**SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP**

# INCLUSIVE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN BANGLADESH, MALDIVES AND SRI LANKA

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**Local Governance in Maldives: Enabling Inclusive Transitions**

## Maldivian Local Governance Context

- **Characterized by a decentralized structure with city, atoll, and island councils, each responsible for managing local affairs and providing services.**
- **Decentralization Act 2010: Primary law governing the powers and responsibilities of local authorities.**
- **Amendments to the Decentralization Act (24/2019) introducing electoral quotas for women, reserving 33% of seats in local councils for women, and legally recognizing Women's Development Committees as partners of local councils in community development.**

Levels of Governance

- **Atoll Councils: Govern the administrative divisions known as atolls, which are groups of islands.**
- **City Councils: Govern the five cities in the Maldives, such as Malé, the capital.**
- **Island Councils: Govern individual inhabited islands.**

## Key institutions promoting inclusivity at the local Governance Level

| | |
|---|---|
| **Local Councils (island and City Councils)** | **Implementation of GESI and social protection interventions at island level, verification of disadvantaged persons, provision of social assistance, budget and administrative support to Women's Development Committees.** |
| **Women's Development Committees** | Promote and implement interventions at local levels for women's empowerment and gender equality |

## Challenges of cultivating a workforce equipped for the green economy transition

| Challenge | Explanation |
| --- | --- |
| Low Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) | The lower LFPR of women (48.4% compared to 79.5% men) is a serious concern for the country considering the higher participation & completion of higher secondary & higher education by women. |
| Skills Mismatch | Significant education and skills mismatch exists between the skills acquired by the workforce and the needs of the labor market, particularly for youth. |
| Limited professional and technical skills among locals | As the country makes progress on sustainable energy, the limited professional and technical skills among locals to manage and maintain RE power systems is a major concern.  At present the country does not have STEM education strategy |
| Challenges to SMEs | SMEs which are key contributors to Maldivian economy, face a number of challenges and constraints related to access to finance, digitalization, and capacity. 38% of SMEs are located in Male while the other 62% are located in the atolls. |
| Challenges to women owned SMEs | Women owned SMEs face these challenges even more acutely, particularly, related to access to finance, skills and use of innovation and technologies to grow their business, social norms and mobility, and overall lack of focus on the needs of women SMEs, which requires a targeted approach by involvement and government, private sector and development partners. |

Project 1: Preparing Outer Islands for Sustainable Energy Development (POISED)
Project 2: Accelerating Sustainable Systems Using Renewable Energy (ASSURE)

**POISED and ASSURE examples:**

▪ **POISED implemented the largest gender sensitive training and capacity building programs in renewable energy covering more than 160 outer islands including job creation.**

▪ **POISED supported the piloting and testing of a renewable energy-based ferry, solar PV community ice making plants, and renewable energy-based water desalination plants.**

▪ **ASSURE will support income generation activities, in particular for women, through the introduction of innovative farming approaches, irrigation systems and cold storage powered with renewable energies.**

## Accelerating Sustainable Systems Using Renewable Energy (ASSURE):
## Some examples from GESI - AP

Agriculture: Just Energy Transition design features, livelihoods

▪**At least 550 households (of whom 20% of the members are women, people with disability, older people) in 1 outer island with increased knowledge on new renewable energy-based farming technology.**

▪**At least 50% members of the WDC provided training and reported increased knowledge on innovative and climate-resilient agriculture practices and financial management.**

▪**Start-up capital for establishment of the farm plots provided to WDC.**

▪**Business model for market linkages of the new farm produce of WDC or other women-led agri-business developed and signed with at least 1 supermarket or resort in Maldives.**
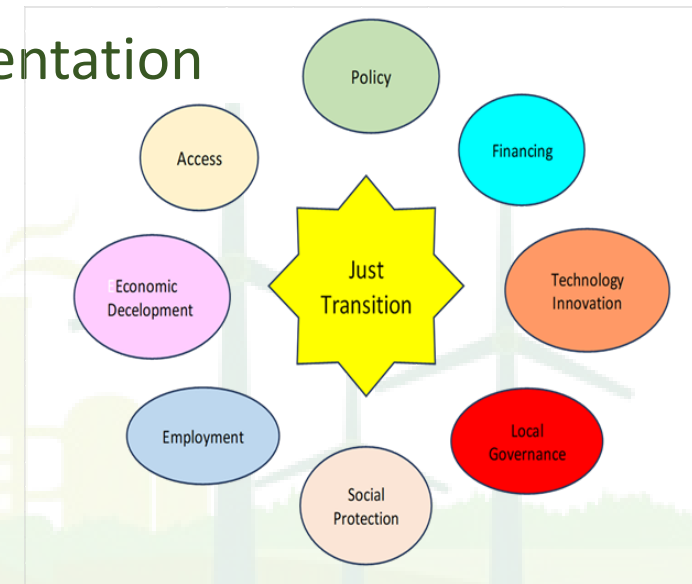
Employment: Pipeline

▪**A MOECCT and FENAKA established an internship program for female STEM graduates of 2 universities, with at least 10 female STEM graduates enrolled in the program.**

▪**At least 25% of the new technical and operations staff hired in MOECCT and FENAKA combined are women.**

*Opportunities for community development through employment generation and MSME development, focusing on women, people with disabilities, elderly, young people, remote island communities.*

a) Skills training – Upskilling and reskilling for utilities and agencies

b) Green jobs – Women and young people, remote island communities

c) Technology innovation – Processes, from design to implementation

d) Educational institutions – Curriculum updated

e) Economic empowerment – MSME startups

f) Financial management training -- Business plans

g) Community-centred approaches – WDCs as change agents

*Thank you!*

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