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Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives for Sustainable Energy and NDC Implementation in Azerbaijan

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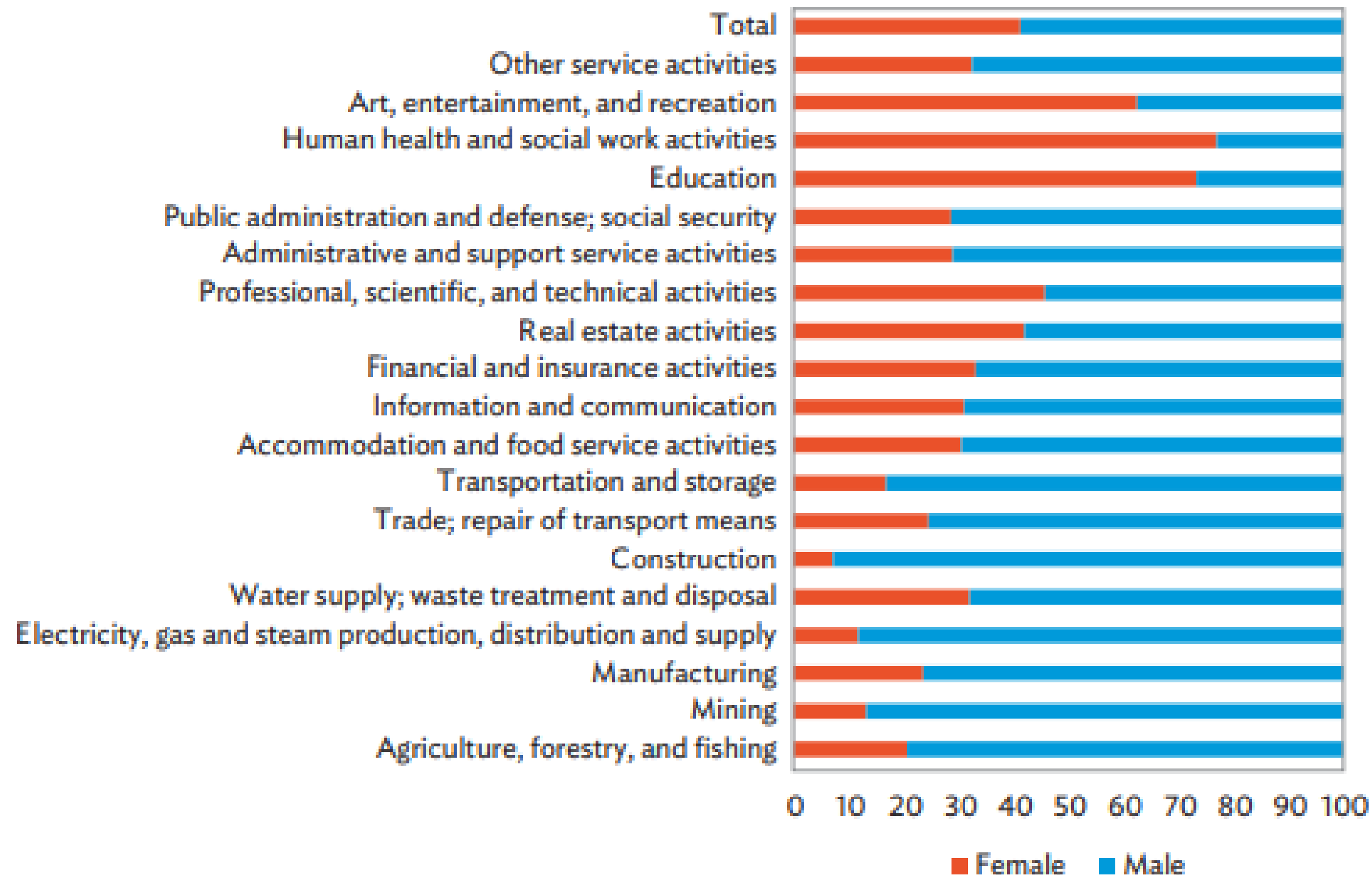
Gender and energy policy

As a strategy for achieving gender equality, gender mainstreaming involves a gradual process of change in policies, strategies and activities.

Gender Mainstreaming strategy requires for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies or programs in all fields of economy.

Both dimensions – gender representation and gender responsive content - need to be taken into consideration in all phases of the policy-making process.

Percentage by female and male employees by economic activity



Source: Republic of Azerbaijan, State Statistical Committee. 2017. *Women and Men in Azerbaijan*. Baku.

What is gender mainstreaming in the energy sector?

- ▶ Women's and men's perspectives taken into account;
- ▶ Equal opportunities for women and men to participate and be represented in energy sector decision-making;
- ▶ Knowledge and capacities of women and men validated and strengthened;
- ▶ National budgets and accounts build in women and men's needs, concerns and interests;
- ▶ Enhanced access to alternative and modern energy services that benefit both women and men equally.

Guiding elements of gender-responsive energy services

I. Women and Men as Users and Customers (Service Demand Side)

- ▶ Improve service delivery for poor households and women.
- ▶ Expand energy access and ensure affordability for the poor and low-income groups, including households headed by women.
- ▶ Introduce clean energy sources and/or appropriate technology for cooking and heating that improve women's health and reduce drudgery.
- ▶ Enhance energy-related income-generating activities of men and women, and women's entrepreneurship.
- ▶ Maximize women's employment opportunities in the energy sector.
- ▶ Implement user education programs building upon women's important roles in households and in communities.
- ▶ Apply gender-inclusive participation strategy in all stages of project design, development, and implementation.

II. Women and Men as Energy Suppliers (Service Supply Side)

- ▶ Promote women's involvement as service providers in the energy sector.
- ▶ Promote women's role as partners in public–private partnership initiatives (e.g., as owners of local franchisee partners).
- ▶ Build gender awareness among policy makers, government energy agencies, and energy utilities through targeted capacity development and training programs.
- ▶ Apply a gender-equal human resources management strategy through the effective application of gender equity laws and regulations in government energy agencies and energy utilities.
- ▶ Promote gender-responsive corporate social responsibility

NDC Implementation in Azerbaijan

The updated NDC was approved by the Government of Azerbaijan and submitted to the UNFCCC. Additionally, the process of selecting a company to develop the NDC financing strategy has been completed, and preparations for the next steps are underway.

Azerbaijan has pledged to achieve a substantial 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to the 1990 levels. This target showcases Azerbaijan's dedication to mitigating climate change and its adverse effects on the environment.

During the preparation process, specific attention was given to the climate finance landscape of Azerbaijan. The assessment included a review of funding gaps necessitating private sector investments to drive Azerbaijan toward achieving its climate targets. The evaluation also emphasized the importance of gender policies, and multilateral financial mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF), and other relevant climate finance strategies and mechanisms.