

Women, Renewable Energy and Energy Democracy

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Energy Democracy In Africa



WHY WOMEN?

WOMEN IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT



SOUTH ASIA
95%



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
89%



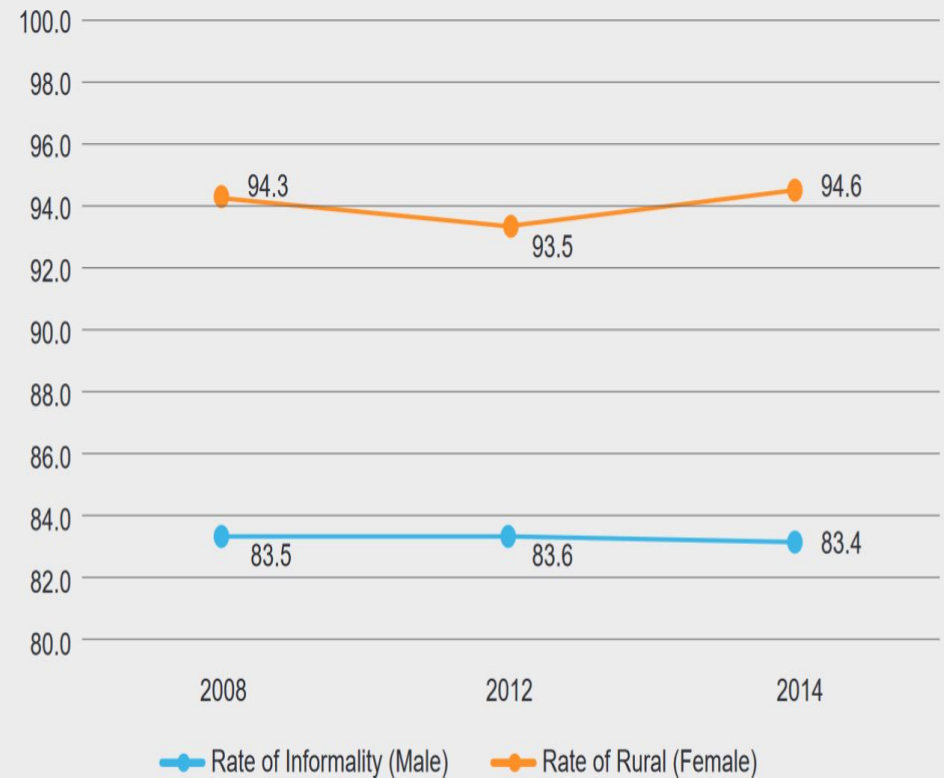
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
59%

INFORMAL WORKERS CAN INCLUDE:

- STREET VENDORS
- PETTY GOODS AND SERVICE TRADERS
- SUBSISTENCE FARMERS
- SEASONAL WORKERS
- DOMESTIC WORKERS
- INDUSTRIAL OUTWORKERS



Gender Bias in Informality




(www.unwomen.org; AN ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY IN ZAMBIA 2008 – 2012 – 2014)

Zambia 2022: 63.5 % of all employees in the informal sector - 928,218 women, 1,150,015 men

The informal urban economy is vast and persistent – and women depend on it:

“A study of urban areas in 10 emerging markets found that three out of four women working in the non-agricultural sector are informally employed”





Powering the informal economy – and women’s livelihoods. **CLEAN COOKING IS NOT ENOUGH!**

- **Researchers and policymakers focus on access to household electricity and the formal economy**
- **informal businesses also need affordable, reliable power to thrive.**
- **Informal firms “constrained by lack of energy or dependent on highly inefficient fuels or illegal electricity connections.”**
- **Productivity is low: limited access to effective, cheap energy for heating, cooling, machinery.**
- **Vague, unfocused approaches to informality in developing countries have led to a policy vacuum on energy for informal productive use WHICH PARTICULARLY AFFECTS WOMEN**

(Yael Borofsky, ETH Zurich, November 2018, Energy for Growth

SO WHY WOMEN, THE INFORMAL ECONOMY.... AND RENEWABLE ENERGY?

- ▶ Solar energy can be devolved to individual household levels and has the potential for electricity distribution affordably for low-income households
- ▶ Large numbers of SMEs are household-based – devolving decentralized electricity is better-suited for household SMEs – applications, cost, etc – **BUSINESSES RUN BY WOMEN**
- ▶ Policies and actions that tend towards the devolution and decentralization of electricity supplies will INEVITABLY impact women's livelihoods – this must involve **Res**
- ▶ The beneficial effects of decentralized electricity, **subject to local control**, are directed towards informal female labour