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## **Gender mainstreaming and women's right to adequate housing**

an analysis of housing policymaking in Ecuador

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## Summary

The existing gender gap regarding housing mainly affects women negatively. In Ecuador, this disparity is highly significant (Acosta, 2019). This has affected the women's right to adequate housing, hampering their socio-economic rights that limit their access to proper accommodation. Therefore, a gender-sensitive approach is required to fulfil their housing rights. Despite there is a regulatory framework of gender mainstreaming for the Ecuadorian public institutions, the housing sector little embraces regarding gender perspective in its structural, regulatory and participation levels.

This study aims to comprehend how gender is mainstreamed in the housing sector, using the Ecuadorian case as an example. This research tries to analyse the gender theories and housing literature and how they are implemented in practice. The study also looks into the gender barriers women face daily and how it affects their affordability and accessibility, culminating in gendering the right to housing.

The research adopts a *case study* approach as a research strategy with an emphasis on qualitative techniques. The study was done with semi-structured interviews based on open-ended questions. The research was conducted on 18 respondents, nine from housing civil servants and nine from non-government organisations and gender experts. Additionally, content analysis was used to analyse existing housing public policies and gender plans to identify how the public policies in Ecuador are implemented under the lens of gender.

The study has found that housing has not been fully recognised as a gender equality issue in the housing policies of Ecuador. It has been acknowledged that housing as a gender problem has much to do with the inactions of public decisions. Besides, it has been challenging to study gender mainstreaming in the housing sector as an isolated strategy. The study suggested that gender mainstreaming should be done comprehensively for all public institutions at all levels as an integral component. It is imperative to include gender awareness and gender inclusiveness at the national and municipal levels to achieve horizontal gender equality in public institutions, allowing them to develop knowledge and tools to implement housing policies under affordable and accessible adequate housing principles.

## Keywords

gender mainstreaming, housing in Ecuador, affordability, accessibility, women's right to housing.

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## Foreword

This research is conducted for the submission to the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, as the requirements to obtain an MSc degree in Urban Management and Development for the specialisation of Urban Housing, Equity and Social Justice. The subject of this thesis is gender mainstreaming and its relation with women's right to housing from an analysis of housing policies in Ecuador.

The topic is necessary to be discussed as currently, access to adequate housing is a gender equality issue becoming a challenge to overcome for housing policies. In this context, the problem for women is even more significant. Thus, an approach is necessary for improving women and gender diversity their right to adequate housing. Efficient gender mainstreaming in housing policies might benefit this approach. As there is a limited previous study about the role of gender mainstreaming in the housing context, this research might start the discussion and bring the issue forward.

## Abbreviations

ANI	Agenda Nacional de las Mujeres y Personas LGBTI 2018-2021 ( <i>National Agenda of Women and LGBTI Persons</i> )
CPT	Intervención emblemática “Casa para Todos” ( <i>Emblematic Intervention “House for All”</i> )
EFC	Estrategia de Fortalecimiento Comunitario ( <i>Strategy for Community Strengthening</i> )
GBGAD	Guía Básica para la Incorporación de la Perspectiva de Género e Interseccionalidad en los Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados ( <i>Basic Guide for Gender Mainstreaming and Intersectionality in Decentralized Autonomous Governments</i> )
MIDUVI	Ministerio de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda ( <i>Ministry of Housing and Urban Development</i> )
MM	Intervención Emblemática “Misión Mujer” ( <i>Emblematic Intervention “Women’s Mission”</i> )
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
UN	United Nations

# Table of Contents

Summary.....	ii
Keywords .....	ii
Acknowledgements .....	iii
Foreword.....	iv
Abbreviations .....	iv
List of Graphs.....	vi
List of Tables .....	vi
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Background and Problem Statement .....	7
1.2 Relevance of the research topic .....	8
1.3 Research Objectives .....	9
1.4 Main research question and research sub-questions.....	9
1.4.1 Sub-questions: .....	9
<b>Chapter 2: Literature review .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	10
2.2 Housing policies and gender .....	10
2.3 Gender mainstreaming .....	11
2.3.1 Preliminary concepts .....	11
2.3.2 Mainstreaming gender in policymaking.....	12
2.3.3 Gender mainstreaming as a policy evaluation tool.....	13
2.3.4 Gender awareness .....	14
2.3.5 Gender inclusiveness .....	15
2.4 Women’s right to adequate housing.....	16
2.4.1 The right to adequate housing for women.....	16
2.4.2 Women’s right to affordable housing.....	17
2.4.3 Women’s right to accessible housing.....	18
2.5 Conceptual framework .....	18
<b>Chapter 3: Research design, methods and limitations .....</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1 Research strategy.....	19
3.2 Operationalisation: variables, dimensions and indicators .....	19
3.3 Research methodology .....	21
3.4 Sample size.....	23
3.5 Challenges and limitations .....	24
3.5.1 Reliability .....	24
3.5.2 Internal and External Validity .....	25
<b>Chapter 4: Data analysis .....</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 First impression of the relationship between housing and gender .....	25
4.2 Description of the case study policies .....	26
4.3 Independent variable: Gender mainstreaming.....	27
4.3.1 Variable: Gender awareness .....	27
4.3.1.1 Gender analysis.....	27
4.3.1.2 Gender strategies .....	29
4.3.2 Variable: Gender inclusiveness .....	30
4.3.2.1 Transformative participation .....	30
4.3.2.2 Instrumental participation.....	30
4.3.3 Relationship between gender awareness and gender inclusiveness variables.....	31
4.4 Dependent variable: Women’s right to adequate housing.....	32
4.4.1 Variable: Affordability .....	32
4.4.1.1 Housing costs and women income .....	32

4.4.2 Variable: Accessibility .....	33
4.4.2.1 Eligibility criteria.....	33
4.4.2.2 Finance methods .....	34
4.4.2.3 Location of public housing projects .....	34
4.4.3 Relationship between affordability and accessibility variables.....	35
4.5 Relationship between gender mainstreaming and women’s right to adequate housing.....	36
<b>Chapter 5: Conclusions and recommendations .....</b>	<b>38</b>
5.1 Conclusions on the research sub-questions .....	38
5.2 Conclusion on the main research question .....	41
5.3 Relevance of the main findings .....	42
5.4 Lessons and recommendations.....	42
5.4.1 Recommendations for housing policymaking .....	42
5.4.2 Recommendations to future research .....	43
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Annex 1: Research instruments: interviews guidelines .....</b>	<b>48</b>
.....	50
.....	51
<b>Annex 2: List of interviewees .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Annex 3: Code list .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Annex 4: Research time Schedule .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Annex 5: Notes.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Annex 6: IHS copyright form .....</b>	<b>57</b>

## List of Graphs

Graph 1: Gender mainstreaming conceptualisation .....	16
Graph 2: Conceptual framework .....	18
Graph 3: Data collection tools: triangulation.....	22
Graph 4: Sample size explanation: semi-structured interviews .....	23
Graph 5: Main words founded across data analysis.....	25

## List of Tables

Table 1: Operationalisation: Gender mainstreaming concept. ....	20
Table 2: Operationalisation: Women’s right to adequate housing. ....	21
Table 3: Regulatory framework for gender mainstreaming in Ecuador.....	27
Table 4: Relationships between gender awareness and gender inclusiveness.....	31
Table 5: Relationships between affordability and accessibility.....	35
Table 6: Relationships between gender mainstreaming and women’s right to adequate housing.....	36

# Chapter 1: Introduction

## 1.1 Background and Problem Statement

The right to adequate housing is a human right (UN-Habitat, 2014) acknowledged by the United Nations (UN) in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Convention reinforced women's right to housing on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. However, housing is perceived more as a male concern (United Nations, 2012; Adebola, 2020). The problem of housing does not take women into account very often. According to UN-Habitat (2014), women invest significantly in productive and reproductive activities, social interaction, and community sustenance. Women use housing as an idea of protection, recreation, economic activities, and the enjoyment of available services and infrastructure. Therefore, housing is a significant gender concern, especially a women's issue (United Nations, 2012), which has not been formally recognised within the public sector. According to the UN (2014), recognising women's right to adequate housing and its realisation is a huge breach today. This research has tried to address this gap.

In Ecuador, since 1998, the "right to housing" was established within the Ecuadorian Constitution to reduce the country's housing deficit. This recognition continued when in 2008, the National Constitution was reformed, which included the right to access to adequate housing as a variable to revert social segregation by ensuring inclusive access to adequate housing for all (SHAH, 2015; MIDUVI, 2018). However, housing has not been considered a gender issue in Ecuador.

The current gender gap mainly affects women negatively (Rolnik, 2011). It limits women's full access to housing and hampers their living conditions. The 'absence of women perspective' and 'gender policymaking focus' in urban planning has been strongly advocated by professional feminists since 1970 (Lombardo, Meier, & Verloo, 2016). Now, it has become necessary to untangle the gender gap to bring out women's necessities and rights in a clear and transformative way. It has also become essential to visualise how gender-neutral approaches in policymaking have become ineffective to address issues faced by women.

To address the problem mentioned above, gender mainstreaming is used in urban planning to reach an inclusive society giving equal rights for men and women (Abdelmoaty, Saadallah, & Bakr, 2021). Existing policies are needed to become gender-aware by including gender experts and civil society in policymaking processes (Lombardo et al., 2016; Walby, 2005). In this way, gender mainstreaming will become a policy tool essential in developing countries as a form of feminist politics to secure gender equality (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010).

The UN has identified gender mainstreaming as one of the most tactical instruments in policies to reach the Platform for Action's ambitious goals in the UN system (Moser, 2012). However, gender mainstreaming was partially successful in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It failed to create a proper impact on gender equality (Moser, 2012). This happened due to the false assumption, in the beginning, that gender equality was already taken into account for designing MDG. In reality, it had a weak gender-sensitive knowledge (Lombardo et al., 2016). Since then, several governments have implemented gender mainstreaming across their policy guidelines but not in practice. This vagueness in gender mainstreaming leaves gender evaluation without any transformative goal (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019).

In the Ecuadorian case, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MIDUVI) and the Municipal Public Corporations of Urbanisation and Housing (EMUVI) are the public entities in charge of the “Casa Para Todos” (CPT) housing policy and its implementation at the national and municipal levels, respectively. On the other hand, the National Agenda of Women and LGBTI Persons (ANI) and the Emblematic Intervention “Women’s Mission” (MM) are the two main plans for gender mainstreaming in the public sector in Ecuador. Despite the presence of gender mainstreaming plans in Ecuador, how gender is incorporated in the housing public domain are not explicit as an evident approach. Therefore, gender mainstreaming in Ecuadorian housing policies requires gendering processes, which involves feminist bureaucrats, academics, and gender-based organisations (NGOs) in policy development (Lombardo et al., 2016). This can help to reshape gender-related housing challenges in future.

According to Lombardo et al. (2016), it is necessary to study how gender is mainstreamed in the housing domain by challenging hierarchical gender representation, questioning policy processes, and analysing how the daily living conditions of women are encompassed in decision-making processes. This process could identify how gender mainstreaming affects the gendered right to adequate housing.

The right to housing is much more than just access to a shelter; it covers the right to enjoy the urban space and participate in the social and economic dynamics of the city (Buckingham, 2010; Turok, 2015). Adequate housing embraces the critical relationship between the target group and their access to housing programs, housing finance, and urban infrastructure and the relation between household income and housing cost (Ayala et al., 2019). However, the economic instability, wage gap and informality women currently face hampers the chances for women to achieve their right to adequate housing. It is a fact that gender inequality negatively affects women’s development (UN-Habitat, 2014). Therefore, it is crucial to recognise women’s right to adequate housing by analysing how gender mainstreaming is implemented in housing policies. The study should include cross-sectoral approaches as a requirement within the practical and academic field, acknowledging that housing policymaking and academic discussion so far have paid less attention to gender mainstreaming (Beebeejaun, 2017; Whitson, 2018).

## **1.2 Relevance of the research topic**

The significance of this research derives from the need to comprehend the relationship between housing policies and gender mainstreaming through the analysis of gender theories, housing literature and how they are put into practice. According to Lombardo et al. (2016), more study is needed about gender equality and its level of incorporation in policymaking. The analysis of housing policy from an Ecuadorian perspective would provide further knowledge about how gender is mainstreamed in housing policies and how this process impacts women’s right to adequate housing in Ecuador.

From the scientific point of view, this research tries to understand how the gender barriers that women face daily affect their rights towards housing through the lens of affordability and accessibility, intending to gendered the right to housing. As Falú (2017) argues, in the production of spaces, the gender approach is a theoretical-political category that shows the intersectionality across society. Nevertheless, the gender approach has not been incorporated by urban academics or gender experts in public policy (Acosta, 2019). It has not been adequately addressed in complex sectors such as urban land and housing (O N Moser, 2017). The housing domain literature has not actively acknowledged equal rights between men and



women in this sector (UN-Habitat, 2014). Therefore, the current study tries to illustrate and explain why gender is not fully embedded in housing policymaking.

This research seeks to position gender perspective in the current housing discourse by opening the floor to discuss housing as a gender equality issue. It also tries to see how the problem is considered in public policymaking in Ecuador.

Today, due to the prevalent gender inequality in the Global South, it is crucial to study and acknowledge women's position as an integral part of housing policymaking. This study aims to understand how the gender perspective has been included in governance (Vacchelli & Kofman, 2018) by identifying gender mainstreaming inferences in housing development and how its relationship impacts women's right to adequate housing.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

This research aims to understand how gender is mainstreamed in policymaking in Ecuador and how that process contributes or does not contribute to the critical understanding of gender barriers affecting the right to affordable and accessible housing for women. Besides using Ecuador as context, this study aims to discuss why housing is a gender equality issue within the housing policies development. Further, this research focuses on the relationship between gender mainstreaming and women's right to adequate housing. It tries to identify why the incorporation of the gender perspective in the housing sector is essential to achieve gender equality and fulfil women's human rights. Finally, the study reflects how gender equality plays a critical role in developing housing policies and provides tools to formulate urban policies with an affirmative gender approach.

### **1.4 Main research question and research sub-questions**

How does gender mainstreaming or the lack thereof in housing policymaking affect women's right to affordable and accessible housing in Ecuador?

#### **1.4.1 Sub-questions:**

1. How gender mainstreaming is addressed in the housing policymaking in Ecuador?
2. How the Ecuadorian housing policy covers affordability and accessibility principles of adequate housing regarding women's life conditions?
3. To what extent does gender mainstreaming contribute to the right to affordable and accessible housing of women in Ecuador?

## **Chapter 2: Literature review**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the conceptualisation of the research through the concepts used within the academic debate regarding the study. Firstly, it enquires about a brief analysis of housing policy theories and gender. Secondly, gender mainstreaming is discussed as a tool to evaluate the policymaking process theorising two different approaches: gender awareness and gender inclusiveness. Lastly, the right to adequate housing is explained in detail through the lens of affordability and accessibility, with an especial focus on women's perspectives. In summary, it discusses why housing is a gender problem.

### **2.2 Housing policies and gender**

A global overview shows how housing policies have stressed socio-economic inequalities in Latin America (Lima, 2020). For instance, countries like Chile, Colombia, Panama and Ecuador have opted for a direct subsidised housing supply for the low-income population. This mechanism was chosen because of the precarious economic situation of the target group, which does not allow them to be eligible for banks loans (Rojas, 2019). On the other hand, it has been found that housing policies can generate injustice behind the austerity of social housing projects (Hamman, 2014 & Honig, 2017), resulting in urban segregation. Moreover, to fulfil the housing supply as promised, most housing projects have been located in the city's outskirts, generating many more vulnerabilities for the target group (Imilan, Olivera, & Beswick, 2016). However, the lack of diversity in strategies implemented by the public entities to solve housing shortages (Rojas, 2019) have perpetuated ineffective housing policies which fail to solve accommodation problems, especially for the most vulnerable group.

In countries like the USA, Canada, and Australia, housing policies opted for the "residual method" to support the poor population and more marginalised groups (Watt, 2017), where women are also part of the group (UN-Habitat, 2014). However, the current performance and priorities of housing policies limit gender inclusion in their development (Lombardo et al., 2016). It hampers the implementation of the gender perspective in housing policies. This is also supported by the United Nations (2012), which says that gender equality in housing legislation has hardly been achieved.

In addition, due to the inherent patriarchal and cultural practices in the government's structure, gender-neutral policies generally turn a blind eye towards women's circumstances and needs. The cultural sphere of male dominance is an obstacle to women's housing rights (Adebola, 2020). Gender-related problems as a social construction of the difference between men and women in terms of hierarchy, inequality in women's access to economic resources, and the scarce representation of women in political processes (Bosh, 2017) hinder women's right to housing. Therefore, the patriarchal belief like housing is only a male concern Adebola (2020), continues to deprive women of their housing rights.

Finally, the notion of the hetero-patriarchal family still challenges gender implementation in housing policies (Reid, 2012). The male-controlled concepts as the family wage (Hohmaan, 2018) and the stereotype that women are the sole caregivers of housework (UN-Habitat, 2014) have been a perpetual gender limitation that housing policies have little taken into account till now. Mainly, housing policies based on conservative theories force women to remain

dependent on men for their housing. Therefore, depending on social context, beliefs and cultural norms under which the housing policy is conceived, it can produce or counteract gender inequality (Lombardo et al., 2016).

## **2.3 Gender mainstreaming**

### **2.3.1 Preliminary concepts**

Gender mainstreaming has been discussed from the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action by governments worldwide. According to the European Institute for Gender Equality, gender mainstreaming is based on incorporating the gender perspective into policy practice. It seeks to restructure the existing feminist theory by including “a new form of gendered political and policy practice and a new gendered strategy for theory development” (Walby, 2005, p. 321). Therefore, gender mainstreaming has been used to assess the incorporation of the gender perspective in political, economic, social planning processes and public policies (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019).

The main aim of gender mainstreaming is to foster gender equality and women empowerment by policy support at all levels (Moser, 2012). However, it has been widely discussed concerning its scope. This tension is reflected by how it deals with the fulfilment of gender equality and how it is incorporated into the feminist theory (Walby, 2005). Thus, to achieve a successful gender mainstreaming, Walby (2005) mentions the following ways:

- Focus on the concepts of “sameness” and “difference/transformation” as different strategies to achieve gender equality.
- Identify methods used to achieve gender equality.
- Interconnect between gender mainstreaming and other inequalities.
- Explore the relationship between “expertise” and “democracy” with the public policies.
- Find inferences of international regimes on human rights discourse opted by gender mainstreaming development.

Another perspective regarding the scope of gender mainstreaming started with feminist theories encompassing gender mainstreaming, which have to deal with traditional social norms. It implies that the process can become challenging when prioritising gender equality (Walby, 2005). According to The Council of Europe, the goal of gender equality is not to push women towards the same living standards as men. On the contrary, it acknowledges the inherent differences between women and men development into society. Here, gender equality seeks equal participation, empowerment, and involvement of both sexes in public and private life (Walby, 2005).

The challenges of the “sameness and difference” concepts within feminist theory have brought out social dilemmas discussed in traditional policies with different institutional domains. It usually places women under the standards of equality set by and for men (Walby, 2005). The current gender gap is marked by negative implications in women’s lives, mainly about the labour market and political and administrative representation (Abdelmoaty, Saadallah, & Bakr, 2021). These ideas compel the research to focus on the female perspective. It is necessary to acknowledge that today gender inequality exists because of the traditional society where women have been treated differently than men.

Finally, women empowerment is one of the main branches within the gender mainstreaming framework. This aspect entails women representatives in public policy and includes women's bureaus, movements and organisations within the state development (Walby, 2005). According to Moser (2017), the challenge goes beyond acknowledging women as a vulnerable group. Changes should start at the root level, where the involvement of women is not only at the quantitative level but also in a comprehensive manner. It is necessary to recognise the power of gender inequalities, women's rights as common rights and subsequently push them to a structural change favouring gender equality (Cornwall, 2016).

### **2.3.2 Mainstreaming gender in policymaking**

Gender mainstreaming aims to decrease gender inequalities by producing cost-effective results in its implementation (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010). However, the question arises of how public policies "do" gender mainstreaming? Otero-Hermida & Bouzas (2019) mention that making equality plans can influence policy instruments to mainstream gender, reaching more transformative outcomes, which means results leading to gender fairness.

There are two main strategies discussed in the literature regarding gender mainstreaming in housing. The first strategy outlines how to incorporate supportive methods to achieve gender equality at all levels of policymaking (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010). The second strategy tells how to contextualise the current women's situation regarding the gender gap. This is supported by the idea that "isolated measures directed at women cannot be considered gender mainstreaming" (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019, p. 868).

Nevertheless, gender mainstreaming has been mainly jeopardised due to the institutional resistance to change (Lombardo & Mergaert, 2016) and the perpetuation of gender-neutral approaches in public policies. The rigidity of societal structure leads to many negative aspects that have caused women's inability to integrate into society (Abdelmoaty et al., 2021). Access to affordable housing for women is one of them. Therefore, the housing policy assessment from a women lens is crucial to reach gender equality in the public housing sector (Lombardo et al., 2016).

Women and men have different needs, roles and interests regarding housing. Therefore, it is crucial to identify these differences, then applying and conceptualising them throughout the policymaking process. In this regard, gender mainstreaming as a tool can positively restructure the gender-related challenges in the housing sector. Women's involvement can play a critical role in gendering the housing sphere (Irazábal & Angotti, 2017) by including women as part of the decision-making and at the same time generating gender awareness in the development of housing policies. The result will be successful when women are genuinely involved in the process (Abdelmoaty et al., 2021).

The current gender mainstreaming strategy is mainly designed and implemented by public policies (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010). Therefore, when policymakers assume that gender analysis in policies is enough to comply with procedural compliance, it encourages ignorance towards unequal gender representation (Lombardo et al., 2016) and limits the positive scope of housing policies for women. Moreover, the lack of consideration of factors such as uneven access to job opportunities, the wage gap between men and women, and the low female participation in the decision-making process only further reinforce women's disadvantageous position in society (Abdelmoaty et al., 2021).

The effect of gender mainstreaming on housing policies has not been successful due to the lack of tangible outcomes (Moser, 2012) and the failure to address women's disadvantageous circumstances (United Nations, 2012). Therefore, it is necessary to question the ongoing androcentric housing policy development (Lombardo et al., 2016). It can be done by considering policymaking as a creative and productive practice, where gender mainstreaming is part of the beginning of the process. Besides, as Bacchi & Eveline (2006) argue, gender mainstreaming should be focused on the process of "gendering" policies, using it as a verb rather than a noun. However, to understand how it works, it is essential to consider the continuing evolution of cultural, social, economic and political contexts which influence how gender mainstreaming is conceived into policies. For the objective of the current research, gender mainstreaming is also used as a verb. It has been used to assess community, gender-based organisations and gender experts incorporation in the policymaking and evaluate the level of gender awareness in housing policies (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019).

### **2.3.3 Gender mainstreaming as a policy evaluation tool**

In urban planning, gender mainstreaming seeks to design an inclusive society for men and women by raising human rights awareness (Abdelmoaty et al., 2021). However, much of the urbanism through which policy development has been just proposed are done by men. Therefore, the process of gender mainstreaming includes the assessment of policy implications on gender diversity by considering their experiences and differences as integral factors in policymaking (Moser, 2012).

The UN identify essential aspects to mainstream gender into policies. These factors are based on gender equality, gender analysis, and gender active roles in decision-making processes. Gender mainstreaming is also grounded in creating a more comprehensive and transformative approach (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010). It develops more inclusive and participatory democratic practices involving experts, individuals and organisations into the gender mainstreaming agenda setting (Walby, 2005). According to Rai (2003), gender mainstreaming is a process of gender democratisation. It focuses on women's perspectives in policymaking and including NGOs and gender experts as essential actors for an effective gender awareness incorporation.

To achieve an effective gender mainstreaming process, Bacchi & Eveline (2010) suggested to comprehend how gender is understood, how it is applied and how its knowledge and application level are embraced in policymaking. It entails the level of gender awareness present in the housing policy framework and civil servants. Therefore, it should be comprehended as a policy practice (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019), where gender awareness is a fundamental asset among technocrats and bureaucrats, applicable in policy guidelines.

Gender mainstreaming as a policy evaluation tool can be interpreted as a framework that promotes a transformative change within the policies intending to include women's perspective as one of the cornerstones of women's empowerment in policymaking processes. Therefore, organisations as the UN discuss the need to comprise gender awareness actions and social actors' involvement in developing gender reconciliation policies (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019). It is also vital to evaluate how gender implementation affects policies and how policies affect gender equality.

As described above, there are a variety of gender mainstreaming approaches. It embraces gender equality and women empowerment theories where social, political and cultural contexts and theoretical knowledge influence its achievement. For this research, the gender

mainstreaming approach is investigated regarding the housing sector of Ecuador. It is based on two main categories of analysis. They are *gender awareness* (knowledge); and *gender inclusiveness* (participation). The relationship between these two aspects is explored to comprehend how gender awareness in housing policy development influences gender-based organisations and gender experts' participation in the housing sector. Therefore, it is essential to analyse both variables and their interconnection to understand further how gender mainstreaming works in housing policies.

### 2.3.4 Gender awareness

In this research, *gender awareness* refers to the conditions under which gender analysis is conceived in housing policies, considering that it demands a high understanding of gender knowledge and gender equality among civil servants (Lombardo et al., 2016; Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019) and policy framework. Also, introducing gender awareness in policymaking allows civil servants to apply gender strategies to 'do' gender mainstreaming (Bacchi & Eveline, 2006) in housing policies. In the following section, both gender analysis and gender strategies have been discussed.

*Gender analysis* includes five indicators. Firstly, according to Bacchi & Eveline (2010), how the *level of gender perspective in the housing policy* is incorporated and how it stresses the needs of the disadvantaged groups determines the degree to which housing policymaking encompasses gender equality.

Secondly, it is necessary to distinguish the *level of perception of gender among civil servants* to know how they are gender-aware (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010; Moser, 2012). The aim is to understand how policy guidelines and who produced them implement gender perspectives in housing policymaking.

Thirdly, the lack of gender awareness is mainly reflected in the limited women's political and technical roles (Acosta, 2019). Therefore, it is necessary to challenge *gender representation* by considering the power effects of difference and the diversity of women's rights experiences (Cornwall, 2013) in public institutions to bring up female practitioners with voice and vote in the public sphere. This is based on "sameness and difference" models, which means equal opportunities and treatment for women's inclusion in decision-making processes (Walby, 2005).

Fourthly, it is crucial to acknowledge that most civil servants are trapped in typical gender discourses (Lombardo & Mergaert, 2016). Cultural approaches generally have male partiality in public policies, although they appear neutral (Lombardo et al., 2016). It shows how gender bias suppresses knowledge about the disadvantaged circumstances in which women continue to live. Therefore, it is essential to identify how predetermined *gender roles* through cultural and social construction are perceived by civil servants (Cornwall, 2016), who are in charge to place gender discourses in housing policy guidelines and the institutional framework. According to the Geographer Kim England (1991), as cited by Kern (2019), gender roles are reflected by patriarchal social norms. The relationship between housing, gender, and domestic labour division is defined by who, where, and when those activities occur.

Finally, upon understanding the relationship between gender mainstreaming and other inequalities (Walby, 2005), it is necessary to have *gender-disaggregated data* regarding race, ethnicity, age, caste, and socio-economic conditions (United Nations, 2012). It depicts how women's living circumstances are perceived in housing policies to "do" gender by creating a

solid gender-differentiated database that makes it possible to see the gender differences (Cornwall, 2013).

The second dimension evaluated is *gender strategies*. It discusses *types of techniques used to mainstream gender equality* in the housing sector, which incorporates training methods to provide different tools for gender knowledge advocacy (Cornwall, 2013). These training include workshops and talks on gender equality within public institutions as constant activities that internalise the acquired knowledge (Acosta, 2019). Additionally, this study also considers the *existence of monitoring and evaluation processes* related to gender mainstreaming and their incorporation in all the stages of policies development (Walby, 2005). These supportive processes permit the continuous supervising and assessment of gender equality implementation in all design, application and results of housing policies (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010; Rai, 2013).

In conclusion, it is essential to study *gender analysis* and *gender strategies* together because it brings up the diversity of gender gap challenges regarding the incorporation of gender knowledge in housing policies. According to Falú (2017), neither society is homogeneous, nor women are all equal. But this diversity approach towards gender awareness has not been accounted for in the public sector (Acosta, 2019). Scientific literature argues that the perception of how women experience equality is related to the understanding of how gender is tied in policy outlines (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010).

### **2.3.5 Gender inclusiveness**

A pattern of marginalisation is evident today regarding women's empowerment and the relevance of their participation in the decision-making process (Abdelmoaty et al., 2021). It causes women's deprivation and deepens the conflict of long-term gender situations regarding housing (United Nations, 2012).

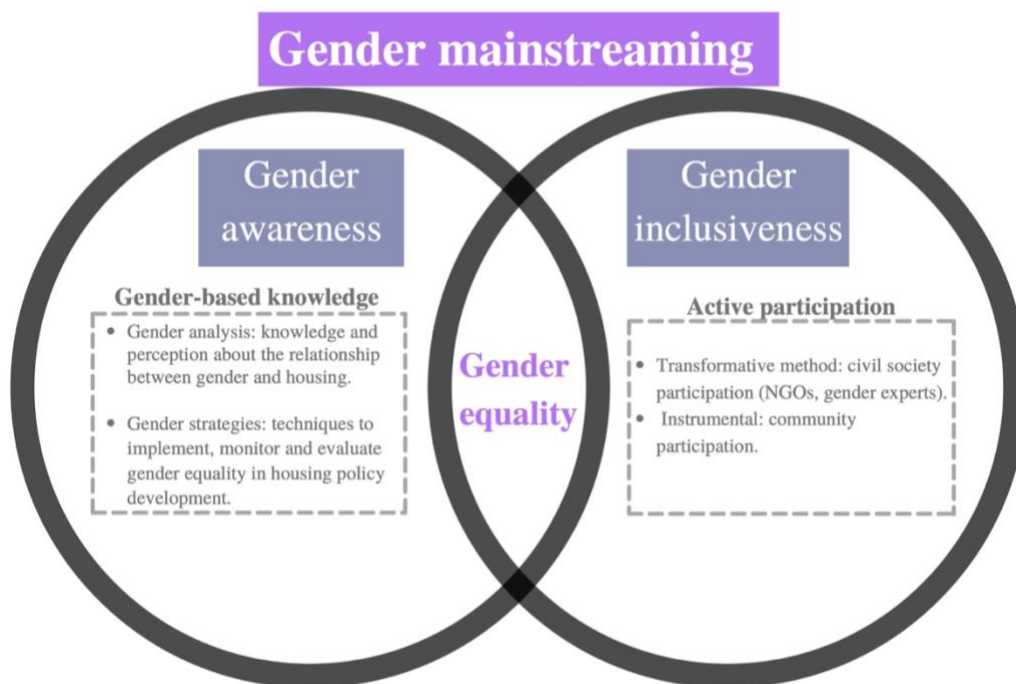
According to Abdelmoaty et al. (2021), women's place within economic, political, and social domains can be upgraded by their involvement in policymaking. Thus, to assess gender equality, it is crucial to identify the practitioners and actors roles (Lombardo et al., 2016). It is also essential to evaluate the degree of women participation in policymaking processes. Women have advocated for equal relevant involvement of different groups, including the LGBTI<sup>1</sup> community, in the politics and administrative domains. Therefore, integrating women's concerns and needs and applying them to foster women's participation in policymaking is necessary to face significant challenges and put them into practice (Moser, 2012).

To implement women's participation in policies is necessary to incorporate a gender lens by identifying strategies that allow gender-based organisations their high contribution into decision-making processes (Cornwall, 2013). Therefore, for this study, *gender inclusiveness* refers to the integration of women's perspective and empowerment (O N Moser, 2017) through gender-based organisations, gender experts, and active community participation during housing policies development. The analysis is based on the mitigation of two approaches Cornwall (2013) proposed about civil society participation in policymaking. They are transformative and instrumental methods.

Firstly, the *transformative method* relates to civil society participation as agents to create political capacity and critical awareness to claim rights and accountability (Cornwall, 2013). To start the transformative method, it is vital to identify the level of *gender experts participation* as transmitters of gender awareness as the fundamental aspect of guaranteeing

gender knowledge within the decision-making process in the housing sector (Lombardo et al., 2016). It is also essential to identify *NGOs participation* as advocates of gender equality. These two factors are imperative to assess how gender mainstreaming can overcome the lack of gender awareness in existing public policies (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019).

Secondly, the *instrumental method* is based on the *level of community participation*, which can allow running housing projects more efficiently (Cornwall, 2013). The active presence of good quality community participation plays a significant role in evaluating how policymaking genuinely deals with housing needs and women’s housing rights (United Nations, 2012). Both the analysis of *instrumental* and *transformative* methods is vital because the involvement of gender experts, NGOs, and the community can increase the effectiveness in implementing gender mainstreaming in housing policymaking. In this study, these two methods are analysed separately because community participation can go beyond dependence on an organisation, and communities can act as independent bodies to demand their housing rights.



**Graph 1: Gender mainstreaming conceptualisation**  
Source: Own elaboration

## 2.4 Women’s right to adequate housing

### 2.4.1 The right to adequate housing for women

Housing is a human right. Its recognition also covers how housing can achieve autonomy, freedom and inclusion in society (Hohmaan, 2019). Practitioners and academics mention that the right to adequate housing consists of freedom of choice regarding where to live (Susuki, Ogawa, & Inaba, 2017; Hohmaan, 2019). Besides, housing involves economic, social, and environmental aspects linked with urban planning concerns (Ayala et al., 2019) and dynamics. The value of adequate housing is measured by access to job opportunities in areas with essential services and infrastructure. (Turok, 2015; Hamman, 2014). In this context, governments play a crucial role to ensure access to adequate housing for the most vulnerable population.



Buckingham (2010) argues that housing for women represents women's capacity to inhabit the city and its human development opportunities. The right to housing for women embraces other rights, like the right to equal opportunities, bodily integrity, livelihoods, land, property and decision-making power (UN-Habitat, 2014). It has to do with the right to the city through women's right to use and to participate in both at the private and public scales (Fenster, 2006). However, it is argued that socio-economic and cultural gender beliefs have not generated equality in society (Hohmaan, 2019) and have not reached the right to the gendered city (Fenster, 2006). It is because the right to housing generally does not include the gender factor. The current gender gap reflects women's poor position regarding socio-economic status, and bare minimum representation in the decision-making process, which hinders their right to housing (Adebola, 2020).

Women have a different relationship with the home than men. Women remain responsible for raising the children, taking care of the family and relatives, food, and general household chores (UN-Habitat, 2014). Therefore, women's right to housing requires understanding how social and cultural norms and structures are embedded in institutions (UN-Habitat, 2014). It is also essential to know whether the patriarchal belief of a traditional nuclear family is still inherent in housing policies. It can be done by understanding how gender-related problems are covered in housing policymaking because traditional norms generally oppress women and stigmatise gender issues. Therefore, the role of gendering the right to adequate housing can elucidate the current uneven social, political, economic injustice to a justice gender society (Hohmaan, 2019).

#### **2.4.2 Women's right to affordable housing**

Both in academia and practice, housing affordability is considered as the relationship between housing income and housing costs (Ayala et al., 2019; Bredenoord, van Lindert, & Smets, 2014; Watt, 2018). Housing affordability has been analysed from a housing expenditure to income ratio approach. It refers that a maximum of 30% of the average household income should be consumed on housing-related costs (Bredenoord, van Lindert, & Smets, 2014). However, affordable housing for low-income women remains a problem today. Therefore, the right to affordable housing should include women's economic conditions. Low-income women mainly comprise women working in informal and unpaid jobs, i.e. domestic labour. Affordable housing is out of reach for such women. As other women's rights remain inaccessible to these women, their right to housing becomes more challenging (UN-Habitat, 2014; Cai & Lu, 2015).

By making housing affordable for women at a disadvantageous position opens opportunities for them to enjoy urban life. However, according to Westendrop (2011), affordability cannot be analysed in a gender-neutral approach. To do the analysis, household income should be considered first. It is necessary to study whether policymaking considers the wage gap and the high level of poverty and informality among women as crucial factors to determine women's ability to pay. Besides, the income ratio approach does not express the proper relation between household income and housing costs due to women's livelihood instability. Also, there remains the concern about women's socio-economic constraints and the perpetuation of domestic labour for women as aspects that compromise their opportunity to access jobs exacerbating their chances of stable income (UN-Habitat, 2014).

This research contemplates housing affordability as the ability to pay in terms of *women's income* and the *housing costs* from an analysis of the current gender gap, which constrains women's full enjoyment of their economic, cultural and social life (Turok, 2015).

### 2.4.3 Women’s right to accessible housing

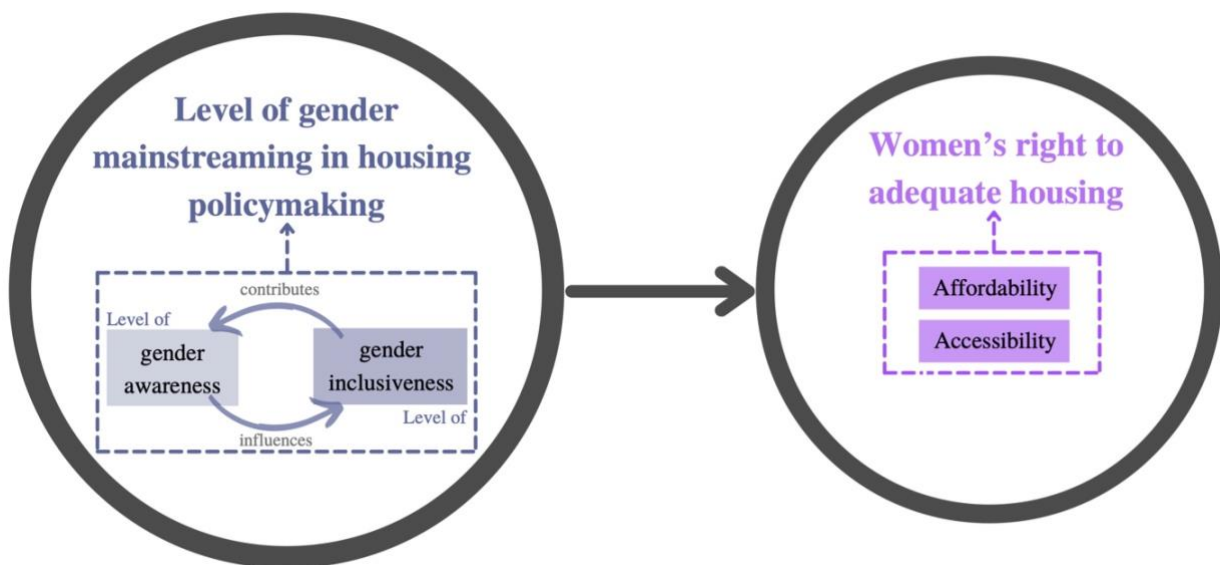
Scholars refer to housing accessibility as the relationship between the eligibility criteria and the access to housing programs and their finance (Ayala et al., 2019). Furthermore, it also embraces access to urban infrastructure (Ayala et al., 2019) and amenities through the relation among mobility and public space as essential factors (Turok, 2015; Cai & Lu, 2015). Concerning policymaking priority, the accurate understanding of actual housing needs and the financial capacity of the target groups can improve housing accessibility (Ayala et al., 2019).

Jana et al. (2016) mention that accessibility is a crucial factor that determines dwellers’ housing choices. Specifically, the importance that housing location plays on the financial improvement for vulnerable women. Therefore, the proximity to job opportunities and urban infrastructure (Jana, Bardhan, Sarkar, & Kumar, 2016) are vital aspects for women emancipation. Besides, accessibility of housing allows women’s right to be financially independent (United Nations, 2012). However, gender inequality constraints women to generate enough livelihood, which in turn hampers women’s financial stability, an element required to access housing programs. The right to housing has also to do with easy access to education, health, and workplaces (Cai & Lu, 2015). Their proximity is crucial for women’s daily activities due to their inherent nature of reproductive and productive duties.

In this research, housing accessibility is analysed as women’s access to socio-economic opportunities and amenities by understanding the critical role of *public housing projects location*. It also focuses on a more substantial relationship between the *eligibility criteria* parameters and the *finance methods* implemented in housing policies.

### 2.5 Conceptual framework

It is essential to acknowledge that housing policies play an indispensable role in women’s access to housing. The research seeks to find how gender awareness and gender inclusiveness in housing policymaking impact women’s right to affordable and accessible housing. It does so by understanding how gender equality are considered in housing policymaking.



Graph 2: Conceptual framework  
Source: Own elaboration

## Chapter 3: Research design, methods and limitations

The following section presents the research design for the current study. Firstly, it describes the research strategy used, followed by the operationalisation of the two main concepts extracted from the conceptual framework and converted into variables, dimensions and indicators. Then, the research methodology and sample size are explained in detail. Finally, the chapter presents the limitations by analysing the reliability, internal and external validity of the study.

### 3.1 Research strategy

A *single case study* approach is selected as the most appropriate research strategy for this study. It is chosen because it is a holistic approach based on collecting extensive qualitative data in a real-life setting (van Thiel, 2014), applicable for analysing the Ecuadorian latest housing policy. Such strategy was selected to study the entire country to pursue the research objective and explain the relationship between gender mainstreaming in housing policymaking and women's right to adequate housing. The case study strategy also leads to having "detailed and extensive descriptions of the phenomenon" (van Thiel, 2014, p. 87).

Ecuador is purposively selected as the case study because the country has implemented a new housing policy named "Casa para Todos" (CPT) as the primary policy to achieve the right to adequate housing. At the same time, the "Misión Mujer" (MM) plan was undertaken as the legal framework for gender equality in public institutions. The CPT policy and the MM plan are among the main components of the new country administrative framework "Para Toda Una Vida" from 2017 to 2021. Therefore, the analysis of Ecuador provides an opportunity to understand how gender mainstreaming is implemented in the housing policy and how this process affects women's right to adequate housing in Ecuador.

### 3.2 Operationalisation: variables, dimensions and indicators

The operationalisation is based on the two main concepts of the research: *gender mainstreaming* and *women's right to adequate housing*. The concepts discussed in the conceptual framework (see Graph 2) and debated in the literature review for the present research are defined as follows:

1. *Gender mainstreaming*: It is a tool to assess how gender perspective is incorporated in housing policymaking. It includes the analysis of two variables: gender awareness and gender inclusiveness to achieve gender equality and women empowerment in the housing sector (Moser, 2012; Bacchi & Eveline, 2006; Buckingham, 2010; Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019).
2. *Women's right to adequate housing*: It refers to women's right to place their dignity (Hohmann, 2017) and needs within the policymaking framework to have fairness (Oren & Alterman, 2019) and equal access to affordable housing while allowing women the right to inhabit and enjoy the socio-economic and city dynamics (Buckingham, 2010; Watt, 2018).

CONCEPT	VARIABLES	DIMENSIONS	INDICATORS	MEASUREMENTS	DATA SOURCE	COLLECTION METHOD
1. Gender mainstreaming	1.1 Gender awareness	1.1.1 Gender analysis (United Nations, 2014; Walby 2005; Abdelmoaty et al., 2021; Bacchi & Eveline 2006; Cornwall, 2013)	Level of gender perspective incorporation in the housing policy (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010)	Under what conditions gender is conceived in housing policy guidelines	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
			Level of perception of gender among civil servants (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010; Moser, 2012)	What civil servants understand about housing as a gender equality issue	Primary data collection	Semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
			Gender representation: level of sameness or difference approaches (Walby, 2005)	Equal opportunities and treatment (Walby, 2005) for women's involvement in decision-making processes	Primary data collection	Semi-structured interviews (Civil servants)
			Gender roles: level of perception regarding the division of domestic labour	Opinion about the relationship between the different home experiences and gender	Primary data collection	Semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
			Type of gender-disaggregated data used (Cornwall, 2013, Walby, 2005)	Information collection regarding race, ethnicity, age, caste, and socio-economic conditions	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT,GBGAD, MM, ANI) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
			1.1.2 Gender strategies (Walby 2005)	Type of techniques used to mainstream gender equality into policy design	Training methods of gender perspective incorporation (Cornwall, 2013)	Primary / secondary data collection
	Existence of monitoring and evaluation processes used to gender mainstreaming in the policymaking (Walby, 2005)	Which supportive processes are used to oversee gender equality in design and results of the policy (Bacchi & Eveline, 2010; Rai, 2013)		Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT,GBGAD, MM, ANI) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)	
	1.2 Gender inclusiveness	1.2.1 Transformative participation (Cornwall, 2013)	Level of gender experts and gender-based organizations involvement in the housing policymaking (Lombardo et al., 2016; (Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019)	1. Level of gender experts participation to incorporate their knowledge in policymaking.	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT,GBGAD, MM, ANI) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
				2. Level of gender-based organizations participation in policymaking.	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT,GBGAD, MM, ANI) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
		1.2.2 Instrumental participation (Cornwall, 2013)	Level of community participation in housing projects development (Cornwall, 2013)	How community participation support the effective housing projects implementation	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT,GBGAD, MM, ANI) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)

**Table 1: Operationalisation: Gender mainstreaming concept.**

Source: Own elaboration

CONCEPT	VARIABLES	DIMENSIONS	INDICATORS	MEASUREMENTS	DATA SOURCE	COLLECTION METHOD	
2. Women's right to adequate housing	2.1 Affordability	2.1.1 Housing costs	Types of housing tenure proposed in the housing policy	Homeownership and rented	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants)	
			Types of subsidy methods	Type of subsidies and financial institutions involved	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants)	
		2.1.2 Income	Women's income	Low, medium, high	Secondary data collection	Content analysis (National statistics)	
	2.2 Accessibility	2.2.1 Eligibility criteria	Which are the policy priorities regarding women	female head household, battered, indigenous and migrant women	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)	
			2.2.2 Finance methods	Which are the economic requirements to access housing projects		Secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT)
				Type of payment methods		Secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT)
			2.2.3 Public housing project's location	Level of access to amenities and infrastructure: health, education, recreation, basic services	Level of consideration of women's reproductive activities	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)
				Level of access to formal job opportunities	Level of consideration of women's productive activities	Primary / secondary data collection	Content analysis (CPT) / semi-structured interviews (Civil servants/NGOs/ gender experts)

Table 2: Operationalisation: Women's right to adequate housing.

Source: Own elaboration

### 3.3 Research methodology

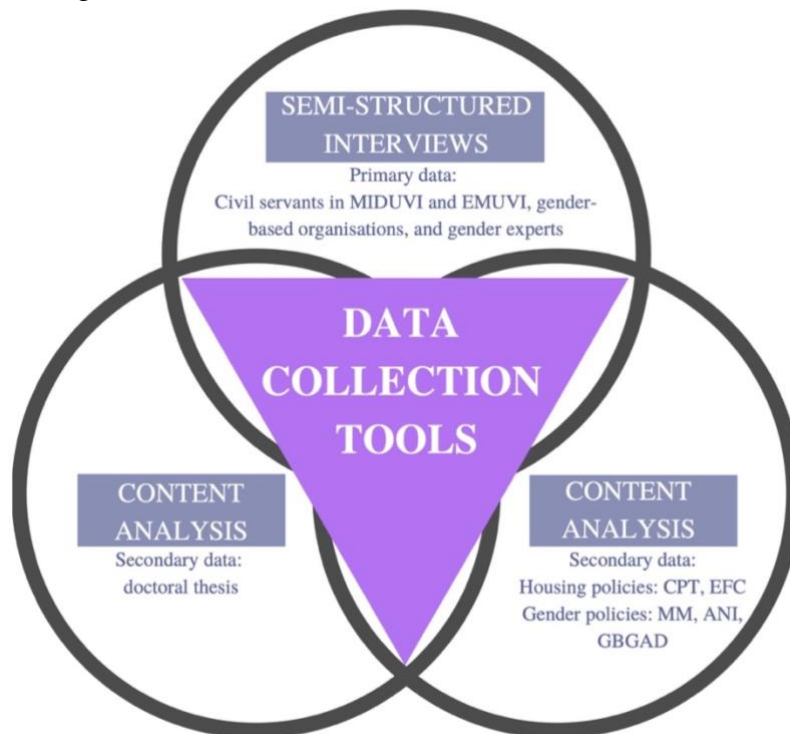
Qualitative data collection is a research approach to understand how actors operate (van Thiel, 2014) to develop the housing policy in Ecuador. Therefore, this research focuses on deductive research, operationalising the variables presented in the conceptual framework to find a causal relationship and explanation for an empirical phenomenon (van Thiel, 2014). In this case, it is how gender mainstreaming impacts women's right to adequate housing in Ecuador.

The first data collection method was based on primary data collection through semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions to understand how gender mainstreaming is embraced in the Ecuadorian housing policy. The interviews were divided into two groups. The first group was aimed at the civil servants within the housing institutions. The information gathered through these interviews was analysed to understand gender awareness among civil servants and how gender inclusiveness is practised within housing institutions. The second group of interviews were directed at gender-based organisations and gender experts working on gender

equality strategies in Ecuador, such as the National Council for Gender Equality. The aim is to know their perspective regarding gender and housing and participation in housing policies development.

The second method used for data collection was gathering public policy documents, which were analysed using the content analysis research tool, which was based on the operationalisation of *gender mainstreaming* and *women’s right to adequate housing* concepts. The documents were divided into two groups. Firstly, it included housing policy documents as “Casa Para Todos” (CPT) as the primary housing policy document and “Estrategia de Fortalecimiento Comunitario” (EFC) as its policy extension document. Secondly, gender-based plans like “Misión Mujer” (MM), and “Agenda Nacional de las Mujeres y Personas LGBTI” (ANI) (at national level), and “Guía Básica para la Incorporación de la Perspectiva de Género e Interseccionalidad en los Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados” (GBGAD) at (municipal level), were studied to find the indications whether the legislative framework of these gender-based plans were implemented in housing policies. Apart from this, the study of policymaking from different actors’ views and textual analysis of specific words and phrases with software support (van Thiel, 2014) were used to understand the guidelines implemented in the CPT regarding affordability and accessibility.

Finally, a published doctoral thesis is used as the complementary study, which also investigates the relationship between housing and gender in Ecuador as the third source of secondary data. The aim to do a complementary study was to crosscheck the information gathered during interviews and, at the same time, allow the researcher to analyse the problem from a different perspective. The objective of doing an analysis based on the three data collection methods described above was to raise the level of data validation and increase the consistency of findings by data triangulation.



**Graph 3: Data collection tools: data triangulation**

Source: Own elaboration

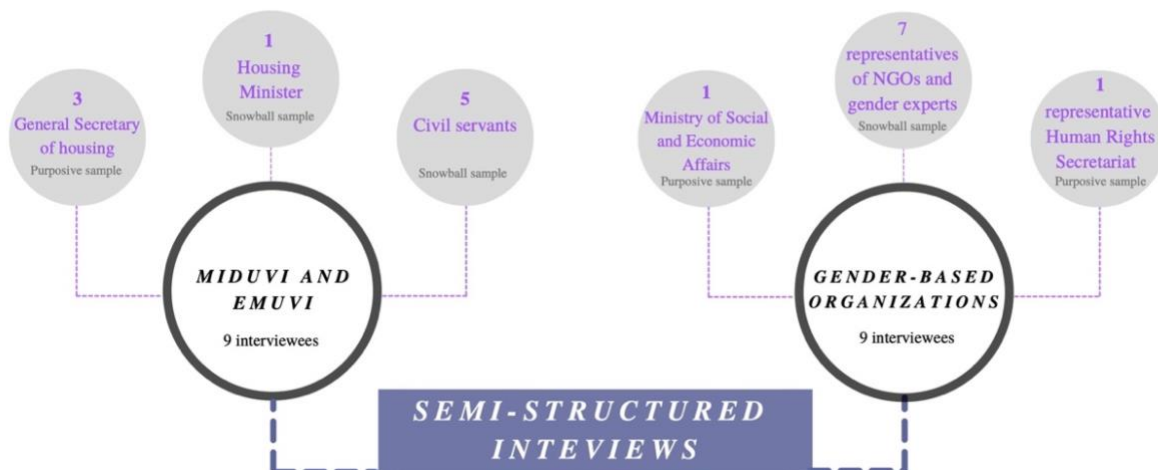
All the information collected (interviews, policy documents, and the doctoral thesis) was input in the software ATLAS.ti to be codified based on the operationalisation table. The “co-occurrence” tool was used for the analysis of information. This analysis instrument allowed the researcher to find relationships and patterns between indicators of each dimension and variables. The tool also allowed to visualise how many times a combination of two codes was linked to the same quotation; this means the connection between indicators by the meaning of each idea identified by the author. However, it is important to mention that using this instrument can limit the openness to connections between variables that are not so direct but can have some influence over each other.

In the tables presented in the data analysis (chapter 4), the numbers with high values reflect the high concurrence between two indicators in the analysed information. In this research, these numbers express the highest relationship between indicators. On the other hand, the numbers with low values reflect the little information and connection found in those indicators. However, it should be mentioned that this does not mean that these indicators do not affect the variables. The process was applied for both independent and dependent variables. Lastly, through a complete “co-occurrence” table showing the two variables, it was possible to find the main patterns and critical indicators that connect gender mainstreaming with women’s rights to adequate housing.

### 3.4 Sample size

For the semi-structured interviews, non-probability sampling was used. The selection was based on different layers (van Thiel, 2014) in housing institutions aimed to involve high-ranking practitioners and civil servants to have a broad understanding of the inclusion of gender perspective in the housing policy.

Firstly, a purposive sample of the interviewees was selected. The selection was based on their high involvement and theoretically relevant criteria (van Thiel, 2014) in the housing policymaking in Ecuador. These persons include housing secretaries and ministers and municipal directors in charge to implement the CPT in cities. However, to reach out to more policymakers involved, a snowball sampling was applied afterwards through the recommendations obtained from the first interviewees (van Thiel, 2014). Secondly, gender-based organisations working on gender equality issues and gender experts were also interviewed. The selection of the interviewees was based on their relationship with the housing sector. *Graph 4* shows the classification of the conducted interviews.



**Graph 4: Sample size explanation: semi-structured interviews**  
Source: Own elaboration

### **3.5 Challenges and limitations**

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way people communicate and interact. For this research, the main challenge faced was incorporating the dynamics of Covid and the subsequent problem of logistics into the study. Due to Covid, it was impossible to go to Ecuador for collecting data. However, this challenge was overcome by conducting online interviews. Nevertheless, while conducting interviews online, some limitations were faced. The online methodology somehow limited the spontaneity that physical discussions allow, and, in some cases, the natural fluidity was lost during the conversations.

Additionally, most of the interviewees were working online due to the country's health measurements. They showed fatigue during the interviews after spending eight hours continuously in front of the computer screen due to work. On the other hand, the pandemic also had affected community participation due to isolation measures and fear of contracting the disease. It was understood that to obtain a proper perspective of women housing applicants, it is necessary to interview them physically. However, this was not possible due to the pandemic. Therefore, a decision was made to not include women housing applicants in this research.

On top of these, the priorities of both the National Government and the Community Organisations have changed this year. They are struggling to survive and overcome the pandemic. Thus, their current focus has shifted from gender mainstreaming and women's right to adequate housing to the ongoing pandemic. This affected the responses from the interviewees. In summary, the research accepts the limitations of online interviews and the effect of Covid on respondents.

#### **3.5.1 Reliability**

The reliability of the primary data collection was affected as the information gathered may be biased because both public servants in the housing sector, NGO representatives and gender experts have their own ideology and socio-political position. Besides, it is essential to mention that civil servants do not necessarily possess a thorough gender knowledge.

As Ecuador was chosen as the representative case for this research, the language spoken during the semi-structured interviews was Spanish. It is the native language of both interviewees and the researcher. It helped the conversation run in a more natural and enriching way during the interview. However, while translating the interview into English, it was found that some information was losing essence due to translation. Hence, only the main ideas were translated into English. The rest of the data was kept in their original language. They were analysed in the software ATLAS ti in their original language. The main words and phrases representative of the research for the interviews were encoded. The same format of coding was used to review the policies documents.

To counteract the problems mentioned above and increase reliability, this study conducted interviews on nine civil servants, four with high responsibility for decision-making processes in housing in Ecuador. Besides this, another set of interviews were conducted on nine representatives of NGOs and gender experts. The use of snowball sampling allowed the research to reach a saturation point. All the procedures and phases of the investigation were documented to increase the reliability of the study (van Thiel, 2014).



Finally, diversification of information is done to ensure validity (van Thiel, 2014). All interviews were triangulated with the content analysis of the policies and a doctoral thesis as academic analysis.

### 3.5.2 Internal and External Validity

The case study research strategy is, by nature, context-related. The plenty of empirical information collected could improve existing theories improving internal validity; conversely, external validity is limited (van Thiel, 2014). Thus, a diversified approach was used by collecting data in three different methods, as explained above. This allowed the gathering of enough information to guarantee that the data is valid aside from the number of units studied. Additionally, to ensure internal validity, all the steps taken to collect and analyse the data were documented systematically and chronologically (van Thiel, 2014).

These results obtained from the data analysis can be partially generalised to other countries because the information used to explain the relationship among the variables is context-related to Ecuador. However, the indicators used for operationalising the two concepts were drawn from the prevalent theories of gender mainstreaming and women’s right to adequate housing, which may allow them to analyse under similar contexts. Subjectivity and selectivity are risks associated with case study research (van Thiel, 2014). Thus, to maintain objectivity throughout the study, the analysis was carried methodologically due to the management of a high amount of information. From this database, relevant data was selected to achieve efficiency in data analysis and, subsequently, more validity in results (van Thiel, 2014).

## Chapter 4: Data analysis

This chapter presents the research findings. They come from the analysis of the data collected from interviews, policy documents and a doctoral thesis. Firstly, this chapter briefly exposes a first impression of the relationship between housing and gender. Secondly, it explains the case study policies. Then, the findings from the research are described for each dimension. Finally, this chapter presents the analysis as a result of this research.

### 4.1 First impression of the relationship between housing and gender

As discussed in the research methodology, it was decided to include the perspective of civil servants in the housing sector, NGOs and gender experts to understand further the relationship between housing and gender from both perspectives. As shown in *Graph 5*, the clustering of all information analysed follows a clear tendency to relate gender, equality, and women. It lies within a framework where access, jobs, participation, planning, development, city, services, vulnerable, and community play a sensitive role.



Graph 5: Main words founded across data analysis.

Source: ATLAS.ti. Own elaboration

## 4.2 Description of the case study policies

The “Casa Para Todos” (CPT) housing policy has been implemented as the new normative framework for housing supply in Ecuador since 2017. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MIDUVI) and the Municipal Public Corporations of Urbanisation and Housing (EMUVI) are public entities implementing the housing policy at the national and municipal levels.

The CPT policy aims to strengthen access to adequate housing through a secure environment, providing quality of public goods and services and prioritising the population living in poverty (MIDUVI, 2018). Regarding the right to housing, the CPT determined that access to housing must be without discrimination. The CPT recognises risk factors that may undermine the practice of women’s right to housing, including systematic discrimination in the labour market and the existing wage gap, which has a direct impact on women’s economic stability (MIDUVI, 2018). Thus, the CPT seeks to reduce social inequality gaps and ensure universal access to housing by developing comprehensive housing projects that respond to the needs of accessibility, socio-cultural and intergenerational inclusion (STPTV, 2018). The “Estrategia de Fortalecimiento Comunitario” (EFC) is the extension of the CPT. The EFC regulates community intervention, capacity-building, and empowering/sharing responsibility among the beneficiaries (MIDUVI, 2018).

The MIDUVI coordinates strategies that promote relationships between housing, public spaces, services, and land management based on the principles of universality and equity. Therefore, the CPT recognised the need to legally implement the gender perspective within the housing domain under these principles. The advocacy for gender equality has been embraced as one of the main objectives of the National Ecuadorian Development Plan due to the sharp gender gap in the country, introducing a regulatory and legal framework for its fulfilment. The “Agenda Nacional de las Mujeres y Personas LGBTI” (ANI), the emblematic intervention “Misión Mujer” (MM) and the “Guía para la Incorporación de la Perspectiva de Género e Interseccionalidad en los Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados” (GBGAD) are the three main regulatory plans for gender mainstreaming in the public sector in Ecuador since 2017. *Table 3* shows the three national macro plans regulating the development and implementation of public policies and institutional structures and one gender mainstreaming guideline at the municipal level to comply with national policies.

The objective of MM and ANI plans is to include the causes of multiple discrimination and social burden experienced by women and gender diversity. These policies are the technical and political instruments that guide gender mainstreaming into housing institutions. They highlight the need to articulate the different situations, conditions, needs, and interests of women and the LGBTI population to transform traditional societal relations (Consejo Nacional, 2018).

Under these regulatory frameworks, linking the housing sector with the advocacy for gender equality in Ecuador, the following sections show the relationships between variables based on the analysis from four perspectives: *a.* housing policies (CPT and EFC), *b.* gender-based plans (MM, ANI, GBGAD), *c.* civil servants, and *d.* NGOs and gender experts. The research analyses each indicator through these four perspectives, complementing the discussion with information from the doctoral thesis.

<b>NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN "PARA TODO UNA VIDA"</b> 2017-2021	It is aligned with the AGENDA 2030 where gender mainstreaming is remaining to encourage gender parity and equal access to leadership positions in the public and private sectors by affirmative action measures. Besides, it promotes the care work co-responsibility (Senplades, 2017).
<b>WOMEN MISSION (MM)</b> 2018-2021	As part of the plan "All a life", WM promotes the full autonomy of women throughout their life cycle by the understanding and then the strengthening the women role in society.
<b>NATIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND LGBTI PERSONS (ANI)</b> 2018-2021	It works as a mandatory instrument of national planning. It is aligned with the National Development Plan 2017-2021, and becomes the macro strategy to mainstream the principle of gender equality and non-discrimination for public management.
<b>GENDER MAINSTREAMING GUIDELINE FOR MUNICIPALITIES (GBGAD)</b> 2017-2021	It calls for the inclusion of the principle of equality and non-discrimination in all decision-making processes aimed to mainstream gender equality into all policies, at all levels and at all stages.

**Table 3: Regulatory framework for gender mainstreaming in Ecuador.**

Source: Own elaboration

### 4.3 Independent variable: Gender mainstreaming

#### 4.3.1 Variable: Gender awareness

##### 4.3.1.1 Gender analysis

Regarding *the level of gender perspective in the housing policy*, the CPT and EFC seek gender equity incorporation as one of the cores aspects for housing projects implementation. The housing sector in Ecuador strongly relates to gender via the different roles established by socio-cultural factors. This plays a vital function in women's accessibility to livelihoods. The CPT has an inclusive approach via recognising diversity among the population and ensuring equal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights (CPT, 2018).

On the other hand, the MM and ANI plans advocate for affirmative-action policies that secure female-headed households' access to adequate housing. They mention that the existing gender gap mainly negatively affects female-headed households, which are the 29% (INEC, 2014) of the Ecuadorian population. The gender-based plans recognise that all public policies must contribute to the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination. Therefore, they include the LGBTI population in the equation as a vulnerable community. So, although the housing policy is well-addressing female-headed households groups, there is no positive discrimination for the LGBTI group.

Although the CPT determines that the right to housing must be acquired without discrimination and on equal terms, Interviewee G03 of the research argues that women in Ecuador are not living in the same measure of fulfilling their human rights, including housing. Among civil servants, central housing authorities link the gender approach with the existing politics. Also, it is reflected by the outdated perceptions authorities do have (Interviewee H3). Similarly, Interviewee G01 mentions that although gender internalisation is a relevant housing aspect, its implementation ends up as a political decision.

The *level of perception of gender among civil servants* is explicitly related to prioritisation and housing finance for vulnerable women. There is tacit knowledge about the complexity regarding women's access to financial credits. Civil servants identify that the current wage gap (15.3%) (INEC, 2021) and the high percentage of women under informal economic activities (48.6%) (INEC, 2021) and unpaid jobs (77%) (INEC, 2017) are the main factors that constrain

women's access to housing in Ecuador. Therefore, they remark on the importance of prioritising female-headed households as the most vulnerable group among women.

It is also found that most civil servants also perceive *gender roles* as an issue for housing. They highlight that currently, women's role has been framed towards the domestic domain. They acknowledge that housing plays an essential role in women's daily activities development. Similarly, gender experts also say that women are mainly restricted to reproductive roles and men are related to productive roles.

*“The culturally assigned roles determine where men and women work. Although more women go out to work every day, they return to take care of the house; women do not leave that role aside. Therefore, the link between women and domestic labour has excluded women from economic activities, public sphere and decision-making processes” (Interviewee G05).*

The public space is for men, and the private one is for women (Interviewee G04). The EFC also acknowledges that the different roles assigned to men and women affect human rights for women due to the devised roles played by society regarding access to capital and livelihood.

MM and ANI plans relate *gender representation* with power relations. Both advocate for the equal representation of women and men in appointing positions in decision-making. The MM acknowledges that it is possible to achieve parity in the decision-making hierarchy by changing socio-cultural gender patterns. Besides, the policy promotes the appropriation of gender mainstreaming principles by civil servants and central authorities at multiple levels.

The Ecuadorian housing institutions do not explicitly advocate for equal gender representation in housing policymaking (Interviewee G07). Although civil servants and NGOs acknowledge that there is no women discrimination in relevant positions, the parity of gender diversity in the housing sector is not compulsory.

*“Equitable participation is not mandatory; therefore, the high-rank administrative function is a selection that does not guarantee women's inclusion” (Interviewee H2). “Gender representation depends on the head of the institutions; it is a political issue” (Interviewee H1)*

Although many civil servants and a few gender experts mentioned considerable incorporation of women staff in political decision-making positions and general staff in housing institutions, they also support the need for women as principal authorities. There should be more equity in how women develop a public career (Interviewee G02). Besides, more presence of diversity (ethnic, gender, age) is needed in political and administrative spaces (Interviewee G04).

According to gender experts, the housing sector is managed mainly by men. Most men are engineers and architects in the housing sector, and most women are secretaries (Interviewee H9). It was identified that most of the technicians and directors involved in housing policymaking are primarily males aged 40 years and older. As Kern (2019) mentions, urban planning is based on a male-dominance sphere, where gender is excluded from urban development analysis. Gender experts argue that there is a need to give more feminine visions to the urban field (Interviewee G02).

Interviewee G02 mentions that in the governmental structure, the question is about women representation and about men willing to give up power roles and pave the way for women to

occupy those roles. However, even though Ecuador has a gender mainstreaming regulatory framework, the supposed parity has not been reflected in practice.

*“We have a deputy mayor who does not appreciate that a woman is in charge” (Interviewee G07).*

As Acosta (2019) mentions in her doctoral thesis, due to the asymmetric distribution of power exercised in public institutions, the understanding and application of concepts of intersectionality and equality are distorted. Simultaneously, it helped in preserving the institutional machismo.

The *gender-disaggregated data* is managed mostly at the municipal level. Firstly, all civil servants have information about knowledge, skills, and practices related to equality, non-discrimination, gender, and human rights. Secondly, statistical data is available for gender, age, disabilities, ethnicity, geographic location and health conditions to bring out the intersectionality that defined population vulnerability. Kern (2019) argues that an intersectional approach is required, and it should start from identifying the needs and perspectives of the vulnerable group. Similarly, Interviewee G05 says, to address the gender approach among housing, the information should be targeted from the intersectionality approach. However, civil servants do not use gender-disaggregated data to make accurate decisions regarding housing (Interviewee G03).

#### 4.3.1.2 Gender strategies

The MIDUVI has few *techniques to mainstream gender equality* in the institution structure. They are based on measuring capacity gaps existing in the institution to define each person’s needs within their position in the organisation. Civil servants identify the inconsistency of gender training methods that deepen gender awareness among the public staff. It is argued that the implementation of gender knowledge highly depends on the institution head (Interviewee G01). This contradicts the GBGAD policy, which focuses on gender and human rights knowledge as mandatory training for all the staff at the municipal level. The municipality also offers workshops to increase women and LGBTI participation in policy development. However, most civil servants claim that those strategies are insufficient to understand gender issues and further implement the gained knowledge.

The ANI plan has implemented programs to raise awareness on gender diversities among public servants in order to change discriminatory cultural practices and ensure women and LGBTI rights to adequate housing. It adopts affirmative actions to promote parity across all positions in public institutions, thus incrementing women’s representation. Most gender experts and NGOs mention the importance of generating gender sensitivity within the structure of public institutions. They noted that NGOs could be key actors for staff training. Nevertheless, most civil servants mention that there is no implementation of techniques based on ANI and MM plans at national and municipal levels in housing institutions.

*“The only technique used regarding gender equality in housing institutions is a survey where the human development department periodically analyses the labour environment to find out if there is any discrimination process” (Interviewee H5).*

Although the ANI mandates implementing quantitative and qualitative reports to measure the performance of gender perspective in public institutions at the national level, there is too little

information and knowledge about *monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure gender mainstreaming* in the MIDUVI. Civil servants, NGOs and gender experts confirm the lack of social, cultural and economic processes that allow implementation and evaluation of housing policy from a gender perspective.

*There is no social assistance for the beneficiaries before and after the implementation of public housing projects. The community do not participate in the discussion and decision-making processes of the development of housing projects” (Interviewee H4).*

### **4.3.2 Variable: Gender inclusiveness**

#### **4.3.2.1 Transformative participation**

Housing civil servants acknowledge that *NGOs participation* and *gender expert’s participation* highly contribute to awareness-raising and capacity-building of housing institutions. Additionally, the ANI must work with NGOs for public policymaking through their active involvement at all administrative levels. According to housing civil servants, human rights awareness among public institutions is strongly related to the level of their connection with NGOs that work for human development processes (Interviewee H2). However, NGOs have another point of view on their involvement in policies development. They state that it is difficult to become part of policymaking due to the rigidity of the existing organisational housing structure (Interviewee G02).

*“In the Ecuadorian context, an external civil society organisation can ill articulate municipal and housing institutions to generate policy development spaces. The strictness of the state has not allowed relevant participation of external actors” (Interviewee G07).*

Acosta (2019), in her doctoral thesis, argues that there is a weak recognition of social and political organisation’s role, developing crony public policies. The active participation of gender experts has not been recognised. Moreover, most civil servants identify that one of the housing policy limitations is the lack of interaction with academia. As Interviewee G04 claims, it is essential to advocate for gender specialists’ involvement in housing policymaking. It is vital that academia should be included in the grassroots housing policy development.

#### **4.3.2.2 Instrumental participation**

For the PCT development, *the level of community participation* is based on the EFC policy. This strategy was included in 2017 as a democratic cross-cutting and continuous element of public management, embracing tools and techniques to allow the community to express their daily needs. At the municipal level, as part of GBGAD policy, authorities must deem women and the LGBTI community participation in decision-making, development, monitoring and evaluation of policies for gender equality implementation. Women and the LGBTI community should participate as observers of the process, assuming its social role and activating the participation system. However, all civil servants interviewed state that there is minimal community participation in housing policymaking.

*“Community participation has been a limited process and a qualitative issue. There is no public policy that achieves a participatory articulation in all functions. Generally, it is based on political decisions; it is one of the shortcomings the policy has shown” (Interviewee H1).*

In Ecuador, community participation is linked to the authorities' lack of openness to dialogue. Institutionalism in the housing sector is complex and have limiting effects (Interviewee H1). The rigid structures of housing institutions have not allowed the development of participatory processes.

*“The participation strategies have remained in speech. All the decisions of the public administration are unilateral” (Interviewee G03).*

According to Acosta (2019), the development and implementation of public policy should be based on active listening and through gathering different opinions from communities. It should also promote bonding between community participation and housing policymaking and substantiate gender equality processes.

### 4.3.3 Relationship between gender awareness and gender inclusiveness variables

Table 4 shows the relationship between gender awareness and gender inclusiveness. It expresses to what extent gender mainstreaming has been addressed in the Ecuadorian housing policy. The analysis of the two variables shows that the *level of participation of the community and NGOs* can work as the bridge to link *level of gender perspective in the housing policy* by incorporating *techniques to mainstream gender equality*.

GENDER AWARENESS AND GENDER INCLUSIVENESS		Instrumental participation	Transformative participation	
		●C:V:GI:IP:Community participation Gr=54	●C:V:GI:TP:gender experts participation Gr=16	●C:V:GI:TP:NGOs participation Gr=39
Gender analysis	●C:V:GA:GAN: Gender representation Gr=57	1	3	3
	●C:V:GA:GAN:Level of perception of gender among civil servants Gr=35	2	3	5
	●C:V:GA:GAN:Level of gender perspective in the housing policy Gr=64	9	8	10
	●C:V:GA:GAN:Gender roles Gr=44	2	1	1
	●C:V:GA:GAN:gender-disaggregated data Gr=16	1	0	0
Gender strategies	●C:V:GA:GS:Existence of monitoring and evaluation processes Gr=19	2	1	1
	●C:V:GA:GS:Types of techniques to mainstream gender equality Gr=114	15	7	12

Table 4: Relationships between gender awareness and gender inclusiveness.

Source: ATLAS.ti. Own elaboration

Based on the CBGAD policy objectives, the municipal authorities must consider NGOs and LGBTI groups participation in decision-making, policy development and policy implementation processes in the public sector. Also, gender-based plans (MM and ANI) aim to support the right for women to be more incorporated as decision-makers in governance. To meet the goals mentioned above, civil servants and gender experts recognise NGOs as key actors to encourage gender mainstreaming in housing policies. It can be acknowledged that the

role of NGOs is essential for the integration of training methods of gender perspective incorporation in housing policymaking from two perspectives.

Firstly, gender experts mention that NGOs can provide essential inputs on how the gender perspective should be mitigated within the structure of housing institutions. One of them is that NGOs could perform as staff trainers (Interviewee H06). This training can transform the perception of gender among civil servants. NGOs can also act as the means to raise awareness of gender awareness among the public staff. Through NGOs engagement, it would be possible to create gender-sensitive decision-making processes (Interviewee G02; Interviewee G03).

Secondly, it is identified that the role of NGOs could improve the incorporation of the gender perspective in community participation processes. Gender experts mention that synergy between NGOs and the government could achieve effective outcomes for the community. Interviewee G07 identifies that NGOs act as communication bridges between the community and housing institutions because they know the target group's needs in-depth.

*“Housing is already a differentiated space for women. That is to say that historically housing, as the space where domestic activities are carried out, has been strongly related to women duties. This has worsened women's access to symbolic, economic and political resources. Therefore, NGOs implementation in policymaking is essential to raise public institution's awareness of the importance of studying women's daily routine and their relation to housing. It includes the study of the diversity of women's realities” (Interviewee G05).*

According to Interviewee H1, the participation of NGOs can help governments to unbundle the current situation of the target group by providing more accurate information in order to develop real solutions based on actual needs. However, Interviewee G03 argues that NGOs' participation is not constant; there is a representation gap; - and the governments have not resolved these administrative limitations.

## **4.4 Dependent variable: Women's right to adequate housing**

### **4.4.1 Variable: Affordability**

#### **4.4.1.1 Housing costs and women income**

The CPT claims that housing costs should not jeopardise other human rights and access to basic needs. Therefore, it offers two *types of housing tenure*. They are homeownership and rented housing. Homeownership has been prioritised for the vulnerable group. Besides, the CPT proposed three *types of subsidy methods* to purchase these types of dwellings. The first one is the option of housing 100% subsidised by the state. This category focuses on providing housing to the poor population and also prioritises female-headed households. The second option is a partial subsidy, also offered by the state. Here the condition is to give the recipient a monetary bonus of \$6,000, and the rest of the amount must be covered by the beneficiary. The last one is mortgage loans with a preferential interest rate of 4.99% (CPT, 2018). However, national civil servants strongly suggest that the housing policy should provide more variety in the types of tenure offered by the state.

*“It is necessary to explore and develop more options for rental housing. Not all the population can pay and be indebted for housing, especially the most vulnerable group. It is imperative to move beyond and consider housing as a service” (Interviewee H3).*



Although the objective of the CPT is to reach the most vulnerable population, NGOs know that the policy does not reach the target group (Interviewee G07). This is because the housing costs are unaffordable for the poor population. The minimum housing price is too high, which become impossible for them to pay (Interviewee G08).

The EFC policy promotes the increment of individual and family incomes, thus reducing women's vulnerability and improving beneficiaries' life conditions. However, there has not been an established strategy that would help women and LGBTI groups. Currently, there are no actions for women and LGBTI groups who are suffering from the effects of gender inequality. Hence, the CPT has certain limitations regarding women who do not have access to the formal economy and cannot take mortgage loans from financial institutions (Interviewee H2). Only one civil servant recognises the importance of analysing in-depth socio-economic factors that influence women's ability to pay. Others fail to recognise the same.

Despite the subsidies provided by the CPT, civil servants and gender experts identify that the average *women's income* in Ecuador is still an economic barrier that constrains women to afford public housing. In Ecuador, the average wage of female workers is 15.3% lower than that of male workers (INEC, 2021). Besides, 48.6% of women in Ecuador work under informal conditions (ENEMDU, 2021). Gender experts and NGOs claim that housing policy should acknowledge the precarious women's economic conditions and how long they will stay in debt after purchasing public housing (Interviewee G08) as factors that could hamper women's right to adequate housing.

*“It is vital to take affirmative actions, prioritising women diversity within housing policy benefits, which would break down those women's economic barriers to access to housing projects” (Interviewee G02).*

#### **4.4.2 Variable: Accessibility**

##### **4.4.2.1 Eligibility criteria**

The CPT prioritises the economic status of the target group as the main eligibility criteria to access to housing. Regarding *policy priorities to access to housing for women*, the policy has recognised that female-headed households are a vulnerable group that needs attention. Therefore, the CPT has made affirmative actions to secure adequate housing for this group. For example, female-headed households fall under a particular category, with a preference score in the eligibility criteria, giving them access to 100% subsidised housing. This fact is reaffirmed by almost all civil servants acknowledge that the selection of beneficiaries covers the gender issue because it recognises that female-headed households have more difficulties while accessing housing. Nevertheless, gender experts and NGOs question why the CPT only prioritises female-headed households and does not extend its scope.

*“More women experience different vulnerabilities who also deserve to be considered for housing projects. For example, In Ecuador, indigenous, migrant and trans women are the most affected by the existing gender gap” (Interviewee G08).*

Interviewee H6 mentions that the CPT policy should be more flexible regarding the eligibility criteria. Acosta (2019), in her doctoral thesis, notes that housing policies would not promote gender equality as long as they continue to place little emphasis on women who are also part of the informal sector and play an essential role in community development.

#### 4.4.2.2 Finance methods

The CPT does not provide accurate information about *payment methods* offered by the policy. However, it is found that for purchasing a house by partial subsidy and preferential interest rate on mortgage loans, the payment method will be by monthly contributions over ten years (MIDUVI, 2018). Besides, the beneficiaries must have access to mortgage credits as part of the *policy economic requirements* to access housing projects offered by the CPT.

Although the CPT has a clear prioritisation on impoverished populations, it can also be counterproductive. Interviewee H1 argues that the significant reason for housing policy failure is that the household must be poor, live in precarious economic conditions, in other words, remain in poverty to be eligible for housing programs. Thus, it pushes families to keep their weak financial situation (Interviewee H3). However, in order to get qualified for subsidies, they also should have access to sufficient mortgages credits (Interviewee H1). In reality, the dire financial situation of women limits them to fulfil the economic requirements. The perpetuation of domestic labour, informality among women, and the gender wage gap constrain them to fulfil the CPT policy's financial requirements.

*“Financial institutions do not emit credits to people who cannot prove a permanent and secure income” (Interviewee H1).*

The limitation of CPT is that the policy's eligibility criteria are minimised only towards the fulfilment of the financial requirements by the beneficiaries (Interviewee H4). Among the NGOs and gender experts, one of the concerns is the lack of gender inequality analysis within the housing policymaking. They argue that the most significant challenge is always structural.

*“If the policy goal is to provide access to housing for women, first, it should be imperative to correct the other variables that limit women economic stability” (Interviewee G03).*

#### 4.4.2.3 Location of public housing projects

The CPT policy recognises that public housing projects must be located in areas that allow beneficiaries to access to urban infrastructure, essential amenities and economic activities. However, civil servants mention that in practice, little consideration has been given to these aspects. Most public housing projects are situated on the outskirts of the urban area due to the low land value and to keep the minimum public housing price. Gender experts argue that the location of public housing is not considered an essential factor for cities development.

*“The lack of connection between urban planning processes and public housing development is reflected by creating isolated and monothematic gated communities, where women who spend the most time doing household activities, are the most affected” (Interviewee H3).*

NGOs, gender experts and civil servants identify a strong relationship between the development of women's productive and reproductive activities and public housing project's location. They acknowledge that the strategic location of public housing projects might facilitate women to carry out reproductive activities and perform work activities simultaneously. They also recognise that the existing public housing projects have not improved women's daily activities and have not considered women's precarious financial conditions. Conversely, they act as an obstacle for women to *access to formal job opportunities*.

*“It is necessary to analyse housing location within the urban layer based on gender perspective. It would allow the housing policy to understand how women and gender diversity are mobilised within urban spaces to facilitate their reproductive and productive activities—public housing location must-do cities for gender diversity” (Interviewee G01).*

Gender experts argue that it is imperative to understand how the proximity to urban infrastructure and amenities such as education, health, recreation and basic services are essential factors for the development of women’s roles in neighbourhoods, communities and cities.

#### 4.4.3 Relationship between affordability and accessibility variables

In the Ecuadorian case, the relationship between affordability and accessibility is mainly based on economic factors. Firstly, *Table 5* shows that the public housing project’s location, which allows *access to formal job opportunities*, strongly influence *women’s income*.

The CPT includes “urban equity” as an aspect that demands public housing projects should be in a location that allows enjoyment of urban infrastructure and economic activities and promotes socio-spatial integration. Unfortunately, most places do not deem the factors as cited in the policy (Interviewee H1). Since public housing projects are located on the city’s periphery (Interviewee H04), it prevents the connection between housing projects and urban economic opportunities. This also further limit woman to improve their monthly income (Interviewee H1). As a result, most women are forced to remain in the informal sector (Interviewee G07).

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY		Housing costs		Income
		●C:V:Aff:HC:Cost by type of housing tenure Gr=9	●C:V:Aff:HC:Type of subsidies methods Gr=15	●C:V:Aff:I:women’s income Gr=41
Eligibility criteria	●C:V:Acc:EC:Policy priorities regarding women Gr=37	1	4	3
	●C:V:Acc:FM:Policy economic requirements Gr=33	1	3	19
Finance methods	●C:V:Acc:FM:Type of payment methods Gr=9	3	3	4
	●C:V:Acc:HL:Level of access to amenities and infrastructure Gr=45	1	1	4
Housing project’s location	●C:V:Acc:HL:Level of access to formal job oportunities Gr=12	1	1	29

**Table 5: Relationships between affordability and accessibility.**

Source: ATLAS.ti. Own elaboration

Secondly, *Table 6* also shows how *women’s income* influence the fulfilment of the *policy economic requirements* to access housing projects set by the CPT. Civil servants identify that the precarious financial condition of women is the most significant constraint for their equal access to housing. The lack of financial stability among women is a phenomenon that is much related to the lack of consideration of the existing gender gap that mainly affects women economically (Interviewee G03).

## 4.5 Relationship between gender mainstreaming and women’s right to adequate housing

Through the analysis of the relationship between *gender mainstreaming* and *women’s right to adequate housing*, which is expressed in *Table 6*, it was found that the indicators of *gender roles* and the *level of gender perspective in the housing policy* are the main contributors across the *affordability* and *accessibility* variables.

The EFC acknowledges that different roles assigned to men and women affect the access to specific capital and activities for livelihoods production. Therefore, the CPT is now analysing new visions to identify the different roles to accurately reform and seek the best benefits to all types of families in Ecuador.

GENDER MAINTSTREAMING AND WOMEN’S RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING		Gender awareness						Gender inclusiveness			
		Gender analysis				Gender strategies		Instrumental participation	Transformative participation		
		• Gender representation Gr=58	• Level of perception of gender among civil servants Gr=35	• Level of gender perspective in the housing policy Gr=64	• Gender roles Gr=45	• Gender-disaggregated data Gr=16	• Existence of Monitoring and evaluation processes Gr=18	• Types of techniques to mainstream gender equality Gr=114	• Community participation Gr=54	• Gender experts participation Gr=16	• NGOs participation Gr=39
Accessibility	Eligibility criteria • Policy priorities regarding women Gr=37	2	5	14	5	2	0	2	1	0	1
	Finance methods • Policy economic requirements Gr=33	1	2	10	9	3	0	3	1	0	1
	Housing project’s location • Type of payment methods Gr=9	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	• Level of access to amenities and infrastructure Gr=45	2	5	10	7	1	1	3	2	1	0
	• Level of access to formal job opportunities Gr=37	0	2	3	15	1	0	3	2	0	1
Affordability	Housing costs • Cost by type of housing tenure Gr=9	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
	• Type of subsidy methods Gr=15	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Income • Women’s income Gr=41	0	0	8	21	2	0	3	2	0	1

Table 6: Relationships between gender mainstreaming and women’s right to adequate housing.

Source: ATLAS.ti. Own elaboration

The confinement of women primarily to domestic labour has excluded women from the access to urban dynamics, public sphere and decision-making processes (Interviewee G05). So, the fact that women are associated socio-culturally with the domestic sphere is not only a matter of space; it is a matter of power and access to society’s economic opportunities and political resources (Interviewee G05).

In Ecuador, 20% of women live under poverty conditions (INEC, 2020). Gender experts link this percentage to the fact that women do most unpaid work. Domestic labour is one of the central cultural roles that women play, and it is generally unpaid (Interviewee G04). Ecuadorian women perform 85% of domestic activities (INEC, 2020). It includes caring for children and the elderly, food preparation and household cleaning. This perpetuation of domestic labour

among women has been limited women's access to full-time jobs. Therefore, gender roles that developed within the household have impacted women's income. The lack of recognition of domestic labour as an economic activity aggravates the gender gap and increases the number of women restricted to informal jobs (Interviewee G05). It makes it more difficult for women to access adequate housing because they do not have economic autonomy. They remain stuck in household gender roles. It creates a vicious circle.

*“One reason housing is a gender problem is that there is no balance in the division of domestic work. There is still a significant accumulation of the reproductive work on women, which increases their risk of poverty” (Interviewee G04).*

The perception and development of gender roles in Ecuadorian society have not been considered when deciding the location of public housing projects (Interviewee G07). The strong relationship between housing and the development of women's daily domestic activities has not been analysed yet.

*“Housing is this relation between home, work and caring duties. Especially when housing plays as the connection point between the development of reproductive and productive activities for women” (Interviewee G06).*

In the Ecuadorian context, domestic labour has kept women away from economic activities. This disconnection worsens if housing projects are located in the outskirts of cities because it further limits women's access to formal work sources. Interviewee G02 mentions that representation of women and gender diversity in decision-making could raise awareness about the importance of locating public housing projects with direct access to sources of work as a crucial aspect for the economic emancipation of women. According to Interviewee G01, it is imperative to advocate for women's involvement in economic activities. It would be empowering and transforming if one recognises this relationship between housing and women. It would help women fulfil the economic requirements to access public housing projects.

Most gender experts argue that the study of gender conditions connects to women's spatial and social justice processes. Interviewee G02 mentions that it is possible to take affirmative actions to favour women and gender diversity from the CPT priorities. However, the right to homeownership is challenging to reach because it still focuses on traditional families and not on different atypical like unmarried young women and LGBTI families.

*“In Ecuador, the need for housing is always perceived as a family need. The housing policy does not embrace young women who have no family and are not mothers, showing the limited vision of public policy in access to housing. The state's institutional capacity to produce housing does not cover the existing demand” (Interviewee G06).*

Throughout the data analysis, no consideration was found on the government to give grants for women diversity. CPT remains blindfolded for young, indigenous, elderly, and women of colour and the LGBTI community (Interviewee G06). The lack of gender mainstreaming in the CPT policy limits that priorities that solely benefit female-headed households. Civil servants mention that in the Ecuadorian context, female-headed households are the neediest group. However, they also claim that it is the only group that the housing policy has paid attention to. Therefore, there exists an antipathy towards other needy sections of society.

Interviewee G06 identify that the CPT should be based on territorial proximity, considering the construction of services and social infrastructure in the same locality, and evaluating the multiple nature of women activities. However, housing projects are designed mainly by men, where they generally miss the importance and functionality of a housing project articulated with primary amenities relevant for women, such as nurseries (Interviewee G02).

In her doctoral thesis, Acosta (2019) also noted that the gender approach in housing production compels us to rethink the logic of accessibility, affordability, mobility, space and occupation, i.e., the relationship between gender, housing, socio-economic resources and the city. Housing and urban planning should be gender-sensitive to make women's lives more equitable and rational (Interviewee G02).

Finally, it is a fact that the state does not economically recognise reproductive labour. The negative relationship between the perpetuation of reproductive work among women and financial autonomy (Interviewee G04) causes women to be systematically exploited. Consequently, it has denied women's right to adequate housing.

## **Chapter 5: Conclusions and recommendations**

This chapter presents the conclusions of the research by taking into account the literature discussed in Chapter 2. It also gives recommendations regarding the impact of gender mainstreaming on women's right to adequate housing and lessons learned on conducting qualitative research in times of pandemics. As the theory of gender mainstreaming continues to develop, and housing has not yet been fully perceived as a gender issue, it can be expected that these findings might provide some other solutions in this context.

### **5.1 Conclusions on the research sub-questions**

#### **How gender mainstreaming is addressed in the housing policymaking in Ecuador?**

The level of gender perspective incorporation in the housing policy is based chiefly on the eligibility criteria, giving female-headed households priority to access public housing projects. According to Bacchi & Eveline (2010) and Moser (2012), how the housing policy stresses the target group's needs determines the degree to which housing policies achieve gender equality. The lack of coverage of the CPT policy towards the diversity of women's and LGBTI's needs contradicts this theory. The CPT policy offers too little regarding the relationship between gender and the intersectionality approach in the housing sector. There is not complete disaggregated data that could broaden the scope of the policy in favour of the existing vulnerabilities that women and the LGBTI community face today. As Walby (2005) argues, it is imperative to incorporate such gender-disaggregated data as fundamental facts in decision-making processes.

The culturally established gender roles continue to be perpetuated in Ecuadorian society. Women are still the protagonists of home duties. They continue to do unpaid jobs and domestic labour. Cornwall (2016) argues that the cultural production around gender roles in policymaking directly influence gender policy discourses managed by the housing sector. Therefore, it is essential to identify how predetermined gender roles through cultural and social construction are perceived by civil servants to understand how housing policymaking could enhance women's access to public housing projects. However, the CPT has not considered the

different relationships each gender has with housing to formulate better housing alternatives for women and the LGBTI community.

The CPT development has not shown discrimination regarding women participation. On the contrary, there are multiple women attachments in administrative positions. It is in line with what Cornwall (2013) mentions about the need for women practitioner's involvement in public institutions. However, in the decision-making hierarchy, absolutely parity has not been reached yet. Walby (2005) recommends that it is necessary to develop equal opportunities and treatment for women's inclusion in decision-making processes. In the Ecuadorian context, it is still essential to continue advocating for women inclusion in relevant decision-making processes.

Although there are strategies, such as workshops and talks, to increase gender knowledge among civil servants, these methods are not continuously practised. Acosta (2019) mentions that for internalising learning regarding gender equality, consistency is needed. However, the Ecuadorian housing sector has shown a deficiency in mainstreaming the acquired knowledge.

The lack of gender mainstreaming has much to do with NGOs and gender experts' level of engagement in housing policymaking. Their involvement in policy development can increase gender awareness in public structures and create mechanisms to mainstream gender in housing institutions. As Lombardo et al. (2016) and Otero-Hermida & Bouzas (2019) noted, NGOs are fundamental actors to internalise gender knowledge and increase community participation in housing policymaking. However, the analysis shows little involvement of such NGOs in the Ecuadorian housing sector.

The CPT policy introduced the EFC plan as a strategy to increase community participation in housing projects development. However, the analysis shows that there exists very little compliance with EFC policy guidelines in practice. There is minimal community participation in housing policymaking in Ecuador.

In conclusion, the data analysis has shown no in-depth knowledge of gender equality among civil servants and in the CPT policy framework. This is related to the lack of incorporation of training methods and the lack of NGOs, gender experts and community participation. There is no direct gender mainstreaming at structural, regulatory and participation levels.

### **How the Ecuadorian housing policy covers affordability and accessibility principles of adequate housing regarding women's life conditions?**

In terms of affordability, the CPT policy offers diverse housing prices according to the different financial capacities of the target groups. The option of 100% subsidised dwelling targets the most vulnerable groups, where female-headed households are included. According to Westendrop (2011), affordability cannot be analysed in a gender-neutral approach. However, housing costs proposed by the CPT policy are still not affordable for indigenous, migrant, elderly and women of colour and LGBTI community, who live in precarious socio-economic conditions. CPT has not fully considered the challenge women face of acquiring a full-time job with a stable salary that allows them to access housing credits. Therefore, women mainly depend on housing state subsidies to access adequate housing.

Regarding accessibility, the most substantial relationship between gender and the CPT comes across in the eligibility criteria. The MIDUVI has identified female-headed households as one of the most vulnerable groups that need economic support. There is an affirmative action taken by the housing policy in favour of this target population. However, to access to housing, the target group must have access to housing policy finance methods (Ayala et al., 2019). In Ecuador, this translates to women being forced to remain in poverty to be eligible for public housing projects and fulfil the economic policy requirements. Also, indigenous, migrant, elderly and women of colour and LGBTI community are not considered for the eligibility criteria. On the other hand, women who are just above the requirements for the subsidy does not have enough access to credits due to a lack of formal job opportunities. In this way, accessibility towards adequate housing always remains elusive for women in Ecuador.

In Ecuador, public housing project's locations respond only to land prices. The majority of the projects are situated on the outskirts of the urban area due to the low land value. It is acknowledged that women are associated with reproductive activities in Ecuador, and proximity to amenities enhances this women's daily routine (Turok, 2015; Cai & Lu, 2015). Also, according to Cai & Lu (2015), the right to housing is strongly related to the right to access basic amenities. However, the CPT policy has not analysed the relationship between reproductive activities and access to amenities and urban infrastructure as essential for locating public housing policies to benefit women's daily activities.

The remoteness of public housing projects further limits access to economic activities. As Jana et al. (2016) noted, the proximity to job opportunities and urban infrastructure are vital aspects of women emancipation. In Ecuador, the housing sector has not taken into account women's precarious financial conditions. The isolation of public housing projects from the city has not allowed women to become involved with urban economic activities.

As per the current analysis, the right to affordable and accessible housing for women is not fully covered by the CPT policy. There is no analysis available of the different vulnerabilities among the target group despite the necessity to understand the actual housing needs and the financial capacity of the target groups, which can improve housing accessibility (Ayala et al., 2019). Housing costs, finance methods and public housing projects locations are aspects that do not have a gendered perspective. It is crucial to have a more technical gender view of the housing sector.

### **To what extent does gender mainstreaming contribute to the right to affordable and accessible housing of women in Ecuador?**

The theory of gender mainstreaming embraces policy implications on gender diversity by considering the different conditions of life as integral factors in policymaking (Moser, 2012). In Ecuador, the weak gender awareness among the CPT guidelines does not fulfil this theory. The intersectionality approach of gender is not considered in the CPT to establish housing costs and access finance methods favouring women. The lack of gender mainstreaming is also reflected in the absence of gender perspective in public housing project's locations. The proximity to job opportunities and urban infrastructure (Jana et al., 2016; Turok, 2015;



Hamman, 2014) are vital aspects for women emancipation. However, the CPT has not considered these aspects for the location of public housing projects.

The limitations mentioned before are also reflected in the lack of participation of NGOs, gender experts and community in the CPT development. In Ecuador, the decision-making remains unilateral. There is no recognition that women's involvement can play a critical role in gendering the housing sphere (Irazábal & Angotti, 2017). Few awareness-raising training methods have been implemented as part of the staff training. The lack of internalisation of gender equality has resulted in the CPT economic policy requirements being designed only for people with a stable monthly income but not for people associated with informal economic activities. It is not aimed at most Ecuadorian women's conditions. According to Adebola (2020), women's right to housing are at risk due to the current gender gap. It places women at a disadvantageous position in socio-economic status and minimum representation in the decision-making process, as in the Ecuadorian case.

Gender mainstreaming in CPT has contributed little in raising awareness about the diversity of vulnerabilities experienced by women and different types of gender in Ecuador. The lack of gender mainstreaming is reflected in the unequal gender representation in the hierarchy of housing institutions. All these factors have contributed to the CPT failing to address the principles of affordability and accessibility in favour of women, which subsequently hinders their right to housing (Adebola, 2020).

## **5.2 Conclusion on the main research question**

### **How does gender mainstreaming or the lack thereof in housing policymaking affect women's right to affordable and accessible housing in Ecuador?**

It is essential to know how gender is perceived under policy guidelines and how civil servants directly influences the process. The theory says that for a policy to become gender awareness, it requires a high level of understanding of gender equality among civil servants as well as policy framework (Lombardo et al., 2016; Otero-Hermida & Bouzas, 2019). However, the current research results do not resonate with this theory. In the Ecuadorian context, it is found that the CPT has perpetuated housing to be viewed mainly as a utilitarian need. In its current capacity, the housing sector does not address the current demand for women and gender diversity. The ANI acknowledges that the CPT requirements for access to housing programmes do not identify the different socio-economic constraints young, indigenous, elderly, and women of colour and the LGBTI community currently face. According to Falú (2017), neither society is homogeneous, nor women are all equal. However, the CPT generalises the beneficiaries and prevents further affordability and accessibility regarding women's access to housing.

In Ecuador, the lack of gender awareness has prevented the housing sector from recognising reproductive activities as essential factors, further limiting women's access to economic resources and participation in the public sector. No housing policy in Ecuador has acknowledged yet the link between gender roles perpetuation and the lack of women's financial autonomy.

The cost of public housing has not considered that many Ecuadorian women live under precarious economic conditions, without a stable income. The CPT has not evaluated the relationship between public housing costs and women's income. Moreover, the location of public housing projects has contributed to the perpetuation of traditional gender roles. It hinders daily women's movements and prevents their access to jobs opportunities, basic services and

amenities. The lack of gender awareness has prevented the CPT from taking affirmative actions to make housing affordable and accessible for women diversity.

Another factor limiting gender mainstreaming in the Ecuadorian housing sector is the lack of qualitative housing production. It is reflected by the lack of participatory articulation in decision-making processes. The theory identifies that the active involvement of NGOs, gender experts, and community participation during housing policymaking is necessary to incorporate gender lens into decision-making processes (O N Moser, 2017; Cornwall, 2013). However, the current research results show that NGOs, gender experts and community participation in housing policymaking are limited despite the recognition that their involvement will enhance the levels of gender knowledge from both the supply and demand sides. This lack of NGOs and community involvement have limited women's right to communicate their housing needs. It has not heeded the problems women face in accessing affordable housing. To improve gender equality around the housing sector and urban planning, it is not possible to "detach the social world from the built environment" (Kern, 2019, p. 156). Unfortunately, the current research could not find such examples in Ecuador.

Finally, according to Lombardo & Mergaert (2016), gender mainstreaming has been mainly jeopardised due to the institutional resistance to change. This resistance can be seen in the Ecuadorian case. It can be said from the above discussion that gender mainstreaming in the Ecuadorian housing sector is presently insubstantial. The current level of gender awareness is not enough to generate affirmative actions towards women and their diversity. Also, the rigid structure of the Ecuadorian housing sector has not allowed the practice of gender inclusiveness. Thus, In Ecuador, the right to affordable and accessible housing has not yet been achieved by women and gender diversity.

### **5.3 Relevance of the main findings**

In Ecuador, housing as a gender equality problem has much to do with the rigidity of public decisions. Currently, housing is a political issue. The housing supply is still considered a political decision. It is also primarily dependent on the perception of heads of public institutions. The research shows that the most influential variable in the Ecuadorian context is *gender awareness*. From this, it can be said that gender mainstreaming in Ecuador is primarily dependent on the housing institution's structure and its levels of gender awareness. It also seems that *gender inclusiveness* does not play a relevant role in affordable and accessible housing for women. Therefore, NGOs, gender experts, and community participation might raise gender awareness in housing institutions. *Gender awareness* and *gender inclusiveness* should work together to achieve successful results in gender mainstreaming into the development of public policies.

### **5.4 Lessons and recommendations**

#### **5.4.1 Recommendations for housing policymaking**

Based on the findings of the current research, it can be said that the rigidity of the institutional housing structure does not allow other disciplines to interact with it. One of the housing sector deficiencies in Ecuador found through the interviews is the disconnection between housing policies (CPT, EFC) and gender plans (MM, ANI, GBGAD). The solitary status of policies is reflected in the absence of gender awareness within the housing institutions. Some specific recommendations for the housing sector are as follow:

1. Housing policies should be efficiently aligned with the strategies proposed by gender-based plans for gender mainstreaming in the housing sector.
2. Gender mainstreaming should be done comprehensively for all public institutions at all levels as an integral component.
3. Housing institutions should incorporate sensitivity among civil servants to grasp and understand how the existing gender inequalities, the individualisation and the homogenisation of collective rights impact women's right to adequate housing. This structural change is based on gender awareness-raising by NGOs and gender experts who genuinely represent those proceedings.
4. The housing sector should constantly incorporate workshops and talks to deepen gender awareness within the entire public staff.
5. Public institutions should create detailed gender-disaggregated data where gender inequalities are accurately reflected. It might help public institutions to reach the target group and expand policies outcomes.
6. The housing sector should introduce a framework to promote equal gender representation and should implement them via creating equal opportunities, acknowledging existing gender disadvantages and redistributing responsibilities by affirmative actions.

#### **5.4.2 Recommendations to future research**

This research is context-specific. The characteristics of Ecuador might not be similar to other countries. Thus, further study in another country might be necessary. Apart from this, an important factor emerged as the accumulation of women in peri-urban areas due to the low cost of living and most of the public housing projects are located there. This phenomenon is marginalising women to the outskirts. This needs further research. Also, one theory notes that affordable housing is not accessible if it is unsafe for gender diversity (Kern, 2019). The interviews conducted during the current research also acknowledge that the secluded nature of the location of public housing projects has deep connections with women's and LGBTI's safety both inside and outside the home. Therefore, further research should focus on that. Lastly, this research could not incorporate women housing applicants due to the covid situation in Ecuador. Future research should integrate their perspective positively.

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## Annex 1: Research instruments: interviews guidelines

Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) Erasmus University of Rotterdam	
<b>Guía para las entrevistas a los servidores públicos</b>	
Investigador: María José Zúñiga	
Tema de estudio:	Incorporación de la perspectiva de género y el derecho de las mujeres a la vivienda adecuada: un análisis del desarrollo de políticas de vivienda en Ecuador
Entrevistado:	
Institución:	
Posición laboral:	
Fecha y hora:	
Versión original: Español	
<b>Preguntas</b>	
1. ¿Me pudiera indicar el nombre de la institución en la que labora, explicar en breve el objetivo de la misma, y su posición laboral ahí?	
2. ¿Cuál es el principal problema de vivienda que abarca la política planteada por la institución?	
3. ¿Cómo usted relaciona la vivienda con el género?	
4. ¿Cómo cree usted que es la relación entre los diferentes roles de género y la división del trabajo del hogar con el acceso a la vivienda de las mujeres?	
5. ¿Cómo cree usted que las directrices de la política de vivienda tienen en cuenta al género?	
6. ¿Quién participa en la elaboración de las políticas de vivienda?	
7. ¿Cómo cree usted que se desarrollan las relaciones de género en los procesos de toma de decisiones de la política de vivienda?	
8. ¿Ha tenido algún acercamiento en la aplicación de métodos de capacitación para fomentar la consciencia de género entre los funcionarios públicos?	
9. ¿Tiene usted algún conocimiento sobre la implementación de procesos de supervisión y evaluación de la incorporación de la perspectiva de género dentro de la elaboración de las políticas de vivienda?	
10. ¿Cuáles cree usted que son las condiciones en que los funcionarios públicos implementan la igualdad de género en los proyectos de vivienda?	
11. ¿Qué cree usted que habría que hacer para aumentar la consciencia de género dentro de las políticas de vivienda?	
12. ¿Cómo cree usted que son las condiciones en que las mujeres participan en la elaboración de la política de vivienda?	
13. ¿Sabe usted si se ha utilizado alguna estrategia para incorporar la participación de organizaciones de género y expertos en género en el desarrollo de la política?	
14. ¿Cómo cree usted que la participación de organizaciones de género en el proceso de toma de decisiones contribuyen a la igualdad de género en el ámbito de la vivienda?	
15. ¿Cómo cree usted que es la participación de la comunidad en los procesos del desarrollo de las políticas de vivienda?	
16. ¿Qué cree usted que se debería hacer para promover la incorporación de organizaciones de género dentro de las políticas de vivienda?	
17. ¿Cómo cree usted que la incorporación de la perspectiva de género en las políticas de vivienda contribuye a que las mujeres tengan acceso a una vivienda asequible?	
18. ¿Cómo cree usted que la inequidad de género afecta a las mujeres a tener una vivienda asequible y accesible?	
19. ¿Cómo cree usted que la incorporación de la perspectiva de género o la falta de, influencia en la accesibilidad a la vivienda para las mujeres?	
20. ¿Cómo cree usted que las ubicaciones de los proyectos de vivienda consideran las necesidades y el desarrollo de actividades cotidianas de las mujeres?	
21. ¿Tiene usted alguna pregunta, duda o comentario que le gustaría hacer?	



Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) Erasmus University of Rotterdam	
<b>Interview Guide Form for Housing Civil Servants</b>	
Researcher: María José Zúñiga	
Research topic:	Gender mainstreaming and women's right to adequate housing: an analysis of housing policymaking in Ecuador
Interviewee:	
Institution:	
Position:	
Date & time:	
Translated version: English	
<b>Questions:</b>	
1. Could you tell me the name of the institution in which you work, explain in brief the purpose of it, and your working position there?	
2. What is the main housing problem covered by the housing policy in the institution?	
3. How do you relate housing to gender?	
4. How do you see the relationship between different gender roles and the division of home labour and women's access to housing?	
5. How do you think the housing policy guidelines are gender-sensitive?	
6. Who participates in housing policies development?	
7. How do you think gender relations are developing in the decision-making processes of housing policy?	
8. Have you had any approach in the application of training methods to promote gender awareness among civil servants?	
9. Do you have any knowledge of the gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation processes in the development of housing policies?	
10. What do you think are the conditions under civil servants implement gender equality in housing projects?	
11. What do you think should be done to increase gender awareness within housing policies?	
12. What do you think are the conditions under women participate in the housing policy development?	
13. Have any strategies been used to involve gender-based organizations and gender experts in housing policymaking?	
14. How do you believe the participation of gender-based organizations in the decision-making process contributes to gender equality in the housing sector?	
15. How do you see is the community involvement in the processes of housing policy development?	
16. What do you think should be done to promote gender mainstreaming in housing policies?	
17. How do you see gender mainstreaming in housing policies contribute to women's access to affordable housing?	
18. How do you think gender inequality affects women to have affordable and accessible housing?	
19. How do you think gender mainstreaming or the lack of, influences the accessibility of housing for women?	
20. How do you think the locations of housing projects consider the needs and development of women's daily activities?	
21. Do you have any questions, doubts or comments you would like to make?	

Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) Erasmus University of Rotterdam	
Guía para las entrevistas a los expertos y expertas en género y organizaciones no gubernamentales	
Investigador: María José Zúñiga	
Tema de estudio:	Incorporación de la perspectiva de género y el derecho de las mujeres a la vivienda adecuada: un análisis del desarrollo de políticas de vivienda en Ecuador
Entrevistado:	
Institución:	
Posición laboral:	
Fecha y hora:	
Versión original: Español	
<b>Preguntas</b>	
1. ¿Usted trabaja en alguna organización de mujeres o relacionada con temas de género?	
2. ¿Me pudiera explicar en breve el objetivo de la institución y cual es su posición laboral ahí?	
3. ¿Cómo usted considera a la vivienda un aspecto relacionado con la igualdad de género?	
4. ¿Cómo cree usted que es la relación entre los diferentes roles de género y la división del trabajo del hogar con el acceso de las mujeres a la vivienda?	
5. ¿Cómo cree usted que las directrices de la política de vivienda tienen en cuenta al género?	
6. ¿Cómo usted considera la aplicación de métodos de capacitación para fomentar la consciencia de género entre los funcionarios públicos?	
7. ¿Cómo usted cree que la participación de organizaciones de género contribuiría a los procesos de evaluación y seguimiento de la igualdad de género en los proyectos de vivienda?	
8. ¿Cómo usted cree que la participación de la mujer en los procesos de toma de decisiones en las políticas de vivienda contribuiría al derecho a la vivienda de la mujer?	
9. ¿Cómo cree usted que las políticas de vivienda consideran a organizaciones y expertos en género para el desarrollo las políticas?	
10. ¿Cómo percibe usted la conexión entre los funcionarios públicos y la comunidad para ejecutar los proyectos de vivienda?	
11. ¿Qué usted cree que habría que hacer para aumentar la consciencia de género dentro de las políticas de vivienda?	
12. ¿Qué cree usted que se debería hacer para promover la incorporación de mujeres y organizaciones de género dentro de las políticas de vivienda?	
13. ¿Cuales cree usted que son los desafíos para la incorporación de la perspectiva de género en las políticas de vivienda?	
14. ¿Cómo usted cree que la incorporación de la perspectiva de género en las políticas de vivienda contribuye a que las mujeres tengan acceso a una vivienda asequible?	
15. ¿Cómo cree usted que la incorporación de la perspectiva de género o la falta de influencia en la accesibilidad a la vivienda para las mujeres?	
16. ¿Cómo cree usted que la inequidad de género afecta al derecho de la vivienda adecuada a las mujeres?	
17. ¿Tiene usted alguna pregunta, duda o comentario que le gustaría hacer?	

Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) Erasmus University of Rotterdam	
Interview Guide Form for gender experts and NGOs	
Researcher: María José Zúñiga	
Research topic:	Gender mainstreaming and women's right to adequate housing: an analysis of housing policymaking in Ecuador
Interviewee:	
Institution:	
Position:	
Date & time:	
Translated version: English	
<b>Questions:</b>	
1. Do you work in any women's or gender-related organizations?	
2. Could you explain to me shortly the purpose of the institution and what is its working position there?	
3. How do you view housing as a gender equality issue?	
4. How do you see the relationship between different gender roles and the division of labour in the home with women's access to housing?	
5. How do you think the housing policy guidelines are gender-sensitive?	
6. How do you view the application of training methods to promote gender awareness among public officials?	
7. How do you think that the participation of gender organizations would contribute to gender equality assessment and monitoring processes in housing projects?	
8. How do you believe that women's participation in decision-making processes in housing policies would contribute to women's housing rights?	
9. How do you think housing policies consider gender-based organizations and experts to housing policies development?	
10. How do you perceive the connection between public officials and the community in implementing housing projects?	
11. What do you think should be done to increase gender awareness within housing policies?	
12. What do you think should be done to promote the incorporation of women and gender organizations into housing policies?	
13. What do you think are the challenges for gender mainstreaming in housing policies?	
14. How do you believe that gender mainstreaming in housing policies contributes to women's access to affordable housing?	
15. How do you think gender mainstreaming or lack thereof influence on accessibility to housing for women?	
16. How do you think gender inequity affect women's right to adequate housing?	
17. Do you have any questions, doubts or comments you would like to make?	

## Annex 2: List of interviewees

<b>CIVIL SERVANTS HOUSING SECTOR</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PROFESSION</b>	<b>RELATION WITH THE RESEARCH SUBJECT</b>
Interviewee H1	Economist	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy development and implementation at national level.
Interviewee H2	Architect	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy development and implementation at national level.
Interviewee H3	Architect   Urban Planner	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy development and implementation at national level.
Interviewee H4	Architect   Urban Planner	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy development and implementation at municipal level.
Interviewee H5	Architect	Currently involved directly with the housing policy development and implementation at national level.
Interviewee H6	Architect	Currently involved directly with the housing policy development and implementation at national level.
Interviewee H7	Architect	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy implementation at municipal level.
Interviewee H8	Architect	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy implementation at municipal level.
Interviewee H9	Architect	Formerly involved directly with the housing policy implementation at municipal level.
<b>GENDER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS   GENDER EXPERTS</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PROFESSION</b>	<b>RELATION WITH THE RESEARCH SUBJECT</b>
Interviewee G01	Architect	Formerly civil servant and researcher expert on housing and human rights.
Interviewee G02	Politic science	Formerly involved directly with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion
Interviewee G03	Lawyer	Currently involved directly with the Human Rights Secretariat
Interviewee G04	Lawyer	Professor   researcher expert in gender and feminist theories
Interviewee G05	Anthropologist	Professor   researcher expert in gender and feminist theories
Interviewee G06	Magister in sexual education	Deputy director of the foundation "SENDAS"
Interviewee G07	Social worker	Currently worker of the foundation "Alianza en el desarrollo"
Interviewee G08	Social worker	Currently worker of the foundation "Alianza en el desarrollo"
Interviewee G09	PhD on Cultural Studies, Identities and Territories	Researcher expert on urban sociologist, social management and human settlements

## Annex 3: Code list

ATLAS.ti Report

THESIS

Codes

Report created by MARIA JOSE ZUNIGA on 29 Aug 2021

### ● C:MV:Gender inequality

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:MV:Barriers:Gender violence
- ← is a – ● C:MV:Barriers:Wage gap
- ← is a – ● C:MV:Barriers:Women informal job
- ← is a – ● C:MV:Barriers:Women poverty
- ← is a – ● C:MV:Barriers:Women unpaid job/domestic labour

### ● C:MV:Barriers:Gender violence

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:MV:Gender inequality

### ● C:MV:Barriers:Wage gap

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:MV:Gender inequality
- C:MV:Barriers:Women informal job

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:MV:Gender inequality

### ● C:MV:Barriers:Women poverty

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:MV:Gender inequality
- C:MV:Barriers:Women unpaid job/domestic labour

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:MV:Gender inequality

### ● C:Women right to housing

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:V:Accessibility
- ← is a – ● C:V:Affordability

### ● C:V:Accessibility

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:Eligibility criteria
- ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:Finance methods
- ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:Housing projects location
- is a → ● C:Women right to housing

### ● C:V:Acc:Eligibility criteria

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:EC:Policy priorities
- ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:EC:Policy requirements
- is a → ● C:V:Accessibility

### ● C:V:Acc:EC:Policy priorities

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:Acc:Eligibility criteria

- C:V:Acc:EC:Policy requirements
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Acc:Eligibility criteria
  - C:V:Acc:Finance methods
- Linked Codes:
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:FM:Economic requirements
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:FM:Payment methods
  - is a → ● C:V:Accessibility
  - C:V:Acc:FM:Economic requirements
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Acc:Finance methods
  - C:V:Acc:FM:Payment methods
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Acc:Finance methods
  - C:V:Acc:Housing projects location
- Linked Codes:
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:HL:Access to amenities and infrastructure
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Acc:HL:Access to job
  - is a → ● C:V:Accessibility
  - C:V:Acc:HL:Access to amenities and infrastructure
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Acc:Housing projects location
  - C:V:Acc:HL:Access to job opportunities
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Acc:Housing projects location
  - **C:V:Affordability**
- Linked Codes:
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Aff:Housing costs
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Aff:Income
  - is a → ● C:Women right to housing
  - C:V:Aff:Housing costs
- Linked Codes:
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Aff:HC:Cost by type of tenure
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Aff:HC:Type of subsidies
  - is a → ● C:V:Affordability
  - C:V:Aff:HC:Cost by type of tenure
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Aff:Housing costs
  - C:V:Aff:HC:Type of subsidies
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Aff:Housing costs
  - C:V:Aff:Income
- Linked Codes:
  - ← is a – ● C:V:Aff:I:women income
  - is a → ● C:V:Affordability
  - C:V:Aff:I:women income
- Linked Codes:
  - is a → ● C:V:Aff:Income

## ● C: Gender mainstreaming

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:V:Gender awareness
- ← is a – ● C:V:Gender inclusiveness

### ● C:V:Gender awareness

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C: Gender mainstreaming
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:Gender analysis
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:Gender strategies
- C:V:GA:Gender analysis

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GAn: Gender relations
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GAn:Gender perception among civil servants
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GAn:Gender perspective in the housing policy
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GAn:Gender roles
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GAn:gender-disaggregated data
- is a → ● C:V:Gender awareness
- C:V:GA:GAn: Gender relations

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender analysis
- C:V:GA:GAn:Gender perception among civil servants

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender analysis
- C:V:GA:GAn:Gender perspective in the housing policy

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender analysis
- C:V:GA:GAn:Gender roles

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender analysis
- C:V:GA:GAn:gender-disaggregated data

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender analysis
- C:V:GA:Gender strategies

Linked Codes:

- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GS:Monitor and evaluation processes
- ← is a – ● C:V:GA:GS:Techniques to mainstream gender
- is a → ● C:V:Gender awareness
- C:V:GA:GS:Monitor and evaluation processes

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender strategies
- C:V:GA:GS:Techniques to mainstream gender

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GA:Gender strategies
- C:V:Gender inclusiveness

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C: Gender mainstreaming
- ← is a – ● C:V:GI:Instrumental participation
- ← is a – ● C:V:GI:Transformative participation
- C:V:GI:Instrumental participation

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:Gender inclusiveness
- ← is a – ● C:V:GI:IP:Community participation
- C:V:GI:IP:Community participation

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GI:Instrumental participation
- C:V:GI:Transformative participation

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:Gender inclusiveness
- ← is a – ● C:V:GI:TP:gender experts
- ← is a – ● C:V:GI:TP:NGOs
- C:V:GI:TP:gender experts

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GI:Transformative participation
- C:V:GI:TP:NGOs

Linked Codes:

- is a → ● C:V:GI:Transformative participation

- Gender-based policies
- General variable: challenges of gender mainstreaming
- General variable: housing gender problem
- General variable: housing problems in Ecuador
- General variable: policy limitations

## Annex 4: Research time Schedule

WORK PLAN: TIME SCHEDULE				
<b>1. Data collection</b> 28 June - 30 July	<b>21 June - 02 July</b>	<b>05 - 09 July</b>	<b>12 - 16 July</b>	<b>19 - 30 July</b>
	Interview manual development	Content analysis of the policies, doctoral thesis		
	Interview testing			
	Practice interviews skills Arrange interview appointments	Interviews sessions to civil servants, gender experts and gender-based organizations		
<b>2. Data Analysis period</b> 21 June - 09 August	<b>21 June - 02 July</b>	<b>05 - 16 July</b>	<b>19 - 23 July</b>	<b>23 July - 09</b>
	Content analysis of the policies, doctoral thesis			
		Interviews data analysis		
		Interviews data analysis		
			Thesis writing - <b>Submission draft thesis</b>	
<b>3. Thesis writing and corrections</b> 10 August - 30 August	<b>10 - 13 August</b>	<b>16 - 20 August</b>	<b>23 - 27 August</b>	<b>30th August</b>
	Interviews data analysis			Final Thesis submission
		Corrections and adjustments of data analysis		
	Thesis writing			

## Annex 5: Notes

1. For this research, the term “LGBTI” is embraced because it is used in Ecuadorian gender-based policies. This generates consistency through the text. However, it should be mentioned that the research does not have any discriminatory intent to use other terms regarding the diverse gender community.



## Annex 6: IHS copyright form



### IHS COPYRIGHT FORM

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2. The number of pages for the thesis is about 50 (without annexes).
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