# Workshop Report

# Making the case for attention to Gender in Climate Mitigation Projects

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Bonn, Germany

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# I. Introduction

The workshop on "Making the case for attention to Gender in Climate Mitigation Projects" took place at the Gustav-Stresemann-Institut (GSI, in Bonn) on Saturday June 8th, 2013. The agenda was as follows:

1. Round of introductions
2. Opening Welcome by Mr. Sam Bickersteth, CDKN CEO
3. Overview of project goals by Ms. Nathalie Eddy, GGCA
4. Status of knowledge and research: literature review, by Ms. Rachel Harris, WEDO
5. Presentation of potential case studies, by Ms. Ana Rojas, ENERGIA
6. Follow up by Ms. Nathalie Eddy, GGCA

The workshop was attended by 14 participants (annex 1), with different backgrounds and expertise related to gender, mitigation or finance. Participants engaged in lively discussions and active information sharing, allowing for fruitful discussions and the identification of at least three case studies.

# II. Welcome session

After a quick round of introductions by participants, Sam Bickersteth, CEO of CDKN, welcomed participants and made an introductory remark on how this work is useful for the broader strategic objectives of CDKN. Women have been seen only as victims of climate change but not as drivers of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Resources have started flowing into climate related projects and there is, therefore, a need to see who is benefiting from such investments. CDKN's sponsored case studies are intended to bring stories where the benefits for mitigation projects obtained as a result of the involvement of women are clear, in order to help decision makers understand the gender links to mitigation activities in particular.

Nathalie Eddy from the GGCA Secretariat thanked CDKN on behalf of GGCA and WEDO for their support and believes that lessons can be drawn from this work, especially for those with limited knowledge on gender equality in relation to climate finance.

# III. Literature review

Rachel Harris from WEDO gave a background on some of the literature she reviewed and explained that there are limited references that have made a connection between mitigation and gender considerations. There are some CDM projects that can be taken as gender responsive cases; however, there is a need to take note that while large [infrastructure] CDM projects tend to be gender neutral, small scale CDM projects tend to be more gender sensitive.

For the purpose of this study gender sensitive projects need to be defined. The potential projects have been classified under Renewable Energy, Stoves and Fuels, Transport, and Land Use and Management.

Participants commended the literature review acknowledging it had covered the most recent documentation related to gender and mitigation. Participants were quick to point out the information gap related to gender and large scale mitigation projects. The overall recommendation was to look into [non-climate or "good old"] infrastructure and gender studies, such as the World Bank's documentation of gender sensitive transport projects. It was also noted that the existence of gender sensitive guidelines does not ensure its appropriate implementation; therefore, enforcement of such guidelines may be desirable to ensure proper gender responsive transport projects. Other potential areas for research include existing studies of large hydro dams, where there is long experience with environmental finance and which may have generated information related to the impacts of not taking gender differentiations into account.

The discussions related to the literature review spread to the identification of selection criteria of the potential case studies. Scale of the projects was mentioned as potential and important criteria, as well as the need to identify projects which could feed into important sectoral clusters such as [large] infrastructure, energy, etc.

Vera P Weill-Halle, from WOCAN, pointed to their latest publication on gender guidelines in relation to gender responsive mitigation projects. Although the guidelines focus mainly on natural resources management and agriculture, they may be useful for other sectors. The guidelines for women's carbon standards can be found at: www.womencarbonstandard.org.

The participants, particularly Smita Nakhooda (ODI) and Elizabeth Eggerts (UNDP) recommended that the case studies have a strong focus on the financial angle and how gender sensitivity may bring better outcomes for the projects: making the business case for gender in mitigation and finance. This was supported by Liane Schalatek (Heinrich Boell, US), who emphasized keeping an eye on the cost-effectiveness of projects, which mainly focus on achieving large scale emission reductions, a practice which may be reinforced by the internal rewards systems of the banking institutions. Co-benefits are also goals of these projects, however, in terms of presenting the cases to the target audience [mainly working on finance], Kiran Sura and Leo Roberts (CDKN) recommended considering these as "spill-overs" of the mitigation projects. Smita supported this position, as from her experience, co-benefits are less of a priority when allocating funds for mitigation projects.

Several participants recommended that the case studies tell a positive story; framing these on how projects can be better implemented rather than dwelling on what may have been or gone wrong. Additionally, it was requested to try and make the link between adaptation and mitigation in the case studies, taking into account the relatively new position of the Least Developed Countries (LDC's), which are advocating for the implementation of projects with both adaptation and mitigation benefits. It is important to look at the balance between priorities of the countries and the priorities of the funder; while the funder of mitigation projects often prioritizes GHG reductions, the countries implementing these projects are often prioritizing the low-carbon development benefits.

Potential and additional areas for research may include, as pointed out by Gotelind Alber (GenderCC), the need to bring experiences from Eastern Europe to the fore since this region has very different pre-conditions compared to other parts of the world. Additionally, she called for the identification of case studies related to the housing sector. Sam Bickersteth pointed out that the definition of climate finance presented in the selection criteria was too narrow and called to the inclusion of other sources, such as the private sector into this definition.

There was a request to identify or consider energy efficiency projects as potential case studies, which could be a powerful case to include. Finally, the group mentioned the need to have a framework to compile the different case studies, and facilitate the identification of lessons learned and recommendations.

## IV. Potential case studies

The discussions on the literature review already identified additional selection criteria for the potential case studies and transitioning from one topic to the other was very organic. There was further clarification as to the need for good and reliable existing gender disaggregated data, as the span of the project would allow for interviews with project members but not field visits to collect additional information.

As a follow up to these discussions, Ana Rojas (ENERGIA) explained how out of the 16 projects that were identified initially, eight were selected. These eight studies were selected based on a previously identified set of criteria (annex II) and were explained briefly (annex III) to the expert participants. Participants were asked to give comments on the eight projects and also narrow down the choice to three/four projects. Moreover they were asked to suggest other projects that can fit with the criteria. Particular attention was dedicated to the discussion of the four previously identified sectors (renewable energy, stoves and fuel substitution, transport, and land use and forest management).

Additionally, there were general questions regarding the existence of accessible gender disaggregated data, assessments and, in particular, the manner in which gender had been included and/or identified into these cases. Answers were provided for these matters using the biogas cases as examples to illustrate how in some of the cases gender sensitivity had been included during project implementation or when it was identified to be of particular interest to the project (i.e. case of Nepal), while in others it had been identified and included since the project design phase (i.e. Pakistan). After these discussions, there was a request to show in the in-depth case studies at what phase of the project gender was mainstreamed: i.e. if this happened when implementation problems emerged or if it was included in the project proposal; or if there was gender inequality in the access to finance, limited capacity or limited access to information.

The cases for exemplifying **renewable energy projects** included the Grameen Shakti solar household systems (SHS), a CDM registered project, and the Household Energy and Universal Rural Access, a GEF funded project in Mali. After the presentation of both cases, participants commented about the additional benefits that could be extracted from the Mali case, such as the institutional building component (i.e. creation of a specialized agency –AMADER- and the creation of a rural electrification fund); additionally, it speaks about the creation of national infrastructure, a key element which is sometimes missing from the gender and mitigation discussions. Moreover, this case had other interesting characteristics, such as its "newness" (given that the Grameen Shakti is such a well known project) and the fact its follow up is Mali's Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme's (SREP) National Plan, approved in March of 2012. These elements convinced participants to choose the Mali case as it could be a stronger and more compelling case study, despite the fact it also has some significant weaknesses, including the use of diesel to fuel the 80 existing multifunctional platforms.

Two biogas projects were presented for the **stoves and fuel substation sector**, both located in Asia (Nepal and Pakistan) and registered as PoA's under the CDM. An interesting discussion emerged around the benefits of CDM's payments, as these seem to be relatively small. The outcome was the request to also highlight the private investment necessary to initiate such projects. Participants agreed that the Nepal story, including its aggregation of projects, was a powerful one especially taking into account the impressive number of CER's this project was awarded in 2013.

The potential case studies for the **transport sector** included two very different projects: a massive transport system (TransMilenio in Colombia) and a small fuel efficiency project (Fuel Efficiency in the Road Transport Sector in Pakistan). The Pakistan case got the most attention and interest in terms of the change in traditional roles for women, the sense of equality it brought through its targeted awareness raising campaigns and the involvement of a large international corporation (Suzuki). However, given the initial discussion on criteria and the need to show important numbers in emissions reductions, the group favoured the documentation of the Colombia case study, which could be used to inform another 177 potential bus rapid transit projects. Although TransMilenio is a well known project for those working on the transport sector, the gender sensitivity of this project has not been publicized and this was considered as a positive point to bring to the forefront by the

participants. There was a specific request to try and identify information on women's ridership data and present it also in the text of the case study.

Sam commented that the CDKN office in Colombia had some reservations regarding the use of this case. He volunteered to facilitate communications between the Colombia team and the case study authors to address and understand the reservations to this case.

The **land and forest management sector** was represented by two voluntary carbon projects: the Maya Nuts (Mesoamerica) and the HIMA Pilot REDD Project (Tanzania). Participants considered that much has been published about REDD projects to date and that the Maya Nuts case was fresher and stronger. Although the Maya Nuts case created much interest, participants had the feeling that this particular sector (land and forest management) was somewhat de-linked from the other three, perhaps hindering the identification of common lessons learned. For this reason and after a round of discussions it was decided not to include the land and forest management sector as one of the case studies to be researched.

The jointly agreed list of case studies is therefore:

- Renewable Energy: Household Energy and Universal Rural Access (Mali –GEF and World Bank funding)
- Stoves and Fuel Substitution: National Biogas Support Programme (Nepal –CDM PoA registered)
- Transport: TransMilenio (Colombia –CDM)

## V. Follow up

Participants engaged in a lively discussion as to how to proceed with the case studies, given that three had already been identified during the workshop but there were request to consider additional regions (i.e. East Europe) and sectors or cases (i.e. water infrastructure, housing, energy efficiency). These included:

- Water and water infrastructure- which allow to link with resources and land management
- Infrastructure
- Housing project- to also tackle energy from the demand side
- Energy efficiency- targeting users (demand) and women in particular as consumers.
- Geographical coverage so the fourth topic can be from any other region maybe see if there are any Eastern Europe projects.

Participants committed to seek additional potential case studies and share these within the coming week.

Towards the end of the workshop participants also commented it may be better to keep the case studies to the three already identified and transform the fourth case study into an encompassing document which would provide the context for the cases studies. This paper or policy brief could also summarize additional cases, in the form of info-boxes and include the above mentioned regions and sectors, if or where appropriate.

Participants also suggested reaching out to other institutions (i.e. WRI for TransMilenio project; institutions different from ESMAP for the Mali case) to request additional information or to provide additional peer review. It was also considered to involve government representatives in the review process, after the group convened in Bonn had read and provided comments to the case study drafts. A timetable for sharing case studies and providing comments with the group will be sent by Nathalie to all the participants within the coming three weeks.

## Annex I –List of Participants

# List of Participants

**Expert Workshop**: Climate Finance of mitigation and gender equality
June 8, 15:00-18:00

1) **Gotelind Alber**
   Board Member, Gendercc (g.alber@gendercc.net)
2) **Sam Bickersteth**
   CEO, CDKN (sam.bickersteth@cdkn.org)
3) **Nathalie Eddy**
   Coordinator, GGCA Secretariat (nathalie@gender-climate.org)
4) **Elizabeth Eggerts**
   Climate Finance and Gender Specialist, UNDP (elizabeth.eggerts@undp.org)
5) **Sandra Freitas**
   Climate Policy Analyst, Climate Analytics (sandra.freitas@climateanalytics.org)
6) **Rachel Harris**
   Advocacy Coordinator, WEDO (rachel@wedo.org)
7) **Mahlet Eyassu Milkie**
   Graduate Student, Columbia University (mahleteyassu@gmail.com)
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11) **Leo Roberts**
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12) **Ana Rojas**
    Climate Change & Gender Expert, ENERGIA (a.rojas@etcnl.nl)
13) **Kiran Sura**
    Head of Advocacy Fund, CDKN (kiran.sura@uk.pwc.com)
14) **Vera P Weill-Halle**
    Director of Donor Relations, PANGEA; Chairperson, Board of Directors, WOCAN (veraweillhalle@gmail.com)

## Annex II **-Case study selection criteria**

The selection criteria included:

i. Regional and Sectoral Diversity
ii. Direct link to climate-related financing, i.e. CDM, GEF, voluntary carbon credits, REDD+
iii. Robust data, especially gender relevant data:
    a. Starting date and length of the project
    b. Existence of evaluation reports
    c. Quantification of results
    d. Specific gender assessment
    e. Accessibility to interview project managers/participants
iv. How attention to gender promotes effectiveness and sustainability
    a. Broader engagement of population by including/targeting women leads to wider use of emissions reducing technologies
    b. Promotion of overall economic development as women may have expanded employment and entrepreneurial opportunities

# Annex III -Potential case studies selected for discussion

**POTENTIAL CASE STUDIES SELECTED FOR DISCUSSION**

**AT JUNE 8 WORKSHOP ON**

**MAKING THE CASE FOR ATTENTION TO GENDER**

**IN CLIMATE MITIGATION PROJECTS**

**Global Gender and Climate Alliance – CDKN**

**By: Gail Karlsson**

## 1. Renewable Energy

### 1.1. Bangladesh – GRAMEEN SHAKTI

***Project type/duration***: Grameen Shakti was created in 1996 as a not-for-profit company under the Grameen Bank. It uses market development and social entrepreneurship approaches to distribution of solar home systems in rural villages in Bangladesh. Micro-financing is used to make installations affordable. In 2007, Grameen Shakti applied for UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism financing under the new Programme of Activities methodology allowing for bundling small clean energy projects

***Scale***: By 2012, one million systems had been installed

***Gender***: The business strategy includes focusing on women as main actors and entrepreneurs of change. Women are trained and involved in solar production, marketing, repair and maintenance services, and as renewable energy entrepreneurs. Women users benefit from alternative to kerosene lamps; increased working time and availability of electricity provided by the solar home system to start small-scale businesses; communications and mobile phone charging; safety from outdoor lighting, etc.

***Development benefits***: women's empowerment, green job creation, poverty alleviation, CO2 emission reduction, promotion & dissemination of sustainable renewable energy solutions, less deforestation, reduction of fossil-fuel imports.

### 1.2. Mali – Household Energy and Universal Rural Access

***Project type/duration:*** The HEURA project was approved by the Global Environmental Facility/World Bank in 2003, with additional funding in 2009 and 2011. (The GEF is the designated financial mechanism for a number of multilateral environmental agreements and conventions, including the UNFCCC). The project was designed to remove barriers to adoption of renewable energy technologies in order to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The GEF supported the Government of Mali to set up a specialized agency (AMADER) focused on household energy and

rural electrification, and a Rural Electrification Fund aimed supporting partially start-up capital costs of rural electrification sub-projects.

***Scale:*** Over 80 sub-projects managed by 83 operators have been financed by the project, providing off-grid connections for over 75,000 households, and 1300 institutions.

***Gender:*** About half of direct project beneficiaries from electrification are women. The impact assessment study carried out in 2009/2010 showed evidence of the sizeable beneficial impact of electricity provision on income-generating activities and employment creation.

A gender assessment indicated benefits from electricity for women-owned small businesses, such as sewing shops, bakeries, beauty parlors, phone charging, food processing and restaurants, and selling chilled drinks or ice using refrigeration.

Women's associations also play an important role in remote communities as providers of energy services. After receiving training in basic accounting in local languages provided by NGOs financed through the project, they manage multifunctional platform electrification initiatives, which are village diesel motors that combine electricity production with other services such as milling, husking, pumping water, charging batteries, running lights and powering tools. Multifunctional platforms have been installed in over 81communities.

***Development benefits***: Accelerating the use of modern energy in rural and peri-urban areas increases productivity of small and medium enterprises; improves health, education and living standards; promotes more efficient use of fuel; and reduces unsustainable pressures on forest resources. The growing use of more efficient stoves is reducing indoor air pollution which primarily affects women and children in the home.

# 2. Stoves and Fuels

## 2.1. Nepal – NATIONAL Biogas Support Programme

***Project type/duration***: The National Biogas Support Programme has been implemented in Nepal since 1992. In 2009, it applied for Clean Development Mechanism financing as a Programme of Activities for widespread production and installation of household biogas plants. By providing an alternative to the use firewood, biogas systems reduce deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

***Scale***: About 40,000 biogas plants have been registered with the Clean Development Mechanism for carbon credits.

***Gender***: The project has reduced women's time spent in fuel wood collection, improved cooking and health conditions, and given women more time to engage in income-generating activities. ENERGIA, the International Network on Gender & Sustainable Energy, worked with Nepal to develop a gender mainstreaming plan, including targets for promoting women's ownership of biogas digesters, and for training women to build and manage biogas digesters.

***Development benefits***: Indoor air pollution is reduced, money is saved on fuel for lighting, time is saved from gathering firewood and income-generation increased, sanitation improves as latrines are connected to biogas, and soil fertility increases as bio-slurry is used as a fertilizer.

### 2.2. Pakistan – DOMESTIC Biogas Programme

***Project type/duration***: The Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme began in 2009 with the aim to facilitate the construction of domestic biogas plants at the household level. It is being implemented by a non-profit organization, Rural Support Programmes Network, with technical support from the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) and Winrock International. In 2012, the PDBP registered as a small scale CDM Programme of Activities.

***Scale:*** The initial goal in 2009 was to install 14,000 biogas plants in Punjab over 4 years.

***Gender*****:** Between 2009 and 2011, the PDBP undertook a gender mainstreaming process, with support from ENERGIA. The overall aim was to integrate awareness of and attention to gender-specific concerns into every aspect and level of the PDBP - particularly opportunities to involve women in the supply side as owners or promoters of biogas construction companies, and in the demand side as trainers, community organizers, income generation facilitators, micro-finance lenders and integrators of biogas into other social and economic activities. A Gender Action Plan was adopted.

***Development benefits***: The introduction of biogas will help address Pakistan's energy shortages, especially in the rural areas, and the government will benefit from reduced demand for subsidized fossil fuels. Use of biogas plants will create time savings and opportunities for entrepreneurial activities, increased lighting and electricity, and fertilizer from the slurry.

## 3. Transport

### 3.1. Colombia – TRANSMILENIO MASS TRANSIT

***Project type/duration***: The TransMilenio rapid transit system serving Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, uses interconnected bus lines with dedicated lanes for the large-scale buses. The system opened in 2000, and has gradually added additional bus lines. It was the first mass transit system approved as a CDM project by the UNFCCC. The system reduces greenhouse gas emissions because of its greater efficiency in transporting passengers and due to the partial substitution of bus trips for use of private vehicles. (Transport is the source of 25% of all greenhouse gases.)

***Scale:*** As of 2012, Bogotá had 11 rapid transit bus lines totaling 87 km (54 mi) running throughout the city, with 1,400 buses. By 2009, daily ridership was 1.4 million people.

***Gender:*** Improved public transportation services increase women's ability to travel safely to take advantage of employment opportunities, and services.

Women also are employed directly. While traditionally the transport sector has employed men, the TransMilenio system has prioritized employment of vulnerable social groups such as single mothers. In 2009, the system generated 39,869 direct jobs and 55,817 indirect jobs. Female participation is about 25% of the total system workforce, among whom 62% are single mothers, while in activities

such as fare collection and bus washing the participation of women reaches 70% and 43%, respectively.

***Development benefits:*** Before TransMilenio, Bogotá's mass transit consisted of thousands of independently operated and uncoordinated mini buses. Major benefits to the local economy come from time saved in moving around city, greater traffic safety and air quality improvement. The use of subcontractors encourages entrepreneurial activities and creation of additional employment opportunities. (The operating companies must have a percentage of participation from small owners.)

### 3.2. Pakistan – FUEL EFFICIENCY IN THE ROAD TRANSPORT SECTOR

***Project type/duration***: The FERTS project was implemented by UNDP/GEF and the National Energy Conservation Center (ENERCON) from 1996 to 2005. It was designed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions through activities to: develop a market for vehicle tune-ups by setting up demonstration centers; train workshop owners and mechanics; provide financing for tune-up centers; and promote awareness about fuel efficiency.

***Scale***: Establishment of 50 tune-up centers, training of 895 workshop owners, training of 2075 mechanics in 86 workshops, and a broad public awareness campaign.

***Gender***: A gender strategy for the FERTS project was developed in 2001 to address women's participation in each of the broad areas of project intervention: tune-up stations, awareness campaigns, revolving loan fund, and equal benefits for stakeholders.

Women were targeted for information on health benefits of fuel efficiency and the need for regular adherence to the tune up schedule for proper maintenance and longevity of vehicles, reduced repair and spare bills as well as for combating the menace of vehicular emission and air pollution.

FERTS ensured that tune-up training was gender sensitive and also provided special discounts to women drivers bringing their vehicle into tune up centers.

There were two women in Islamabad running tune-up centers - one the owner of a gasoline station and the other is an owner of a Suzuki Motors dealership.

***Development benefits***: Reduced air pollution, less reliance on imported oil, fuel/cost savings for vehicle owners, improved human capital through training of mechanics and workshop owners in the instrumented tune-up technology.

## 4. Land and Forest Management

### 4.1. Mesoamerica - MAYA NUTS

**(**Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Mexico and El Salvador)

***Project type/duration*****:** In 2001 a biologist, Erika Vohman, created The Equilibrium Fund (now the Maya Nut Institute) to help alleviate poverty, malnutrition and deforestation by teaching communities about their native Maya nut forests. The nutritious Maya nut is native to the

rainforests of Central America, but is currently endangered by unsustainable practices. Through reforesting activities, local women have been earning voluntary carbon credits for sequestering carbon through a Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) project.

***Scale***: More than 800,000 Maya nut trees have been planted.

***Gender***: The project focuses on women. More than 18,000 women across five countries (Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Mexico and El Salvador) have learned about using the Maya nut for food and income. In Guatemala, Alimentos Nutri Naturales, a Maya nut processing business owned by Ixlu women, employs more than 650 people from the community, providing them with food and a steady income. Another Guatemalan women's organization, CODEMUR - the Committee for Rural Women's Development - is using a grant from UNDP to promote Maya nut consumption, conservation and reforestation among poor communities in the southern coastal region of Guatemala.

***Development benefits***: With forest preservation comes increased food (one Maya nut tree can provide up to 400 pounds of food every year), income, and stability (through climate regulation, erosion regulation, and other services) for the residents of these countries. Value from the Maya Nut tree's other ecosystem services is also being captured.

## 4.2. Tanzania – Piloting Gender-Sensitive REDD

***Project type/duration***: The 'HIMA Piloting REDD Project in Zanzibar through Community Forest Management' is a 4-year project running from April 2010 – March 2014. 'Hifadhi ya Misitu ya Asiali' (HIMA) means conservation of natural forest. The project is supported by Norway and implemented by CARE. The overall goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Zanzibar and in doing so, generate carbon income through Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) procedures. The project also aims to provide forest-dependent communities with secure property rights, equitable rewards for providing ecosystem services, and other livelihood benefits, and to help inform Zanzibar's national REDD strategy.

***Scale:*** Development of 12 new Community Forest Management Agreements (covering 10,650 ha of forest area) and review and improve 17 existing Community Forest Management Agreements (covering 17,000 ha of forest area), plus carbon baseline assessments, and validation of the VCS methodology. Target beneficiaries comprise 16,000 rural households

***Gender***: The project is pro-poor and gender biased towards women with the aim of improving livelihood of the people through the use of their own forest resources. With regard to gender and good governance the project practices a community participatory approach in economic incentive programs where women are actively involved as equal partners.

The project has tried where possible to involve women in project activities. In REDD projects, women are increasingly and actively involved in three main areas as follows: Shehia conservation committees, community forest management, woodlots establishment, butterfly keeping schemes

and improved cooking stoves (women have organized cooperative groups that make and sell cooking stoves to various clients).

***Development benefits***: Regeneration of forests; training in forest-based income generating activities; promotion of alternative livelihoods; creation of woodlots; fuel efficiency and reduced air pollution from improved stoves.