ROAD TO RECOVERY

Helping women in climate-sensitive sectors - build back better

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Spotlight Session on Energy Access Amidst COVID 19 and Beyond
Socio-economic assessment in selected provinces in
CAMBODIA VIE

TAM & BANGLADESH -

Covid-19 Assessment: What’s happening on the ground in EmPower project communities

- Employment (paid and unpaid)
- Health and Wellbeing (focused on water access, information on Covid-19 and access to health services)
- Social protection (external support)

Stakeholder's consultation on impact of COVID on small RE business
FINDINGS

Livelihoods
- Income has been negatively affected (except few)
- 69% of women are the primary earners in Cambodia
- Lack of/increase prices for supplies is a growing concern
- Inability to sell fresh produce, resulting in damaged goods

Health
- Insufficient access to water for sanitation in certain provinces (27%, Cambodia, 10% in Bangladesh)
- Knowledge about healthcare access; limited availability of equipment, vaccines and supplies
- Access to information on Covid-19 is mixed and insufficient in some communes

Time
- Time spent on unpaid care & domestic work has increased (varying from 1-3 hours per day)
- Sharing of unpaid care work between husband and wife (more prevalent in Cambodia, Vietnam) as compared to Bangladesh

Other Challenges
- Reduced incomes
- Unemployment
- Rising expenses
- Food security
- Inability to repay loans
- Ongoing water scarcity
- School closures

Impact on Renewable Energy Businesses
- Willingness among communities to invest in renewable energy equipment is very low since the pandemic
- Sale and distribution activities are more expensive and time-consuming
- Access to finance
**Government actors**
- Establish and implement COVID-19 recovery policies at the provincial and local levels that help RE SMEs build back better
- Ensure that there are targeted COVID-19 response interventions to protect women in climate-sensitive sectors
- Reallocate scarce public finance to long term sustainable recovery planning (conditional cash transfers, flexible credit lines backed by bank guarantees)

**Financial actors**
- Promote proactive economic stimulus and financing measures (extending moratorium on repayment of loans, financial industry bailouts)
- Drive dedicated investments in small scale clean energy intervention or conditional assistance to carbon-intensive sectors to cut emissions in the recovery
- **Blended Public-private financing** solution while investing in sustainable &resilient infrastructure

**Technology providers**
- Prioritize clean-energy innovations to provide services such as clean water, vaccine refrigeration, cold storage, mobile clinic
- Initiate partnerships with multilateral financial institutions, banks and development partners and establish end-user financial mechanisms
- Focus on developing innovative business plans, which are inclusive and climate resilient in reviving the economy

**Civil Society**
- Work with national and provincial governments and reflect the ground realities in developing emergency and recovery response plans
- Carry out un-biased impact assessment and share the findings
- Campaign towards institutional frameworks, technological infrastructure and digital platforms for renewable energy business and promote online sales
Opportunities for Small Scale Renewable Energy -

From the findings

- **RE in Long term sustainable recovery planning**
- Improved supply chains and access to new markets
- **RE for better health care, job creation and food security**
- Increased access to finance
- Skill development and community engagement

**EmPower: NEXT STEPS AHEAD**

- Work with provincial governments to support in formulation and implementation of COVID-19 recovery policies, specifically regarding RE, climate resilience and women entrepreneurship
- Realign the EmPower activities with options that can foster creating new jobs or provide better access to food security, health care and information
- Work on access to affordable finance, specifically for women entrepreneurs and RE small scale businesses
- Hands on and online training and capacity building
Thank You

For more information

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