

Gender Equality, Equity and Women's Empowerment Framework

A proposed framework to assess and monitor gender equality, equity and women's empowerment in modern energy cooking services (MECS)

Executive Summary



August 2024

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Organisation

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Executive Summary

The gender report proposes a multi-dimensional framework to assess and monitor gender equality, equity and women's empowerment in the MECS sector (Khalifa 2024). The report identifies gender dimensions in the MECS sector, develops indicators and survey questions to monitor progress made in each domain and sub-domain. Download the full report [here](#)

What the framework can do

1. Some indicators can be used to understand the local characteristics to provide and tailor context-based MECS solutions and improve the enabling environment (social, political, economic, physical environment) and reshape existing structures and institutions to support and promote gender equality while other indicators can be used to measure progress made on each domain and sub-domain.
2. Applying the gender equality, equity and women's empowerment framework can assist in understanding gender inequalities and identifying opportunities to mitigate negative impacts on end users, employees and entrepreneurs in the MECS value chains.
3. The framework can help in understanding individuals' needs and customizing MECS solutions that fit more with their needs, removing barriers that prevent individuals' (regardless of their gender identity, socioeconomic status or any other factors of discrimination) from engaging and participating in the sector, designing and implementing context-based policies and regulatory frameworks, and tailoring flexible and resilient business models to maximize gender co-benefits and reduce negative impacts.
4. Promoting gender equality and quantifying social impacts such as gender co-benefits, is quite challenging for project developers (Stritzke et al. 2023). However, by using the MECS gender equality framework, they can identify areas of empowerment, adapt projects to local contexts and provide better services to ensure equal access to MECS and MECS-related resources. In order to demonstrate their contribution to SDG 5 and attract funding, project developers can measure gender co-benefits by using the measurable indicators and survey questions that can be applied to small- and large-scale MECS projects and at household and organizational levels.
5. The MECS gender equality framework provides a comprehensive understanding of the gender dimensions in the MECS sector for investors, donors, funders, and impact buyers who are interested in MECS projects that contribute to SDG 5 or high-integrity carbon credits that come with clear evidence of gender impacts and women's empowerment. The framework and the gender impact data can help them to compare projects and make better decisions regarding which projects they will invest in.
6. Gender statistics in the energy and clean cooking sector are limited (UNDESA 2022). Using the MECS gender equality framework, indicators and survey questions and the consistency of data collection at the local and national level can improve the quality of data on gender issues which is needed to inform policy options and enable policy makers to make evidence-based decisions that can improve the overall sustainable development outcomes of MECS interventions.

The gender equality, equity and women's empowerment framework

The gender framework report identifies the gender dimensions in the MECS sector and presents a holistic framework to monitor progress on gender equality, equity and women's empowerment in the MECS sector at the local and national, as well as in households and organizations. The framework considers multiple gender dimensions: the ability to access MECS, the ability to access resources (co-benefits) related to the MECS sector (such as time and labour, safety and freedom of violence, health and well-being, knowledge, information and technologies, social capital, and financial resources), the ability to exercise agency at the household level and public participation, and the freedom of movement, and the multi-level enabling environment (social, policy, economic, and environmental contexts) to ensure equal access to MECS and MECS-related resources, employment and leadership positions, as well as the ability to participate in the MECS transition. The gender dimensions are organized and structured into four interconnected domains and 13 sub-domains (see Figure 1). Indicators and survey questions were also developed to assess and monitor progress made in each domain and sub-domain at household and organizational levels.

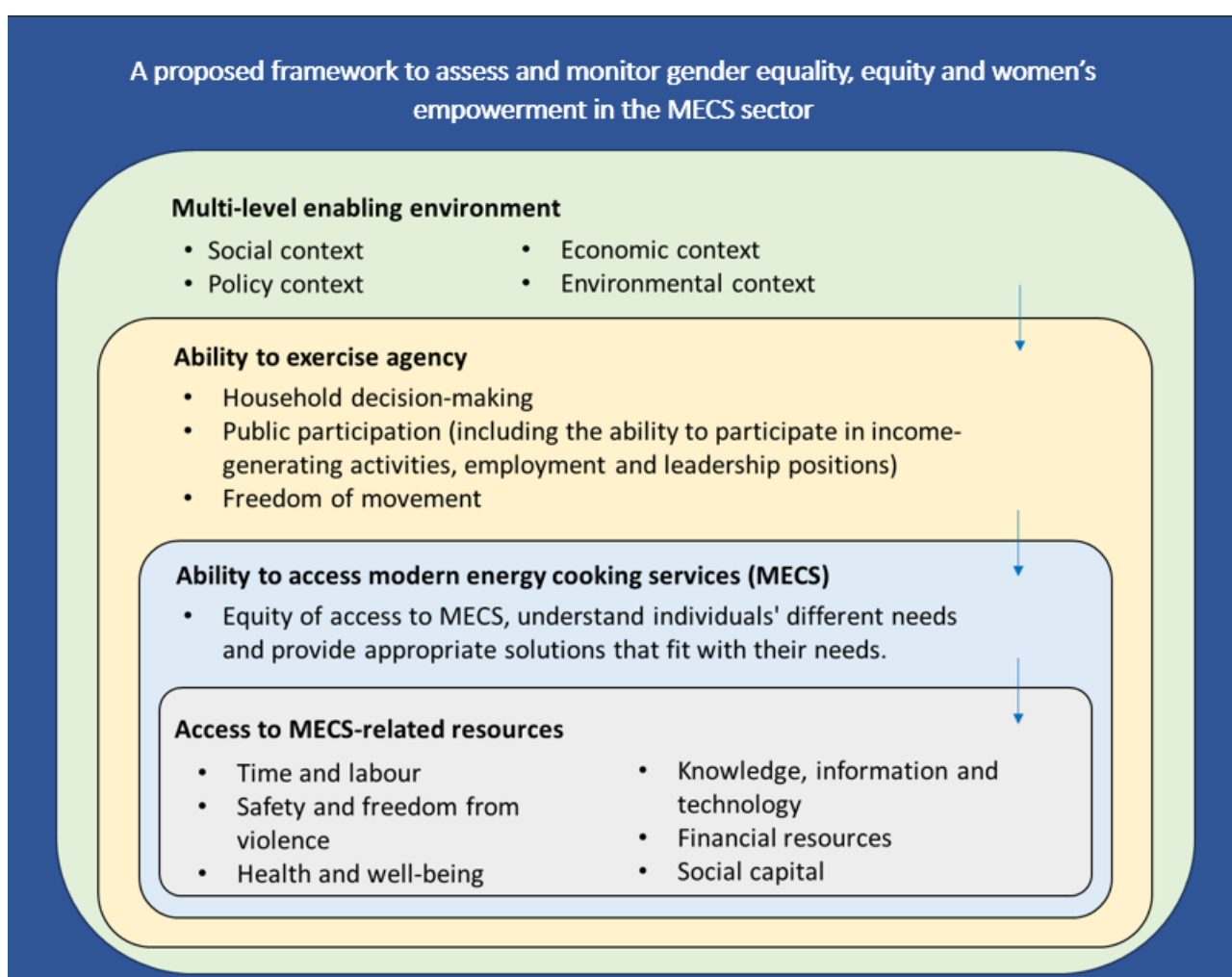
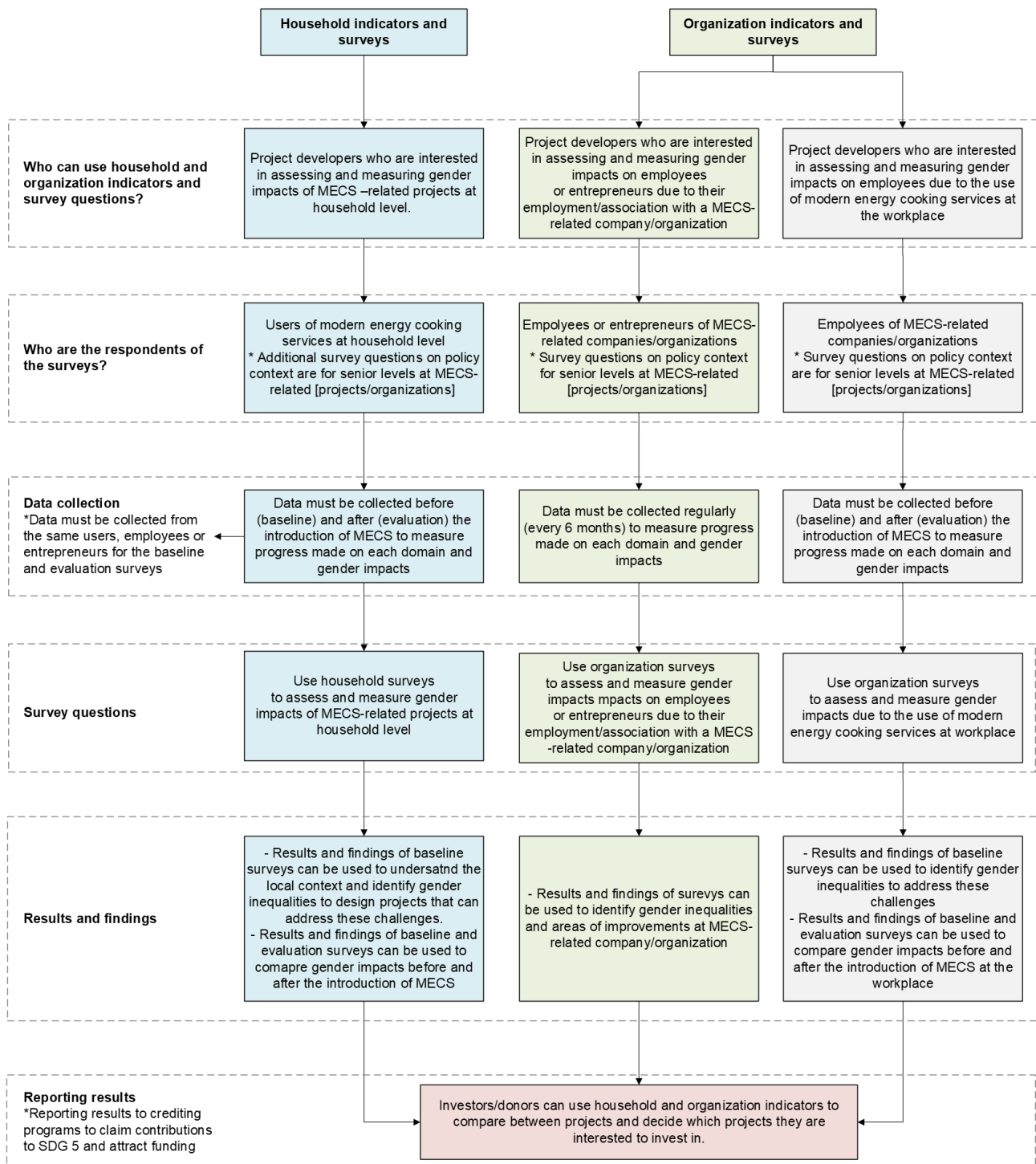


Figure 1: A proposed framework to assess and monitor gender equality, equity and women's empowerment in the MECS sector - adapted from CCA and ICRW [Social Measurement Tool](#) and the WASH framework (Caruso et al. 2021).

This flowchart describes the process of identifying which indicators and surveys you can use to assess and measure the gender impacts of a project at household or organizational level. Read down the relevant column, if you are unsure, read the whole page and it should help you to decide.



References

Caruso, B.A., Conrad, A., Salinger, A., Patrick, M., Youm, A. and Sinharoy, S. 2021. A Conceptual Framework to Inform National and Global Monitoring of Gender Equality in WASH. Available at: <https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/jmp-2021-gender-review-conceptual-framework.pdf> [Accessed: 23 October 2023].

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