



REGIONAL CONFERENCE

# INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITION IN SOUTH ASIA AND BEYOND

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# Community Centered Resilience Development: Field Studies from Bangladesh

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# Bangladesh Context

- Bangladesh is vulnerable to major weather events, exacerbated by **climate change** (including extreme temperature, erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, rising sea level, tidal surges, salinity intrusion, and ocean acidification) with the poor and socially excluded **especially poor women** being particularly vulnerable to **climate variability and stress**.
- **Population density** is high, and the population is mainly rural and widely dispersed all over the country.
- **Lack of access to electricity or unreliability** of available supply has GESI-differentiated impacts, which range from a higher burden of unpaid labor to reduced economic opportunities and detrimental impacts on health with **women being most affected**.





# Key Question

How to design a sustainable electricity distribution system in Bangladesh that are resilient to major weather events, affordable and accessible by the greatest majority of local communities, including women and the most vulnerable, that enable social and economic empowerment and equitable access to livelihoods and resources?

How to ensure sustainability in the long term?

How to encourage social and economic empowerment through electricity access?

How to ensure affordability and accessibility for ~100% of the population, including women and the most vulnerable?

How to improve the resilience vis-à-vis extreme weather events for both electricity systems and communities?

# Case Studies: GESI Gaps & Intersecting Vulnerabilities

*Community-driven development projects allow the adoption of key resilience qualities— inclusiveness, reflectiveness, flexibility, and resourcefulness. ... Women and vulnerable groups will be recognized as change agents in strengthening disaster resilience, rather than as passive victims.*

- Coastal Towns Environmental Infrastructure Project
- Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program
- Coastal Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Project
- Emergency Assistance Project

*Other studies find 'intersecting vulnerabilities', that is some groups of women are more likely to be more vulnerable than other groups of women, such as poor, elderly, widows.*

