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Gender and Energy Assessment in Kyrgyzstan : Main Findings

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AGENDA

1. Gender in Kyrgyz Energy Policies
2. Access to Electricity and Clean Fuels
3. Women in STEM
4. Women's Employment in the Energy Sector

1. GENDER IN ENERGY POLICIES



1. GENDER IN KYRGYZ ENERGY POLICIES

- Since late 2022, the Ministry of Energy includes a dedicated **Gender Council**, aligned with the **National Gender Equality Strategy until 2030** and the **National Action Plan for 2022-2024**, to strengthen women's participation in the energy sector
- Examples of energy-related projects that make reference to gender:
 - "Development of Small HPPs in Kyrgyzstan" (2010-2015)
 - "Sustainable Energy Financing Program in the Kyrgyz Republic" (KyrSEFF) (2013-2022)
 - "Kyrgyzstan Renewable Energy Development Project (KRED)" (2024-2028)

1. GENDER IN KYRGYZ ENERGY POLICIES

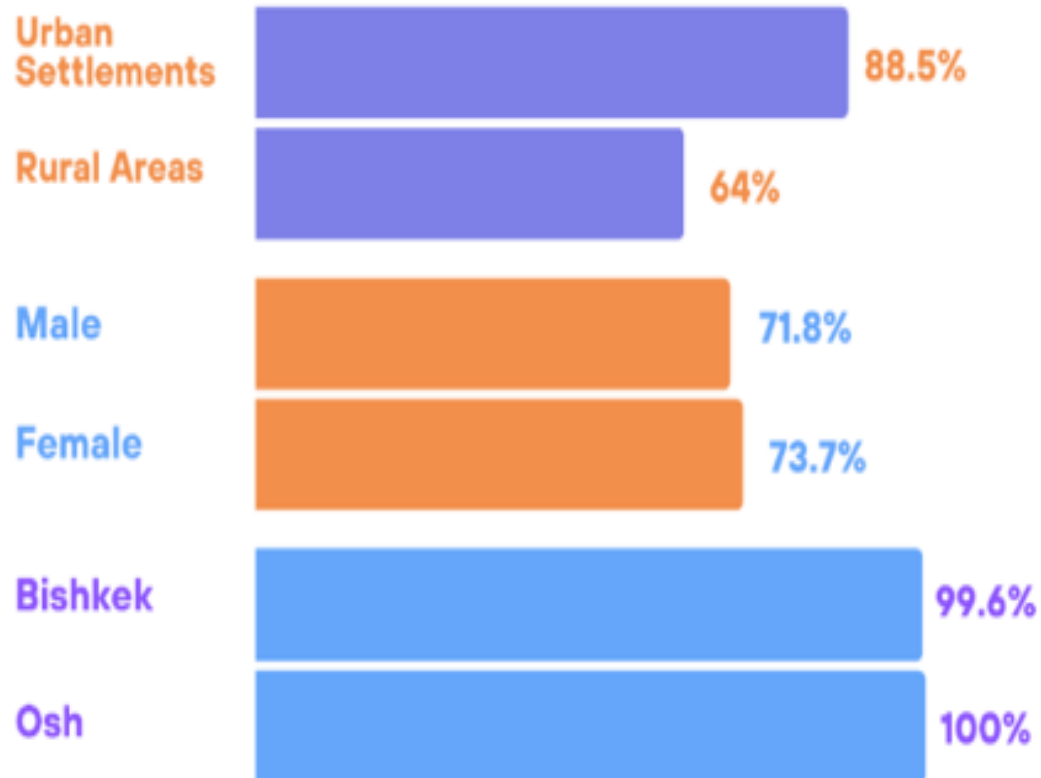
- Currently, gender aspects are acknowledged and elaborated more in the climate change context than in the energy context – e.g. the **National Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2050** includes a gender lens.
- Until recently, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic also had a Gender Focal Point. Currently unclear whether the position will continue.

2. ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY AND CLEAN FUELS



2. ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Access to Electricity in Kyrgyzstan in 2020



Source: National Statistics

- Rural areas lag behind, with only 64% having electricity access.
- Women's access to electricity is slightly higher than men's.

2. ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

General Electricity Access (2020 National Statistic Committee):

Urban areas: 88.5% of the population had access to electricity.

Bishkek and Osh: Nearly universal access, reaching 99.6% and 100% respectively.

Stable and uninterrupted electricity supply according to 2023 data from UN Women indicate that in the Kyrgyz Republic:

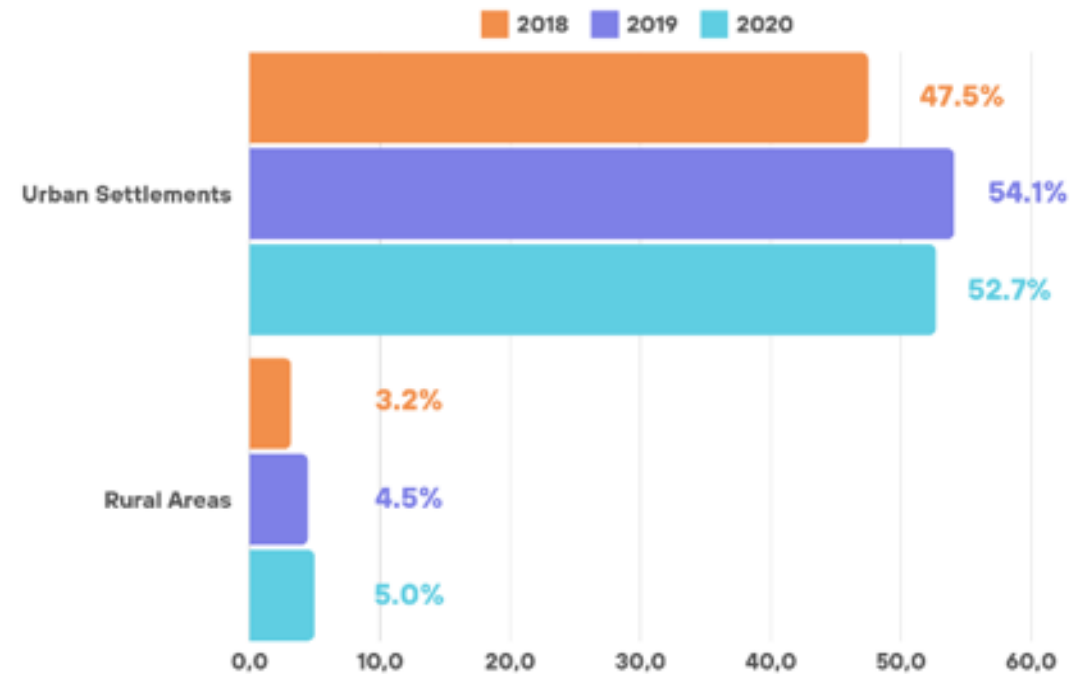
- 71% of the population had stable access to electricity
- In rural areas, only 62% of the population has stable access to electricity.
- 11.2% of households had uninterrupted electricity supply, with no power outage

2. ACCESS TO CLEAN FUELS

- In 2020, **22%** of population primarily used clean fuels for cooking and heating.

The use of clean fuels is higher in urban areas

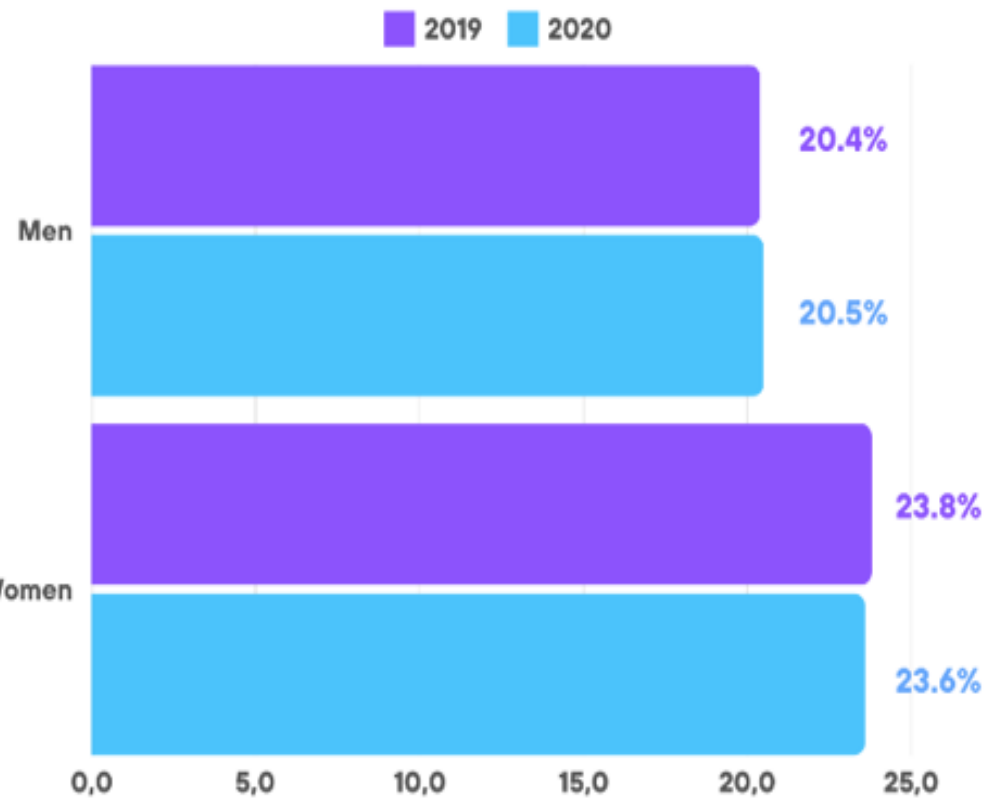
Use of clean fuels and technologies by location, 2019 – 2020



Source: National Statistics

2. ACCESS TO CLEAN FUELS

Use of clean fuels and technologies by gender, 2019 – 2020



The use of clean fuels is higher among women

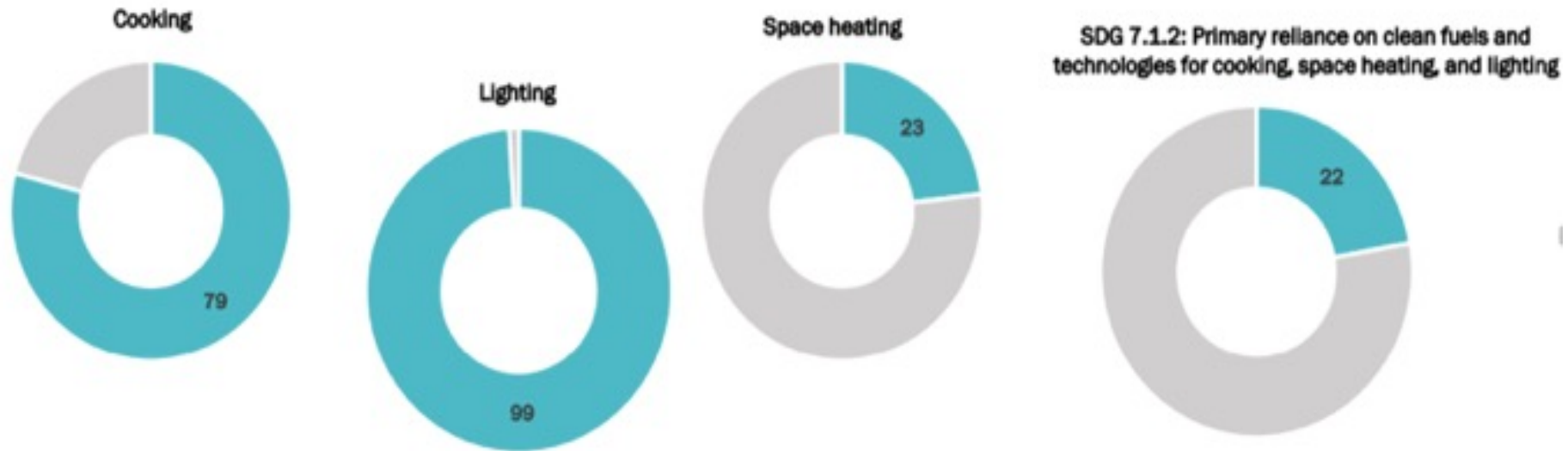
Source: National Statistics

2. ACCESS TO CLEAN FUELS

- 2023 MICS data: **78%** of household members in Kyrgyzstan relied on **polluting fuels** for cooking, heating, and lighting. 30% of rural household members and 8% of urban residents used solid fuels and open fire for cookstove for cooking.
- For **heating**: 66% of the population relies on coal, 23% on clean fuels and 9% use firewood and charcoal. To save on heating costs, many households heat only part of the house or a single room.
- For **cooking**: In 2023, 79% of households use clean fuels (with a higher % in urban areas); mostly electric stoves and centralized gas-powered stoves.

2. ACCESS TO CLEAN FUELS

Percentage of household members living in households using clean fuels and technologies for different purposes



3. WOMEN IN STEM



WOMEN IN STEM

- *Context:* In Kyrgyzstan, girls study longer than boys and are the majority of students in higher education. Boys drop out earlier to seek employment.
- There is a strong gender segregation in fields of study: At BA's and MA's levels, girls opt for education, natural sciences and service industries.
- In 2018, female graduates in STEM fields: **31.3%**.
- In the 2021-2022 academic year, girls accounted for:
 - 3.1% and 23.4% respectively of students in secondary vocational education in power engineering and in electrical engineering
 - 29% of BA and MA students in power engineering and electricity.
- In 2022, only 1/3 of women actively used the internet and were computer-literate.

BARRIERS TO WOMEN IN STEM

The 2022 Assessment of Women's Needs in STEM in Kyrgyzstan found that:

- Children choose professions based on the influence or suggestions of their parents
- Women who pursue STEM studies do so only thanks to extracurricular activities and trainings.

Barriers for girls in STEM:

- Stakeholders' limited awareness about importance of STEM
- Girls' and women's low self-confidence to pursue STEM
- Lack of role models
- Gender stereotypes in education
- Gap between policies and implementation.

Several international initiatives are ongoing in the country to attract more girls in STEM, e.g.: “STEM4ALL x Mentoring Her” (UNDP), “Girls in Science” (UNICEF)

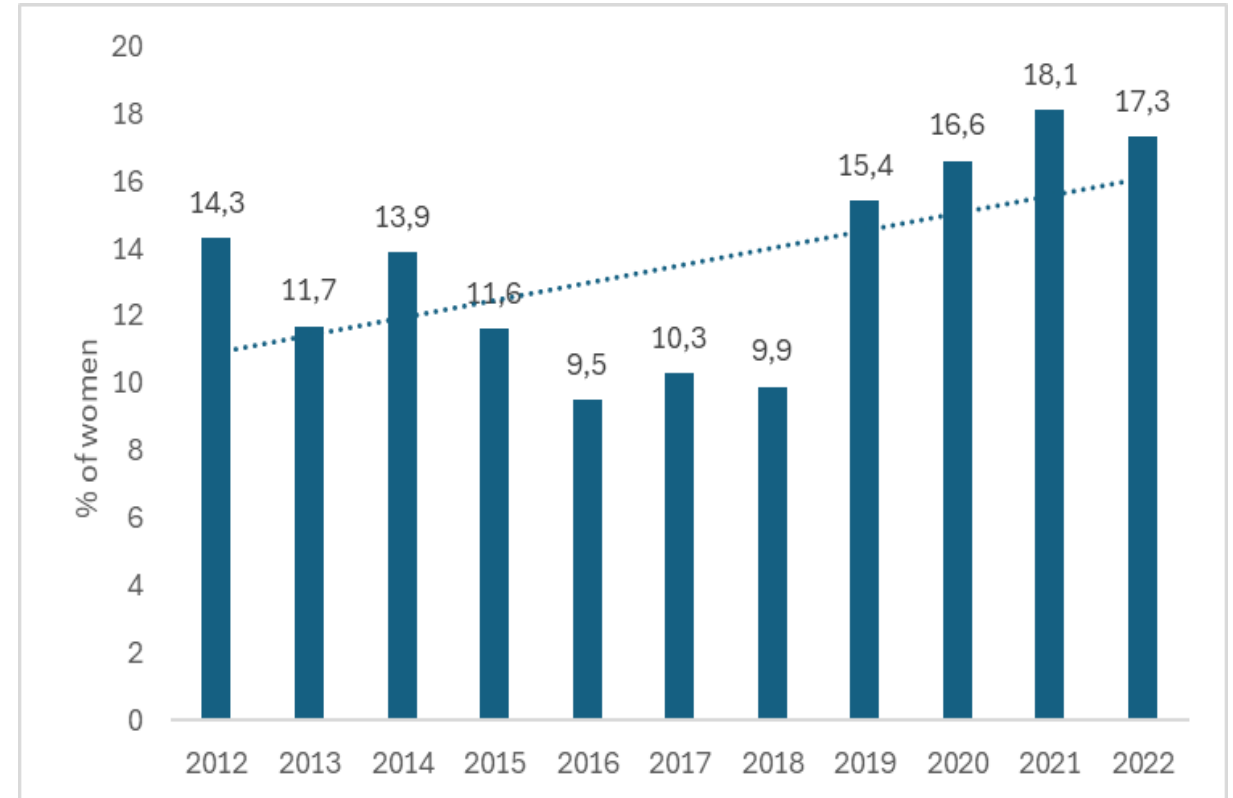
4. WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE ENERGY SECTOR



WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN ENERGY SECTOR

- The sector is substantially male dominated: In 2022, women account for only **17.3%** of the workforce in electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning.
- The share of women employed in the energy-related sectors is **increasing**, however slowly and limitedly.
- Most **leadership** and managerial positions are held by men, with women occupied in lower paid positions.

Share of women employed in electricity, steam, gas and AC supply



Source: National Statistic Committee
"Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic"

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN ENERGY SECTOR

- The **gender pay gap** persists: in 2023, women received on average 74% of men's pay.
- New initiatives aim to close the gender gap, such as:
 - - mentorship young professionals and specialists in energy
 - - training and educational programs for women seeking career advancement in energy
 - - events to promote gender equality and enhance the role of women in the country's energy sector
- In 2022, the **Association of Women in Energy** was established, to increase women's participation and leadership in the energy sector through mentoring and advocacy.



THANK YOU!

Azhar Boobekova