

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY AND GENDER: THE INFORMAL FOOD SECTOR IN RWANDA, SENEGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA

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MARGE - RWANDA



CAN THE STREET FOOD SECTOR BENEFIT FROM A POLICY AND REGULATION INTEGRATED APPROACH



Energy access, use & policy



Business development



Local govt. regulations

Spatial planning

Water & services.

Location

Type of enterprise

Country	Just selling a food product	Food processing (e.g. grains, etc and selling	Food preparation and food selling	Processing, preparation (i.e. beer brewing, ginger beer) and selling prepared food	Total
Rwanda	85	17	132	6	240
Senegal	6	47	186	1	240
South Africa	44	2	223	3	271
Total	135	66	541	9	751

- 72% of the total sample active in food preparation and selling
- 67% in food preparation and selling are women owned enterprises

IFS ENERGY USE

- Our study found that micro enterprises use multiple energy sources
- Energy ladder concept as transition does not hold true in this sector
- Energy stacking – movement between traditional and modern energy - is much more realistic BUT depends on variety of factors.

SOME FACTORS FOR ENERGY USE PER COUNTRY

Only option

	Rwanda	Senegal	SA
Charcoal	76%	76%	10%
Electricity	22%	2%	13%
Gas	0%	14%	51%
Wood	1%	7%	19%

Easy to gather/access

	Rwanda	Senegal	SA
Charcoal	91%	78%	14%
Electricity	0	0%	5%
Gas	2	10%	14%
Wood	5%	8%	67%

Affordable

	Rwanda	Senegal	SA
Charcoal	83%	88%	13%
Electricity	0	1%	2%
Gas	1	9%	50%
Wood	12%	4%	31%

Ease of use

	Rwanda	Senegal	SA
Charcoal	56%	64%	13%
Electricity	22	1%	9%
Gas	11	31%	67%
Wood	8%	4%	9%

Fast

	Rwanda	Senegal	SA
Charcoal	14%	47%	10%
Electricity	36	1%	5%
Gas	42	49%	80%
Wood	8%	1%	6%

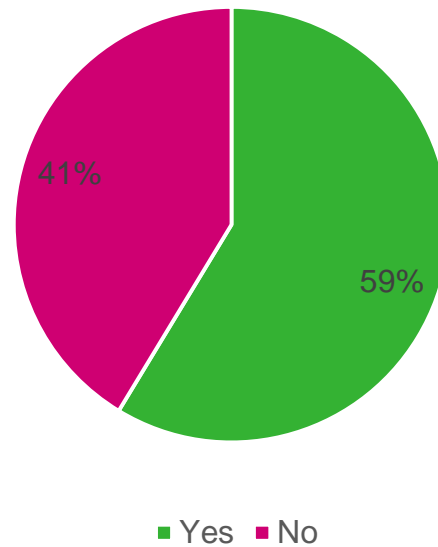
FREE BASIC ELECTRICITY

- Originally directed at energy poverty alleviation among low-income households in SA
- The same households using the subsidized energy for business purposes

Importance of Free Basic Electricity

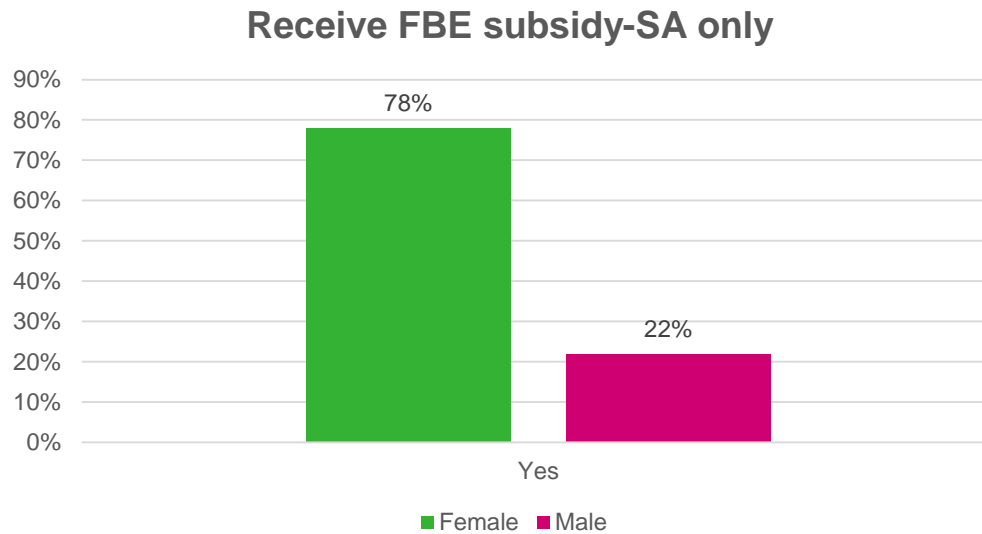
- 59% (159/270) of the SA sample receives FBE

SA sample receiving FBE



Importance of Free Basic Electricity

- 78% of the respondents receiving energy subsidies are female



Importance of Free Basic Electricity

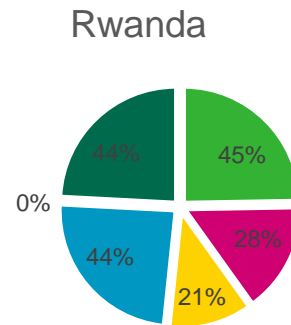
- 32% (51) of those that receive subsidies use it for home and business and 84% (43/51) are female
- 37% (50) said yes, subsidies encouraged them to start their businesses compared to 54% (74) that said no. This is significant!
- 38% (52/136) agree that their business relies on subsidies to survive – of those, 85% (44/52) are female
- 29% indicated that energy subsidies could encourage them to use other energy sources which may indicate a willingness to shift to modern energy sources where possible

LOCAL GOVT. REGULATIONS

- Influence enterprise operations – location, energy use, type of enterprise, timing
- Rwanda – highly regulated
- Senegal – no semi-formal
- South Africa – location is key

LOCATION

- Opportunities for spatial planners and informal traders to plan together?
- Location is chosen based various factors:

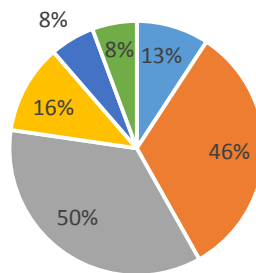


- It is close to home so i can combine work with taking care of my family
- It is a good place to attract customers
- I was told to take this location (e.g.allocated by municipality for instance)
- Available for hire
- Inherited this location
- No alternative

LOCATION

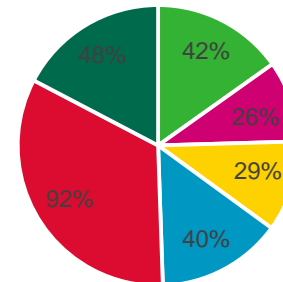
■ SA and Senegal

South Africa



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Senegal



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WATER & OTHER SERVICES

- Scoping phase interviews – water very important for cooking and hygiene
- Locations without water – have to carry water, pay informal water suppliers
- Creating another layer of informal employment

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

- How inclusive are they?
- Do they take into consideration the heterogeneity of the informal sector?
- Need to recognize that 'survivalist enterprises' have aspirations to become 'growth oriented enterprises' and have their own growth path.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- FBE's unexpected 'benefit' - 37% of those receiving subsidies in our sample were encouraged to start their business because of the energy subsidy
- Various factors motivate enterprises to use a range of energy services, not only MESs. In the IFS, it depends on the type of food prep, location, access to energy, regulation, etc.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- A variety of contextual factors influence use of different energy sources. These factors include: specific operation of the enterprise, culture of food, political economy and regulation of the informal sector, etc.
- Regardless of the type of enterprise (informal, semi-formal or formal), energy remains an important factor in enterprise operations.

DRAFT POLICY MESSAGES FROM THE STUDY

- As much as there is a need to protect and acknowledge the fact that women are dominant in this sector in these countries, it should be acknowledged that **women have same aspirations as men and ensured that they get to benefit as much as men from supporting measures**
- The IFS is here to stay and has an important role in feeding Africa's urban populations – **need to acknowledge its importance so that it can be integrated into spatial planning strategies, energy policies, business planning, service provision, etc.**
- Organize the energy supply chain better so that **traditional energy sources are accessible and of better quality**

DRAFT POLICY MESSAGES FROM THE STUDY

- Policies addressing access to household energy should also address productive uses of energy. In terms of gender equality, this would enable women-headed households to access equal opportunities as men
- Policies deliberately targeting the IFS can enable women to grow, including access to finance, access to space.
- More integration between the informal food sector stakeholders and local authorities from different sectors would be beneficial for effective interventions in the informal food sector, including for energy access.

THANK YOU

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