

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.

Participants

The CLA series is open to all 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:** 1:5 hours
- **Date and Time:** 11:30 AM-1:00 PM; **3-part** series in between May and October 2024.

CLA Part 2: GESI Integration in Clean Energy Projects

Objective: To explore practical strategies for integrating GESI into clean energy projects.

Outcomes:

1. **Strategies:** Participants learn practical GESI integration techniques.
2. **Applicability:** Participants understand how to apply GESI principles to their projects.

Participants: The CLA series is open to all 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:** 1.5 hours
- **Date and Time:** July 3; 11.30 AM- 01.00 PM IST
- **Moderator:** Dr. Nidhi Prabha

Agenda:

CLA 2: GESI Integration in Clean Energy Projects				
Start	End	Duration	Details	Speakers
11:30 AM	11:40 AM	10 mins	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Address and overview of the CLA series by 	<i>Monali Zeya-Hazra</i> Regional & Clean Energy Specialist, USAID India

			Monali Zeya-Hazra	
11:40 AM	12.10 PM	30 mins	GESI Integration in Project Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating GESI considerations in project life cycle/planning in the clean energy ecosystem Strategies for engaging marginalized communities, grassroots organizations and CSOs in projects 	<i>Speaker:</i> <i>Dr. Mini Govindan (TBC)</i> Senior Fellow, The Energy & Resources Institute
12.10 PM	12:40 PM	30 mins	GESI Responsive Budgeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender-responsive budgeting Allocating resources for GESI outcomes Ensuring equitable benefit sharing 	<i>Abhilasha Sood</i> Program Analyst, UN Women
12:40P M	12:55P M	15 mins	Interactive Q & A session	<i>Dr. Nidhi Prabha</i> GESI Advisor, USAID's SAREP
12.55 PM	01.00P M	5 mins	Vote of Thanks and Summarization Summarization and vote of thanks	<i>Farah Ahmed</i> Cross-Cutting Lead, USAID's SAREP