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GLOBAL HEALTH
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**SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL CONFERENCE
INCLUSIVE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS
IN BANGLADESH, MALDIVES AND SRI LANKA**
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SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP

INCLUSIVE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN BANGLADESH, MALDIVES AND SRI LANKA

From GESI to GEDSI: Risks and opportunities for an inclusive and equitable transition

Alex Robinson PhD

26-27 May 2025 • Dhaka, Bangladesh



- What is GEDSI and why does it matter?
- How does GEDSI differ from previous approaches to social inclusion?
- What are emerging challenges and limitations of a GEDSI approach?
- What does this mean in terms of practice?

Getting to grips with GEDSI

What is GEDSI?

- Gender and social inclusion
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Gender equality, diversity and inclusion
- Gender, rights, equity and diversity
- Gender equality, diversity and social inclusion
- Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion

GESI

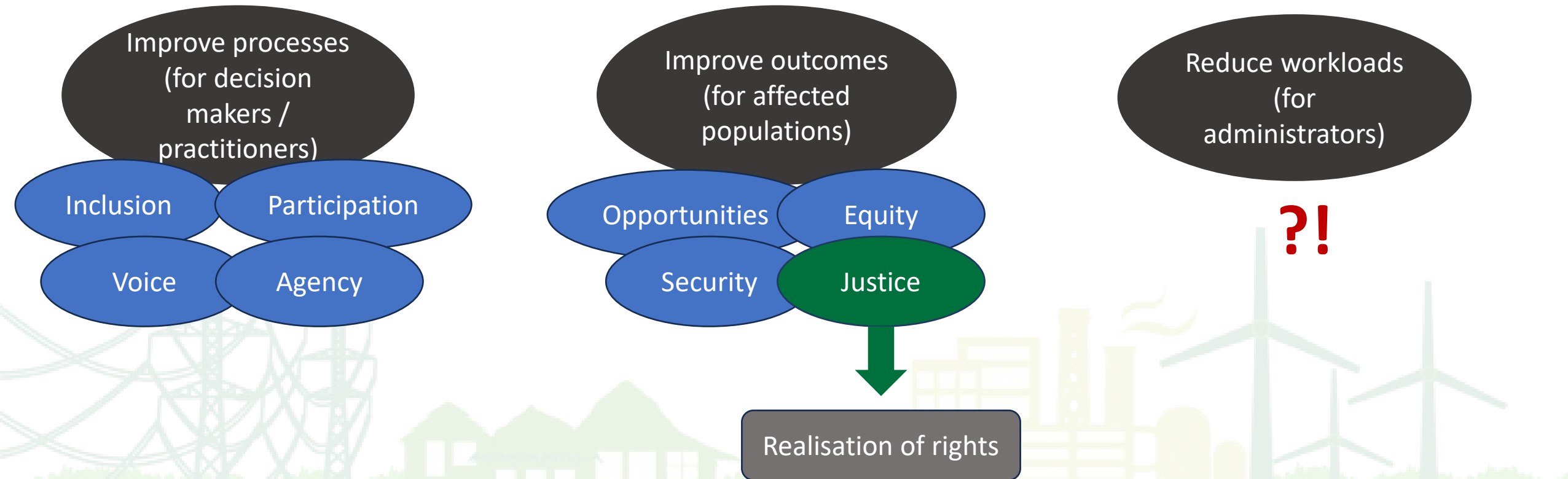
GEDI

GRED

GEDSI

GEDSI

The purpose of GEDSI



GEDSI as an approach

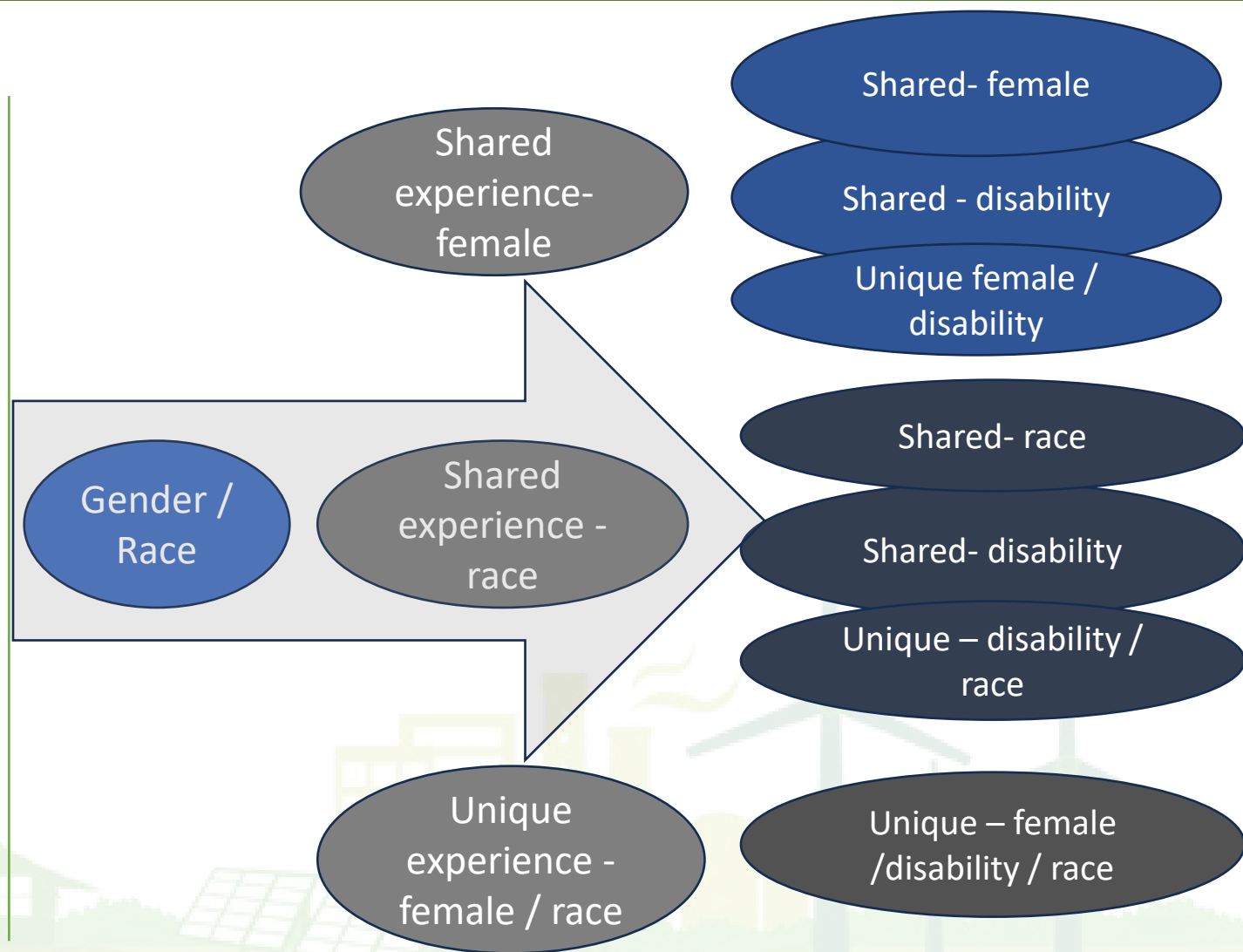
- Widens our focus on who may be marginalised (and most impacted)
- Considers intersectionalities
- Builds on long history of women's/feminist studies and practice:
 - Women in Development
 - Gender and Development
 - Transformative approaches (with expansion to broader consideration of gender identities)
- Draws on (emerging) work on 'Disability Inclusive Development'
- Builds on rights-based approaches (legislation): CEDAW, CRC, CRPD:
 - Sendai Framework for DRR (Dhaka Declarations 2015 and 2018)
 - 2030 Agenda and SDGs
 - Paris Agreement

- Kimberlé Crenshaw, USA, 1989
- Black women experience discrimination in a similar way to white women
- Black women experience discrimination in a similar way to black men
- Black women experience discrimination that is unique to being a black woman



Kimberlé Crenshaw, Colombia Law School
Photo: The Ethics Center

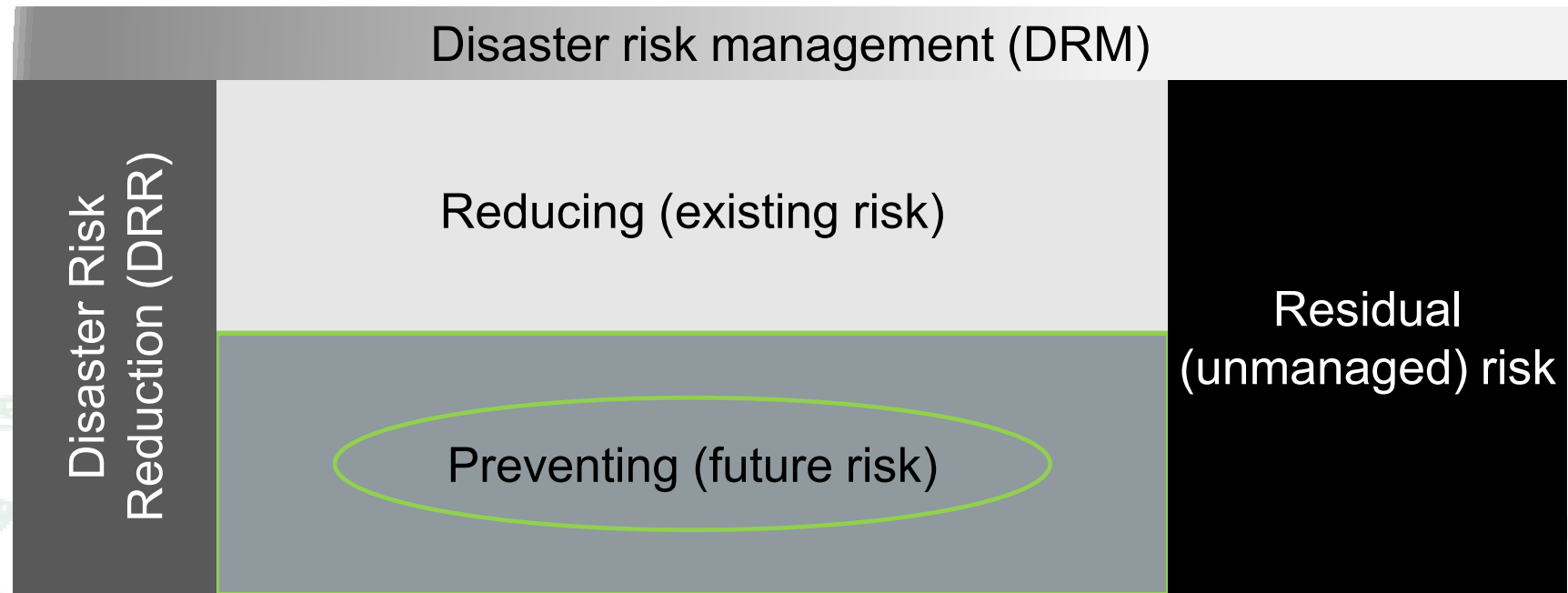
Intersectionalities- identity characteristics



The trouble with GEDSI in practice

- A 'gender plus' approach?
- Standard (simplified) approaches to disability inclusion
- Age frequently ignored (children, youth, older people)
- Same resources – but expected to do more
- Gender experts- business as usual (dilutes the broadened focus)
- 'External' approach that may not fit with 'domestic' governance structures/ roles
- What does intersectionality mean in practice?
- An exercise in substitution? e.g. gender analysis to 'GEDSI analysis', gender lens to 'GEDSI lens', gender responsive budgeting to 'GEDSI responsive budgeting'

Back to basics: marginalisation, risk and
equitable outcomes

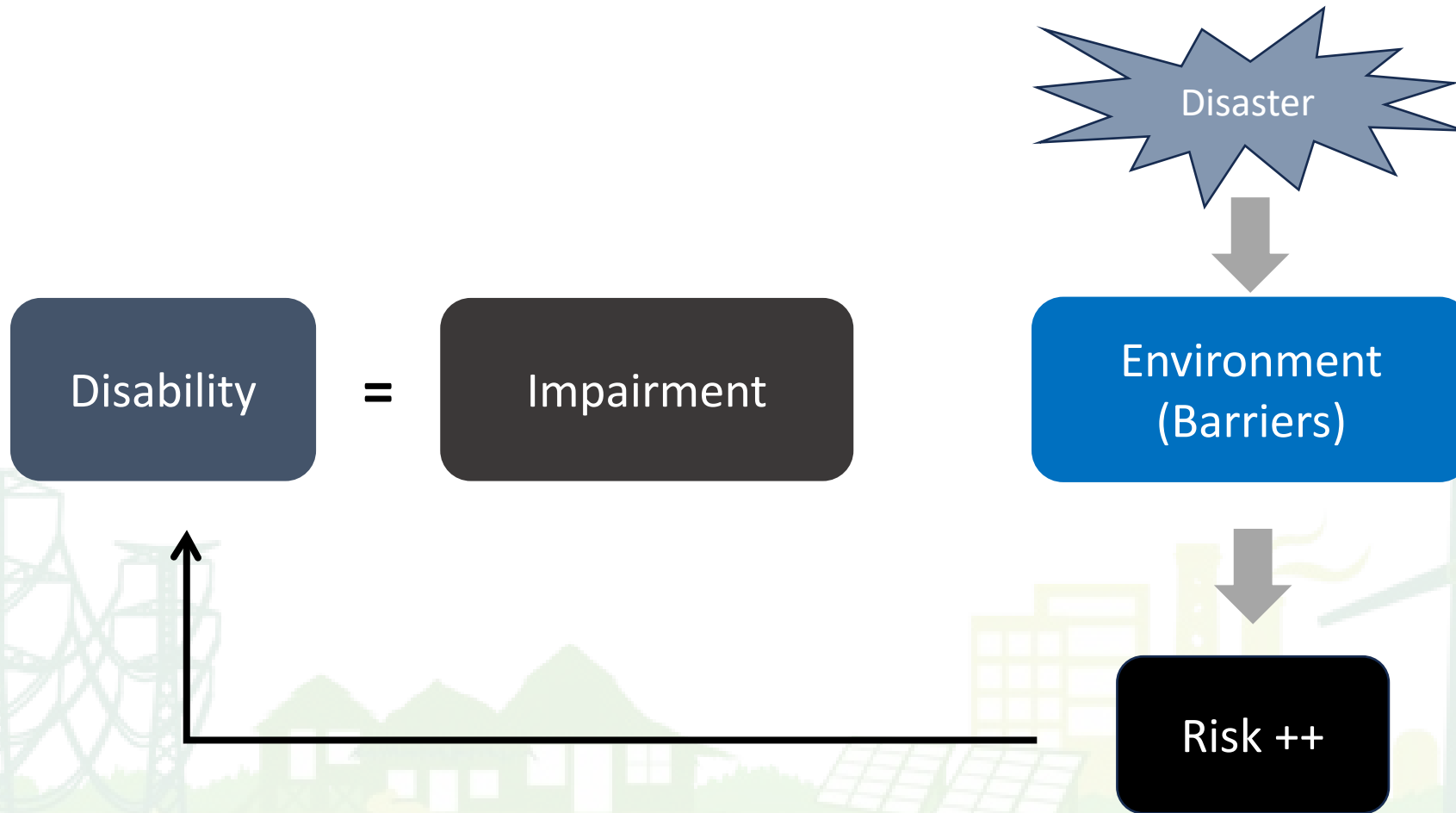


After Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030

Why disability?

- The D in GEDSI (post-2015)
- Across all metrics people with disability experience greater marginalisation / risk
 - This applies across all identity characteristics (gender, age, etc)
 - Climate justice- contribute least to emissions but are most impacted
- If we are serious about just transition and equitable outcomes, we need to consider disability
- If we can address the most marginalised, we can improve outcomes for all marginalised individuals and groups (and the rest of society)

Relationship between disability and disaster / climate risk



Understanding barriers

- Informational: Can everyone *access* (and then *act* on your) information
- Institutional: leadership, prioritisation, resource allocation, financing
- Attitudinal: stigma, prejudice, social norms, mis-conceptions
- And...
- Physical: infrastructure, codes and regulations, universal design

Wrapping things up

- GEDSI is not yet well-developed as a concept
- Focusing on the individual (rights / identity / intersectionalities [*agency*]) is critical, but can be overwhelming
- Addressing *structural* barriers (not just physical) is a potential way forward- it may be more tangible, immediate and actionable
- This will not result in leaving no-one behind, but it may take us a few steps forward to achieving equitable and just outcomes

Over to you- thoughts and reflections?

- Do you find [have you found] GEDSI a helpful concept for your work?
- To what extent are you including **all** marginalised individuals and groups in your work? Why / why not?
- From a Just Transition perspective, is centring the focus on risk helpful?
- What practical [GEDSI] actions can you introduce in your work?