

# GHANA

WOMEN, ENERGY ACCESS AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY IN GHANA

INSIGHTS FROM THE SESA PROJECT

BIO ETHANOL BARRIER ANALYSIS



**WE DRIVE  
CHANGE**  
WOMEN IN F-MOBILITY DRIVE CHANGE

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# BIO ETHANOL BARRIER ANALYSIS

## Introduction

In Ghana, women bear the brunt of energy poverty, particularly in the area of household cooking. The shift toward clean and renewable energy sources is not only a climate imperative, but also a key step toward improving the lives and opportunities of women and girls. This factsheet highlights key findings from the SESA project's barrier analysis on bio-ethanol technology, focusing on gender-specific dimensions relevant to clean energy transitions in Ghana.

## The Gender-Energy Nexus

Cooking remains a highly gendered activity in Ghana. The majority of households, especially in peri-urban and rural areas, still rely on charcoal, firewood, or other biomass for cooking. These fuels are not only environmentally damaging but also contribute to serious health issues for women and children due to indoor air pollution. The burden of fuel collection also falls largely on women, consuming significant time and physical effort that could otherwise be invested in education, work, or rest.

The adoption of bio-ethanol as a clean cooking alternative presents a major opportunity to reduce these burdens. The report notes that women are key end-users and should be central to adoption strategies and community sensitization efforts.

## Barriers for Women

Despite the benefits, several gender-related barriers hinder the widespread adoption of clean cooking technologies like bio-ethanol. These include limited awareness of alternatives, the high initial cost of clean cookstoves and fuel, and entrenched social norms around cooking practices. In many cases, women do not have decision-making power over household energy investments, even though they are the primary users.

## Opportunities for Empowerment

Empowering women as agents of change is essential for a successful clean energy transition. The report recommends targeted awareness campaigns, access to microfinance, and the involvement of women in distribution networks. Integrating gender-responsive approaches—such as engaging women's groups and tailoring financing mechanisms to women's needs—can significantly increase adoption rates and ensure the benefits of clean technologies reach those who need them most.

## Relevance for E-Mobility

Although the report focuses on cooking fuels, its insights are transferable to the e-mobility sector. Clean energy transitions in transport, like in cooking, must consider gender-specific needs, roles, and access. Women's inclusion in e-mobility—from design and distribution to training and financing—is critical to building equitable and sustainable urban systems.

## Conclusion

Access to clean energy is a matter of equity. By addressing the gendered barriers in both household energy and transport systems, initiatives like We Drive Change can help unlock the full potential of women as drivers of sustainable development in Ghana. Clean cooking and clean transport go hand in hand as key pillars for health, empowerment, and inclusive growth.

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