


**Tapping a Hidden Resource:
Energy Efficiency in the Middle East and North Africa
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**Survey on Gender and Energy Efficiency:
Case of Tunisia**

Consultant: Henda GAFSI

Outline



- ❑ Survey framework and objectives
- ❑ The context:
 - ❑ Perceptions of energy
 - ❑ The gender situation
- ❑ Locations and groups surveyed
- ❑ Principal conclusions and « gender and energy efficiency» issues

Survey Framework and Objectives

- Integrate the gender dimension into the World Bank study on energy efficiency (EE) in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa:
 - Identify the principal EE-related issues for each gender;
 - Establish a typology of the problems, policies, programs, and strategies to be developed for dealing with the issues;
 - Start setting up a network of persons and institutions.
- Choice of Tunisia: support for the new project

The Context

(1) Energy in Tunisian Public Opinion

- ⌘ The price of energy: a major factor in the high cost of living
 - ⊗ Has an impact on specific travel and consumption practices
 - ⊗ Need to save energy
 - ⊗ Options for renewable sources of energy
- ⌘ Ecology: Tunisians increasingly sensitive to the impact of CO2 emissions
- ⌘ The Media: A topic dear to «opinion makers»: children are more sensitive to it than adults

The Context

(2) The Gender Situation

- ❑ Tunisia: a pole of excellence with respect to the rights of women and the gender approach in the Arab world;
- ❑ Enormous progress because of faultless political will, the struggle of women, education and employment, and past legal and institutional gains;
- ❑ Issues to be resolved:
 - ❑ Vulnerability of women to unemployment and poverty;
 - ❑ Attitudes and social practices regarding gender equality;
 - ❑ Women are still a minority in the decision-making process;
 - ❑ The gender approach involves a focus on the separate roles of women and men in the management of natural resources but is absent from the discussion on energy efficiency

Locations and Groups Surveyed

□ Focus groups:

□ Households in different socio-geographic locations:

- 3 neighborhoods in Greater Tunis: working-class neighborhoods of Ben Arous, residential neighborhoods of Tunis: Le Belvédère, Cité El Ahmadi, La Marsa;
- 1 neighborhood in a small town: Soliman, 45 km south-east of Tunis;
- 1 rural area: Jebel Bargou, 135 km from Tunis (Siliana);

□ About 10 heads of SMEs in Tunis and Sfax.

□ Semi-direct interviews with resource persons:

- ANME representatives;
- The President of the National Chamber of Female Enterprise Heads;
- The Inter-Arab ENDA association;
- The Association of Friends of Le Belvédère;
- The official supporting implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (CCC) at the German technical assistance agency (GTZ);
- The official in charge of UNDP environmental programs in Tunis.

Principal Conclusions

(1) Gender relations differ according to income, socio-cultural circumstances, and the degree of economic autonomy among women

- ❑ Differences, by area:
 - ❑ The women of Ben Arous and Soliman (access to credit from the ENDA association) express themselves and assume responsibilities for managing the household budget and energy consumption;
 - ❑ The most independent women are those in the La Marsa group: they are diploma-holders, work or have worked, are older, many have a private car, own their home, and exercise professional and/or associative responsibilities.
 - ❑ In Jebel Bargou:
 - ❑ The traditional distribution of work and household tasks and chores places women in a situation that limits their desires for autonomy;
 - ❑ The chore of collecting and transporting wood for heating and for baking bread in *tabounas* absorbs much of their time, limits their travel, and endangers their health .
- ❑ Generally speaking, the link between the gender situation and energy efficiency is not always obvious, except in cases where the following problems exist:
 - ❑ The high cost of energy has a direct, negative impact on deforestation and on the condition of poor rural women;
 - ❑ Motorized transport (public transport and private vehicles) improves women's mobility and, therefore, their access to autonomy, but its cost⁷ tends to limit this positive development

Conclusions

(2) Energy, a factor in increasing the cost of living and social inequalities?

- ⌘ For all households: the growing size of the «energy» item in expenditure, up by 25 percent and 50 percent, is related to the cost of energy and to changes in consumption modes.
- ⌘ For the poorest households (especially those headed by a woman), the rise in the cost of energy is experienced as a driver of social inequality and vulnerability.

Other perceptions:

- ⌘ The arrangements made by the government to assist improved energy management mostly benefit well-to-do households and large enterprises.
- ⌘ Small farmers and micro- and small entrepreneurs (artisans, retailers, small producers) barely benefit from government assistance for mitigating the rise in the cost of energy, and their profit margin falls; this weakens them.

(3) Public transport, an inefficient and difficult means of getting around for women



- ❑ Public transport is a necessary means of locomotion and the only alternative to higher-cost motorized individual transport. However:
 - ❑ Its cost increases regularly, and it is becoming inaccessible for the poorest segments of the population;
 - ❑ The frequency and rate of service are insufficient, and the fleet is often old and polluting;
 - ❑ Walking (in Ben Arous and in Jebel Bargou) and going by donkey (Jebel Bargou) are increasing;
 - ❑ Public transport is difficult for women in the case of incorrect male behaviors.

(4) Modes of construction: a source of energy waste, even among poor home owners

- ❑ Housing: sources of energy waste, whatever the size and class of the home: lack of insulation systems and ill-designed openings without draftproofing or double glazing.
 - ❑ Information campaigns carried out by the government (ANME, ANPE) are inadequate: lack of local players (municipalities, regional and local units of the Ministries of the Environment and *Equipement*, associations, co-owner groupings...).
 - ❑ Tunisian women generally play an important role in the design and maintenance of housing, including in the self-construction of accommodation by low-income households.
- ➔ Consider women as key interlocutors in information, awareness-raising and training activities on energy efficiency in housing.

Energy Efficiency, A Catalyst of Leadership by Women?



- Energy efficiency can strengthen women's leadership. In focus groups, there have been numerous women expressing their concerns and expectations of their group on the energy issue, without contesting their responsibilities in the home.

SME Management and Energy

Efficiency: Men, Women, What Differences?

In this phase of the survey (interviews with enterprise heads – seven men and two women):

- ❑ No notable gender-sensitive differences in the management of SMEs.
 - ❑ The differences come from the size of the enterprise, the sector involved, the entrants, and the degree of sensitization and information of the enterprise head;
 - ❑ Energy audits → necessary adjustments in their manufacturing processes;
 - ❑ ***The energy issue is at the heart of the concerns of the National Chamber of Female Enterprise Heads - CNFCE*** (seminar and meetings);
 - ❑ Women who are enterprise heads are very motivated on the energy issue: corporate management and domestic management.
- ❑ With the collaboration of the CNFCE, a focus group will be organized soon.