have been effective for
7. the general population?
8. for youth (10-35)?
9. for most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
10. How is access to HIV prevention, care and treatment affected by gender differences?
11. Has USAID/WA's current programming approach resulted in any legislative changes or institutional changes or other major measures at the regional level and/or country level to enforce reproductive rights?
12. Describe briefly approaches developed to involve difficult to reach sub-groups (e.g. sex workers, migrant workers, truck drivers) to provide them with family planning information and services?
10. Describe innovative programs that use emerging information technologies such as media, internet to increase women's access to information on reproductive rights, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender issues.

11. What mechanisms are in place to coordinate your own efforts with those of Governments, NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders in Family planning and HIV/AIDS programs?
12. Illustrate one programming strategy that has been most successful in facilitating legislative, policy or programmatic changes to support the reproductive rights, sexual health and gender equality.
13. What would you consider a best practice in your country in the programming areas of family planning and HIV/AIDS?
14. What are the 3 key emerging issues, if any, in the field of family planning and HIV/AIDS in relation to gender and reproductive health to be addressed as a matter of priority by your country?
15. Where do you see the policy gaps in the mission's approach to health issues within West Africa?

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL –PEACE AND SECURITY

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON GENDER RELATIONS:

10. What impact has the current conditions in the West Africa region (political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures) had on men, women, boys and girls?
11. How have the prevailing attitudes, religious and cultural norms and practices affected men, women, boys' and girls' ability to contribute to and benefit from development?
12. What has changed
13. Are there particular strategies and approaches you have used or witnessed that help overcome barriers to women's and men's equal participation in development?
14. Does the context in which women and girls find themselves, such as urban or rural location, individual ethnicity or religion affect gender relations in particular parts of the countries in the region?
15. What are the top gender and agriculture issues in West Africa? Have you seen differences by country? For men, for women?
16. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
17. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
18. Can you recommend women's focused organizations at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be capable partners with USAID/WA?

SECTOR QUESTIONS:

1. What role do gender issues play (if any) in instigating or supporting ideologies or political programs that justify violence and actual acts of violence?
2. How sensitive is the Afrobarometer to gender issues? How sensitive are the conflict early warning systems to gender issues?
3. What is the impact of sexual and gender-based violence in the region on peace and security?
4. What are the differential risks based on gender that men and women face in conflict situations?
5. Describe innovative programs that use emerging information technologies such as media, internet to increase women's access to information on reproductive rights, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender issues.
6. What mechanisms are in place to coordinate your own efforts with those of Governments, NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders on peace and security initiatives and programs in the region?
7. Illustrate one programming strategy that has been most successful in facilitating legislative, policy or programmatic changes to women's participation in peace and security efforts.

8. What would you consider a best practice in your country in the programming areas of peace and security? Is it gender sensitive?
9. What are the 3 key emerging issues, if any, in gender and peace and security to be addressed as a matter of priority by your country?
10. Where do you see the policy gaps in the mission's approach to peace and security issues within West Africa?
11. Are there any issues on gender, peace and security that are not well understood and may require further more detailed research to better inform programs?

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL – GOVERNANCE

GENERAL QUESTIONS ON GENDER RELATIONS:

1. What impact has the current conditions in the West Africa region (political instability and conflict, poverty, slow economic growth, poor health, limited infrastructure, and increasing population and environmental pressures) had on men, women, boys and girls?
2. How have the prevailing attitudes, religious and cultural norms and practices affected men, women, boys' and girls' ability to contribute to and benefit from development?
3. What has changed
4. Are there particular strategies and approaches you have used or witnessed that help overcome barriers to women's and men's equal participation in development?
5. Does the context in which women and girls find themselves, such as urban or rural location, individual ethnicity or religion affect gender relations in particular parts of the countries in the region?
6. What are the top gender and agriculture issues in West Africa? Have you seen differences by country? For men, for women?
7. What formal policy frameworks exist in a given sector to ensure the political participation of women as well as most-at-risk populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, LGBT populations, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with HIV/AIDS)?
8. What is the greatest benefit in a particular society to being a woman or a girl? What is the greatest detriment?
9. Can you recommend women's focused organizations at the local level that exhibit strong leadership and could be capable partners with USAID/WA?

SECTOR QUESTIONS:

1. What is the level of participation in government of women and LGBT candidates and elected officials?
2. What is the prevailing attitude to such candidates in local, regional and national elections?
3. How sensitive are our existing tools (e.g. Afrobarometer surveys, conflict early warning systems) to gender issues?
4. Do government policies related to governance in the extractives sector create or maintain gender disparities?
5. What mechanisms are in place to coordinate your own efforts with those of Governments, NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders on governance programs and initiatives in the region?
6. Illustrate one programming strategy that has been most successful in facilitating legislative, policy or programmatic changes to women's participation in peace and security efforts.
7. What would you consider a best practice in your country in the programming areas of peace and security? Is it gender sensitive?
8. What are the 3 key emerging issues, if any, in gender and governance to be addressed as a matter of priority by your country?

9. Where do you see the policy gaps in the mission's approach to peace and security issues within West Africa?
10. Are there any issues on gender and governance that are not well understood and may require further more detailed research to better inform programs?
11. Are there any issues on gender and governance that are not well understood and may require further more detailed research to better inform programs at the sectoral level?

APPENDIX G: REFERENCES

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APPENDIX H: WEST AFRICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND GENDER EXPERTS

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

GENDER, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT

1. *Association of Women in Cross-Border Trade (AWICBT)*. Liberia based. A primary aim of the association is to help inform women traders so that they can better advocate for their rights and access greater economic opportunities. This national level association appears to be the most focused and organized in the region and could be a model for other associations across West Africa and perhaps even a regional level organization. Based on a August 5, 2013 web search of this organization there is no contact information on the association or its state of development/organization.
2. *The Centre for Economic and Leadership Development (CELD)* is a civil society organization with the agenda of increasing and recognizing women's leadership in public and private sector arenas in West Africa. CELD is headquartered in Abuja Nigeria and hosts a West African Women in Leadership Summit that is an annual high-level meeting of West African Women. Unclear of its efficacy and positive impacts.

GENDER EXPERTS

GENDER & ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR

1. Rose Mensah-Kutin is an Accra-based consultant who has expertise in gender mainstreaming in the electric power sector. Email eno-gh@yahoo.com; Cell: +233 208-180 662; +233 246-363 324. She serves as an advisor on gender issues to ECOWAS Centre for Renewable and Energy Efficiency (ECREE)
2. Karen Reiss, International Gender Advisor to ECREE, kreiss@ecree.org; +238 953 6586, Cape Verde
3. Elise Akitani, Electric Power Engineer, African Development Bank, Tunis, Tunisia, eliseakitani@hotmail.com, +216 71 10 39 17

GENDER & CROSS BORDER TRADE

4. Eniola Dada, Gender Consultant and founder of NGO for Cross Border Trade Research, Lagos, Nigeria, enioladada9@yahoo.com + 234-081-631-57226
5. Ometere Omoluabi, formerly WATH Business Environment Coordinator working in cross border trade issues, now employed in Lagos, Nigeria, teretu@gmail.com + 0244 340 622

GENDER AND HEALTH

Name	Location
Vivian F. Sarpomaa Fiscian	Ghana
Komla Jehu-Appiah (MD)	Ghana
Patience Agyare Kwabi	Ghana
Joana Opare	Ghana
Alberta Amu (MD)	Ghana
Susan Osam	Ghana
Ernestina Naana Hagan	Ghana
Princess Olayimika Adebola	Nigeria

APPENDIX I: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

3D → Trade, Human Rights, Equitable Economy, 2006: Niger: Agriculture Trade Liberalization and Women's Rights (August 2006), available at www.3dthree.org-info@3dthree.org

Niger is experiencing the residual effects of 2005's food emergency, which are expected to persist for a number of years regardless of a return to normal harvests. Underlying and exacerbating the recent crisis is Niger's structural food insecurity. The food crisis leaves over 32% of the population undernourished each year, the large majority of which are women and children. In addition to their food insecurity, women lack the income to purchase food for their families. This lack of income, combined with the discrimination faced by Nigerian women, could be further aggravated by trade rules under negotiation.

Accord Insight. *Women building peace*. London, UK: Conciliation Resources, 2013

This paper presents nine case studies previously documented by Accord since 1998 that examine the roles of women in addressing violence and peace building. The studies showcase the depth of skills, insights and energy that women bring to peace building. The paper also discusses some of the challenges that women face regarding inclusion in the process and the barriers to political participation. Addressing the underlying power relations between men and women, through gender mainstreaming, is crucial to women's integration in peace building and post-conflict decision-making processes.

Adindu, Anthonia. 2010. Assessing and Assuring Quality of Health Care in Africa. *African Journal of Medical Sciences*, vol. 3, number 1, pp. 31 -36, ISSN: 2141-0151, Nigeria.

Health care and quality are inextricable, therefore to provide health care services without concern for quality is unprofessional and potentially deadly. Quality in African health care systems has become a major concern due to seemingly intractable poor health indices in most countries. Importance of health care on lives of people makes quality critical regardless of where services are provided in the hospital, or community. The quality of services has largely received little attention in many African countries, yet improving quality of health services is vital to improving the abysmal level of health in Africa. It also means critically looking at the management of health organizations at all levels. The report focused on the importance of quality of health care in Africa due to the high rate of mortality in the region. Quality in the health system becomes paramount for economic growth and national survival. This paper examines the importance of quality in health care, approaches to assessing and assuring quality and proposes strategies for improving quality of services in Africa.

African Development Bank, 2005, Burkina Faso Country Governance Profile.

As a landlocked country, Burkina Faso has scarce resources and is dependent on foreign aid to meet governmental obligations. With poverty at the center of its development challenge, strategic approaches have been designed in effort to meet the government's targeted goals to eradicate poverty. The document captures and identifies government related problems as it seeks to create a platform between the various stakeholders in areas where the government's functionality weakens the outcomes of development. The pivotal role of partnerships, good

governance and the principles of accountability and transparency are discussed to in segments to provide a more stable and secured Burkina Faso.

African Development Bank, 2011. Sierra Leone Country Gender Profile.

With the Joint Assistance Strategy designed by the African Development Bank Group, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation are committed to helping Sierra Leone succeed in meeting its government's objectives for gender equality, capacity building and reconstruction agenda. Detailing a comprehensive overview of the country's political struggles, institutional and legal framework, gender analysis and other evaluative measures around the political, socio-economic and social trends identified in Sierra Leone, this report is the first of its kind to meet the sector by sector objectives of the AfDB's agenda in Sierra Leone.

African Development Bank, Cote d'Ivoire, 2010. Enhanced Cooperation to end the crisis.

AfDB and partners reconstructive role in assisting with the recovery of Cote d'Ivoire's fragility since its internal conflicts is accentuated in this document by detailing their efforts in achieving development goals for the country. Interventions made by contributing partners are highlighted in areas of economic growth, infrastructure and poverty reduction through the mobilization of resources that were provided to the government of Cote d'Ivoire. Stabilizing the economy and political conditions in conflict are topics on the agendas for implementing partners' reference while working in Cote d'Ivoire. Economic and human development indexes as well as statistics to illustrate the progress in the country's development and rankings are presented in this document. With over 4 decades of partnership with Cote d'Ivoire, the African Development Group accounts for 54 operations in the country that are explained.

African Development Bank, *Gender Equity Reinforcement Project; Appraisal Report*, May 2004

The report notes existing gender gaps in Niger in areas such as legal status, access to resources, and household decision-making. Despite poverty reduction efforts, challenges remain. Women constitute the majority of those living in poverty. Lack of access to education, health, information and communication, and legal services continue to hinder female economic empowerment.

Various reasons challenge women's economic empowerment, such as discriminatory policies. Customary law and modern law discriminate against women and leaves women absent from crucial decision making spheres. In addition, women are less likely to use information technology, leaving them less likely to access policies and information to use towards their favor. Through training, women entrepreneurs have increased their capacity to obtain information on business opportunities and to benefit from training. However, they must be supported in order to promote their capacities.

African Development Bank, *Gender, Poverty and Environmental indicators on African Countries*, 2012 volume XII

This paper provides background on the nature of poverty in Africa and addresses it as a human rights issue. It provides series of data to support the need for poverty reduction. In laying out issues, the paper stresses the need for the poor to become rights-holders rather than charity recipients. Rights such as equal access to education are emphasized, the empowerment of women being shown as a means for Africa's economic growth.

African Development Bank [Regional Integration Strategy Paper for West Africa 2011-2015](#), March 2011

The strategy outlines the African Development Bank's strategy for regional integration efforts for 2011-2015. The strategy examined numerous factors in a regional context, including institutional arrangement in the region, political context and governance, economic context, trade, business climate and competitiveness, social context, environmental and climate change, and trans-boundary water resources.

The strategy detailed challenges the ecosystem faces from dense population and intense exploitation of resources, as well as the soil depletion and deforestation. As women are marginalized in the agricultural sector, they lack financial credit, access to technologies, and post-extension facilities. Deforestation and climate change interventions must also include women, who are often at the forefront of prevention.

African Development Fund. "Republic of Niger: Gender Equity Reinforcement Project Appraisal Report." Social Development Department (OCSD), Center West Region, 2004.

In order to contribute to gender specific aspects of the Millennium Development Goals, this project targeted methods for raising Niger's capacity for gender equity. The project examined various causes leading to the suppression of Nigerian women, intending largely to make poverty reduction more effective. It showed the trilateral oppression faced by women, exclusions thriving in customary, legislative, and religious law. The ultimate finding was the need for a participatory approach to gender equity in which leaders promoted female involvement across all sectors of Nigerian society.

African Development Fund. 2008. Ghana Country Gender Profile. Human Development Department (OSHD)

This publication is a multi-sectoral analysis of gender in Ghana. It covers national development, employment and entrepreneurship, education and vocational training, health, and infrastructure, as well as crosscutting issues like governance, gender-based violence, the environment, and HIV/AIDS. Data was collected through stakeholder consultations and desk reviews of available quantitative and qualitative data. Some of the major recommendations to the Government of Ghana are institutional capacity building to mainstream gender into policy formulation planning, monitoring and evaluation, investing in early-childhood care programs, and promoting girls' education at post-primary school levels.

African Union Gender Policy Rev 3, 2009.

This policy provides guidelines for gender equity throughout Africa. It puts forth a comprehensive action plan for goals pertaining to the increased participation of women in decision making, the achievement of good governance through human rights for women, and the establishment of institutional frameworks for gender equity. Frameworks are depicted as needing stakeholder alliances, accountability being critical for equality in Africa.

Ahonsi, Babatunde. Policy Notes: Towards More Informed Response to Gender Violence and HIV/AIDS in Post-Conflict West African Setting. Uppsala, Sweden: The Nordic Africa Institute, March 2010

This policy note discusses sexual violence against women (SVAV) during and after wars, drawing on insights from Liberia and Sierra Leone. SVAV persists even during post-conflict reconstruction and exposes young women to an increased risk of HIV infection. Thus far, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction in West Africa has focused on traditional security, physical infrastructure rebuilding and economic revitalization issues rather than on human security concerns such as sexual violence. This policy aims to address those underrepresented issues in order to create a lasting and sustainable peace.

Akinlo, A. Bisiriyu, A. And Esimai O. (2013) Influence of Use of Maternal Health Care on Postpartum Contraception in Nigeria. USAID DHS Working Papers No. 92

This publication examines the connection between the utilization of maternal health care services and the postpartum use of contraception in Nigeria. Using data from the country's 2008 Demographic and Health Survey, the study found that only eight percent of women used a modern method of contraception during the postpartum period. Fewer than half of the postpartum women made the WHO-recommended minimum number of four antenatal care visits and only thirty-five percent delivered in a health facility. This suggests a strong correlation between use of maternal health services and postpartum modern contraceptive use such that contraception use will increase among postpartum women if more of them use maternal health services.

Akunu, Dake. Conference on Repositioning Family Planning in West Africa: Rapporteur-General's Report. La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra February 15 – 18, 2005

This report details the proceedings of a Regional Conference on Repositioning Family Planning in West Africa held from February 15 – 18, 2005 in Accra, Ghana. The conference was planned to address the declining international focus on family planning and the resulting impact on health and development in the region. The objectives covered in the report are: presenting data on the expressed need for family planning in West Africa; identifying the factors that undermine the unmet need for family planning and the health and development consequences of this; and developing advocacy and action plans that participants will undertake after the conference to reposition family planning efforts in their respective countries.

Alao, Abiodun (2011), Natural Resources and Conflict in Africa: The Tragedy of Endowment In ECOWAS and the Dynamics of Conflict and Peace - building, CODESRIA.

The paper examines natural resources and the dynamics of Conflicts in West Africa. It identifies five categories of natural resources in West African: land and agricultural products, solid mineral, oil, water and water resources, and animal-stock. The paper also looks at the devastating effect of natural resource conflicts, as conflicts weakens and collapse state institutions, affects the global flow of vital resources, and reduces inflow of revenue into the affect countries.

In spite of the negative aspect of such conflicts witnessed, the paper outlines some positive development as civil society gained considerable strength in the region, the regional organization, ECOWAS, was able to use the experience of violence to develop a mechanism for handling conflicts, including those linked to natural resources. All these developments, positive and negative, have major links to the politics of natural resources management in the sub-region. The paper noted a vital preventive measure of conflict in West Africa being a credible democracy that will give allowance for the proper governance of the natural resource sector.

AlertNet, "Burning Need for Charcoal Hits Cameroon's Forests," London: October 8, 2012

The article examines growing concerns amongst environmentalists about deforestation and carbon emissions, as the country's only electricity and gas company struggles to keep up with demand and an increasingly growing urban population. The two largest cities in West Africa doubled in size in the last 10 years; only 22 percent of urban and 3.5 percent of rural areas of the country receives electricity. This lack of electricity, as well as the profitability of charcoal, has forced businesses and families to turn to charcoal and away from more traditional businesses.

Among Communication, Language and Gender. State University of New York Press, Albany, NY.

In this book, the authors create new and test old paradigms for researching gender. The content is organized around two frameworks: Constructing Gender and Reconstructing Gender. The definition of gender evolves as individuals interact with their environments, but it can also be viewed as a product of social learning and language. Gender roles are reconstructed through interactions with power, culture and audiences. The impact of culture on gender formation is also significant. The authors suggest that gender is an evolving concept that is influenced by the speaker and the audience.

Amungwa, A. F., 2011. The Evolution of Conflicts Related to Natural Resource Management in Cameroon. *J Hum Ecol*, 35(1): 53-60 (2011)

The paper examined natural resource management and associated conflicts in Cameroon. It outlined a number of conflicting claims regarding rights over the management of natural resources, leading at times, to inter-ethnic conflicts, farmer-grazer disputes, damages and loss of property, lives, and the aggravation of the poverty situation in rural areas.

The paper observed contemporary conflict management systems in Cameroon neglect the importance of the indigenous systems of the communities over which the modern state has gained jurisdiction, and call for responses in the form of new conflict management models that take into account the socio-cultural and political frameworks and peculiarities of indigenous communities.

Andrzejewski, C. S., H.E. Reed, and M. J. White. "Men's and women's migration in coastal Ghana: An event history analysis". *Demographic Research*, Volume 22, Article 25

This article examines the reasons for inter-regional migration for men and women in coastal Ghana, focusing on four migration types: rural-urban, rural-rural, urban-urban, and urban-rural. Using life history calendar (LHC) data and event history statistical methods, the study finds that overall women are less likely to migrate than men, but more educated women are more likely to move than educated men. Childbearing has a negative effect on migration, but this impact is stronger for men than for women. Being married appears to have little effect on the probability of migration for either men or women.

Appropriate Technologies for Rural Women, Cameroon, homepage website:
<http://www.pciaonline.org/appropriate-technologies-rural-women-cameroon-atruw-cameroon>

The mission of Appropriate Technologies for Rural Women (ATRuW), Cameroon is to contribute to the improvement of living standards for rural women in Cameroon through providing appropriate technologies in areas such as health, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and WASH.

Through working to overcome the design bias in technology, ATRuW promotes the construction of an improved cookstove oven for women in the coastal areas and improved frying stoves for women to increase health and ease the productivity burden for women.

Aterido, Reyes, Beck, Thorsten, Iacovone, Leonardo, Gender and Finance in SubSaharan Africa: Are Women Disadvantaged?, World Bank Africa Private and Financial Sector Development, 2011

The World Bank paper examined access to, and use of, financial services by women. The authors analyzed the financial sector to ascertain whether there was a gender gap in the use of financial services by businesses and individuals in Sub-Saharan Africa. Rather than gender discrimination or lower demand for financial services, the authors found that females are less likely to run sole proprietorships than men. Instead, the paper noted that firms with female ownership are smaller but more likely to innovate. The authors explained the lower use of

formal financial services by individual women to gender dimensions in other gaps not within the financial sector, such as education and employment status.

Bang, James T., Biswas, Arnab. And Aniruddha Mitra. "Gender Bias, Governance, and Economic Growth."

This document explores the impact of gender equity on economic growth in a panel of 91 countries over the period 1990-2006. It covers two dimensions of gender equity: access, such as to education, and participation (economic and political). A regression analysis reveals that the access dimension has a robust positive impact on economic growth, whereas the participation dimension has an ambiguous impact. In disaggregating the dimensions in this way, the paper provides a more nuanced analysis of the impact of gender equity on economic growth. The results also highlight the importance of education equality to achieving gender equity.

Bangura, Haja Zainab H., and C. Chinkin. *Global Solutions to Sexual Violence in Conflict*. Speech prepared for Chatham House in the year of 2013.

This transcript of a talk given by Haja Zainab Hawa Bangura, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict, at the Chatham House covers her views on the way to move the women, peace and security agenda forward, specifically in terms of addressing conflict-related sexual violence. Her office has created a six-point agenda to deal with the issue that includes: seeking justice for victims and ending impunity for perpetrators; protecting and empowering civilians who face sexual violence in conflict, particularly women and girls; mobilizing political leadership around the issue; strengthening coordination and ensuring a coherent response from the UN; increasing the recognition of rape as a weapon of war; and ensuring national leadership in eradicating this practice. Moreover, she suggests that women must be included in the peace process and involved in all security-related decision-making to ensure that national security is inextricably linked to women's security.

Bastick, Megan. and Tobie Whitman. "A Women's Guide to Security Sector Reform." Washington, DC: The Institute for Inclusive Security and The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed forces (DCAF), 2013

This guide seeks to get women interested and involved in security sector reform. Designed for women without formal experience or knowledge of security and the security sector, it provides recommendations on ways to get involved and tools for action. It shares both practical and innovative examples based on the experiences of women in civil society around the world. While not all-inclusive, the guide is still quite extensive.

Becker, Jenny., Brown, C. Bowah, A. F. Ibrahim, and A. Kuranchie. "Freedom through Association: Assessing the Contributions of Female Police Staff Associations to Gender-Sensitive Police Reform in West Africa." Paper prepared for The North-South Institute/L'Institut Nord- Sud in the year of 2011.

This publication looks at what women in police sectors in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ghana are doing to change the nature of their work, specifically through female police associations. The associations provide women with the means to challenge the system in a subtle way through support networks and regular meetings that build their confidence. As such, these associations have a lot of untapped potential to do more to reform the security sector. The authors recommend the following to change the culture and effectiveness of security sector reform: creating partnerships with female associations in other parts of the security sector to promote knowledge- and skill- sharing; support public and internal education campaigns to overcome gender stereotypes and cultural barriers; and listening to and addressing the concerns of female police associations about the policies and actions affecting women.

Benin. (2002). Strategic Country Gender Assessment. Briefing Note for the PRSP and the CAS

This publication summarizes gender issues in Benin to inform and support dialogue with the government and create a country strategy. The key findings include: women constitute the majority of the poor; gender differences in labor force participation, earnings, schooling, literacy, impact of HIV/AIDS, and access to human, economic, and social capital assets remain prevalent. The country's economic growth is limited by these disparities, which affect productivity and the flexibility, responsiveness, and dynamism of the economy. A country development strategy that is informed by these gender issues would likely lead to economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2012 — Niger Country Report. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2012.

This report examines political and economic transformation in Niger. It details the history and characteristics of transformation and outlines the challenges faced its economic and social transformation. This report is part of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) 2012. The BTI is a global assessment of transition processes in which the state of democracy and market economy as well as the quality of political management in 128 transformation and developing countries are evaluated.

Bogetic, Zeljko, Noer, John, Espina, Carlos, Cote d'Ivoire: From Success to Failure-A Study of Growth, Specialization and the Terms of Trade, World Bank, Washington DC, Policy Research Paper 4414, 2007

The paper analyzed the reasons behind Cote d'Ivoire's rapid growth from 1960-1979 and the decline and stagnation that followed. After looking at various reasons, four conclusions were offered: 1) Temporary factors (such as conflict) do not explain the countries long-term growth. Rather, the countries' performance in other areas, such as creation of wealth, is key; 2) Long-term decline in per capita output started before the currency overvaluation and is related to deterioration of the quantity of imports that could be can be purchased through the sale of exports; 3) Total factor productivity also grew until it stagnated and declined, despite gains in education and training of the labor force; and 4) Cote d'Ivoire pursued a policy of specialization in the single commodity of cocoa, which failed as cocoa prices declined.

Bowah, Caroline., Guli, Victoria Matatio Elia., and Jennifer Erin Salahub. *African Women on The Thin Blue Line: Gender-Sensitive Police Reform in Liberia and Southern Sudan*. Ottawa, Ontario: The North-south Institute/L'Institut Nord-Sud, 2011

This report examines the perspectives of women in Liberia and Southern Sudan on security sector reform (SSR) - an area traditionally dominated by men – with an emphasis on the police sector. Relying on primary research comprised of semi-structured interviews and focus groups, the report documents and analyzes the views of women in civil society and the police to search for common themes and differences. Results show that even though women's experiences may differ across countries and contexts, their perceptions are largely similar. Given the remaining gaps in the police sector, the authors recommend the development and implementation of a gender policy to address these gaps and move towards greater accountability and representative policing.

Brady, Martha, Saloucou, Lydia, Chong, Erica, Girls' Adolescence in Burkina Faso: A Pivot Point for Social Change, Population Council, New York City: 2007

The report addressed the gaps in knowledge regarding adolescent Burkinabe girls, as understanding and recognizing girls' realities is critical to designing sustainable interventions. Through a basic profile of Burkina Faso, including the larger cultural context in which adolescent girls live, such as education and mobility, the report targeted diverse issues that girls experience. The report reviewed laws and policies that affected adolescent girls and concluded by suggesting research gaps and tools for programmers to assess their own programs.

British Council Nigeria, Gender in Nigeria Report 2012, Improving the Lives of Girls and Women in Nigeria, Issues, Policy, Action, funded by the UK Department for International Development

As Nigeria has the largest population in Africa, the report emphasized the importance of considering women and girls in policies and interventions. While the majority of Nigerians live in poverty, the situation is dire for women. Women have a more difficult time entering the formal sector due to a constraint in capital and a wage gap, resulting in less access to resources and less control over decision making than men.

The report noted several contributing factors, including lack of land title and school fees. Economically challenged families reported a strong correlation between school fees and withdrawing girls from school, limiting women's livelihoods. Given the agrarian nature of Nigeria, the report recommended that the government prioritize agriculture and rural development. Furthermore, the report recommended expanding women's access to land, increasing accessibility to financial institutions for women, supporting women entrepreneurs, amending taxation policies, conducting a gender audit to resolve the pay gap, and creating a gender quota in the public sector.

Bromley, Daniel, EXPORTS, EMPLOYMENT AND INCOMES IN WEST AFRICA , prepared by the Carana Corporation, West Africa Trade Hub, JANUARY 2011

The West Africa trade hub works to improve transportation and access to financial resources to make West African businesses and trade more competitive both regionally and internationally. While sectors such as basket weaving, woodcarving and furniture, cashew, and shea receive a great deal of attention, women are the primary beneficiaries from the basket weaving and shea production sectors. Submitted by Carana, this report recognized the benefits to program such as the West Africa Trade Hub. The program connects producers to the global market, lowering impediments to trade and production. However, these benefits could be mitigated due to barriers producers face from transportation and related factors, such as delays and costs, continue to hinder production.

Brown O., Crawford A., 2012 Conservation and Peace building in Sierra Leone. Published by The International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Sierra Leone's ecosystem made the World Wildlife Fund's Global 200 list of critical regions for conservation designated as one of the Conservation International's 34 global biodiversity hotspots as explained in this document, yet issues of war and civil unrest extracted the wealth of its human development potential by wrecking the fabrics of its society. The country had excellent ranks in sectors of environmental and natural resource management with reference to diamonds, yet atrocities proliferated when war took its course. This document makes significant reference to the impacts of the civil war on the conservation in Sierra Leone, its challenges, the links between conservation and peace-building, the biodiversity conservation action project and the recommendations for its development and preservation.

Cameroon Economic Update, 2012. Unlocking the Labor Force: An Economic Update On Cameroon With a Focus on Employment. Issue No.3. World Bank, Cameroon Country Office.

This economic update reflects the difficulties in the important potential embodied in the population of Cameroon, whose labor market is characterized by a large share of the labor force occupied in the informal sector with few formal jobs. The counterintuitive fact is that the unemployment rate in Cameroon is very low – reflecting Cameroonians' inability to afford not to work, thus leaving them to work jobs with very low wages and low productivity. This update posits that with many children leaving school without mastering literacy, numeracy and other basic

skills, combined with an unfavorable investment climate and particularly inappropriate infrastructure, a cross-sectoral strategy dealing with both the supply and demand constraints needs to be implemented to make Cameroon's economic growth faster and more inclusive of all facets of its population.

Centre for Economic and Leadership Development, from the website:
<http://www.celdng.org/celd/about-celd/areas-of-focus.html>

The Centre for Economic and Leadership Development focuses on orphans and vulnerable children and gender equality and women's empowerment. The center works to recognize women's leadership throughout the private and public sectors. Specifically, the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment focus is built around seven themes: 1) Gender and Poverty Sustainable Livelihood, 2) Gender and Human Rights, 3) Gender and Environment, 4) Gender and Governance, 5) Gender and Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, 6) Gender and Information Technology, and finally, 7) Empowerment of the Girl child. Through international and regional leadership conferences, as well as leadership summits, the Centre facilitates the participation of women on various levels.

Chatman House and Vivid Economics, Evidence for Action: Gender Equality and Economic Growth, June 2010

Several factors link gender equality to economic growth. Not only can gender equality can have significant impact on growth, but it can also enhance the delivery of MDG's, as well as have significant implications in the larger context for policymakers. Equality improves human capital, fosters higher productivity, attracts investment in physical capital, increases overall efficiency, enhances the delivery of MDGs, facilitates the alleviation of poverty and hunger,

DFID recommended increased investments in areas of gender equality, as well as targeted investments and interventions towards gender equality to ensure potential outcomes and efforts are maximized. Furthermore, the strategy recommended supporting gender integration throughout the program and implementation cycle. In addition to increasing female education, DFID recommended in investing in conditions which mitigate barriers to female economic growth, as well as working with businesses and increasing access to health care.

Cockburn, John, Corong, Erwin, Decaluwe, Bernard, Fofana, Ismael, Robichaud, Veronique, The Gender and Poverty Impacts of Trade Liberalization in Senegal., CIRPÉE, Université Laval, Canada, March 2010

While countries are engaged on several levels of trade negotiations, the report analyzes the impact of export and tariffs on gender and household economies. Trade liberalization increased the gender wage gap towards men, as men are more likely to be in export-orientated sectors. While trade liberalization favors men, the gender wage gap reflects the need for policies that increase women's exposure to male-dominated labor-intensive export industries.

In the majority of African countries, female work continues to be the foundation for agricultural food production. Trade liberalization favors men over women, and is more conducive to cash crops for export, leading women to face increased competition, as well as increased gender wage gaps. While the report explored the debate on gender and poverty implications of trade liberalizations on economies, conclusions are drawn that trade liberalization increases the overall gender wage gap and favors male labor-intensive export industries, thereby reducing female economic empowerment. As the report noted, male-headed households experience greater poverty reduction than female-headed households. Furthermore, the report concluded that policies are needed to expose women to male dominated export industries.

Cockburn, John, Decaluwe, Bernard, Fofana, Ismael, Robichaud, Veronique, Trade, Growth and Gender in Developing Countries: A Comparison of Ghana, Honduras, Senegal and Uganda, Poverty and Economic Policy Research Network and CIRPÉE, University of Laval, Canada, June 24, 2008

Based on the gendered roles in the economy, men and women will be affected by economic policies, such as tariffs and duties, differently. The authors explored the role of economic policies, such as trade liberalization, on gender and poverty in several developing countries. Through the case studies, the authors found that poverty and welfare are minimally impacted in the long run by trade liberalization. While trade may favor women in industrial and semi-industrial economies, trade favors men in agricultural economies, as men are more likely to be involved in export oriented cash crops, whereas women produce subsistence agriculture for food.

As the research suggests, trade liberalization may benefit men more than women. Female agricultural production is traditionally for import, while men are more involved in export-related economies. Furthermore, men are more likely to benefit from the gains from trade, such as technology transfer and access to credit, further widening the gender wage gap. Women face more barriers accessing education, receiving loans, and gaining land. In conclusion, trade has far reaching, and often gendered, effects.

Connell, R.W., 1995. *Masculinities*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

This book analyzes the nature and construction of masculine identity. The author argues that there is no single concept of masculinity, but rather that multiple masculinities associated with different positions of power exist. In discussing the connections between violence and masculinity, the author suggests that masculinity cannot be associated with a fixed propensity for violence, since masculinities are diverse and change over time. Furthermore, interpersonal violence is different from violence in the public realm, such as through war.

Connell, R.W., 1993. The big picture: masculinities in recent world history. *Theory and Society* 22, 597±623.

This article addresses the methods to study men in gender relations. The author provides a historical account of the evolution of the forms of masculinity that are now dominant around the world. The notion of imperialism is heavily influential in defining masculinities in “First World” countries.

Connolly, Lesley., “Justice and peace building in post-conflict situations: An argument for including gender analysis in a new post-conflict model.” *The African Center for Constructive resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) Occasional Paper NO. 1*

This paper examines the case of Sierra Leone and suggests that a new mechanism of transitional justice, which incorporates a peace building process, is better suited to address the needs of a post-conflict society. The new transitional justice mechanism used in Sierra Leone failed to address the daily forms of structural violence and inequality, specifically with regard to gender. The author concludes that the transitional justice model used in Sierra Leone failed to promote equality and real social justice because it did not closely examine or incorporate societal factors. As a result, complete transformation of the society – instead of just a post-conflict transition - has not occurred since social injustices and gender inequalities continue to persist.

Cote d'Ivoire, 2012. *Strategy For Relaunching Development and Reducing Poverty*

This paper analyses the best practices, given the recent and historical background of Cote d'Ivoire, for eradicating poverty and influencing development initiatives in the West African country. The

paper is sensitive to the restoration and consolidation of peace in Cote d'Ivoire that is needed for the stability of the immediate region, and asserts that the four desired outcomes includes provisions to transform the country in to an emerging State, ensuring social welfare for its citizens, and mating Cote d'Ivoire a dynamic actor on the Regional and International scenes.

Courtenay, Will H. 2002 *Constructions of masculinity and their influence on men's wellbeing: a theory of gender and health*. Journal for Social Science & Medicine 50 (2000) 1385±1401. Sonoma State University, CA, USA

This paper proposes a relational theory of men's health in the United States from a social constructionist and feminist perspective to suggest that health-related beliefs and behaviors reveal masculinities and femininities. Men are more likely to take risks and less likely to engage in behavior that promotes health and longevity. The behaviors and actions associated with men's health demonstrate their masculinities, from which they derive their power and status in society. The research concludes that women in the United States engage in healthier behavior than men, which is why women live almost seven years longer. Men adopt unhealthy behaviors to signify their manhood and assume positions of power.

Crawford, M., 1995. *Talking Difference: On Gender and Language*. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA.

This book analyzes potential differences in the way men and women communicate at the informal, conversational level, and how gender roles influence speech style. One model explaining this difference is a 'two-cultures' approach that is used to suggest that the misunderstandings that can arise in communication between men and women are similar to those between cultures and ethnic groups. Unlike other models, this does not privilege one gender's communication skills over another, but it also does not deny that men have more power than women.

Croppenstedt, A., M. Goldstein, and N. Rosas: *Gender and Agriculture Inefficiencies, Segregation, and Low Productivity Traps*. World Bank, worker papers series No. 2013

The World Bank paper examined women's participation and constraints to value chains. While women constitute almost half of the agrarian labor form, they are less likely to work in commercial agriculture. Several reasons account for the constraints to women's participation in value chains, including lack of agricultural training, mobility constraints, barriers to education, and economic restrictions. Women have less access to agricultural extension programs, technology, and fertilizer to modernize and reduce their labor burdens. Women provide the majority of the wage labor in the non-traditional export sector. The report concluded that gender gaps in areas of resources and agricultural production do not improve with economic growth or household wealth.

Cultural Practice, LLC for USAID/Ghana: *Gender Assessment USAID/Ghana*. United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2006.

Conducted by Cultural Practice, the gender assessment noted the improvements Ghana made in areas such as the decline in poverty even as the population increased. While poverty decreased, regional and gender inequalities persist across sectors. Gender disparities have implications for economic growth, as they can be seen through agricultural productivity, land tenure insecurity, and lack of health access. While some areas of Ghana follow matrilineal practices, the majority of Ghana is patrilineal, leaving women with less access to land and other valuable resources.

The assessment recommends areas of action to reduce gender inequality in Ghana. These include economic growth and environment, health, democracy and governance, and education.

Together, these recommendations will assist women overcome gender-based constraints to increased productivity and empowerment.

Dauda, Rasaki Stephen. 2012. *The Scourge of HIV/AIDS Pandemic and Economic Performance: The Case of Nigeria*. Global Journal of Human Social Science. Volume 12 Issue 1 Version 1.0. Global Journals Inc. (USA)

This article examines the impact of the AIDS pandemic on macroeconomic performance in Nigeria. Time series data over the period 1990 to 2010 was used to inform the results. Of the two models employed, one revealed that HIV prevalence has a negative but statistically insignificant impact on real GDP. The second model revealed that HIV/AIDS has a negative and statistically significant impact on the growth of the economy of Nigeria in the long run. The implications of these results are that macroeconomic indicators of progress and economic growth will be negatively impacted as the disease spreads across the country. Therefore, the author recommends that the Nigerian government create better policies aimed at reducing and preventing the spread of the disease.

Davison, J. (ed.), 1988: *Agriculture, Women and Land: The African Experience*. Westview Special Studies on Africa. Westview Press. Boulder and London.

This book examines the issue of women's relation to land and agriculture across several African countries in which women play a primary role in agricultural production and which also illuminate changing practices in land use and agriculture. The book covers cases from Francophone, Lusophone and Anglophone Africa countries as a basis for comparing the impact of different colonial experiences on land tenure and agriculture practices. Further, cases are embedded in both socialist and capitalist states, which provide a means of comparing prevailing national policies in each system and their progress in meeting the needs of women in agriculture development.

The contributions in the book represent a variety of disciplinary approaches. Some are primarily concerned with linkages between macro and micro-level behavior, while others focus more closely on the behavior and attitudes of individuals at the household level. The collection addresses the need to document historical changes in land tenure practices and policies that have influenced, and are shaping women's household production in various parts of Africa.

De Klerk, Monica L. "Democracy and the People: Gender in Post-Conflict South Africa." Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 2010

This paper focuses on the gender dimension of the link between democracy and security in South Africa, with an emphasis on security sector reform. The promotion and appointment of women to decision-making positions in South Africa's post-conflict environment demonstrates the government's commitment to redefining development, security, and stability through egalitarianism and gender equality. The country's utilization of security sector reform to promote human rights and gender equality is a model for other post-conflict states to follow.

Development & Training Services, [Evaluation of West Africa Trade-Related Projects](#), May 2012

The report evaluated the West African Trade hub, as well as two regional trade projects focusing on value chains. The projects addressed constraints such as lack of access to credit, barriers to free trade, transportation obstacles, and market access, and worked to build capacity to encourage and increase trade. Organizations addressed gender concerns through supporting local female entrepreneurs and included women on their board.

Through interventions such as creating modern business systems, such as record keeping, and encouraging financial institutions to provide credit, progress was made towards free trade in

West Africa. The report concluded by recommending a framework for future trade promotion in West Africa, including the use of more intensive regional workshops to promote linkages and connections.

Development and Training Services, USAID West Africa Gender Assessment Workplan, March 2013

Submitted by dTS, the work plan presented the Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF). This explains that four factors shape gender within value chains. These include: practices and participation, access to assets, beliefs and perceptions, laws and policies and institution. As through the GDF, perceptions can influence how beliefs are applied to gender.

DFID. 2012. Gender in Nigeria report 2012: improving the lives of girls and women in Nigeria. Issues, Policies, Action.

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of gender in Nigeria, with a focus on progress in key areas such as employment and livelihoods, education and health, political representation, and violence. Women in Nigeria, especially the poor, are worse off than men or their female counterparts in more developed nations because of systematic violence and discrimination. To overcome these barriers, the report recommends investing in women and girls by promoting livelihoods through prioritizing rural and agricultural development, where most women work; keeping girls in school; improving women's health; addressing GBV; and making politicians more accountable to women, who make up over half of their constituency, and encouraging women's participation in politics.

Duflo, Esther and C. Udry: *Intra-household Resource Allocation in Côte d'Ivoire: Social Norms, Separate Accounts and Consumption Choices*. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper Series No. 10498, 2004.

The authors examined the gender specialization of the production of crops in Cote d'Ivoire. As the authors noted, crops are highly gendered in Cote d'Ivoire and sensitive to climate change effects, such as inconsistent rainfall. Gender affects expenditure in relation to climate change, such as rainfall. High yields lead women to expend more household income towards food. As the authors note, different sources of income are allocated towards different uses depending on the gender of the earner and the origin. While the obligation to share the income with other household members is limited, men are more likely to share their income with certain crops over others due to social norms.

ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREE) Business Plan 2011-2016, prepared by ECREE, Praia Cape Verde, presented April 2012

Prepared for ECREE, the Business Plan for the Economic Community for West African States provided a strategic long-term framework in areas such as energy, climate change and adaptation, and energy and gender. Within these categories, the Centre prioritized areas the need for access to clean and affordable energy services health care, education, and productive uses at the local levels to improving livelihoods and increase quality of life, especially for women and girls. The Plan noted the health hazards women and girls face due to their poverty.

ECOWAS Regional Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Control 2011 - 2015

This document presents ECOWAS' 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for controlling HIV/AIDS. ECOWAS, as a regional economic promotion organization, sees itself to be responsible for the following actions with regards to HIV/AIDS: (1) intensifying cross-border cooperation; (2) coordinating inter-country efforts; (3) mobilizing resources; and, (4) preparing reports with a

view to enhancing and improving the performances of the national responses of ECOWAS member-countries in the face of HIV/AIDS. This strategic plan is based on these roles and responsibilities against the backdrop of UNAIDS vision of "zero new HIV infection, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related death."

Embassy of Burkina Faso, "Energy Sector", [http://www.burkinafasoindia.org/energy sector.html](http://www.burkinafasoindia.org/energy%20sector.html), March 2013

The Burkina Faso government is challenged to meet the rising demand for energy, as well as to improve the quality of energy service. The government is attempting to reduce the cost and expand services throughout the population. Understanding the need to control climate change and curb deforestation, the government is working to introduce alternative fuels in households, as well as to reduce reliance on wood.

Erdmann, T. K., 1993. *An Analysis of 10 African Natural Resources Management Practices* examines various practices or technologies (P/Ts) that have been employed in Africa. Research and Technical Bureau of Africa.

Successful evaluation of practices and technologies that directly impacts or modifies the natural resource base within the region is imperative to maintaining an exemplary level of Natural Resources Management within Africa. This report, compiled in 1993, continues on the work of existing literature but was customized for the framework developed by the Africa Bureau for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Focusing on key countries within the West Africa region including: Ghana; Mali; Senegal; Burkina Faso; Niger; Benin; and Nigeria, this report posits that analyzing information based on framework categories is an crucial exercise to monitoring and evaluation of NRM in West Africa.

FAO: *Gender and land rights database: Niger*. <http://www.fao.org/gender/landrights/report/en/>, 12 November 2010.

This site describes Nigerien women's inheritance and land rights as prescribed under the civil, labor and family legal codes, all of which have been revised to reflect equality of men and women before the law, but are still largely influenced by the customary and religious legal systems. These pluralistic legal systems that govern women's access to land often lead to confusion and contradictions – creating room for various interpretations that end up consolidating men's power over land and over women in land matters.

FAO, 2000. *Global Forest Resource Assessment*.

The FRA 2000 provides a comprehensive and up-to-date view of the world's forest resources at the turn of the millennium. This overarching resource assessment was used to evaluate the facts regarding the state of affairs in the West Africa region at the beginning of the new millennium. It focuses on global concerns, regional concerns, and specific country concerns, which was useful in evaluating the recent environmental backstory which holds within it implications for resource management and sustainable development in the region.

FAO, 2009. *Programme for Gender Equality in Agriculture and Rural Development. Bridging the Gap*.

Over the past decade, gender integration has been accepted into declarations, plans of actions, policies, programs and projects for agriculture and rural development, yet gender terms and implications are not always fully understood. In this report, the FAO of the United Nations has devoted itself to bridging the gap between agriculture and gender integration, taking a grassroots approach to ensure that gender terms and their implications are being properly understood and integrated into best practices, as well as working at the national level to ensure that accountability

mechanisms are set up in order to ensure women's increased participation in agriculture and rural development. This report raises questions to incorporate into the West Africa Regional Gender Assessment.

FAO: *Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development*. The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011, Rome 2011.

This edition of 'The State of Food and Agriculture' focused on the gender gap in development argues that the agriculture sector is underperforming in many countries and one of the key reasons is that women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive. The report clearly confirms that the Millennium Development Goals on gender equity (MDG 3) and poverty and food security (MDG 1) are mutually reinforcing. And that we must promote gender equality and empower women in agriculture to win, sustainably, the fight against hunger and extreme poverty. It firmly believes that achieving MDG3 can help us achieve MDG1.

It discusses the various ways in which women contribute to agriculture and rural enterprise in developing countries; the serious gender constraints they face in access to productive resources and opportunities and suggests that the only sure way to close the gender gap in agriculture is to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women under the law, ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities and mainstream gender into all agriculture policies and programs. And concludes by reiterating the fact that 'achieving gender equality and empowering women in agriculture is not only the right thing to do; it is also crucial for agricultural development and food security'.

Fisiy, Forgwei G., 2004: *Have Women Become Men? Gender and Agrarian Change in Santa, N.W. Cameroon*. Shaker Publishing BV, St, Maartenslaan 26, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

This work explores the ways in which gender norms, ideologies and practices affect and are affected by agricultural commoditization, with a particular focus on gender production (including reproduction) roles and relations, production and distribution strategies, and women's positions within the household. This is a participatory research study carried out at the end of a century that brought great changes to Africa. It traces the changes undergone by the Cameroonian village of Santa under the influence of the agricultural commercialization process from the time of its founding in the 1920s to the early 2000s; and concludes that of all the factors which have influenced the commercialization process, gender has been a cross-cutting differentiating factor.

Fonjong, L.,N. & Athannasia, M., F., 2007. The Fortunes and Misfortunes of Women Rice Producers in Ndop, Cameroon and the Implications for Gender Roles. *Journal of International Women's Studies* Vol. 8 #4

This paper examines the situation of female rice farmers in Ndop, Cameroon and argues that although rice production may have been beneficial to women and the society as a whole, it has implications for gender roles that go beyond the purview of women's empowerment. Cash agriculture like rice production provides a possible outlet for the empowerment of these women in rice producing areas, however, the agricultural work conducted there would solve one problem for women while it creates another. Any attempt to encourage these women to work outside their homes may increase their workload.

Freudenberger S. M. , 2000. Tenure and Natural Resource in The Gambia: Summary of research findings and policy options. Working Paper No. 40. Land Tenure Centre, University of Wisconsin.

This report synthesizes the central research findings of the working group on land resource tenure and land use planning and the law reform commission group of the Gambia. It recommends a series of tenure policy options for both government and donor agencies.

The report comprises key tenure issues about tenure and resource management in the Gambia. It looks at the definitions of tenure and resource management vocabulary, formal legislation and customary resource arrangement, areas where tenure issues are the most contentious. The report identifies key problems in the current tenure system, and addresses the various approaches that government and donors may wish to take in confronting the identified problems. Proposals range from replacing customary tenure regimes with new legal frameworks to looking for ways to strengthen customary tenure arrangements. The report considers how people working in the natural resource domain can better respond to tenure concerns through designing and implementing projects.

Gardsbane, Diane. 2010. *Gender-based Violence and HIV Technical Brief*. Arlington, VA: USAID's AIDS Support and Technical Assistance Resources, AIDSTAR-One, Task Order 1.

This brief discusses the notion of integrating GBV and HIV programs using program literature, recent findings on the intersection of GBV and HIV, and telephone interviews with program implementers. The author presents a GBV/HIV Program Implementer's Wheel model to summarize the strategies and activities most commonly cited in the literature that seek to integrate GBV and HIV. These include: multi-sectoral approaches; multi-level impact at family, community, and national levels; and multiple interventions such as creating laws, promoting women's economic security, challenging gender norms, education, community awareness, and providing services for survivors of GBV.

Geosas, 2012. Cameroon Consultation Report. African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP). GEOSAS Consulting Service Plc

Cameroon is one of the five countries that were selected to conduct national level studies that involved a broad consultation and participatory process that would contribute to the development of an Africa-wide Program Document on Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture. The report presents a situation analysis of the gender and climate change in Cameroon, the experienced climate change impacts and coping strategies of women farmers in Cameroon, constraints and barriers to women farmers' effective adaptation to climate change, and the priority investment needs for enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change of smallholder women farmers in Cameroon.

Gill, Kirrin, Patel, Payal, Kantor, Paula, McGonagle, Allison, Energy and Agricultural Technologies for Women's Economic Advancement, International Center for Research on Women, 2012

Large gaps exist in technology use in developing countries, primarily amongst women. The paper examined the reasons behind the gaps in technology use, as well as the potential benefits of technology use for women. As the paper noted, technology use is gendered, with women having limited access to technology. Taking the needs of women into account during design can lead technology interventions to be less biased against women and more beneficial. Furthermore, there is an economic benefit behind designing technologies towards women, as increased demand for technology translates into additional customers.

As the paper explored, technology grants women economic empowerment, as it can strengthen their business opportunities and grant them access to additional markets and credit. The paper noted women as the fastest growing segment of business owners and entrepreneurs in developing countries, observing an economic opportunity for both marketers and women alike.

Government of Sierra Leone/UNDP, 2007. National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) Final Report.

The NAPA for Sierra Leone is in response to the decision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which addresses the sustainable development goals and objectives of the country as it pertains to addressing environmental issues and natural resource management inside Sierra Leone. The report also takes into consideration the immediate adaptation needs of Sierra Leone to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Growth & Employment in States, from the website: <http://gemsnigeria.com/gems-3/>

GEMS3 works with a variety of stakeholders at the national, state and local levels to build and deliver a framework that helps make it easier to do business in Nigeria, which will lead to improved economic opportunities for the marginalized populations, the majority of whom are women. GEMS3 engages stakeholders from both the public and private sector to create a dialogue and apply a framework. Through this dialogue, both the sectors are held accountable and can learn from their own experiences and best practices, as well as constraints. GEMS3 assesses the opportunities and constraints facing businesses in each region and builds activities based on need in order to find the best possible collaboration between the two sectors.

Gurung et al, Gender and Desertification Expanding roles for women to restore dry land areas. IFAD

The impacts of desertification and dry land projects on women with respect to their workloads, responsibilities, access to productive assets, and participation in decision making in community development is highlighted in this document. While promoting their influence in their respective communities, great acknowledgement is reflected on their role as agents of change working with a collective voice within their communities. Based on the analysis of the impact of desertification on women, innovation and lessons learned are presented to elevate the sensitivity around this issue.

Hendricks, Cheryl. "Gender and Security in Africa: An Overview." *Nordiska Afrikainstitutet Discussion paper 63, Uppsala 2011*

This discussion paper focuses on gender, conflict and post-conflict reconstruction, and gender and security sector reform in Africa. Drawing on feminist perspectives on peace and security, it challenges traditional gender constructions of war in which men are the protectors and women are represented as those in need of protection. The gaps between policy formulation and implementation and the prevailing patriarchal system include a lack of empirical data on existing programs in Africa to understand the level of women's involvement in peace negotiations and in security institutions, as well as their perceptions about their contributions and their survival mechanisms in conflict zones.

Hilhorst 2008, Local Governance Institutions for sustainable Natural Resource Management in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger Royal Tropical Institute. KIT Working Papers Series, WPS.GI

Submitted by the Danish Agency for International Development Assistance (Danida), this report is comprised of findings gathered from a chapter in "New Perspectives on Natural Resource Management in the Sahel" (Simon Bolwig, Kjeld Rasmussen and Malene Kauffmann Hansen). The content of this report include an overview of lessons learned and best practices from Danish natural resource management activities in the Sahel region with reference to government institutions relation to natural resource entitlements and the decision making policies on the management of those resources.

Hlupekile, Sara. Assessment of the gender orientation at Nepal. 26-29 April, 2002.

The paper examines whether gender is addressed in policy or as terms for investment. The author investigates if NEPAD follows measures set forth by CEDAW and the Beijing Platforms of Action. The assessment found that NEPAD to be gender blind and inadequate in recognizing gender issues. Furthermore, NEPAD failed to recognize the importance gender equality and empowerment played within investment.

The assessment contributed the lack of gender issues to a patriarchal paradigm, which stems from a root of society issues. Without addressing the root cause of the problem, the patriarchal issue remains. The author recommended mainstreaming gender issues, as well as ending legalized gender discrimination.

Hudson, Heidi. Human Security and Peace building through a Gender Lens: Challenges of Implementation in Africa. Copenhagen, Denmark: Danish Institute for International Studies, 2006

This working paper examines the difficulty of implementing gender awareness in peace negotiations, especially in the absence of women at formal peace negotiations. The author argues for a hybrid position between cultural relativism and 'one size fits all' solutions to this problem. Providing a macro-perspective, the paper examines the dangers of a non-inclusive process, the need for an organized women's movement, reevaluating the myths associated with women's involvement in peace and conflict negotiations, and examining ways in which international legal frameworks on women's rights can be implemented more effectively at the national level. The author concludes that peace building must include a gender analysis to be effective and sustainable.

Ibrahim Forum: *African Agriculture: From Meeting Needs to Creating Wealth*. Ibrahim Forum, Tunis, 2011,

On 13 November 2011 the Mo Ibrahim Foundation convened its second annual Ibrahim Forum in Tunis, Tunisia that brought together a range of stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector to discuss African agriculture, with an emphasis on the sector's unrealized potential. Land and women's role in agriculture figured among several areas of un-realized potential discussed at the Forum. Africa has the largest share of the world's arable land, 75% of which remains uncultivated. And while women grow over 80% of the food in Sub-Saharan Africa, they own less than 2% of the land; receive less than 10% of all credit going to small farmers and have access to only 5% of the resources provided through extension serves. Conclusion: giving women farmers the same access as men to agriculture inputs could increase yields 20-30%."

IFAD/World Bank, 2009. Gender and Natural Resource Management Overview, Module10 In Gender in Agriculture Source book.

The module examined gender and natural resources management. It outlined gender specific relationships to natural resources use, management and highlights the linkages between natural resources, cultural values and local knowledge. The module applied a framework that adopts a people-centered approach, gender in sustainable livelihoods (SL) framework; this conceptualizes key elements in the livelihood strategies of the rural poor: assets, markets, information and organizations, risk and vulnerability, and politics and institutions.

The Module identifies and addresses five major challenges facing sustainable natural resource management and gender: Biodiversity conservation and adaptation, Mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change and variability, Bioenergy, Natural disasters, and Land and water degradation and desertification.

IFP Gender cluster country case study: *Liberia Implementing Resolution 1325 in Nigeria. Reflection of Women's Associations*;

In Africa, Liberia initiated the implementation of the UN's goal to incorporate women into peace building. The intent of this Assessment was to indicate to what extent Resolution 1325 had impacted women's organizations in Liberia. To do this, achievements and innovations were analyzed to assess causes of performance gaps. Findings showed persistent barriers between gender-based grievance and policy makers as upsetting Liberia's gender equity.

Implementation Completion Report, 2003. The Republic Of Niger For A Natural Resources Management Project. Report No. 25669

Capturing the accomplishments, challenges and lessons learned from the first bank's Basic Education Support Project that was established as result of the Education Act was strategically designed to help the government execute development plans aimed at poverty reduction and private sector reforms. The project consisted of 5 components including support to Niger's education policy and reform, primary education, secondary education, girls' education and female literacy and the Project executing Agency. The projects objectives were realized, but recommendations were rendered for improvements.

Independent Evaluation Group (IEG): *Project Performance Assessment Report Niger: Pilot Private Irrigation Promotion (credit 27070); Natural Resource Management Project (Credit 27960); Agro-Pastoral Export Promotion Project (Credit 33630)*. World Bank Report No. 44366, 2008.

This is the Project Performance Assessment Report (PPAR) prepared by the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) for three projects in Niger: The Pilot Private Irrigation Promotion Project (PIIP), the Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP), and the Ago-Pastoral Export Promotion Project (APEP). These projects were considered very innovative and supportive of the complementary aspects of agricultural development and the Nigerien government's policy of disengaging from the provision of services and forging a strong partnership with the private sector. Their assessment also provided the opportunity to compare their outcomes with those of similar projects in Mali.

The assessment rated the PIIP as 'highly satisfactory' because it succeeded in meeting its immediate objectives of promoting simple, low-cost and high-return small-scale irrigation technologies that met small-farmer requirements and capabilities. According to the assessment, the PIIP successfully demonstrated the potential of the small-scale irrigation sector to bring about substantial improvements in productivity, thereby increasing food security; and provided the ingredients to motivate smallholders to adopt adapted technologies, and the stepping-stone to launch small-scale irrigation more broadly in Niger.

Insight on Conflict "Organization of Active Women in Ivory Coast", website:
<http://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/ivory-coast/?gclid=CMA6jsLun7YCFY9DMgod5mcAJw>

The website provides information on local peace building organizations in conflict area. As the website noted, while local organizations work to mitigate and reduce the harmful impacts of conflict, their work is seldom recognized. People lack access to the information from local organizations or even the knowledge of their existence. Through connecting people to organizations, the website increases the attention to local peace builders.

Inter-agency Task Force on Gender (GWTF), 2005. Water and Sanitation, A Policy Brief. UN Water. 2005 – 2015.

This is a policy brief developed by the Inter-agency Task Force on Gender and Water (GWTF), a sub-program of both UN-Water and the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) in support of the *International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life,' 2005–2015*.

The policy brief analyses current trends in the involvement of men and women in the management of water and sanitation. Starting from the 1977 United Nations Water Conference at Mardel Plata, the brief traces how the importance of involving both women and men in the management of water and sanitation has been recognized at the global level. The brief uses a lot of case studies globally to show how water projects work better when women are involved.

International Finance Corporation, Women and Business: Drivers of Development, Vol 2

The report detailed the role of women in business around the world. As the report noted, bringing women into private sector development plays a critical role. To emphasize its commitment to women in leadership functions, the IFC promotes achievements in gender each year and encourages other businesses to do the same.

While women hold a growing role in business, more must be achieved. Women make up 17.9 percent of the top managers in the developing world, with Sub-Saharan Africa ranking only above South Asia at 15.2 percent.

In developing countries, firms with female owners comprise 34.3 percent of firms, while they comprise only 30 percent of the full-time workforce. These percentages translate to less economic empowerment for women and less control over assets. The IFC notes economic arguments for women in business, as consumer spending by women exceeds \$20 trillion.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2010, *Opportunities and Challenges of Community-Based Rural Drinking Water Supplies. An Analysis of Water and Sanitation Committees in Ghana*. IFPRI Discussion Paper 01026

This research paper assessed the potential benefits and challenges of community-based water management. The study is based on data collected under two projects: The first project was entitled “Integrating Knowledge from Computational Modeling with Multi-stakeholder Governance: Towards More Secure Livelihoods through Improved Tools for Integrated River Basin Management”, funded by the Challenge Program on Water and Food (Project No. 40) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

It outlined the provision of safe drinking water as a major challenge due to the difficulties involved in establishing institutional arrangements that will ensure that drinking water facilities are provided, maintained and managed in an efficient, equitable, and sustainable manner.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): *What is the Irrigation Potential for Africa?* Discussion Paper # 00993, July 2010.

Although irrigation in Africa has the potential to boost agricultural productivities by at least 50 percent, food production on the continent is almost entirely rain fed. The area equipped for irrigation, currently slightly more than 13 million hectares, makes up just 6 percent of the total cultivated area. Eighty-five percent of Africa’s poor live in rural areas and mostly depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. As a result, agricultural development is key to ending poverty on the continent. Many development organizations have recently proposed to significantly increase investments in irrigation in the region. However, the potential for irrigation investments in Africa is highly dependent upon geographic, hydrologic, agronomic, and economic factors that need to be taken into account when assessing the long-term viability and sustainability of planned projects.

This paper analyzes large, dam-based and small-scale irrigation investment needs in Africa based on agronomic, hydrologic, and economic factors. This type of analysis can guide country- and local-level assessment of irrigation potential, which will be important to agricultural and economic development in Africa.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 1999. Land Tenure and Resource Access in West Africa : Issues and Opportunities For The Next Twenty-Five Years. A working paper prepared for the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

The paper examined the main land tenure and resource access issues likely to be important in West Africa over the next twenty-five years and so.

It detailed the kind of land tenure and resource access policy issues that will need to be addressed if the 'ordinary' people of West Africa are to benefit as much as possible from future opportunities and to minimize adverse effects.

It identified issues with implications for poverty and equity such as continues population growth, migration and sustained process of urbanization, occurring at varying degrees of intensity, depending on the sub-region.

International Monetary Fund, Niger: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Washington DC IMF Country Report No. 08/149 2008

A comprehensive poverty analysis and wide-ranging participation are vital parts of the PRSP formulation process. The Country Report provides a description of the progress made towards sustainable and sustained socio-economic development in Niger through a result-oriented, comprehensive, partnership-oriented, and long-term perspective approach. Through poverty analysis and wide-ranging participation, the report prioritizes programs needed to achieve development objectives.

In addition, the report takes a thorough examination of progress made towards MDG goals and discusses the seven pillars towards progress, including: 1) search for strong diversified, sustainable and job-creating growth, 2) equitable access to quality social services, 3) control of population growth, 4) reduction of inequalities, 5) infrastructure development, 6) promotion of good governance, and 7) effective implementation of the strategy towards poverty reduction.

International Rescue Committee, "Getting Down to business: Women's Economic and Social Empowerment in Burundi", New York City, 2011, Retrieved from <http://www.rescue.org/program/programs-burundi>

This impact evaluation conducted by the International Rescue Committee examined the women's economic and social empowerment and its role in placing women at risk. Understanding the liabilities involved behind empowerment interventions is crucial in order to both maximize the benefits and minimize the harm to the beneficiaries. To do so, the evaluation asked key questions such as: can increasing a woman's resources also increase her control over resources at the household level? Does increased economic empowerment affect or influence levels of abuse? Can improved communication assist women to assert control over their finances?

Through field experience and programming, the IRC found that actively involving both men and women in economic programming to increase women's decision making and reduce intimate partner violence resulted in positive changes towards household decision making and negotiation between couples.

Iwilade, Akin. "Gender and Exclusion in Post Conflict Negotiations in Africa." Paper prepared for 24th Annual International Association for Conflict Management Conference in the year of 2011, Istanbul, July 2011

This paper discusses the role of women in peace talks in Africa. The author argues that the exclusion of women hinders the talks' ability to address fundamental issues in post-conflict rebuilding. The author also challenges the argument for feminizing peace talks in Africa on the basis that it is reverse chauvinism and, instead, calls for incorporation and the democratization of peace talks.

Keesbury, Jill, and Ian Askew. 2010. *Comprehensive Response to Gender Based Violence in Low-Resource Settings: Lessons Learned from Implementation*. Lusaka, Zambia: Population Council. 60

Based on data generated by a 2006-2009 initiative of the Population Council to provide technical assistance and research on SGBV programming in sub-Saharan Africa, this document reviews the findings, lessons learned, and promising practices in the provision of comprehensive SGBV services in the region. Key findings include: children comprise a significant portion of SGBV survivors seeking services and are underserved by adult-oriented programs; integrated services improve quality and timeliness of care; requirements that doctors collect forensic evidence undermine survivors' access to justice and healthcare; police are often the first and only point of contact for SGBV survivors; police officers require more training on how to handle SGBV survivors, especially children; and a better model is needed for providing long-term psychosocial care to survivors. The document also provides an M&E framework for evaluating SGBV programs.

Keesbury, Jill, Lynne Elson, Mary Zama, and Lucy Ng'ang'a. 2011. *PEPFAR Special Initiative on Sexual and Gender-based Violence: Final Evaluation*. Lusaka, Zambia: Population Council.

This report evaluates the PEPFAR Special Initiative on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence program, which aims to strengthen care for survivors of sexual violence (SV) in 18 pilot sites in Uganda and Rwanda. The baseline assessment was conducted between September-November 2009 and contains both quantitative data from a Facility Inventory at the sites and qualitative data from focus group discussions with health care providers at the sites. Overall, the report determined that services in both countries were weak, with facilities and providers in Uganda slightly better prepared to provide services than those in Rwanda. Some of the recommendations to strengthen health services and facilities include training both doctors and nurses to provide comprehensive SV services, introducing a dedicated emergency contraceptive pill, strengthening linkages with the community through community awareness-raising activities conducted by health advisors and during routine health talks in the facilities, maintaining records on SV survivors, and ensuring that SV services are offered at all times when the facility is open and that survivors know where to seek care when facilities are closed.

Khan, Alia. 2011. *Gender-based Violence and HIV: A Program Guide for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs*. Arlington, VA: USAID's AIDS Support and Technical Assistance Resources, AIDSTAR-One, Task Order 1.

This publication is a program guide for integrating gender-based violence (GBV) prevention in PEPFAR programs to establish linkages with other efforts that are addressing GBV. Linking GBV with HIV programs is important because the threat or fear of violence can create barriers to HIV prevention, care, and treatment. Likewise, those infected with HIV can be affected by negative stigma or discrimination that takes the form of GBV in the home and community. A fundamental benefit of linking fragmented health services and GBV programs is increased access,

which is especially helpful in a context where many people are already hindered by poverty, social status, lack of education, and stigma.

King, Ruth S., Amponsah, Owusu, Quansah, David, "Productive Uses of Energy in Enterprises in Slums of Ghana," *International Journal of Social Science Tomorrow* Vol. 1 #5 July 2012
Abstract (from the source)

Slums/ exclusion from the energy access planning process is often rationalized by the claim that they cannot afford tariffs because they are poor. The aim of this paper was to provide an insight into the productive uses of energy in enterprises in Ghanaian slums. The researchers purposely selected and interviewed 88 enterprise owners from three slums in Ghana. Analyses of the responses revealed that several energy services are used in the slums for myriad productive purposes despite their disregard for the energy planning process. Keywords: productive, energy use, enterprises, slums, Ghana.

Knabe, Friederike and Jacqueline Nkoyok, 2006: *Overcoming Barriers: Promoting Women's Local Knowledge*. www.km4dev.org/journal.

In highlighting women's knowledge in food production systems and environmental sustainability, the authors examine why efforts to strengthen female participation in policy and development are not more successful. While international and government policies attempt to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change and desertification, the author found that women and their needs have been underrepresented both at the policy and the implementation stage.

The authors recommend strategies to rectify this, including designating funds towards women for women's programs. In addition, they recommend strengthening women's capacities in various aspects, including leadership, as well as the promotion of local knowledge to decrease the time burden women face.

Le Billon, Philippe. Extracting sectors and illicit financial flows: What roles for revenue governance initiative.

This paper assesses efforts fighting illicit financial flows. It serves to help developing nations use natural resources for constituents rather than corruption. Cultivating natural resources for the public good is seen as a means for enhancing the support of multilateral donors in addition to developing economies. Recommendations call for increased financial transparency and the need for legislative incentives through taxing.

Life Impact Foundation, "Literature Review of Women and Cross Border Traders in Africa for the Policy Development Foundation with support from UK AID, 2010

The literature review is a component of the Women and Cross Border Trade Project which serves as the preliminary review and assessment of the Women Cross Border Trader's activities in Nigeria/West Africa aimed at focusing on gender related issues and policies which impedes women's economic empowerment. It focuses on resource materials from the last decade onwards that discuss Women Cross-Border Traders in the West African region. Additional sources prior to this period on topics outside the region are also utilized because their inclusion strengthens the West Africa Regional Literature Review. Discussions on the gender dimension of their challenges and contribution to economic integration of the ECOWAS region were emphasized rather than the types of commodities they exchanged in along the various borders in the Region.

Life Impact Foundation, "Women and Cross Border Trade Project for Nigeria" (report number 037 TRWCF) for the Policy Development Foundation with support from UK AID, 2011

This Position Paper is a part of the Women and Cross Border Trade Project in Nigeria, which seeks to increase women's participation in trade and cross-border activities in Nigeria and West Africa. Women's (largely informal) trading activities have always been integral to the region's rural and urban livelihoods, with a substantial proportion of informal cross-border trade in the region concerned with staple foods. The main objective of the paper is to communicate to all stakeholders in the trade community, especially policy makers, the need for women cross-border traders to be integrated into the current Trade Environment Landscape at the national and regional levels. The paper is intended as an instrument for advocacy and to justify the close examination of the economic impact and potential of women cross-border traders at the national and regional levels, and to consider recommendations for action that will maximize that economic potential.

The overall findings from this project confirm that women cross-border traders are an economic force in West Africa and play an instrumental role in key issues that Nigeria and ECOWAS are committed to addressing, including poverty alleviation, food security, employment generation and market/product diversification. They play a significant role in the movement of food staples and other sundry products that populations within the region are reliant upon. On an individual basis, women cross-border traders are economically productive agents who generate essential incomes for their families.

Lyytikain, Minna. Building inclusive Post conflict Governance: How the EU can support women's political Participation in conflict Affected Context. January 2009.

Post-conflict reforms are an important opportunity to increase women's political participation. Both men and women's roles can change during conflict, as women are often forced to partake in new livelihoods and protect their families while the men are away. Understanding this, the author emphasizes that opportunities to change gender norms and gender roles are not lost in post-conflict processes. Through increasing gender-sensitive space, training, and processes, peace negotiations can be more inclusive. Furthermore, communities, families, and men can be engaged to be supportive of women, especially those that have been victims in the conflict. Through promoting gender-sensitive training and female participation, the opportunity for change does not have to be lost.

Maercklein, D., 2008. 118/119 Biodiversity and Tropical Forest Assessment for Niger. USDA Forest Service/International Forestry for USAID/Bureau for Africa. Washington, DC. 46 pp.

The publication assessed Niger's biodiversity and tropical forest. It identified key threats to biodiversity and forestry conservation and provided examples of past and current initiatives whose aim it is to ameliorate these threats. The author also analyzed Niger's economy and its natural resources. It mentioned environmental and human activities as threats to Niger's natural resource, outlined measures to preserve these biological resources.

The report also looks at the significant strides taken by USAID, in offering humanitarian assistance and encouraging the burgeoning democratic process developing within the country. And while at present little attention seems to be focused on the natural environment, through its proposed portfolio, USAID has the opportunity to contribute to the livelihoods, health, and democratic opportunities of the people of Niger while gaining synergies with conservation efforts.

Mama, A. and Margo Okazawa-Rey. Militarism, Conflict, and Women's Activism: Challenges and Prospects for Women in West African Countries.

This paper presents a feminist perspective on militarism in Africa using examples from civil wars in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia and examining women's participation in the conflict. Starting in the period of colonialism, the paper identifies the roots of militarism in Africa. The research shows that women have been involved in the combat economy as both fighters and commanders, but also in subordinate roles as food providers, wives, and spies. Even in such cases, the profits of war, accrued through criminal trafficking of weapons, drugs, and other illicit goods, remained in control of male warlords and commanders. Nonetheless, women's involvement in conflict underlies the importance of redefining security to include a comprehensive process of demilitarization beyond just security sector reform, and one that actively includes women.

Mbizvo M.T and Bassett M. T. 1996. Reproductive health and AIDS prevention in sub-Saharan Africa: the case for increased male participation. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Zimbabwe Medical School, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe.

This paper reviews the impact of male dominance on reproductive health and proposes that programs targeting women's reproductive health in Africa need to consider the perceptions and behaviors of men, especially with regards to sexual behavior and the socioeconomic context in which STDs, like AIDS, emerge. In sub-Saharan Africa, men often make decisions related to reproductive health. Thus, targeting behavior change messages or sexual and reproductive health education to women alone is not the best approach. The paper suggests that gaps in understanding male perspectives on sexual and reproductive health remain and without proper knowledge of historically and culturally constructed gender roles and external factors such as poverty and migration, approaches to improving reproductive and sexual health in the region are limited.

Mengang J. M., 1998. Evolution of Natural Resource Policy in Cameroon. In Resource Use in the Tri-national Sangha River Region of Equatorial Africa: Histories, Knowledge Forms, and Institutions. Yale F&ES Bulletin 102.

The Sangha River region is emerging as an experiment in trans-border resource management – remarkably rich in wildlife, timber, and mineral resources, the Sangha River watershed has historically experienced a wide array of resource exploitation and management schemes. This bulletin examines the complex relationship between the Sangha River watershed and its inhabitants across borders, and perhaps more relevant, the implications for sustainable development contained in caring for this robust natural resource.

Messerschmidt, J.W., 1993. Masculinities and Crime: Critique and Reconceptualisation of Theory. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, MD.

This book looks at the relationship between masculinities and crime in a way that combines feminist, social constructionist, and structured action theories. Even though statistics reveal that men and boys are the primary perpetrators of crime, the author suggests criminology is gender-blind in that it ignores the reasons why men and boys offend, but instead asks why more women do not.

Ministere de la Promotion de la Femme, Burkina Faso, 2009: *Document de la Politique National Genre (PNG) du Burkina Faso.*

The Burkina Faso National Gender Policy (PNG) is a product of extensive consultation with the government and civil society. It was developed with a long-term perspective to meet the major challenges of gender inequalities that continue to plague the country despite all efforts by the government to eliminate them. Based on the urgent need for a permanent solution to the struggle for equality and equity between the sexes in the strict respect of fundamental human rights, the

document lays down the strategies to effect a complete transformation of the society - eliminating inequalities between men and women in all spheres of life and lifting all socio-cultural and economic barriers to equitable and sustainable development.

Monimart, M., & Tan, S. F. (2011). *Gender and access to land and natural resources in Mali and Niger*. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London.

West African countries, including Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Niger, are decentralizing their governments and establishing local government structures, which lead to increased potential for individual participation in the governing process. In the West African region, increased gender representation in decision-making processes at the local level should lead to improvement in women's access to natural resources, including land, and public services. The research concluded that an increase in the local legal infrastructure supporting the establishment of the local governments needed to be supported by increased access awareness among women and others who deserve equal representation in the local government system to better their welfare.

Moreno, Claudia. 2005. *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization.

This WHO study documents violence against women (VAW) by their intimate partners and advocates for a public health response to the practice. Based on evidence from 24,000 women in 10 different countries, the report offers several recommendations to strengthen responses to VAW, such as: promote gender equality and women's human rights; enlist social, political, religious, and other leaders in speaking out against the practice; establish systems for data collection to monitor the incidence of VAW and the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate it; prioritize the prevention of child sexual abuse; integrate responses to VAW in existing programs for the prevention of HIV and AIDS; make physical environments and schools safer for girls; and sensitize legal and justice systems to the needs of women victims of violence.

Muhoza, D. N., Rutayisire, P. C. and Umubyeyi, A. (2013) *Measuring the Success of Family Planning Initiatives in Rwanda: A Multivariate Decomposition Analysis*. USAID DHS working Papers No. 94

This paper discusses the success of family planning initiatives in Rwanda by comparing the 2005 and 2010 Demographic and Health Surveys. Between 2005 and 2010, the prevalence of contraceptive use in the country increased from 17 percent to 52 percent, the unmet need for planning declined from 38 percent to 19 percent, and the total fertility rate dropped from 6.1 to 4.6 births per woman. Part of these successes can be attributed to the Rwandan government, who has been promoting family planning through various strategies. Other contributions to success include an increase in women's educational attainment, a decrease in child mortality, and an increase in the number of women exposed to family planning messages. Overall, the increase in contraceptive use has exceeded the government's expectations. However, the study is lacking data on supply side factors that could have also contributed to increased contraceptive use in Rwanda.

Muntemba S., 1989. *Women and Environment in Africa: Towards a Conceptualization (In Women's Role in Natural Resource Management in Africa*. IDRC).

Building upon the need for women to possess increased representation in their local government processes to further welfare and increase access to natural resources, this paper focuses on undertaking key issues regarding women and natural resources in the context of a synthesizing conceptual framework.

Nana-Fabu, Stella, "An Analysis of the Economic Status of Women in Cameroon," *Journal of International Women's Studies* Vol. 8 #1 November 2006

The author conducted an economic history of Cameroonian women to gain insight into their status throughout different periods of Cameroonian history. The author concluded that while the country economically depends on women, women's status progressively deteriorates as the country modernizes. Compared to traditional times, more women are now financially dependent on men and lack control to resources. The author based this on changes and gender roles in the economy: men produced cash economy crops, while women continued subsistence farming. In an agrarian economy, this change allowed men to dominate in commercial agriculture, and thus dominate the economy. Furthermore, education for girls emphasized lower income and gendered professions, such as teaching and secretarial work, while boy's education emphasized higher income professions, such as politics. Social norms kept men and women in their respective professions. The author concluded with a series of recommendations for women in order for women to gain status in society, as well as within the economic sector.

Naylor, R., 1999: *Women Farmers and Economic Change in Northern Ghana*. In *Gender and Development: Women, Land and Agriculture*, 7(3):39-49.

This article looks at the consequences of the liberalization of cotton production in communities in Langbensi, an area in North Ghana, in terms of gender relations in the household and the community. It draws on research carried out over an 18-month period during 1995-6. It describes gender relations within the household and the wider community with regards to production and provisioning. It shows what has happened to production and provisioning arrangements when new opportunities resulting from the structural adjustment came along. While men and women seem to benefit, women are taking on new burdens at the same time; but they are also gaining the respect and recognition of their male kin. This why the article's main argument is that presentations of rural men and women as victims of structural adjustment measures are simplistic, ignoring the complexities of farmers' engagement with economic change.

Ndow, Sirra Horeja (editor) "Women's Gold: Shear Butter from Burkina Faso," *Network African Women Economists* (<http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/curso/7> undated

The editor profiled Fatou Ouedraogo and the Association Songtaab-Yalgre as an example of a successful women's economic empowerment enterprise. The case study detailed Burkina Faso: the climate, the national and cultural context, and the main economic activity of agriculture. Agriculture in Burkina Faso is highly gendered, with men traditionally partaking in the main export cash crops of livestock and cotton and women traditionally producing subsistence crops.

As a consequence of an economic crisis and the resulting Structural Adjustment Policies, the government promoted export crops to the detriment of women. Recognizing the gendered nature of poverty, the government committed itself to women's empowerment through developing the shea sector, traditionally woman's sector. Resulting from this support and the technical assistance that followed, women mobilized to form a shea butter enterprise as an income-generating activity. The association is an example where women are receiving the economic benefits of their work and are expanding. The editor noted several contributing factors to their success, noting the had organization various factor leading to their success.

Oluwole, Akiyode. "Gender, Sustainable Peace, and Development in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria." *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*. Volume 11, No. 2, 2009

This paper identifies the consequences of the impact of oil exploration and exploitation on women in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. The environmental degradation and pollution that results from these activities has a disproportionate impact on women in the region, who are

often responsible for providing and managing natural energy sources, and food production for their households. While the oil industry provides men with employment opportunities, there is no compensation for women when such activities destroy their existing livelihoods in the event of an oil spill or sustained environmental degradation. The paper calls for adherence to the principles of sustainable development in order to create lasting and equitable solutions for peace and development in the region.

Orfei, Emilio A. "Essay on female empowerment and its health consequences in West Africa." A paper prepared as a dissertation submitted to the faculty of the graduate school of the University of Maryland, College Park in the year of 2012, College Park, MD, 2012

This publication is a collection of essays on female empowerment and its health consequences in West Africa. The first part addresses the influence of female empowerment on men's extramarital sexual behavior. Findings suggest that women's bargaining power within the household influences the likelihood of husbands' extramarital sexual behavior and, consequently, women's risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease. The second part analyzes the relationship between kin support, female bargaining power, and fertility. Findings reveal that, on average, a couple is 2.5 percent more likely to have a child after the woman has experienced an additional post-marriage young sibling death.

OSAA, 2006. Report on United Nations Expert Group Meeting On Natural Resources And Conflict In Africa: Transforming A Peace Liability Into A Peace Asset. 17-19 June 2006, Cairo, Egypt. Organized By The Office Of The Special Adviser On Africa (OSAA) In Cooperation with the Government of Egypt.

This report details the meeting convened to promote international support for durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, including through advocacy and through facilitating intergovernmental cooperation and deliberation on critical issues facing Africa as a continent, in particular on related issues of peace and development. The issues discussed were: governance; the importance of a regional approach to address regional dimensions of a problem, including illicit trade in arms; the need for coordination, cooperation and partnership; increased information sharing and gathering; the need for greater support from the international community; and the need for greater corporate social responsibility. This report holds important implications for the Assessment and its work with regional government officials.

Ouoba, R., M. Tani, and Z. Toure, 2003: *Analyse Strategique Des Enjeux Lies Au Genre Au Burkina Faso*.

This study is a strategic analysis of issues related to gender in Burkina Faso. The goal being to bring out the major gender related problems in order to be able to take these onboard the country's development strategies and support programs. The objectives of the study include: i) An analysis of the gender dimensions in all economic and social development sectors; ii) Identify gender policies and actions relevant and important for the reduction of poverty, and promotion of economic growth, human well being and sustainable development; and iii) strategies for integrating such policies and actions in national dialogue and development assistance.

Picard M., 1996. A Guide to Gender Dimensions of Environment and Natural Resource Management. Based on sample review of USAID NRM Projects in Africa. SD Publications series, Technical Paper No. 30.

This analysis of U.S. Agency for International Development projects in Natural Resources Management incorporates gender issues and provides the reader with an overview of the decade's literature regarding Women-in-Development. Assumptions and postulations were addressed in the work based upon existing literature and case studies pertaining to USAID projects. Important questions were provoked which have implications to the West Africa Regional Gender

Assessment in the context of integrating gender into Natural Resource Management in development.

Pol, Floris van der and Suzanne Nederlof (eds). 2010. *Natural Resource Management in West Africa: Towards a knowledge management strategy*. Bulletin 392. Amsterdam, KIT Publishers

This publication was based upon multiple case studies in Mali, Niger, Benin, and Togo, with a view to ensuring environmental sustainability in rural areas and reversing the loss of environmental resources in eradicating poverty and hunger, while stressing the importance of renewed attention to sustainable agricultural production and natural resource management.

Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development, and Environmental Sustainability; United Nations Development Program, 2012.

The UNDP released this publication to provide evidence based research on gender equality and sustainable development within areas of education, health, food security, climate change, human rights, production and other sectors of development from regions around the world emphasizing the importance of women's access to education and assets in promoting sustainable communities.

Population Reference Bureau, 2001 Making the Link

By presenting factors that pose threat to sustainable development within the Philippines, this report calls to action the detailing problems that affect the country's progress and development. Connecting the problems of population, poverty, biodiversity, health and environmental concerns illustrate the bearing threat to development in the Philippines. Topics related to human vulnerability to natural hazards, air and water pollution problems, rapid population growth, measure of the development progress and definitions are included in this report.

Porgo, J.E., Republic of Niger Gender Equity Reinforcement Project Appraisal Report, African Development Bank Social Development Department, OCSD, Center West Region 2004

In the face of existing gender gaps, the Government sought the assistance of patterns, including the ADF, to finance measures aimed at reducing the gender disparities across society. The objective of the project included: contribute to enhancing the capacities for design, planning and management of Gender activities and to create a social environment that is more conducive to gender equity. Through these objectives, the project will build the capacities of State agencies, the State, and private sector organizations towards the inclusion of gender dimensions within activities and interventions, leading to a better understanding of gender issues and an improved perception of gender on the part of opinion leaders, members of parliament, students, and civil society organizations.

Randriamaro, Zo, Gender and Trade, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, <http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk>, undated

The report focused on the role gender plays within trade, growth, and development, noting that trade policies and agreements are not gender neutral. Trade impacts gender equality by limiting productivity, output, and growth. As the author noted, while many see the human rights approach as a key entry point for gender interventions, this approach is not always gendered. Rather, the author advocated for a gender and development approach, which also require the recognition of women's contribution to the economy through both their productive and their unpaid reproductive work.

The author examines trade policies that affect men and women differently due to factors such as access of resources and decision-making. In particular, gender translates to labor roles and the gendered division of labor, which affects economic policies and empowerment. The author concluded with recommendations for strategies to move towards a gender-sensitive trade policy to enhance women's capacity and lower the barriers to market access.

Rands B., 1996. *Natural Resource Management in Niger: Lessons Learned*. Submitted to USAID.

This analysis of USAID methodology and best practices for NRM in Niger takes a practical approach, noting promising practices that were adopted by Niger's rural population in a widespread manner, including: Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR); Zai (and semi-lunes); Community-based Natural Forest Management (CBNFM); and Watershed Conservation. This practical approach is imperative in evaluating the practical uses of these methods today, as well as the assessment of the sustainability of the practices into the new century.

"Regional Agricultural Policy – ECOWAP: Making Agriculture the Lever of Regional Integration"
Presentation prepared for the Paris Conference on the Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa, held on December 19th, 2008.

Recognizing the role agriculture and hunger played in their societies, governments met to discuss strategy towards agricultural coordination and regional integration. Four major action areas were identified, including: extending the area of land under cultivation and irrigation; improving rural infrastructure to improve trade; increasing food supply; and improving agricultural research and technology.

Republic of Cote D'Ivoire, 2009: *Strategy For Relaunching Development And Reducing Poverty*, January 2009

Through the poverty reduction strategy paper, the government outlined its strategy to meet its MDG goals. Committed to eradicating poverty, the strategy aims to improve living conditions for the population through adequate food, access to clean water, basic energy, health care, education, and environment. Traditionally, poverty affects women more than men, as they are more likely to be subsistence farmers and more affected by factors such as low agricultural yield or regional disparities, such as weak water supplies and lack of reliable infrastructure. Furthermore, women are more likely to farm on less desirable lands, leaving them more vulnerable to production failures as more pressure is put on the land.

Republic of Rwanda, Ministry of Health. 2009. *Annual Report 2008*. Kigali, Rwanda: Ministry of Health.

This publication is the Rwandan Ministry of Health's Annual Report for 2008, which reviews the achievements of the Health Sector's 2005-2009 Strategic Plan. These achievements include a decrease in infant mortality, a decline in the total fertility rate, a reduction in malaria morbidity and mortality, an increase in quality human resources for the sector such as more doctors and nurses, and expanded geographical access. The report also outlines two broad priorities for 2009: client-oriented service delivery and system-focused components, with special attention given to interventions to improve maternal and child health across the board.

Republic of the Gambia, 2012. *RIO + 20, National Report*

This National Report encompasses the state of development achievement in the Gambia, compiled from existing relevant literature; consultations with experts in the sectors and thematic programs reviewed, and input stakeholder contributions. The Gambia has had experiences in sustainable development initiatives through graduating from structural adjustment to macro-economic stability, which lead to attempts at sustainable growth with equitable income distribution through its program for Sustainable Development all within 20 years. This report served to update the

developments covering the decade 2002-2012, and accurately states the challenges and achievements to sustainable development facing the Gambia today.

Resource Efficient Agricultural Production (REAP), 2004. The Gambian Ecological Agriculture Development Project 2004-2005 Workplan,

The Gambia is one of the most challenged nations on the globe. In 2002, the Gambia was ranked number 160 out of 173 countries in the Human Development Index, with almost 60% of its population below the international poverty line and maintaining the highest population growth rate in the world. In addition, approximately 91% of extremely poor households rely on agriculture for their economic wellbeing, while the agricultural market in the Gambia declines with the dire social and economic conditions. This work plan project puts forth a holistic and integrated approach to respond to the interrelated challenges of environmental degradation, diminishing natural resources, reduced agricultural productivity, rapid population growth, hunger, and high poverty rates.

Romero, A. Belemvire A., and Saulière S., 2011. Climate Change and Women Farmers in Burkina Faso. Oxfam Research Report, July 2011

This is an Oxfam research report. The report analyzes the specific impact of climate change on women in Burkina Faso's agricultural sector and looks at how gender and women are taken into account in national adaptation and rural development policies and programs. It also examines adaptation practices aimed at women and the outcomes of such practices in terms of both gender and adaptation.

The report combines the results of three research documents prepared by Intermón Oxfam² in 2010-11: 'Analysis of the impact of climate change on women in Burkina Faso's agricultural sector', 'Women, agriculture and adaptation in Burkina Faso: plans and policies' and 'Analysis of adaptation practices aimed at women'.

Rosche, Daniela. OXFAM Briefing Note. *Ending Violence Against Women: The case for a comprehensive international action plan*. Oxford, UK. Oxfam GB, February 2013

This Oxfam policy paper outlines a comprehensive international action plan to eliminate violence against women (VAW), with time-bound targets and explicit accountability mechanisms, in preparation for a March 2013 meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. Since VAW is a global problem, an international solution is needed. However, states have the primary responsibility to eliminate VAW, with assistance from UN Women and civil society groups in formulation and implementation of an action plan. Oxfam's proposed action plan includes the following four components: develop and strengthen laws for women's rights and gender equality; prioritize and reallocate financial resources to end VAW; ending VAW needs to be top-level government business; and fragile states develop strategies for organizing responses to VAW in conflict settings.

Russo, Sandra, L.: *Report for Livestock Climate Change CRSP: Gender Analysis of the LCC CRSP Portfolio*. LCC CRSP Report No. 1: Gender.

The Livestock Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (LCC CRSP), funded by USAID, supports integrated research that helps small-scale livestock holders adapt to environmental and health impacts of climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (<http://lcccrsp.org>).

This report examines the Livestock Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (LCC CRSP) projects efforts to integrate gender, using USAID directives and frames them within the new Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). Although the index is new, it provides a framework for LCC CRSP researchers to assess their gender inclusion plans in the multi-year projects.

Sever C., 2005. Mainstreaming gender equality in water, hygiene and sanitation interventions Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

This report serves to integrate a gender perspective into considerations regarding water availability and NRM as it relates to water sources and consumption. The authors take into consideration the differences between men and women's different needs for access to clean water for hygienic and sanitation reasons, and also posits that access to water is not "gender neutral", and therefore affects men and women differently, which must be addressed in sustainable development initiatives that work to accomplish Millennium Development Goal 7 on Environmental Sustainability.

Sisulu, Sheila: To End Hunger in Africa, We Must Put Women at the Center of Agricultural Growth. Skoll World Forum, December 2012;
http://www.ifdc.org/Media_Center/Related_News_and_Info/December_2012/To_End_Hunger_in_Africa_We_Must_Put_Women_at_the

The op-ed contributor discussed the importance of women in agricultural production in Africa, as well as the importance of linking them to markets to increase business opportunities and economic growth in Africa. As the author notes, studies prove that countries with the highest levels of hunger have corresponding levels of inequality. The contributor notes several factors for this, such as challenges accessing land, agricultural inputs, and credit. To mitigate this, the author recommends scaling up investments for women and girls, especially in areas such as nutrition, health care, and education.

The North-South Institute. Policy Debrief: Freedom through Association: Realizing of West Africa's Female Police Staff Associations. Ottawa, Ontario: The North-South Institute, Spring 2012

This policy brief discusses the potential of female police officers to create a more inclusive culture, especially in post-conflict situations, which can lead to women's empowerment as well as improved security. In West Africa, only Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone have female police associations and gender policies within police services. Increasing the number of female police officers has been instrumental in creating gender-sensitive reforms in all three countries. While the advocacy role of female police associations seems weak, their power lies in their ability to inspire and influence women in other security institutions to create their own associations. These groups not only provide support for the women involved, but also contribute to greater gender-sensitivity in policing (and security) services throughout the countries.

The Public Policy Advisory Network On Female Genital Surgeries in Africa. "Seven Things to know about Female Genital surgeries in Africa." Hastings Center Report, no. 6

This publication seeks to advocate for a more accurate, fair and evidence-based view of female genital modifications that takes into account the cultural complexities that underlie the practice, instead of relying on oversimplification and hyperbole. Western media attention has relied on sources from international activists who are predisposed to oppose the practice, and hence uniformly refer to it as mutilation. The article advocates for greater consideration of the perspectives of some African women who value the practice and consider it to be form of genital beautification or genital cleansing. The seven things the article seeks to present for a fact-based discussion of female genital modification are: research demonstrates that a high

percentage of women who have had genital surgery have rich sexual lives and their frequency of sexual activity is not reduced; sensationalized accounts of the health and medical complications associated with the surgeries are infrequent and most surgeries are safe; for many insiders, the surgeries are associated with a positive aesthetic ideal and not considered “mutilations”; customary genital surgeries are not restricted to females; the empirical association between patriarchy and genital surgeries is not well established since most patriarchal societies either do not have surgeries for either sex or for males only; in Africa, women are the ones who manage and control the surgeries, and in many cases they are the ones who favor its continuation; and the findings of the WHO Study Group on Female Genital Mutilation and Obstetric Outcome do not support sensational media claims about female genital surgery as a cause of perinatal and maternal mortality during birth, and that the risk to pregnancy from genital surgeries is less than cigarette smoking. Policy implications that take these seven points into consideration include the need for better fact-checking and better representation of the voices of African women; acknowledgement that this is not a uniquely African phenomenon; allowing women to make decisions about their own bodies; eliminating counterproductive “zero tolerance” slogans; and not stigmatizing or scaring away from sexual relationships those women who have undergone the surgery but live in countries where it is not practiced or is illegal.

UNAIDS.2010. UNAIDS Report on The Global AIDS Epidemic. Retrieved from http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_GlobalReport_em.pdf

This report discusses the importance of gender equality and reproductive health in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by their 2015 deadline. Investment in these goals will improve economic and social progress and create long-lasting positive impacts for future generations. The report outlines a strategy for countries to follow if they are to meet the MDGs, with an emphasis on gender equality as the key to achieving the other seven goals. Countries will have to expand access to education for women and girls, improve reproductive health, and provide economic opportunities for women. Strategies to achieving these milestones include paying greater attention to the needs and concerns of youth and adolescents in policymaking, partnering with boys and men, and eradicating gender-based violence.

UNAIDS and WHO.2009. AIDS Epidemic update. Retrieved from http://data.unaids.org/pub/report/2009/jc1700_epi_update_2009_en.pdf

This report presents the progress that has been made to reduce the global AIDS epidemic and move towards UNAIDS’ vision of zero discrimination, zero new HIV infections, and zero AIDS-related deaths through universal access to effective HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. However, challenges remain. Women and girls need more support, such as through protection from gender-based violence and the promotion of economic independence from older men. HIV financing continues to be a problem, even as national governments are taking an increased responsibility for their populations. The report points to the interrelated nature of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in which reduction of HIV/AIDS will help achieve the other goals, and, likewise, achievement of the other goals could help reduce HIV/AIDS.

UNDP, Gender & Energy for Sustainable Development: A Toolkit and Resource Guide, New York, 2004

The UNDP designed a toolkit to recognize the distinct challenges women face in such as energy and fuel collection. The purpose of the toolkit is to recognize that energy is not gender neutral. Therefore, energy trainings and interventions must integrate gender considerations.

UNICEF, 2009. Cote D’Ivoire Country Overview 2009-2013.

This is a Unicef publication. It presents an overview of Cote D'Ivoire, providing some profile statistics of the country. It presents the country's percentage achievement towards the MDGs.

It presents Unicef Cote D'Ivoire's program for 2009 – 2013 looking at its five components. a) The child survival component includes: (i) integrated and continuous care of mothers, newborns and children; (ii) malnutrition management and emergency obstetric care, PMTCT and pediatric care; (iii) water, hygiene and sanitation; b) HIV/AIDS and adolescents component is structured into three subcomponents: (i) assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children; (ii) HIV/AIDS prevention among the most vulnerable adolescents and young people; and (iii) advocacy and resource mobilization for HIV/AIDS; c) The basic education and gender equality component includes: (i) formal education; (ii) non-formal education and alternative learning opportunities; and (iii) early childhood development and school preparedness.

United Nations Environment Program, 2009. "Africa Environment Outlook 2: Our Environment, Our Wealth (e-book)". In: Encyclopedia of Earth. Eds. Cutler J. Cleveland (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Information Coalition, National Council for Science and the Environment). [First published in the Encyclopedia of Earth September 22, 2009; Last revised Date September 22, 2009; Retrieved March 29, 2013.

The Environment Outlook is inspired by the reaffirmation by the United Nations of the links between environment and development, principally drawing attention to the relationship between environmental goods-and-services and human well-being. The Africa Environment Outlook (AEO)-2 reports uses the Opportunities Framework for analysis to evaluate the opportunities and potential, both current and future, of the continent's resources to address sustainable development, alleviate extreme poverty and reduce vulnerability, and enhance environmental sustainability.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2005). *State of World Population 2005: The Promise of Equality: Gender Equality, Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals*.

This report discusses the importance of gender equality and reproductive health in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by their 2015 deadline. Investment in these goals will improve economic and social progress and create long-lasting positive impacts for future generations. The report outlines a strategy for countries to follow if they are to meet the MDGs, with an emphasis on gender equality as the key to achieving the other seven goals. Countries will have to expand access to education for women and girls, improve reproductive health, and provide economic opportunities for women. Strategies to achieving these milestones include paying greater attention to the needs and concerns of youth and adolescents in policymaking, partnering with boys and men, and eradicating gender-based violence.

USAID, *Applying solutions to local problem: Radio listeners as agents of change*, October 25 2010

This article emphasized ways in which marginalized voices can be heard through improved information dissemination. It did so by reporting the results of a two-month field research evaluation in Niger and Chad. While implementing USAID's Peace through Development Project, findings showed listeners of educational radio as improving their personal growth, community involvement, and civic participation. The research empowered women as female listeners and achieved new dialogues through previously nonexistent platforms.

USAID, *Niger counter-extremism assessment*, April 2009

The purpose of this assessment was to inspect the accuracy of several theories surrounding sources of violent extremism in the Sahel region. Niger was used as a case example for

investigating forms of development that mitigate extremism. Results showed that though Niger has lower risks of violent extremism due to it not suffering breakdowns in family control like its neighbors, whose cultures are more nomadic, Niger's growing youth population may pose future challenges. In terms of gender, the assessment indicated that religious authorities no longer discouraged girls and young women from attending religious schools.

USAID. Perspectives on Unmet Need for Family Planning in West Africa: Benin. Policy Project Briefing Paper. 2005.

This report identifies trends in the AIDS epidemic at a national level and by region. There are several common themes across regions: AIDS continues to be a global health priority as AIDS-related illnesses remain one of the leading causes of death globally; there is considerable variation between and within countries and regions; epidemic patterns are changing, such as means of transmission; HIV prevention efforts have demonstrated success; improved access to treatment is saving lives; and there is increased evidence of risk among key populations such as injecting drug users. The report outlines UNAIDS' framework's nine priority areas and provides suggestions for implementation. These priority areas include stopping violence against women and girls, empowering young people to protect themselves from HIV, and removing laws, policies, and practices that stigmatize and discriminate against those living with HIV/AIDS.

USAID, *Putting Principles into Practices: the Development Response of violent extremism in insurgency* Policy; USAID Policy, Sept. 2011

USAID identifies factors that lead to the rise of violent extremism and can influence individuals towards extremism. Corruption, lack of governance, cultural threats, and human rights violations, are cited as factors that 'push' individuals towards extremism. Direct factors have a simultaneous 'pull' factor and affect recruitment and radicalization. Pull factors include access to material, social status, self-esteem, and respect from peers.

USAID/Ghana.2011. Gender Assessment

Despite Ghana's progress in reducing poverty, regional and gender inequalities persist. This publication assesses the gender situation in Ghana to assist USAID/Ghana develop a Country Development Cooperation Strategy. In terms of economic growth, women have unequal access to and control over land and other assets, which limits their ability to participate in the market economy, and women face a heavy time burden because of their poor or limited access to energy sources. In terms of health, access to health services needs to be more equitable, but also gender-sensitive to account for the differences in men's and women's needs, preferences, and schedules. Gender-based violence is another major health problem that women in Ghana face. In terms of Democracy and Governance, there is a need for increased participation by women in civil society, community and national decision-making. Ghana's education strategy will focus on similar issues as the other sectors of equitable access for women and improved quality of services.

USAID/West Africa. Africa Regional Health Program: A Mid-Term Assessment. AED Africa Health project. 2010.

This policy briefing paper presents perspectives on the nature and dimensions of the unmet need for family planning in Benin based on findings from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Even though fertility rates have declined in the country, the use of modern contraceptives remains low (7 percent in 2001). Benin has a high unmet need for family planning, especially in urban areas and among younger women for spacing births and older women for limiting births. The data suggests that education and wealth do not have a significant impact on

unmet need. A quarter of the women surveyed cited religious, cultural, family or personal opposition as reasons for not intending to use contraceptives in the future. Failing to meet Benin's high unmet need for family planning can have disastrous consequences for the country's economic and social development. Culturally appropriate and context-specific strategies and programs to expand and improve family planning services would remedy the problem.

USAID/West Africa. Regional HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Strategy 2011-2016. 2011.

This publication outlines USAID West Africa's Regional Health Office's (RHO) HIV/AIDS program. In spite of direct funding from multiple sources, two areas require further investment: an emphasis on prevention for the most at-risk populations; and combatting stigma and discrimination at all levels. RHO's strategy includes four strategic objectives: enhance country capacity to create effective policies, support countries to create an enabling environment for responding to HIV/AIDS, establish prevention, care, and support services, especially for the most at risk, and establish a research and evaluation agenda. Through partnerships at all levels, the RHO will try to achieve these objectives to mitigate the harmful impacts of HIV/AIDS in West Africa.

Utz, Veronica, Modern Energy Services for Modern Agriculture, GIZ-HERA (2011)

The GIZ report highlighted the role energy plays in technology and in modern agricultural processes. Energy needs specifically challenge women, who are often confronted by economics and access to inputs. Access to clean and affordable energy offers possibilities to improve livelihoods through improved health and increased agricultural productivity. Women in particular can benefit from clean energy in households, as they are burdened by gathering fuel and other resources for their household. In addition, modern agriculture relies on modern energy sources for production and transportation to gain entry into new markets. The report concluded by arguing that supporting modern energy reduces the burden on women and supports the transition from subsistence farming towards improved livelihoods.

Vander Stichele, Myriam, A Gender Analysis of Trade and WTO Rules. A Case Study of Ghana. Amsterdam: Transnational Institute (<http://www.tni.org>) 1998

The author offered notes from the ICDDA Conference on Trade, Environment and Gender in Brussels. The conference highlighted the lack of a gender analysis of WTO rules or trade policies, in addition to the lack of gender concerns throughout the WTO. Women and the impoverished are affected differently by trade policies, underlining the need for gender considerations throughout trade policies. As the conference emphasized, a gender analysis could assist in ensuring that trade supports women.

Weaver, Marcia; Holly Wong; Amadou S. Sarko et al. (1994). Prospects for reform of hospital fees in sub-Saharan Africa: A case study of Niamey National Hospital in Niger. *Social Science and Medicine* 8(4): 565-574.

Using a case study from Niger, this paper presents estimates of the effects of certain hospital user fees reforms on total hospital revenue and on the amount of fees paid by patients. The reforms studied are special fees for non-referred patients and changes in exemptions for some categories of patients and certain types of care. Results reveal that doubling fees for non-referred patients increases revenue more than charging them prices equal to operating costs. Eliminating exemptions can be equally effective in generating revenue as raising fees, such that eliminating exemptions for surgery and inpatient diagnostic exams recovers the same percentage of operating costs as doubling fees for non-referred patients.

West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP). *Development and Implementation of National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions: A Guideline*. Accra, Ghana: West Africa Network for Peace building, 2012

This report details the Women and Peace and Security Framework devised by the UN through adoption of document UNSCR 1325 and others. In spite of the framework, many countries have failed to create national action plans (NAPs) that incorporate women in formal peace negotiations. This guideline was written to provide a template for countries to create their own NAPs. Filled with technical assistance and basic procedures for implementation and monitoring and evaluation, the guide also outlines the challenges associated with the development and implementation of NAPs.

West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP). *Learning Exchange Gender Sensitivity in Preventive Action Practice: Comparing Challenges, Finding Solutions*. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire: West Africa Network for Peace building, June 2012

This report, produced by WANEP, details the proceedings of a June 2012 Learning Exchange in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire between the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP). Participants discussed how to make conflict analysis tools more gender-inclusive, with an emphasis on the role of men in addressing and promoting a gender perspective in peace building. The objectives of the exchange were twofold: to gather and exchange national and regional ideas about integrating a gender perspective into Conflict Analysis for Preventive Action; and to develop a toolkit with practical recommendations for gender integration into conflict analysis. The report outlines various conflict analysis tools, such as conflict trees, stakeholder analysis, and stakeholder analysis, and provides suggestions for including gender considerations into the design.

Women's Democracy Network, "WDN Members Launch Women Leadership School Program in Cameroon", Washington DC (<http://wdn.org/news-events-press-center/events/wdn-members-launch-women-leadership-school-program-cameroon>) March 2013

The Women's Democracy Network works toward the equal participation of women and to increase women's political participation, leadership and representation in elected office. The Network works to link local women with international mentors who share similar experiences. Through their shared experiences and knowledge transfer, local women gain capacity and leadership training.

World Bank Policy report: *Localizing development: does participation works*. Ghalaza Mansuri and Vijayendra Rao, 2013

The World Bank Policy report reviews the history of participatory development and local participation. Through focusing on the effect of large-scale policy driven efforts to increase participation, the report draws lessons for policy interventions. It asks key questions that address whether: fostering participation increases social cohesion, and whether or not fostering participation reduces corruption. The report found that participatory development and local participation increased social cohesion. Furthermore, it increased the ability of the community to represent its interests to the state. However, without mandates to include marginalized or vulnerable groups, opportunities for change are lost.

World Fact Book, 2011, (Online) Available at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_forest_area (Accessed: April 20, 2013).

The World Factbook is an online publication of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency that provides statistics and demographics about nations around the world.

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