TRANSITION FROM COAL
LESSONS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION STRATEGIES

ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM
JUNE 16, 2023

Srestha Banerjee
Director, Just Transition
Key Issues of Social Protection an Inclusion

• Large scale informality in the coal sector with low-wages and no social security.
  ▪ Workers in the formal coal economy (engaged in coal mines, coal washeries, coal transport)
  ▪ Workers in the informal coal economy- coal gatherers and sellers
  ▪ Collectively at least 2.5-3 times the formal workforce (0.8 million)

• Almost all women in the informal coal economy are the lowest paid.

• Informal workers not protected under the labour laws: Existing laws are focused on departmental employees of coal companies, and to some extent protects those with long-term contract.

• Poor development indicators in the coal regions further undermines their adaptive capacity: In many of top coal district 40-50% of people are multidimensionally poor, with poor healthcare and education status (Twice India average of 25%).

• Inclusion in decision-making processes is a challenge.
Women in Coal Economy

Coal gathering and selling, Jharkhand

Cleaning slurry, Odisha
Goals in a Just Energy Transition Process

• Mainstream gender issues in just transition policies, plans and investments.

• Maximize formal jobs for the women workforce in the low-carbon economy, to ensure decent wages and social protection benefits for them.

• Ensure equal access to skilling and re-skilling programmes for green jobs, and equal employment opportunities.

• Build foundational skills of women and girls, including through investments in higher education and vocational and training programmes.

• Ensure equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making processes and promote women leadership.
Strategies for Just and Inclusive Energy Transition

**Social Protection**
- Reform of labour laws to strengthen support for informal workers, including women
- Develop gender-informed and gender-sensitive just transition policies and investment plans
- Enhance social infrastructure and welfare investments

**Community Consultation**
- Set-up institutional systems for systematic and formal mechanisms of engagement in planning and decision-making
- Build stakeholder capacity
For information and resources

VIST US @

https://iforest.global/

https://www.ijtc.org.in

EMAIL

srestha@iforest.global