



➔ An inclusive approach to drive impactful climate action in Asia



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ICF International Green Transitions + GESI Expertise

Global advisory & technology services provider – energy, climate, environment, health, international development, transportation, infrastructure, IT, disaster mgt., human services

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Global development partner since 1985

Our GESI services span:

- **Policy guidance and formulation** for national, regional, and local governments;
- **Research**, policy analysis, and **evaluation**;
- **GESI mainstreaming**/integration in programme and policy design and implementation;
- **Institutional equality and diversity** evaluations;
- **Benchmarking** and **gender monitoring**.

ICF's Urban Gender and Inclusion (UGI) Lab: founded in 2021, provides an urban- and GESI-centred knowledge bank and analytical activities to support ICF's projects; focused on peer-to-peer learning to support effective use of insights gained through knowledge sharing to overcome common barriers.

Climate change isn't neutral—and neither are our actions



Climate change disproportionately affects society's most vulnerable

Disadvantaged groups are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and these groups often have fewer opportunities to drive change given pre-existing societal and cultural inequalities, regarding political involvement, access to resources, and defined roles.



Not all low carbon transitions will automatically be *just transitions*

It is imperative that climate action does not blindly prioritise emissions reduction over social considerations, and risk inadvertently creating further harm.



A coordinated and holistic approach is needed

The solutions to climate change must be responsive to these social dynamics, **considering gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in climate action**. Much has been done to raise awareness around these topics, but gender and inclusion have mostly been addressed separately, and treated as being siloed.

It is essential that interventions prioritize GESI to make sure that all citizens are equally able to participate in and benefit from project / policy outcomes and impacts.

Strategies and pathways to create impactful & inclusive Climate Action

Creating GESI entry points where GESI opportunities are less obvious

Challenging assumptions that projects are GESI blind/neutral

To drive deeper analysis and consideration



Adhering to “Do No Harm” principles

To consider all groups that may be impacted directly or indirectly



Developing and monitoring GESI action plans

To mainstream GESI across all project activities and reflective learning

Challenging social norms and institutionalizing GESI processes, towards transformative change

Conduct a GESI assessment, including collaborative engagement

To understand contextual challenges, nuances of power dynamics, and cultural norms



Work with local stakeholders to define target areas

To kick-start processes that can lead to transformational change in the long run



Deliver GESI-responsive projects that can improve equity with realistic ambitions

To capitalize on opportunities while respecting complex societal nuances

Utility-led managed electric vehicle (EV) charging

Country: India

Theme: Electrifying urban mobility (EUM)

Implementing partners: eDRV; CEEW; BSES Yamuna Power

Dates: February 2021–March 2022

The project explored the opportunities of utility-led managed EV charging as a critical tool to meet projections for increasing demand.

- Despite a **highly technical focus** and an initially GESI-blind workplan, through the **action plan development and guidance**, the team was able to **integrate a GESI lens through a focus on women EV drivers**.
- Identified **pilot locations from GESI perspective**: 50% of the charging locations provided adequate safeguards for women drivers, and the balance catered to drivers of 3-wheeler (low-income populations of society).
- GESI-related findings were integrated when developing **targeted policy recommendations for a managed charging program** that can benefit women and low-income groups.

*A project like ours, which was a proof-of-concept of a technology, **struggled immensely to envision ways in which we could be gender-inclusive**. And while it was quite a challenge initially, to go beyond just maintaining a gender balance within the participating teams, **we eventually found that there were a lot of implicit ways in which we could ensure gender equality and social inclusion**. And this meant going beyond just the assumptions we had about women EV drivers.*

—eDRV team

Distribution network visibility (DNV) tool

- Despite the heavily technical focus, the project was able to **identify key GESI opportunities through the development of the GESI action plan.**
- The project **developed a GESI strategy for the Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU)** to improve GESI across the organization and in its operating activities.
- The strategy was developed with a **local GESI specialist** and interviews with EEU stakeholders.
- Recommendations included **mainstreaming GESI in the EEU mission statement and preparing a GESI action plan.**
- EEU has been making progress with the plan, including **setting internal targets** for increasing the **number of women both in the organization** as a whole and in leadership positions.
- A **training for women entrepreneurs** was also carried out, introducing them to green energy themes and approaches to emissions reduction in electricity generation.

Country: Ethiopia

Theme: Clean energy transition

Implementing partners: Ricardo; Tripleline; Tata Power

Dates: June 2021–March 2023

The project developed a DNV tool for improved performance, maintenance, and integration of renewable energy into the grid.



Training for women entrepreneurs.

Intra-city electric bus transport in India

- As part of the GESI assessment, the project included a **GESI survey**, finding that women transport users **preferred to have women as drivers**, and women were **interested in finding employment in the sector**.
- However, social norms about employment in the transport sector meant there were **no women auto drivers in Kakinada**.
- Through the action plan development, the project identified opportunities to address this through:
 - Providing **training to women** on EV repair and maintenance, EV driving, bus conducting, and as charging station operators
 - Including **GESI sensitization** in the other training sessions for auto industry employees, entrepreneurs, and students
 - Developing a **network of women leaders in e-mobility** to serve as a space for peer support and sharing job postings
- By directly educating the local communities and transport sector on GESI and **creating space for women in the sector**, the project **encouraged acceptance** and **provided key skills** to challenge social norms and create positive long-term changes in the automotive industry.

Country: India

Theme: EUM

Implementing partners: RTI

Dates: February 2021–March 2023

The project delivered an institutional capacity building framework to accelerate adoption of electric mobility in public transport in Kakinada.



Review of existing bus infrastructure in Kakinada.

Integrating Green, Resilient, and Inclusive development (GRID) in LGs' policies & actions

- **Green City Action Plans:** Helping cities prepare an action plan based on their respective unique vision for a livable city, identifying sectoral interventions for adaptation and mitigation, and providing a framework to systematically incorporate livability/GRID considerations as a core concept in policy, investment, and resource harmonization
- **GRID-aligned and GESI-responsive planning and budgeting:** Assisting cities in ensuring their fiscal planning and program budgeting are gender-responsive and aligned with GRID principles
- **GESI training and GESI guidance for municipal stakeholders:** Manual and Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops focused on increasing GESI awareness, improving understanding of the need for GESI mainstreaming and improving capacities to use GESI tools
- **Municipal GESI policies and strategies and unit-specific GESI action plans:** Supported local governments' (LGs') staff develop GESI action plans for their specific units, helping them allocate budget for the identified priorities with a focus on the infrastructure and planning units

Country: Nepal

Theme: Urban Resilience and Sustainability

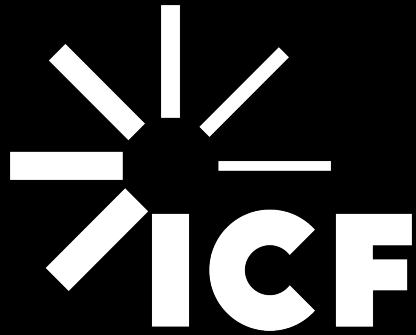
Implementing partners: ICF

Dates: January 2019–January 2024



172%

Average increase across supported LGs in budget supporting GRID.



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