Inclusive Community Energy Resilience

Gazipur, Bangladesh

Gender Mainstreaming in ADB's Energy Projects in Nepal

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Background

- **Accelerating progress in gender equality** as one of operational priorities in ADB's strategy 2030;

- In Nepal, ADB promotes **gender equality together with social inclusion**.

- **Adapting bottom up approach (as of date)-** Project Specific **Gender Action Plan as key tools used to ensure tangible and explicit attention to gender equality** in project design and implementation;

ADB's Nepal Country Partnership Strategy (2013-2019)

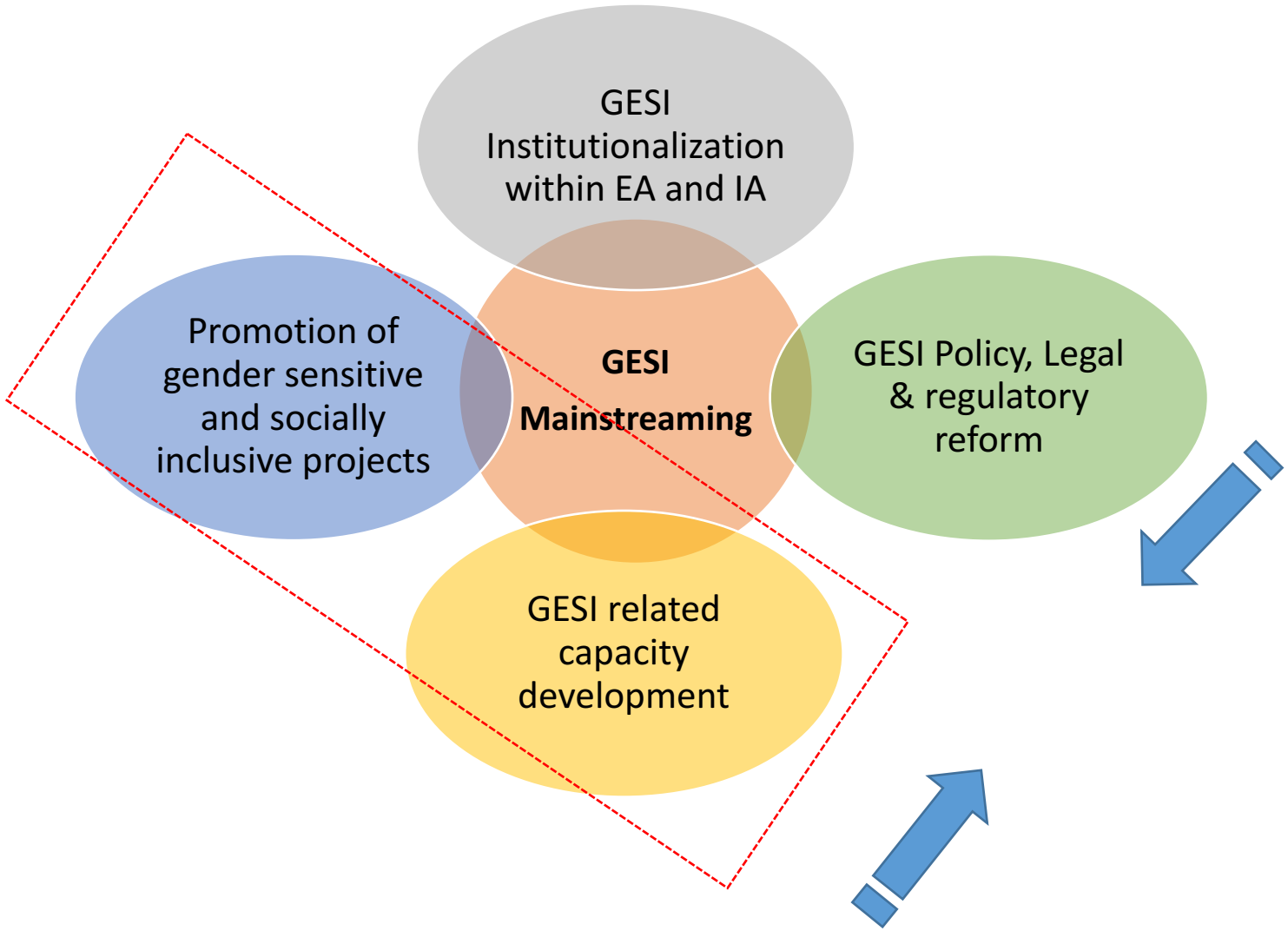
- GESI as one of six thematic priorities;
- Aims at mainstreaming GESI consideration into design, implementation and monitoring of ADB financed operations;
- Aims to increase number of projects with GESI features;
- Aims to enhance the capacity of Government.

Major Energy Projects (Ongoing)

Projects(Approval Year)	ADB Financed Amount ($ million)*	Main Project Scope	Gender Classification
1) Electricity Transmission and Supply Improvement Project (2011)	75	Construction of HV T/L distribution lines, Associated Substation (Grid, Distribution), Rahab of Generation stations	EGM
2) Tanahun Hydro Power Project (2012)	150	Construction of 140 MW storage hydropower project, Rural Electrification, T/L for power evacuation.	EGM
3) SASEC Power System Expansion Project (2014)	180	**On Grid**-Construction of HV T/L distribution lines, Associated Substation (Grid, Distribution) **Off Grid-** Rural Energy Access using mini hydro, wind/solar mini grid systems.	EGM
4) Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Improvement Project (2017)	150	Improving distribution and transmission infrastructures; System efficiency upgradation through advanced grid operations, distribution system automation, and smart metering.	EGM

EGM=Effective Gender Mainstreaming, T/L= Transmission Line
* At the time of approval

Approaches to Mainstreaming GESI



- Less understanding on how to integrate GESI issues in earlier days.
- Soft start- focusing on bottom up approach- project level interventions and capacity development
  - Necessary but not sufficient conditions
- Top down approach is currently being pursued concurrently
  - GESI strategy and guidelines, institutionalization capacity building
  - Collaboration with other development partners
- Matching two approaches

Project Reference: Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project

- Approved in :2017
- ADB Loan Amount : $150 million
- Project Outputs
  - Transmission grid capacity to feed the primary distribution networks for Kathmandu Valley strengthened.
  - Kathmandu Valley distribution network rehabilitated and capacity increased
  - Operational and financial performance of NEA distribution centers enhanced- automate customer metering and reduce nontechnical losses via installation of smart metering and associated facilities.
  - NEA's capacity to operate and manage advanced distribution system, intelligent network (smart grid) technology with GESI aspects in electricity access and end-user awareness developed.

Project Reference: Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project

GESI Related Activities

- Separate GESI plan has been devised
- At broader level, it aims to support & strengthen Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and the National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal (NACEUN) in mainstreaming GESI in program and project cycles
- At field level, activities also in place for promoting access and support to the productive use of clean energy technologies and services by women, the poor and vulnerable.
- Separate TA funded by Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) devised piggy backed to the loan to support these interventions.

Project Reference: Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project

GESI Action Plan: Upstream interventions:

- Undertake institutional assessment of NEA on GESI and social safeguards and make recommendations on strengthening NEA's institutional structure
- Prepare Energy Sector GESI Strategy and Operational Guideline
- Revise the Community Rural Electrification (CRE) Operational Guidelines
- Prepare social safeguard guidelines and procedures
- Develop GESI responsive Project Performance Monitoring System

Project Reference: Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project

GESI Action Plan: Downstream Interventions:

- Build capacity of NEA core staff, its subsidiary agencies and partners on GESI issues
  - Train NEA staff on Energy Sector GESI Strategy and Operational Guideline
  - Train NEA staff as GESI resource persons
- Train NEA staff in new energy technologies: 30% women
- Productive use of clean energy technologies and services by poor and vulnerable households
  - Training on Entrepreneurship, Business Management, Operation and Skills: 500 women
  - Business counselling, coaching, mentoring and handholding supports
  - Facilitating access to finance and markets, linkages with other support service providers

Overall Findings

- Difficulties in finding entry point for GESI elements in large infrastructure projects like TL project directly, however indirect intervention also produces encouraging results in beneficiaries life.
- Going beyond participation(women as we are focusing now) is a need. Commercial utilities expectation: How GESI enhance its operational efficiency?
- Limited understanding on GESI and certain dimension of smart grid (T&D automation, cyber security, big data and analytics, energy storage etc)
- Other dimensions of smart grid such as micro grid, distributed generation, smart homes & building, demand response and energy efficiency are promising areas for GESI integration.

Thank You