



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 VIETNAM & 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

RECOMMENDATIONS



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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