

Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Background

USAID's Clean EDGE (Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy) Asia initiative has several energy programs in South Asia with bilateral and regional scope. In the backdrop of multiple interventions undertaken by USAID, it is important to underscore some of the cross-cutting themes that are the critical elements of all its initiatives. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is one such critical guiding principle that guides all the interventions and initiatives undertaken by USAID. Given that South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP), USAID's regional energy program, is aimed at improving affordable, secure, reliable, and sustainable energy across South Asia, GESI becomes an indispensable lens. This CLA workshop series being organized by USAID's **South Asia Regional Energy Hub (SAREH), under SAREP** is designed to introduce the concept of GESI to our internal and external stakeholders like the grantees under the SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF), implementing partners, USAID missions as well as being open for interested participants etc.

Objective

The overarching objective of the CLA series of three workshops is to address the multifaceted challenges in South Asia's burgeoning energy sector related to GESI. These challenges are manifested through unequal access to resources, deeply ingrained cultural norms, and societal exclusions that act as barriers, impeding certain groups from fully participating in and benefiting from the energy sector.

Our objective encompasses two vital dimensions:

1. **Awareness and understanding:** We aim to introduce stakeholders to the concept of GESI as a fundamental and integral perspective, interspersed into all USAID initiatives within the clean energy sector.
2. **Capacity building and empowerment:** We seek to empower stakeholders and enrich their comprehension of GESI and its pervasive relevance. Through this empowerment, we intend to drive better integration of GESI principles into ongoing and future energy projects. Ultimately, this will fortify USAID's interventions, paving the way for a more inclusive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable energy transition in South Asia.

In summary, our CLA workshop series seeks to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to understand, apply, and adapt GESI principles in the context of clean energy initiatives, thereby fostering a transformative impact on the energy sector's dynamics and outcomes.

Background to the Previous Sessions:

SAREH successfully hosted part I and II of the GESI CLA series on May 21 and July 03 respectively.

You can access the session summaries and the recordings of the two parts following the links below:

- A) [GESI CLA Part I: Awareness & Fundamentals](#)
- B) [GESI CLA Part II: GESI Integration in Clean Energy](#)

CLA 3: Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaptation for GESI Impact

Objective: To explore approaches for monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation in clean energy projects to enhance GESI impact.

Outcomes:

1. **Monitoring:** Equip participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively monitor clean energy projects through a GESI lens.

Key Components: GESI Indicators/ Data-Collection Methods/ Real-time Monitoring tools/ Case studies

2. **Evaluation:** Enable participants to evaluate clean energy projects effectively, assessing their impact on gender equality and social inclusion.

Key Components: Evaluation Frameworks/ Impact Assessment/ Participatory Evaluation/ Outcome Mapping etc.

3. **Adaptation:** Provide participants with strategies to adapt and refine clean energy projects to maximize their GESI impact.

Key Components: Adaptive Management/ Feedback Mechanisms/ Inclusive Design/ Policy and Practice Adjustments/ Capacity Building.

Participants: This CLA is open to all interested participants. SAREH will, however, encourage and reach out to all USAID energy IPs, USAID missions in South Asia, the grantees under SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF), development professionals in the energy sector, GESI advisors from Indo-pacific USAID missions/ other multilateral organizations and all interested participants.

Format:

- **Platform:** Zoom Meeting platform
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Date and Time:** July 25; 3.30 PM- 5.30 PM IST
- **Moderator:** Dr. Nidhi Prabha

Agenda:

CLA 3: Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaptation for GESI Impact				
Start	End	Duration	Details	Speakers
03:30 PM	03:40 AM	10 mins	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks from USAID • Overview of the objectives and agenda of the meeting 	<i>Monali Zeya-Hazra</i> Regional and Clean Energy

				Specialist, USAID India
03:40 AM	4:20 PM	40 mins	GESI Performance Metrics & Data Collection (M & E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing GESI Performance Metrics Data Collection and Analysis Monitoring Tools Evaluation Frameworks Best Practice Examples; Case Studies 	<i>Ellen Bomasang</i> Principal; Energy Climate, Gender, Abt Global
04:20 PM	05:00 PM	40 mins	Adapting Based on GESI Data and Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using Feedback Loops for Adaptation Outcome Mapping Policy and Practice Adjustments Case Studies of Successful Adaptations; Best Practices Participation and Consultation Gender and Inclusion Audits 	<i>Dr. Ketevan Chkheidze</i> Gender And Development Consultant, ADB
05:00 PM	05:10 PM	10 mins	Key Takeaways from the CLA Series	<i>Dr. Nidhi Prabha</i> GESI Advisor, USAID's SAREP
05:10 PM	05:25 PM	15 mins	Interactive Q & A session	<i>Dr. Nidhi Prabha</i>
05:25 PM	05:30 PM	5 mins	Vote of Thanks and Summarization Summarization of CLA series; Future interventions at SAREH and vote of thanks	<i>Farah Ahmed</i> Cross-Cutting Lead, USAID's SAREP

These three CLA sessions aim to deepen our understanding and practical application of GESI principles within the clean energy sector. Each session builds on the previous one, equipping participants with the knowledge and tools to integrate GESI effectively into their projects and enhance impact throughout the project life cycle, and beyond.

Optional Recommendations

As a part of a background to the GESI CLA, interested participants can opt to complete the "Gender 101" e-learning course either before or after the CLA. This course offers a foundational understanding of gender equity and social inclusion, aligned with USAID's 2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy.

Gender 101 Course Details

Course Duration	Approximately 2 hours
Course Content	An overview of the strategic objectives, guiding principles, and operational and programmatic requirements outlined USAID's 2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy.

Objective

By the end of the course, participants will be equipped to comprehend the critical role GESI plays in USAID programming and understand how to integrate these principles into our own work under SAREP.