



Stella Odiase

Gender and Social Inclusion Lead

Stella.odiase@niafng.org

The facility model: A catalyst for socially responsive public policy action

Executive Summary

- NIAF is supporting clients to contextualize gender and social inclusion (G & SI) by providing infrastructure related policy action models. These have been adopted in planning and delivery at the following 3 strategic levels of government: regulatory oversight in the power sector; capital budgets prioritization; and planning for infrastructure jobs in Kaduna State.
- Nigeria's dynamic yet complex socio - political context requires a creative and flexible approach to policy delivery which only the technical assistance facility model is capable of providing.
- Generally, the country's policy rhetoric around G & SI is quite robust but lacks sufficient clarity on how to action the policy aspirations, especially in the non - social sectors.
- Responding to the above requires technical support that is pragmatic, prompt and nuanced.

The Challenges

- General resistance to the term 'gender 'and anything associated with it.
- Gender and social inclusion are mostly viewed from the prism of 'social welfare' within the policy space, and therefore delinked from policy discussions within the more technical or 'non - social' sectors
- Traditional donor support is mostly guided by previously agreed terms of reference and is not typically responsive to emerging realities or evolving client demands.

The NIAF Approach

The facility model enabled NIAF to begin supporting clients to integrate G & SI in infrastructure planning even after the programme had already started running. Specifically this has involved:

- **Supporting clients to identify policy commitments on G & SI that already exist in their sectors.** This has involved clarifying what exactly gender and social inclusion mean for the sectors we work with. This is necessary for two reasons. First, there are a lot of misconceptions as to what exactly these terms mean within the Nigerian context. Secondly, there are underlying concerns about their implications for already established patterns of authority and control.



Female micro entrepreneur providing feedback on electricity access

- **Working with programme managers and clients to agree on simple, realistic approaches for realizing identified G & SI policy commitments in infrastructure provision.** At this level, the focus has been on assisting clients to clarify how exactly they can deliver on some of the more ambiguous policy targets.
- **Supporting clients to collate and utilise gender disaggregated data while planning for infrastructure delivery** (e.g. in the Power sector; and also with the Kaduna state government).
- **Supporting the integration of G & SI requirements within emerging policy documents.** In order to ensure an institutionalized approach to inclusive infrastructure delivery, NIAF has worked with some clients to integrate social compliance requirements in emerging infrastructure policy documents. (e.g. The National Customer Enumeration Guidelines for Distribution Companies and the Capital Budgets Prioritization Template).

The Outcomes

- NIAF's G & SI strategy with clear, actionable interventions has continued to guide NIAF's engagement with clients. It is also expected to contribute to the global community of practice around G & SI.
- Gender disaggregated data from low income electricity consumers is now available and being used by the regulator – Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to work towards improved electricity access.
- The model for collating feedback from low income consumers in the power sector has been adopted by NERC.
- The Federal Government through the Electricity Regulator (NERC) has adopted Nigeria's first ever 'Customer Enumeration Guidelines'. The guidelines require all Distribution Companies to provide feedback regarding the total numbers of low income (and other) consumers as well as the volume of power available to different tariff classes, within each distribution region.
- The data obtained using the above guidelines is expected to influence future tariff reviews and also form a basis for policy planning to minimize consumer-specific market vulnerability.
- The Kaduna state infrastructure jobs creation process is being driven by NIAF's baseline skills scoping report.
- Social impact targeting indicators have been integrated in the national capital budgets prioritization template.