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**NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL  
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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND BEYOND

Cross-Regional Learning from South Asia

**10–12 February 2026 • Jakarta, Indonesia**

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# SARD's Journey in Just Energy Transition: From Concept to Practice — Going Beyond the Meter

2016

Going Beyond the Meter: Inclusive Energy Solutions in South Asia [Jaipur, 2016]

2017-  
2019

Three lateral learning workshops on smart grids and inclusive energy solutions in Melbourne, including three related national workshops held in Bhopal (2017), Galle (2018) and Gazipur (2019); SARD's publication of the Tipsheet for Gender-Inclusive Approaches in the Energy Sector (2018)

2019-  
2023

ADB, in collaboration with the World Bank, launched the WePOWER Network in 2019 and established the WePOWER national chapters in SARD DMCs. SARD launched its GESI Framework.

2024-  
2025

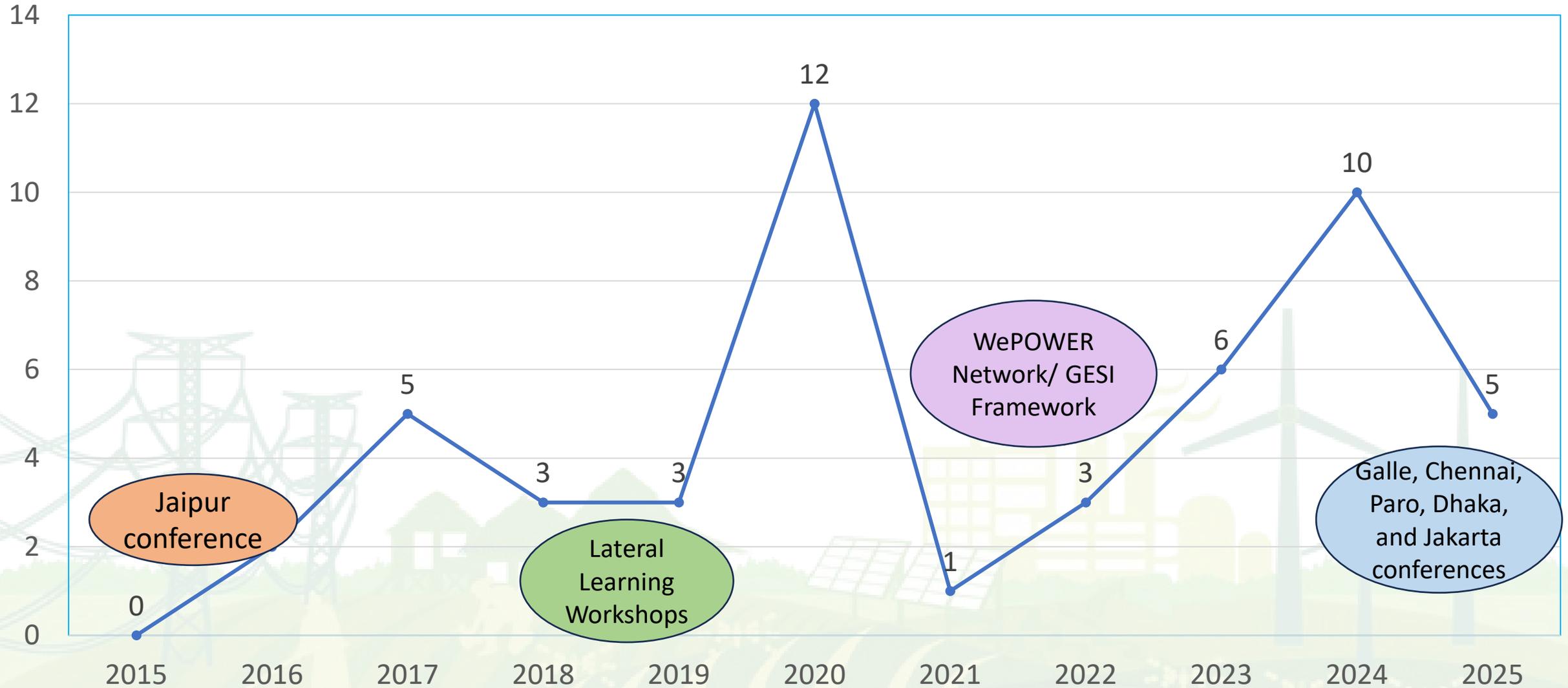
Subregional conference on Inclusive Energy Transition in South Asia in Galle, Sri Lanka (May 2024); National Conference on Inclusive Energy Solutions in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (December 2024); Subregional Workshop on Inclusive Energy Solutions in Bhutan and Nepal (May 2025); Subregional Workshop on Inclusive Clean Energy Solutions in Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka (May 2025).

## From Pilots to Institutional Learning

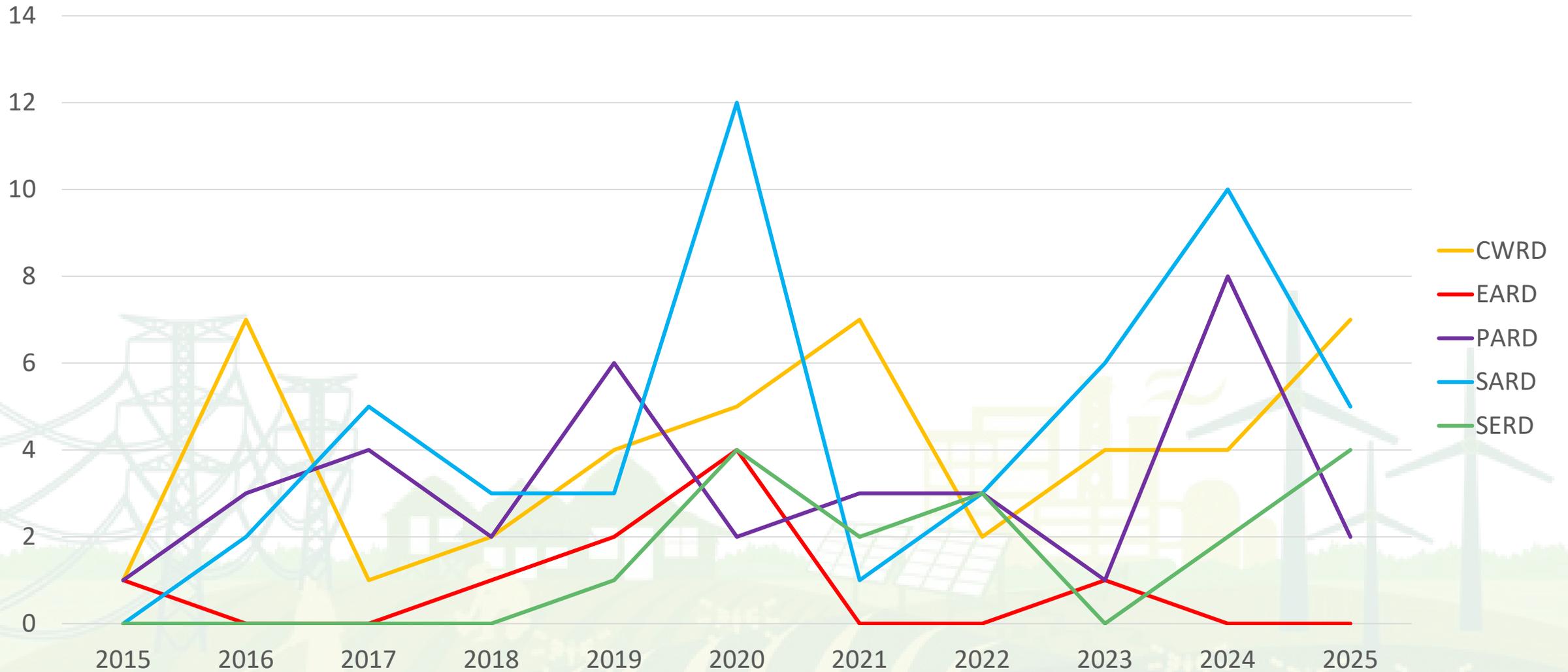
ADB piloted inclusive clean energy innovations across South Asia, demonstrating the tangible benefits of GESI integration:

- **India (Madhya Pradesh):** The Madhya Pradesh Energy Efficiency Improvement Program (Project 1) integrated a TA to boost women's skills in productive electricity use.
- **Bhutan:** The Rural Renewable Energy Development Project electrified over 7,000 households through grid and solar solutions and, among others, trained 31 women village technicians.
- **Maldives:** The POISED Project (Preparing Outer Islands for Sustainable Energy Development) combined renewable energy investments with gender-inclusive capacity building, enabling women's
- **Nepal:** The SASEC Power System Expansion Project integrated a gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) action plan to: (i) promote energy-based microenterprises, (ii) train women in cooperatives, and (iii) embed gender-responsive policies within the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).
- **Bangladesh:** The Distribution System Expansion Project engaged women in community outreach and last-mile service delivery.
- **Sri Lanka:** In the ADB-financed Sustainable Power Sector Project, the Ceylon Electricity Board, Practical Action (a local NGO now called *Janathakshana*), and the *Pradeshiya Sabha* (lowest tier of local government responsible for the delivery of basic social services) worked together in a transparent, consultative, and iterative process to identify poor households and poor women-headed households in the Ampara districts who would be given free grid connections.

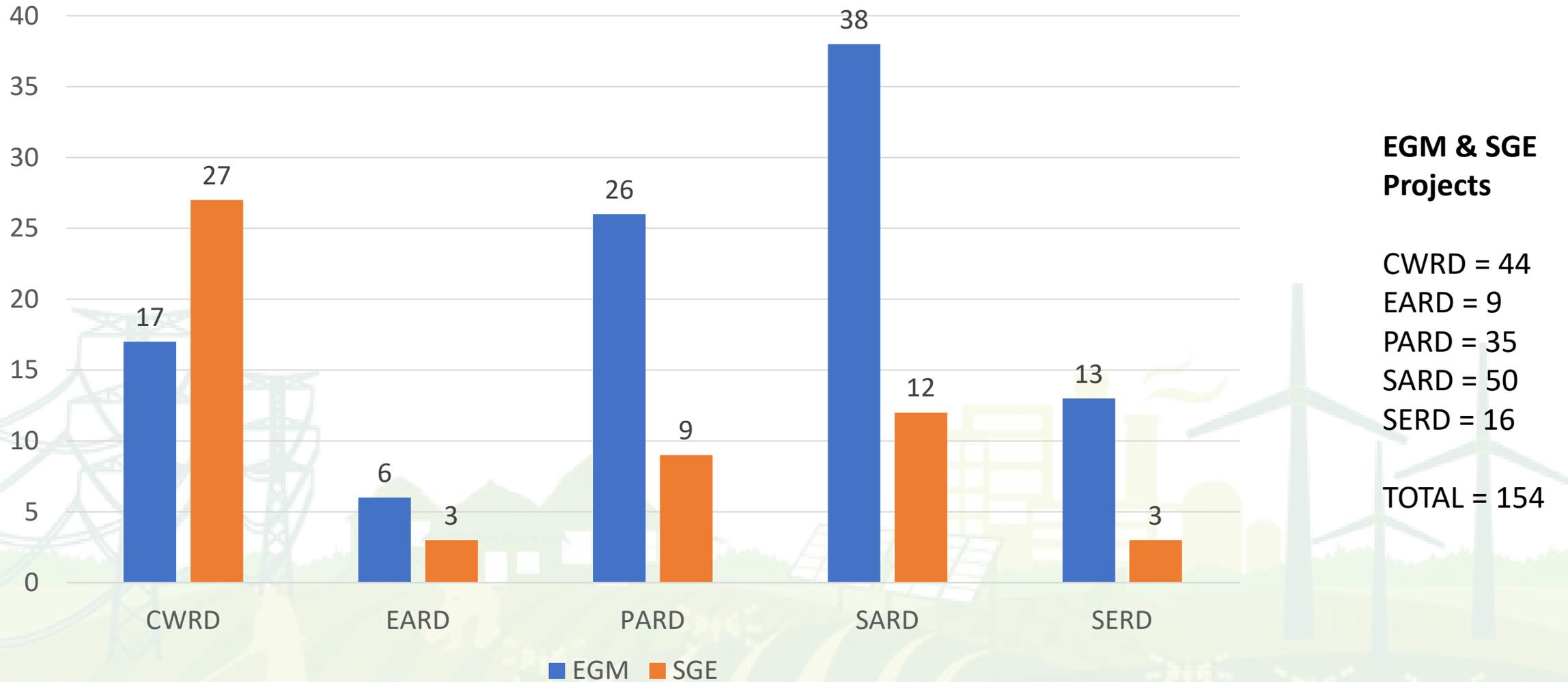
# SARD's EGM & SGE Energy Projects (2015-2025)



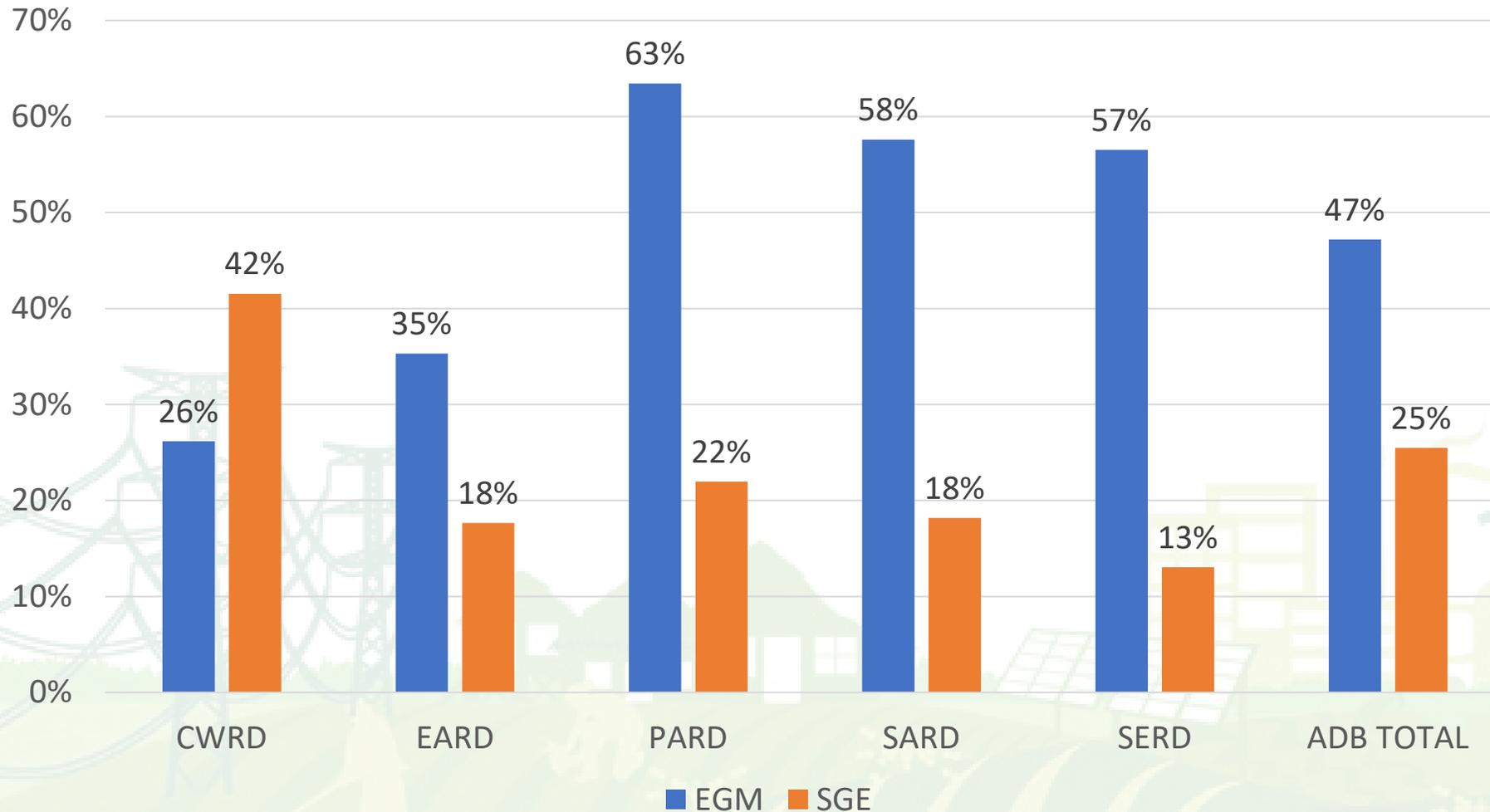
# ADB's EGM & SGE Energy Projects by Region (2015-2025)



# Number of ADB EGM & SGE Energy Projects by Region (2015-2025)



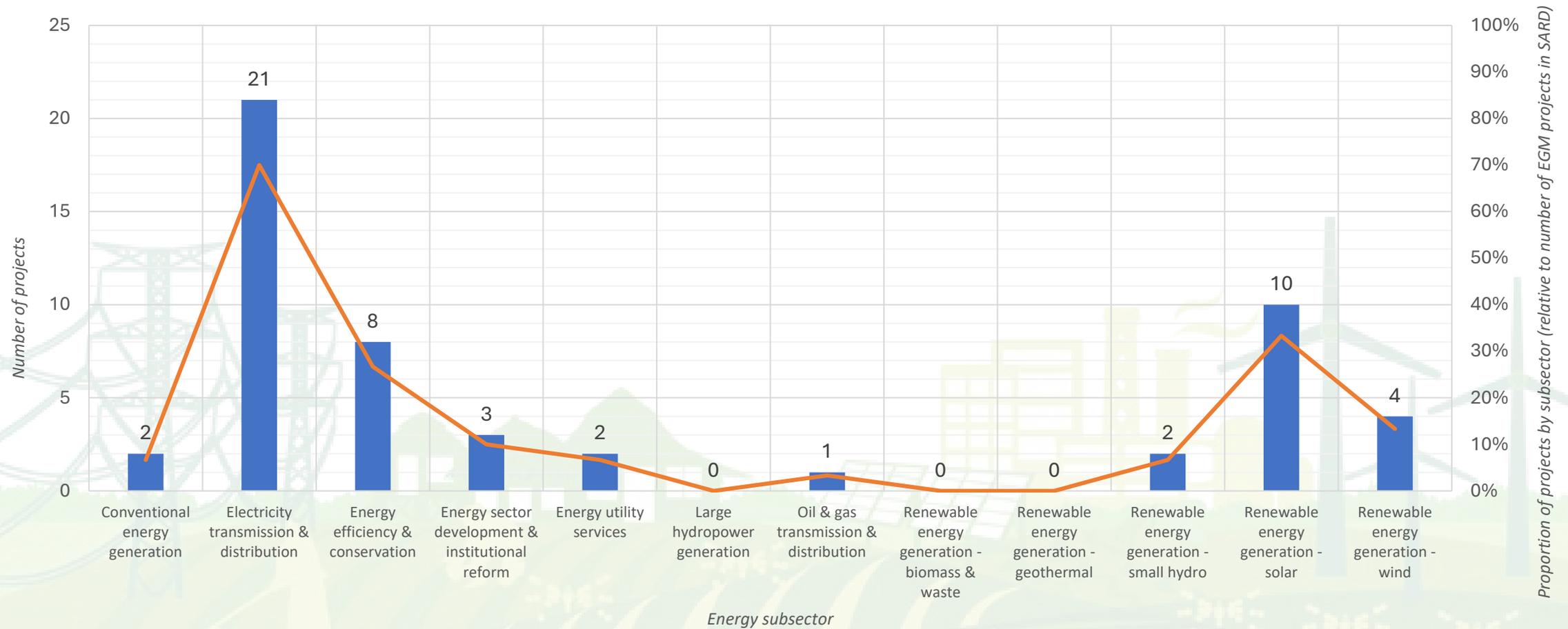
# Distribution (%) of ADB EGM & SGE Energy Projects by Region (2015-2025)



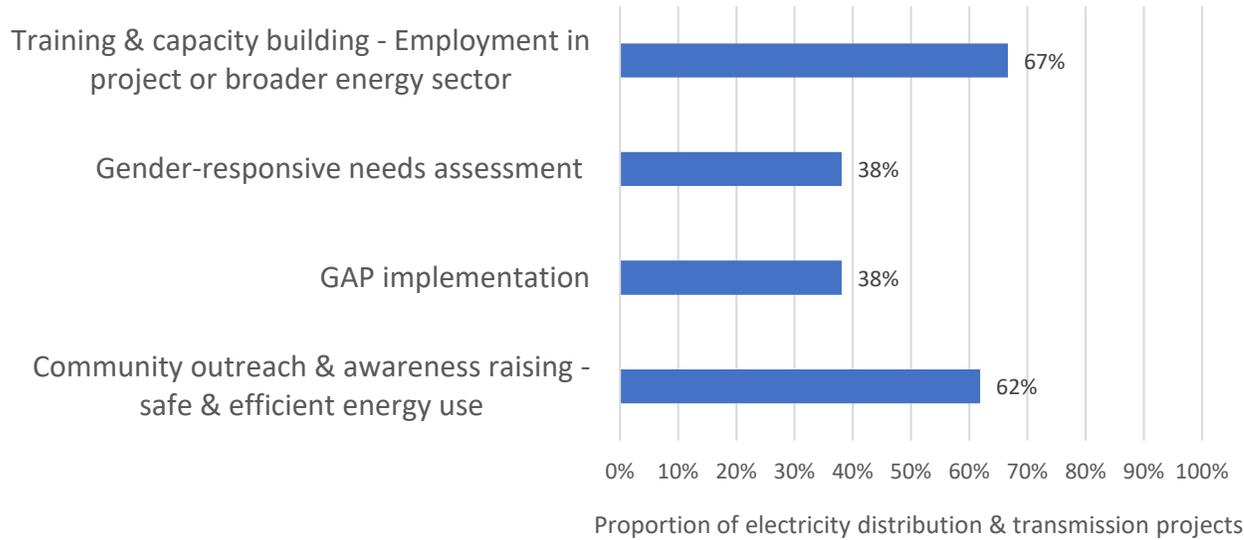
## EGM & SGE Projects (% of total energy projects)

- CWRD = 68%
- EARD = 53%
- PARD = 85%
- SARD = 76%
- SERD = 70%

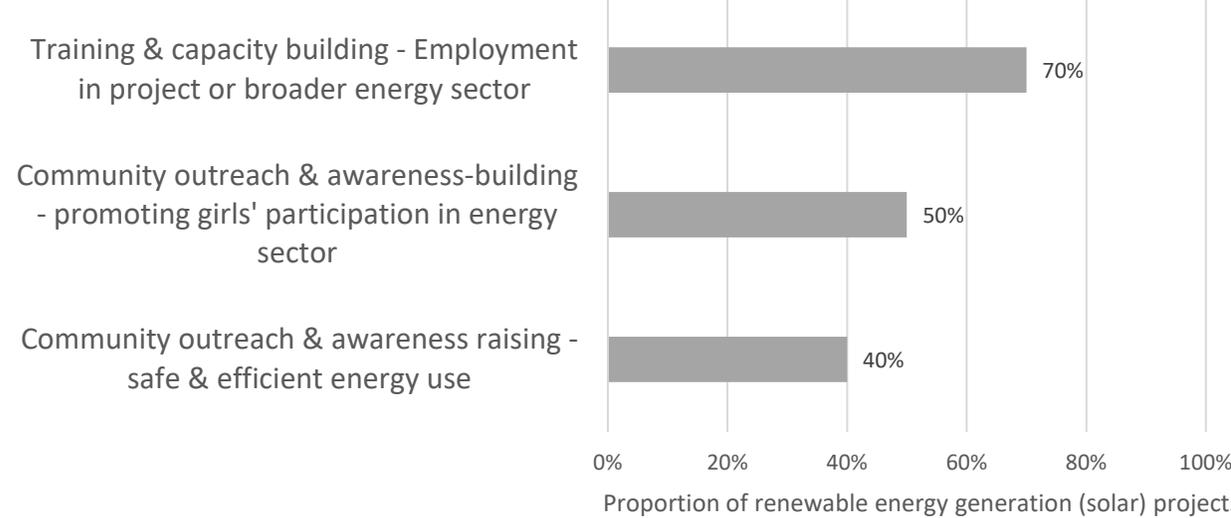
# Distribution of SARD EGM Projects by Energy Subsector



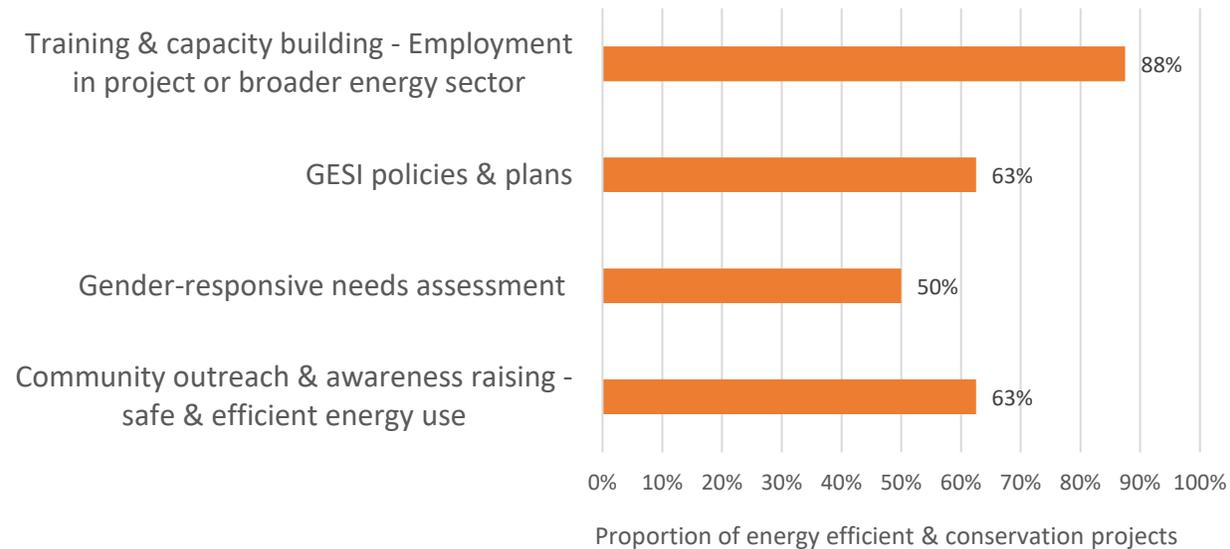
### 1. Top three gender design features of EGM electricity transmission & distribution projects



### 2. Top three gender design features of EGM renewable energy generation (solar) projects



### 3. Top three gender design features of EGM energy efficiency projects



# Lessons and Takeaways

None of this would have been possible without strong partnerships: within ADB, with DMC governments, and with institutions such as the University of Melbourne.

1. GESI integration must be intentional—not incidental. It needs to be embedded from the outset.
2. Context matters. Good projects are grounded locally and reinforced through regional collaboration.
3. Utility buy-in is essential to drive institutional and operational change.
4. Knowledge platforms and peer learning are powerful bridges across sectors and geographies.

# THANK YOU!



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