

Gender Equality & Social Inclusion in SARD Operations

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**GENDER EQUALITY &
SOCIAL INCLUSION**



1. **Social context and policy commitments in SARD DMCs** call for a more systematic approach to addressing the intersecting dimensions of gender inequality and disadvantage (exclusion, and vulnerability) in operations.
2. SARD has a robust platform which builds on ADB policies and its lessons from **GESI operations in Nepal** and other SARD DMCs since 2010.
3. Through highlighting **GESI intersectionality**, SARD will sustain its commitment to addressing persisting gender inequality while leaving no one behind because:
 - Gender inequality intersects with other forms of exclusion and vulnerability (e.g., disability, social identities, old age).
 - These other forms of exclusion and vulnerability also intersect with each other.
4. **SARD GESI Framework** will provide guides and tools to integrate GESI intersectionality in its operations, harmonize actions for S2030 OP1 and OP2, and embed GESI principles in other five OPs.

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Social Context and Policy Commitments in South Asia:

The GESI Realities

- (a) Facts and Figures
- (b) Social Context
- (c) Policy Commitments



(a) South Asia's gender equality and social inclusion context is complex

Gender inequalities persist in South Asia



Progress in secondary education not translated into women's seats in Parliament nor female labor force participation.



India and Nepal have the most diverse population

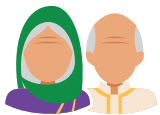
IND		NEP
16.6%	8.6%	125
Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Ethnic/caste groups

Lack of accurate LGBTQI+ data



US	BAN
15.9% of adult population	3 rd gender (hijras) 10,000-500,000
	IND
	0.04%

Older people population in 2020 is 13.5%, projected at 21.4% by 2050



SRI
16.4% (2020), with 56.5% women, projected to increase to 28.1% (2050)

Rural population in South Asia remains high



IND NEP SRI
estimated
80%



15% of the world population experience some form of disability

- MLD (2019) & SRI (2012): disability prevalence was at 9%.
- In BHU (2017), PwDs 52% females, 48% males
- IND (2011): 44% females, 56% males



Income Poverty with 9.2% people living less than \$1.90/day (2017)

IND	NEP
22.5% (2011)	15% (2010)



(b) Social Context: Intersection of Gender Inequality and Other Bases of Exclusion

BASES OF EXCLUSION		BANGLADESH	BHUTAN	INDIA	MALDIVES	NEPAL	SRI LANKA
OLD AGE							
DISABILITIES							
SOCIAL IDENTITIES	Caste						
	Ethnicity						
	Religion						
SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY & EXPRESSIONS, AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS							
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION							
INCOME POVERTY							



- Exclusion
- Lighter exclusion
- No formal legal exclusion (though discriminatory policies and practices still exist)
- Absence of exclusion or N/A



(b) Voices from South Asia reflect on the challenges



(c) DMC governments made policy commitments



Bangladesh

In 2014, Hijras (third gender) are given voting rights



Bhutan

In 2020, Parliament repeals parts of Bhutan's penal code that criminalize same-sex conduct



India

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act (2015) adopts more stringent provisions



Maldives

The Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 highlights gender and socially inclusive policies under its good governance pillar



Nepal

- After the federal restructuring in 2017,
 - Each province has a Ministry of Social Development (with sections for women, older persons, PWDs) and
 - Local governments have social development sections



Sri Lanka

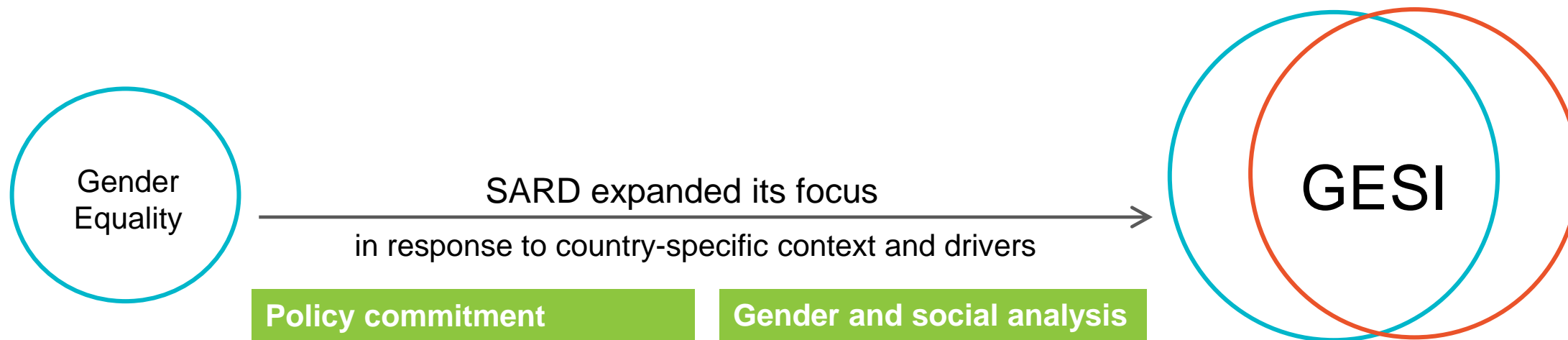
The National Elderly Health Policy of 2017 aims to ensure comprehensive health care services to all senior citizens



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SARD
Readiness for
GESI

GESI started in Nepal based on sound social and gender analysis



Policy commitment

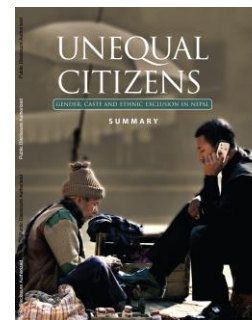
The thrust to end all forms of discrimination based on gender, disability, caste, ethnicity, religion, and region reflected in:

- Interim Constitution(2007), Constitution (2015)
- Civil Service Act (2007, amended)



Gender and social analysis










An assessment showed gender, caste and ethnicity accounting for empowerment and inclusion levels, with caste a more powerful predictor.



World Bank Group. 2006. *Unequal citizens :gender, caste and ethnic exclusion in Nepal : Summary (English)*. Washington, DC

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Nepal conducted a GESI self assessment

Areas of focus	Success rate
1) Ensuring internal support to GESI mainstreaming	
2) Engaging women, excluded and vulnerable groups in SARD Operations	
3) Translating GESI commitments to business processes and practices	
i. GE+SI diagnostics and reflecting the findings in CPS and sector operations	
ii. Undertaking GESI analysis and collecting disaggregated data for baseline and project design (► GESI Action Plan)	
iii. Institutionalizing GESI commitments in the infrastructure sector	
iv. Promoting GESI capacity development of EAs/IAs	
v. Supporting GESI-responsive policy and legal reforms	
vi. Allocating TA and Grant resources	
vii. Assessing progress in GESI impacts of SARD Operations	



Highly successful

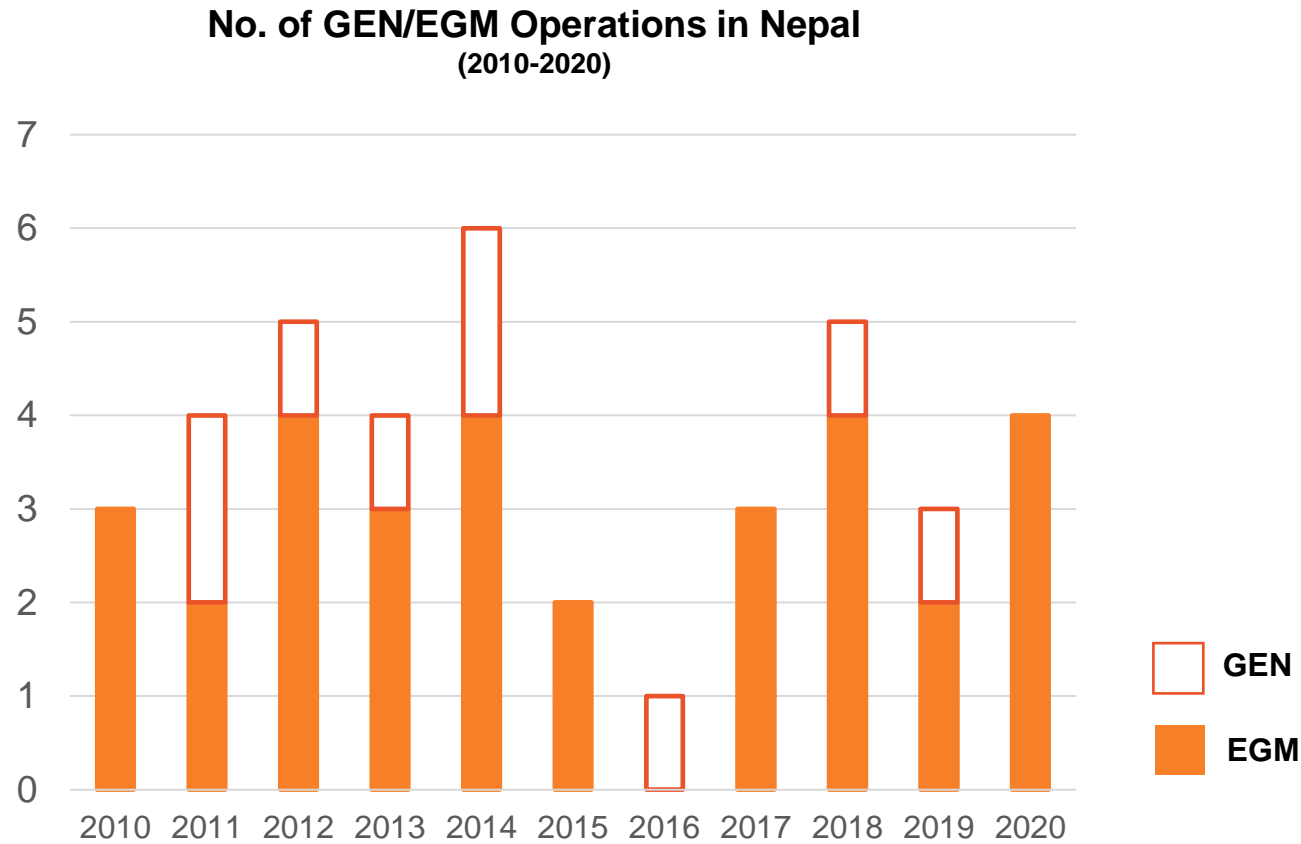


Moderately successful



Unsuccessful

Nepal builds its GESI actions on a strong gender portfolio



What are the key aspects of a GESI Action Plan?

- ▶ Collect and analyze disaggregated data by:
 - Sex/gender
 - Age
 - Disability
 - social identities (e.g., caste, ethnicity)
 - based on the evidence
- ▶ Address the needs voiced by women, excluded and vulnerable groups through targeted interventions and set GESI targets
- ▶ Assess the impact of ADB-financed operations on women, excluded and vulnerable groups on a range of socioeconomic indicators agreed at project onset

SARD bases its GESI Framework on ADB's policies

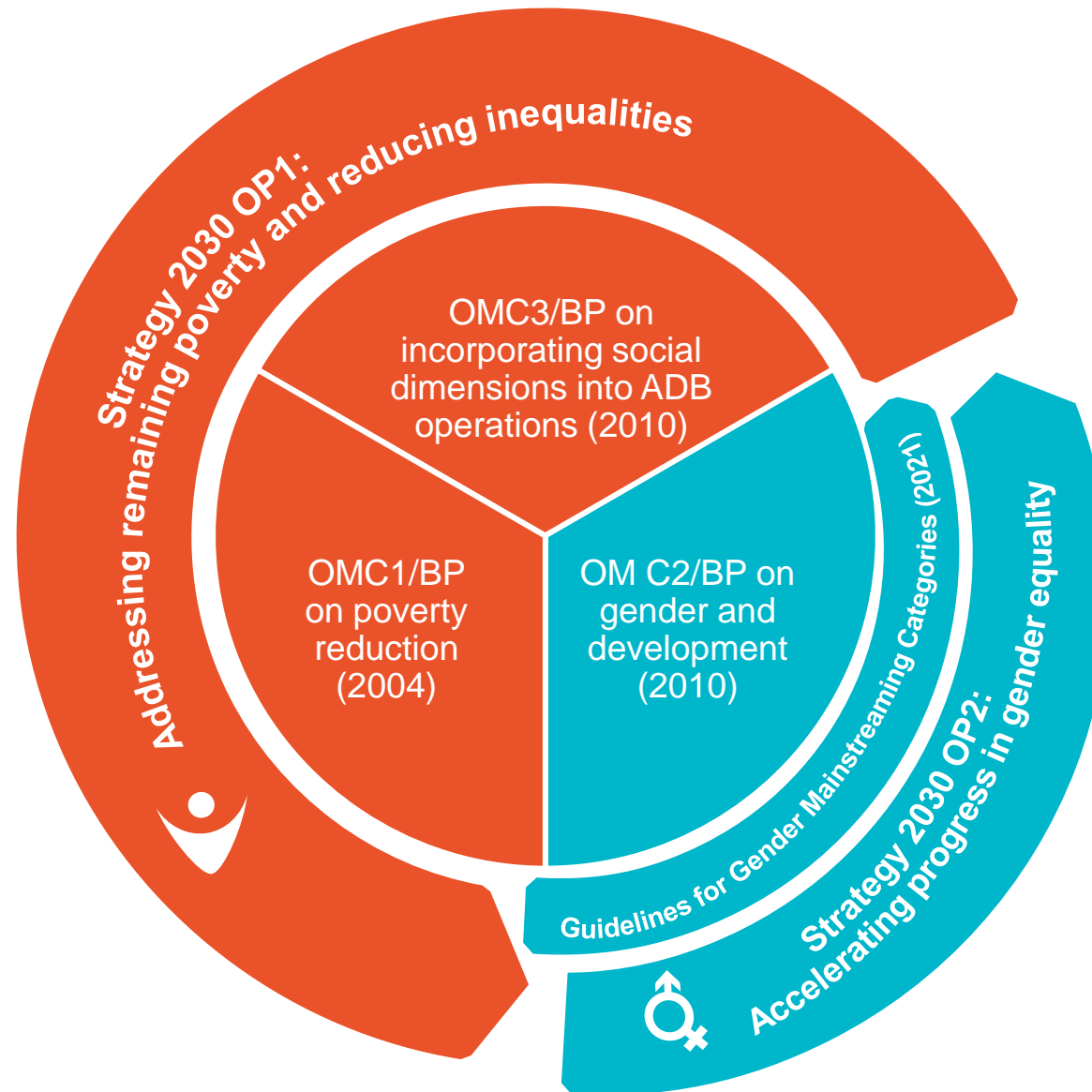
S2030 OP1 defines the most vulnerable as:

Low-income bracket, women, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, hard-to-reach and remote populations, migrants, and internally displaced and/or conflict-affected people (para. 4)

- **Pillar 3:** Opportunities for the most vulnerable increased

ADB OMC(3) recognizes:

" ... gender, ethnicity, race, caste, age, and others influence people's decision making, access to services, resources, opportunities and ability to cope with risks "



S2030 OP2 recognizes:

"... [need to] address discrimination against and disadvantages for women, including those related to class, ethnicity, indigenous status, *sexual orientation* and *gender identity*, disability, religion, age, and migration."

- **Pillar 1:** Women's economic empowerment
- **Pillar 2:** Gender equality in human development
- **Pillar 3:** Gender equality in decision-making and leadership
- **Pillar 4:** Reduced women's time poverty
- **Pillar 5:** Women's resilience to external shocks



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**GESI
Intersectionality
Definitions and
Dimensions**



GESI is an intersectional approach



SOCIAL INCLUSION

The achievement of both GE & SI entails addressing power relations at individual, household, community and state levels.

Elimination of barriers that exclude or constrain some members of society from accessing and benefiting from social and economic services and resources and from participating in their community, relationships, and decision-making.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Analytical framework that defines the extent of inequality, exclusion and vulnerability (or power and advantage) that people or groups of persons hold or experience by looking at how their different identities intersect or overlap.



GENDER EQUALITY

Condition where women/men, girls/boys and people with diverse SOGIESC identities enjoy equal rights and opportunities, recognition of responsibilities, and decision-making in different spheres of society (or disadvantage and disempowerment) depending on their intersecting identities.

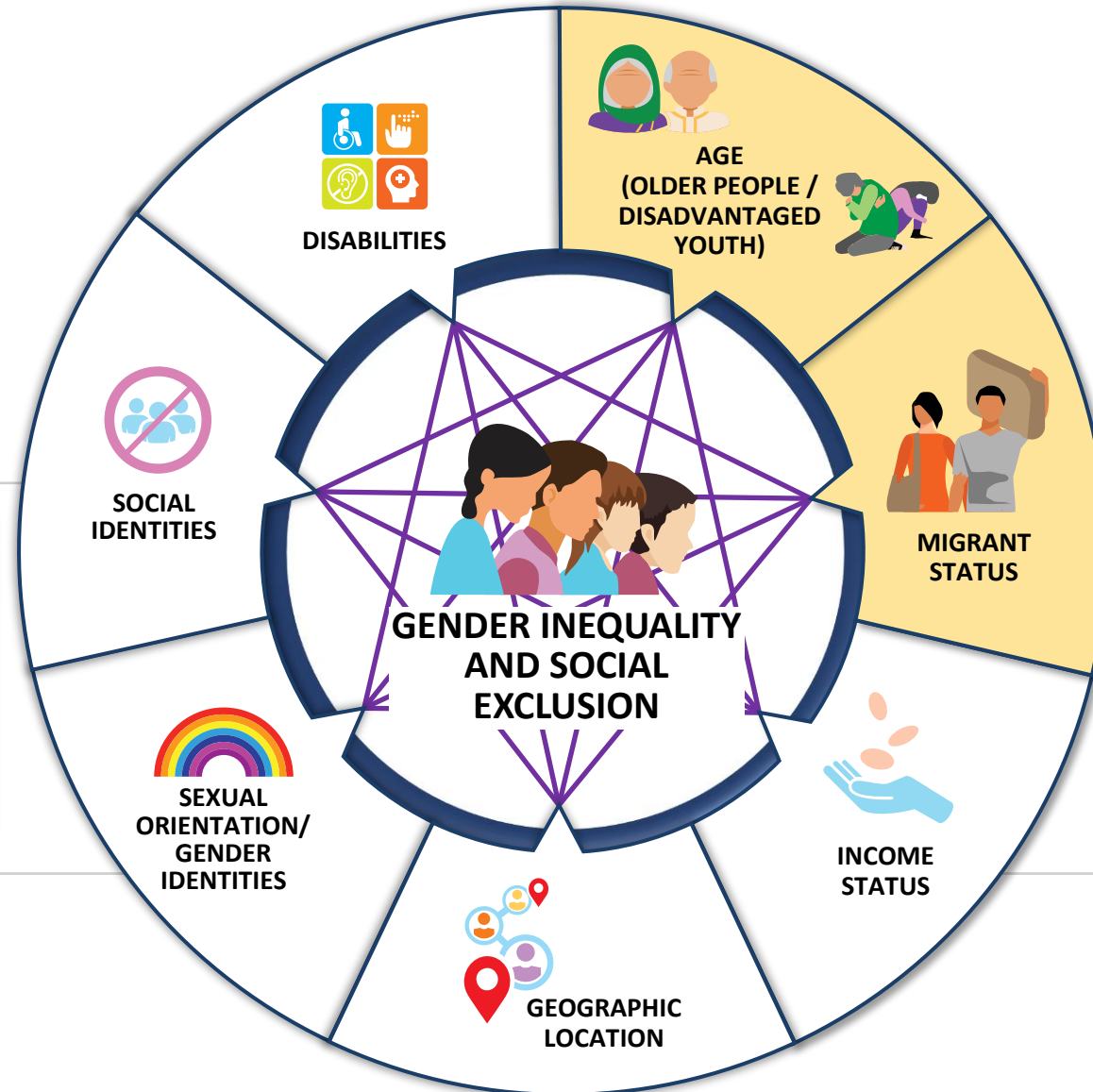
Dimensions of Inequality, Exclusion, and Vulnerability

Disadvantaged groups

Those who historically have been unable to fully access and/or benefit from social, economic, and political rights, opportunities, and resources, including investments, due to their identities (**systemic disadvantage**) and/or because of their vulnerability (**situational disadvantage**).

Excluded groups

Those who historically have been unable to fully access and/or benefit from social, economic, and political rights, opportunities, and resources, including investments, due to their identities [**systemic disadvantage**].



Vulnerable groups

Those who cannot access various rights, opportunities, and resources because of their **situational disadvantage**.



GENDER EQUALITY &
SOCIAL INCLUSION

4

**Forthcoming
SARD GESI
Framework**



SARD has developed its GESI framework in consultation with stakeholders

2019

Self-assessment of social inclusion highlighted weaknesses

- Lack of in-depth analysis of the conditions of excluded and vulnerable groups
- Lack of adequate response and tendency to 'lump' responses to the situation of disadvantaged groups and women.

2020

GESI profiles (regional and country-specific)

2021

Consultations with DMCs to validate GESI profiles

Total of 446 participants [50.6% women].

- CSOs (227)
- Government (52)
- Development partners (23)
- Resource persons (12)
- ADB project officers (132)

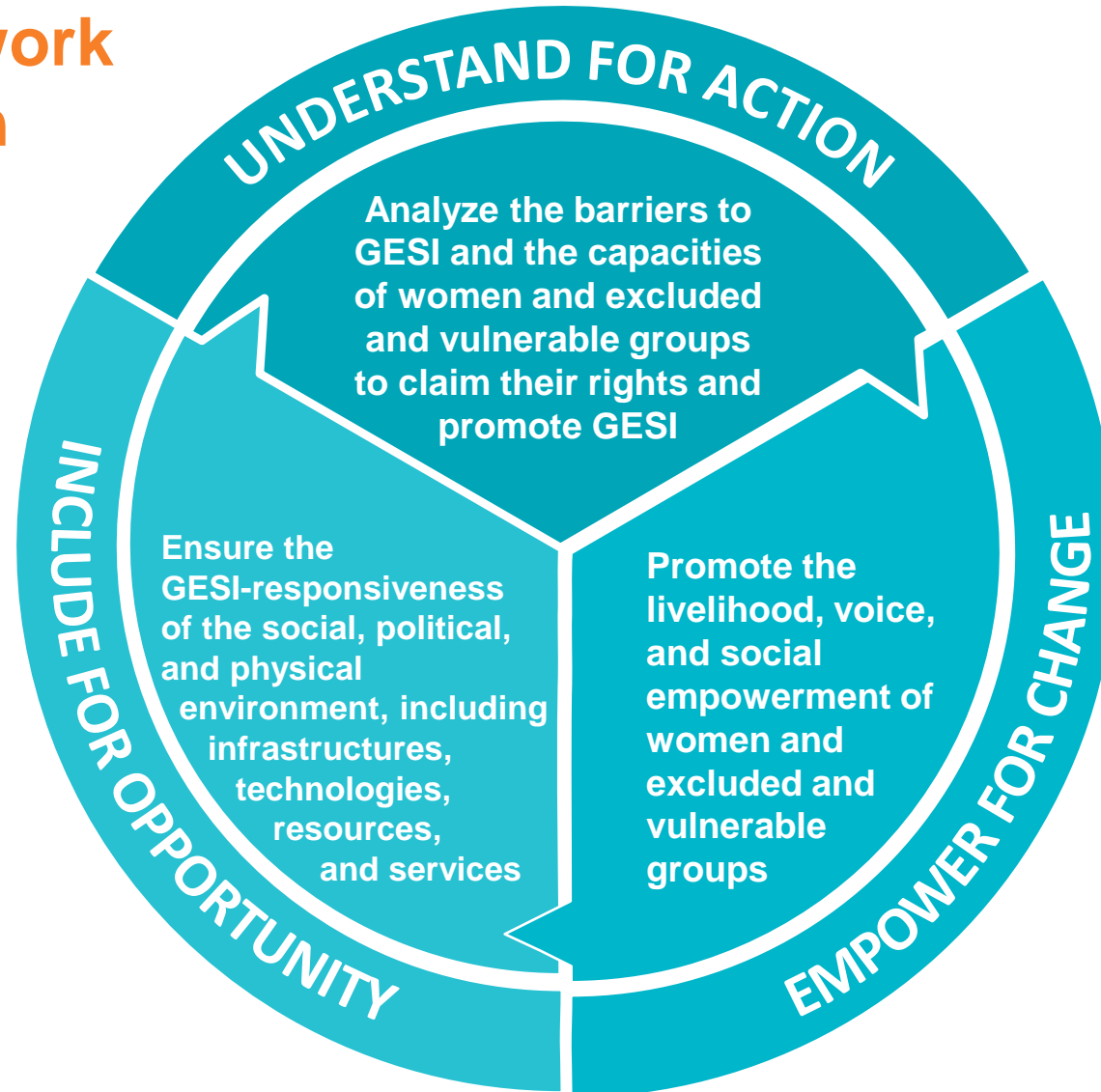
2022

SARD to identify areas for ADB technical and financial support

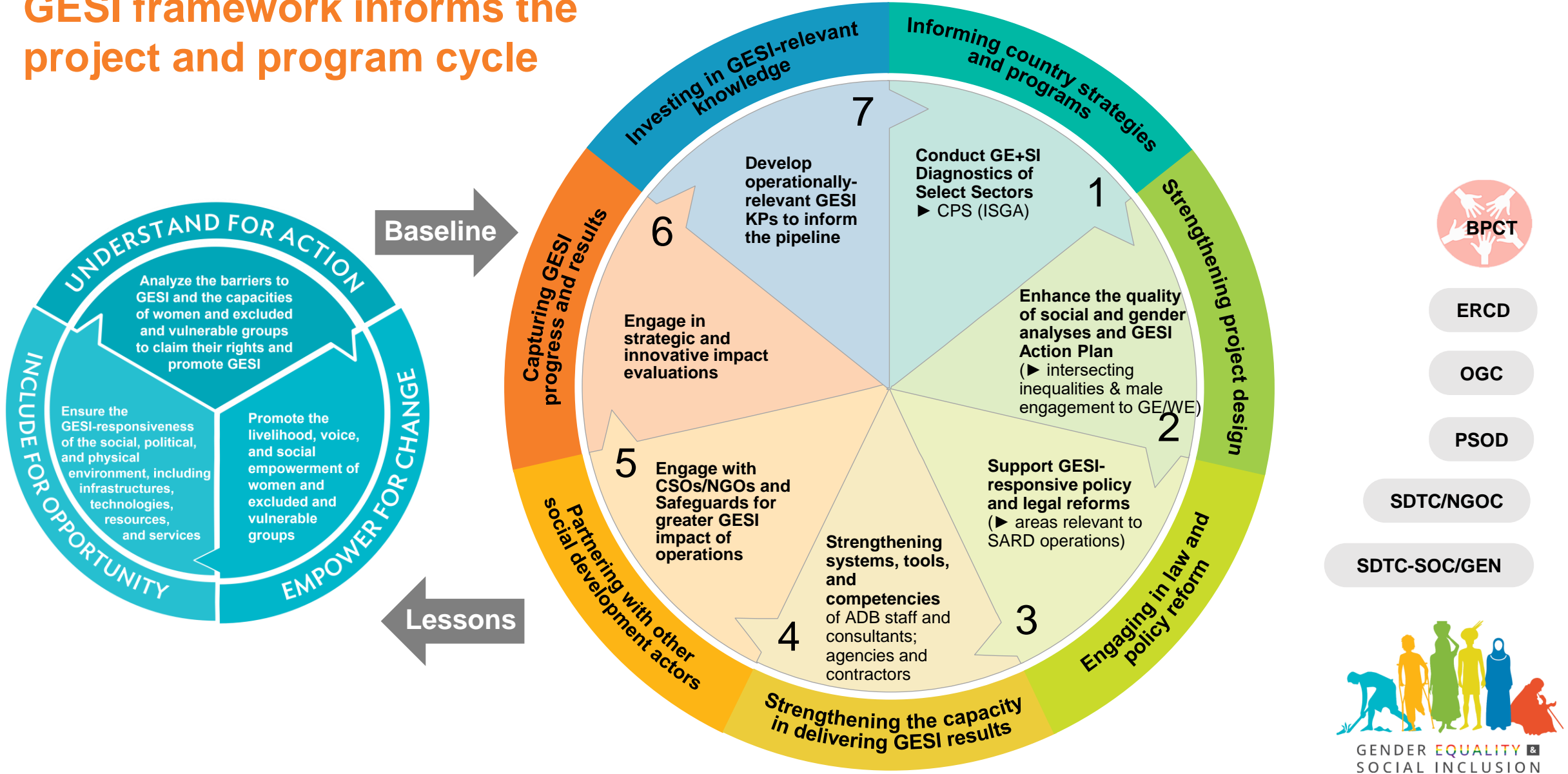


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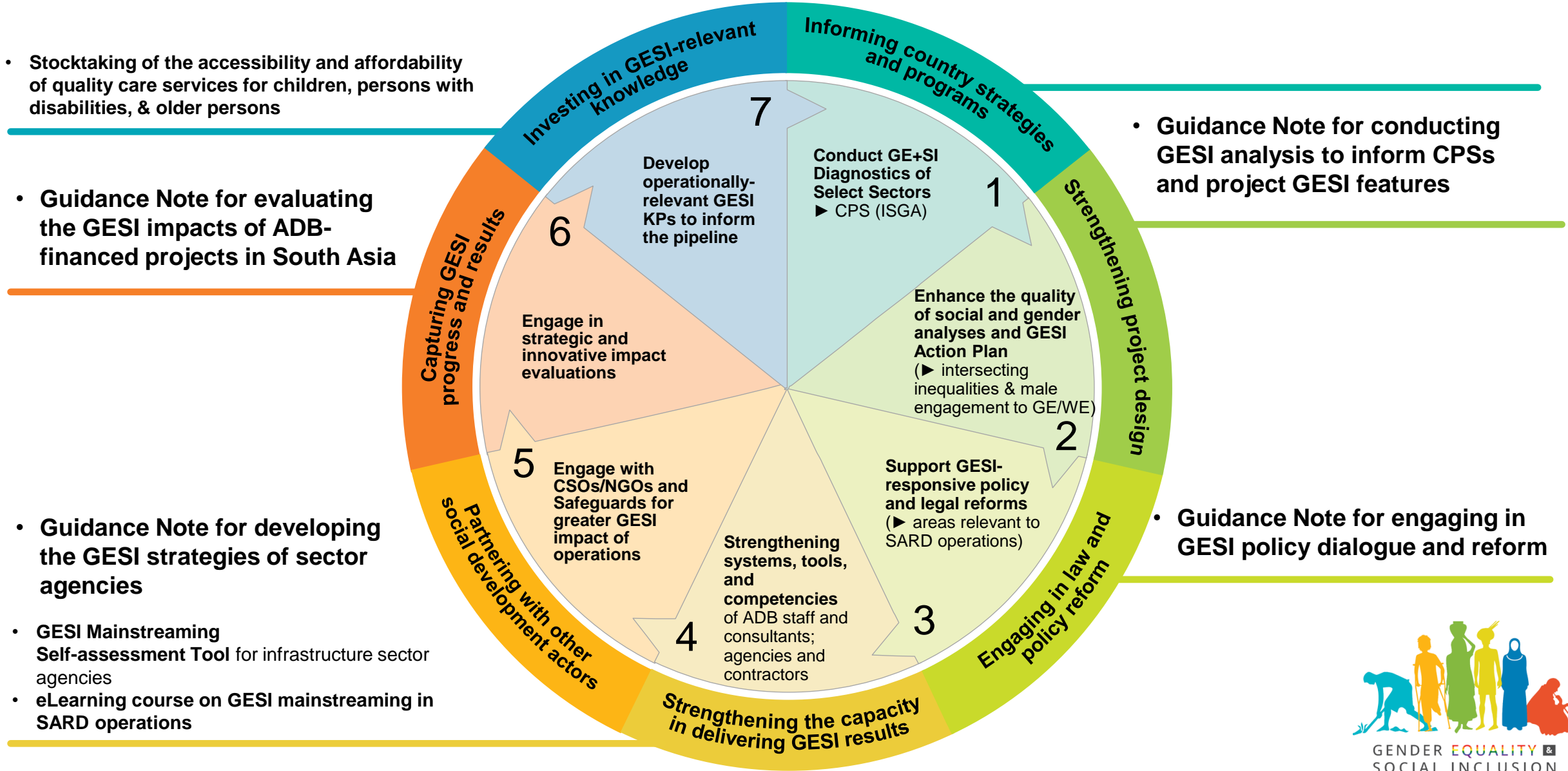
The GESI analytical and action framework links analysis with policy and action



GESI framework informs the project and program cycle



GESI tools for seven key areas of action



GESI Framework *in Action*

DMC	Loans, Grants and Technical Assistance		ADF-13
Bangladesh	<p>Excluded and vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Social Resilience Program SP1 (2021) and SP2 (2022) • Emergency Assistance Project (AF) (2022), with displaced persons from Myanmar. 	<p>SOGIESC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Transgender-Inclusive Services, attached to Health Sector Reform Program [Japan Special Fund TA (2023)] <p>Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be explored 	
Bhutan		<p>Disability, SOGIESC, and Old Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society Organizations to Promote Social Inclusion, standalone [JFPR TA (Poverty Reduction Window), 2023] <p>Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving GESI Results in Emerging Skills and Jobs, attached to Pathways for Innovation and Technical Education Project [JFPR Grant (Poverty Reduction Window), 2023] 	<p>Excluded and vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green and Resilient Affordable Housing Sector Project (2021)
Nepal		<p>SOGIESC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Solutions to Empower Persons with Diverse SOGIESC, standalone [JFPR Grant (Poverty Reduction Window), 2023] • Support to Central Bureau of Statistics (National survey on SOGIESC), with ERCD and USAID [JSF TA (Poverty Reduction Window), 2023] • Social Identities • Prevention and Control of COVID-19 through WASH and Health Initiatives in Secondary and Small Towns [(JFPR Grant (Prevention and Control of COVID-19), (2022)]. 	<p>Excluded and vulnerable women (gender-based & domestic violence)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Systems to Protect and Uplift Women Project (2022)
India	<p>Excluded and vulnerable groups (SC, ST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating State Education Program to Improve Results (ASPIRE) RBL 2022 	<p>Disability and SOGIESC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be explored (JFPR/JSF) 	
Maldives		<p>Old Age, Disability and Geographic Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localizing Social Protection Services through Digital Innovations [SDCC-SOC TA 6574, 2022-2023). 	<p>Excluded and vulnerable women (geographic location)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives (2022) • Accelerating Sustainable Systems Using Renewable Energy Project (ASSURE) (2022)
Sri Lanka		<p>Income Poor and Vulnerable Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Basic Needs and Livelihood Development of the Poor and Vulnerable during Livelihood and Food Security Crisis [JFPR (Poverty Reduction Window) attached to EAL, 2022]] <p>Disability, Old Age and/or SOGIESC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be explored (JFPR/JSF) 	



- **Focusing on transformation**, that is to support lasting change by addressing the root causes of disadvantage and positioning the excluded and vulnerable not as passive ‘beneficiaries’ but citizens with rights and contributions to make.
- **Identifying strategic entry points** commensurate to knowledge and resources.
- **Going beyond terminology**, with GESI Action Plans based on evidence, detailed approaches, aims/actions targeting excluded and vulnerable women and groups, as relevant.





Providing adaptive solutions through adopting a GESI approach will:

- Strengthen the approaches to OP1 & OP2 commitments;
- Maintain ADB's reputation as a leader in this area;
- Allow for broader policy dialogue with DMC partners.

Providing technical/financial support to address:

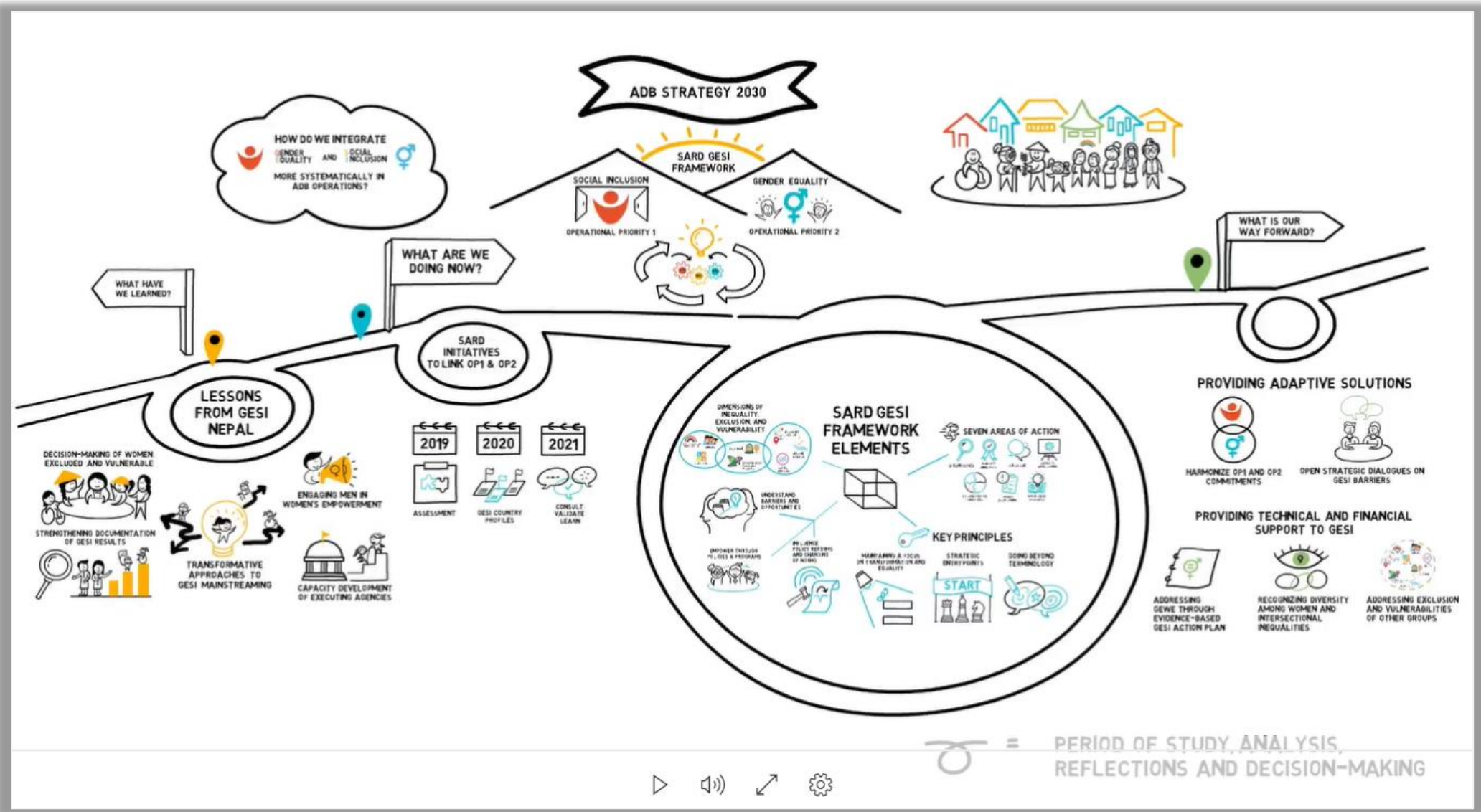
- Intersectional inequalities experienced by women of different social profiles (beyond mainstreaming);
- Specific dimensions of exclusion and vulnerability (e.g., old age, disability).

Mobilizing human and financial resources commensurate to the commitments.

Unless we emphasize the intersection of exclusion and vulnerabilities and gender inequality, we will continue “to leave people behind.”



The Big Picture



IND: Disability



MLD: Access to Drinking Water



NEP: Political Representation



SRI: Poverty Disparities

