THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

NOSSAL INSTITUTE | GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

ADB

ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM 2025

Empowering the Future: Clean Energy Innovations, Regional Cooperation and Integration, and Financing Solutions

2–6 June | ADB Headquarters

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ADB

Deep Dive Workshop

Inclusive Clean Energy Solutions in South Asia:

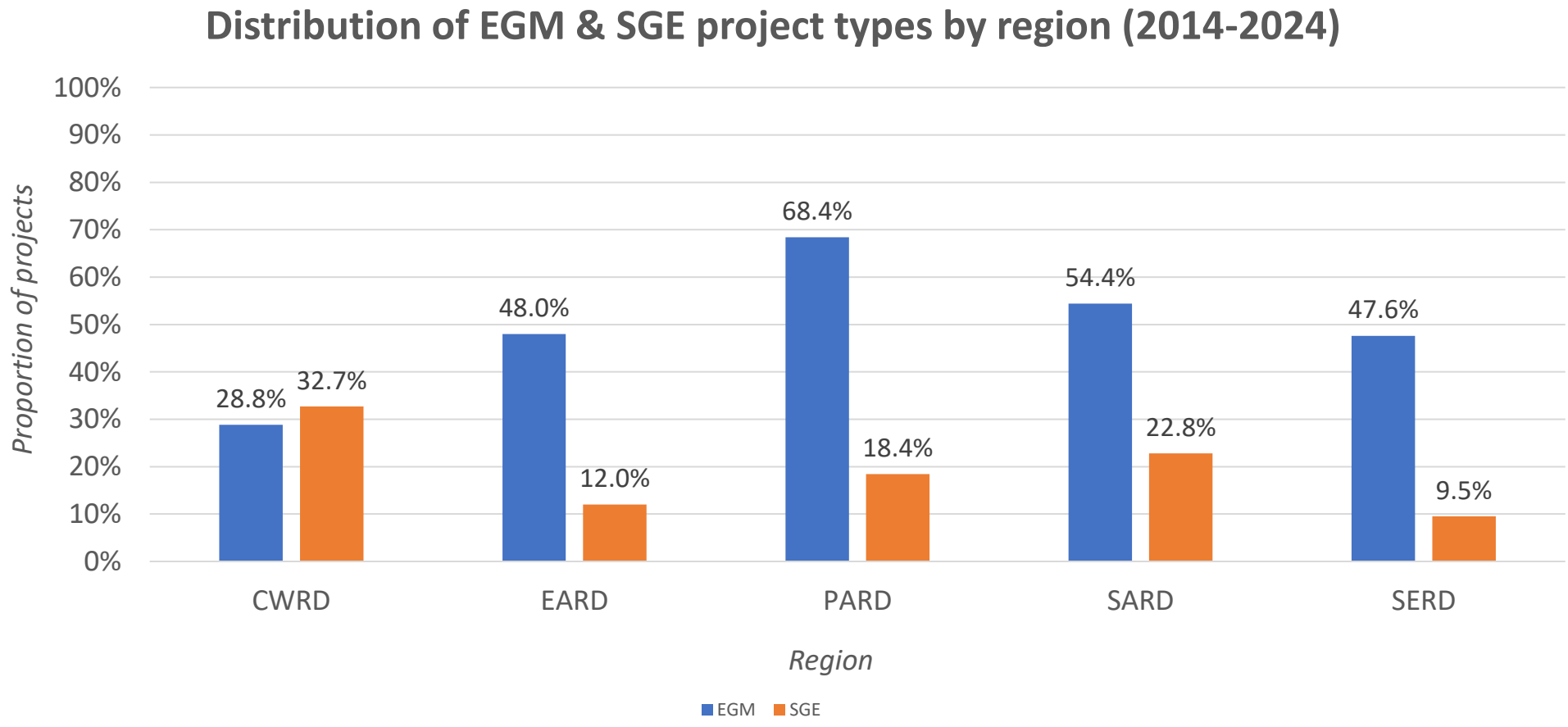
Reflections from Past Experiences and Lessons for the Future

Dr. Reihana Mohideen, Principal Advisor, Sociotechnical Systems. Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne, Australia

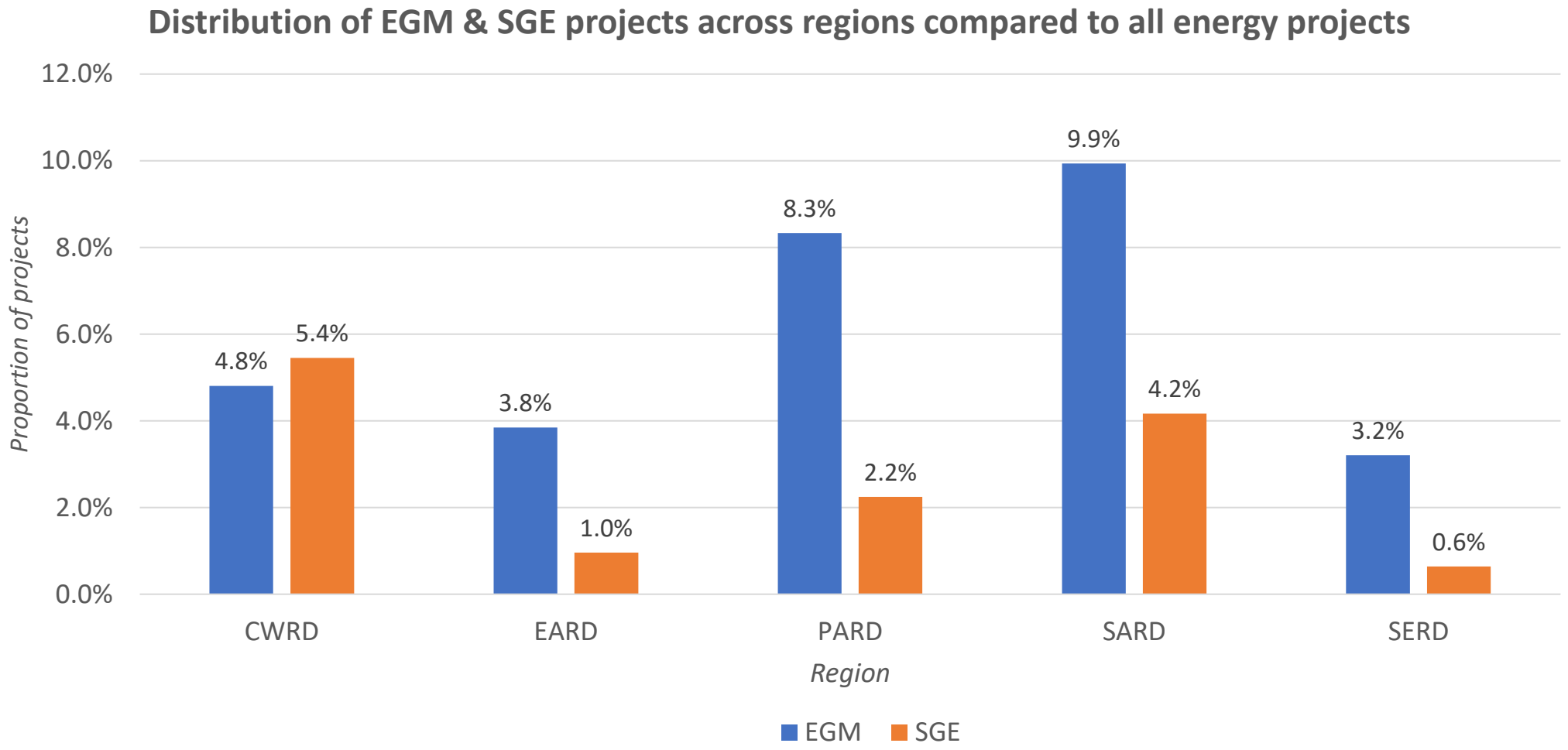
6 June 2025 (Thursday) • 9:00–10:30 a.m.

- This presentation will outline the evolution of the ADB energy sector portfolio in addressing social inclusion (gender equality and social inclusion – GESI) over the last ten-year period, 2014-2024.
- Compare and identify the energy subsectors addressing GESI.
- Identify some of the key outputs and activities addressing GESI.
- Draw out some key learnings and takeaways.

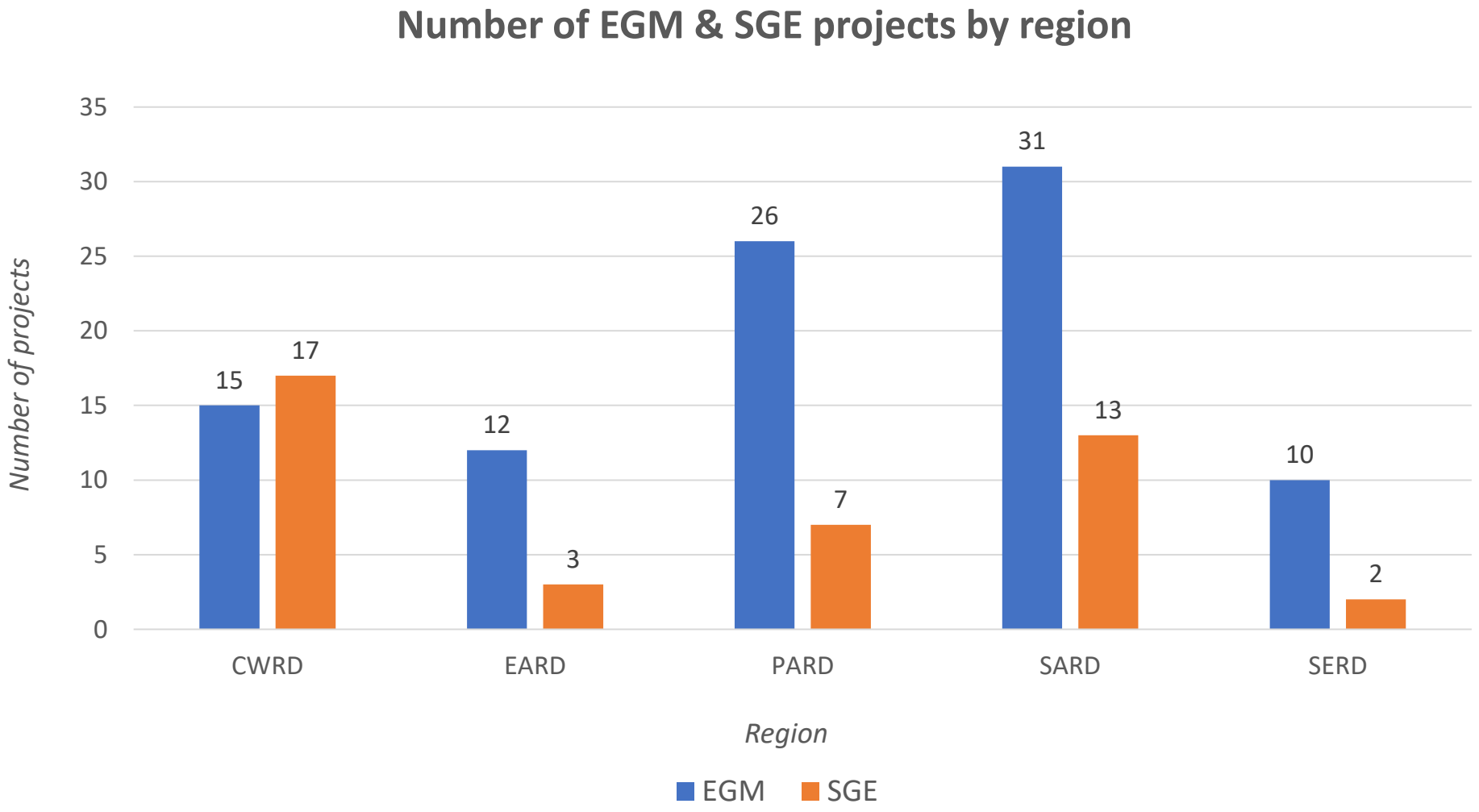
The criteria used are the ADB gender classifications.
Effective Gender Mainstreaming (EGM) ~ One or more outputs incorporate GESI design features.
Some Gender Elements (SGE) ~ Not EGM but incorporates gender design features

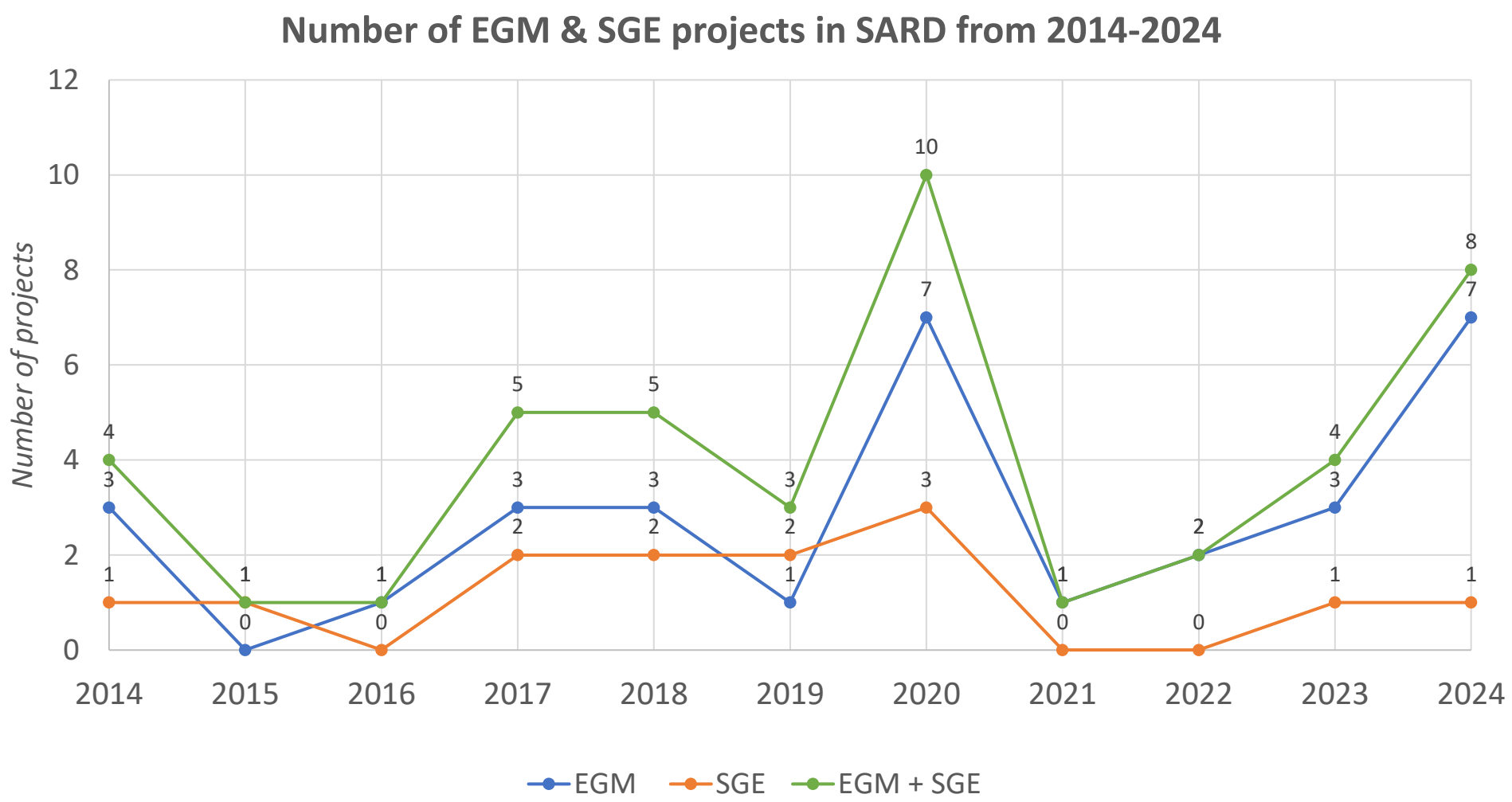


PARD, 86.8 per cent of all energy projects are EGM+SGE
SARD, 77.2 per cent of all energy projects are EGM+SGE



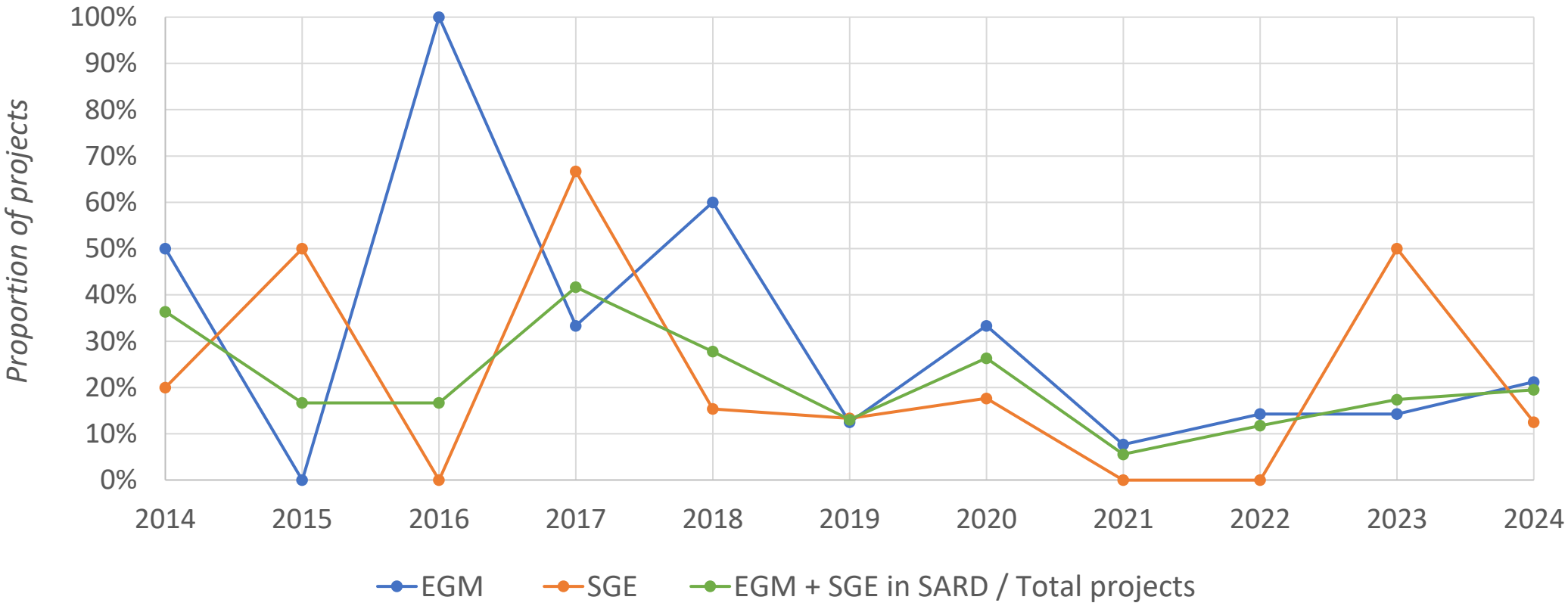
SARD, EGM+SGE constitute 14% of all ADB energy projects
PARD, EGM+SGE, 10.5%


Number of EGM & SGE projects by region
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Number of projects
15
17
12
3
26
7
31
13
10
2
CWRD
EARD
PARD
SARD
SERD
Region
EGM
SGE



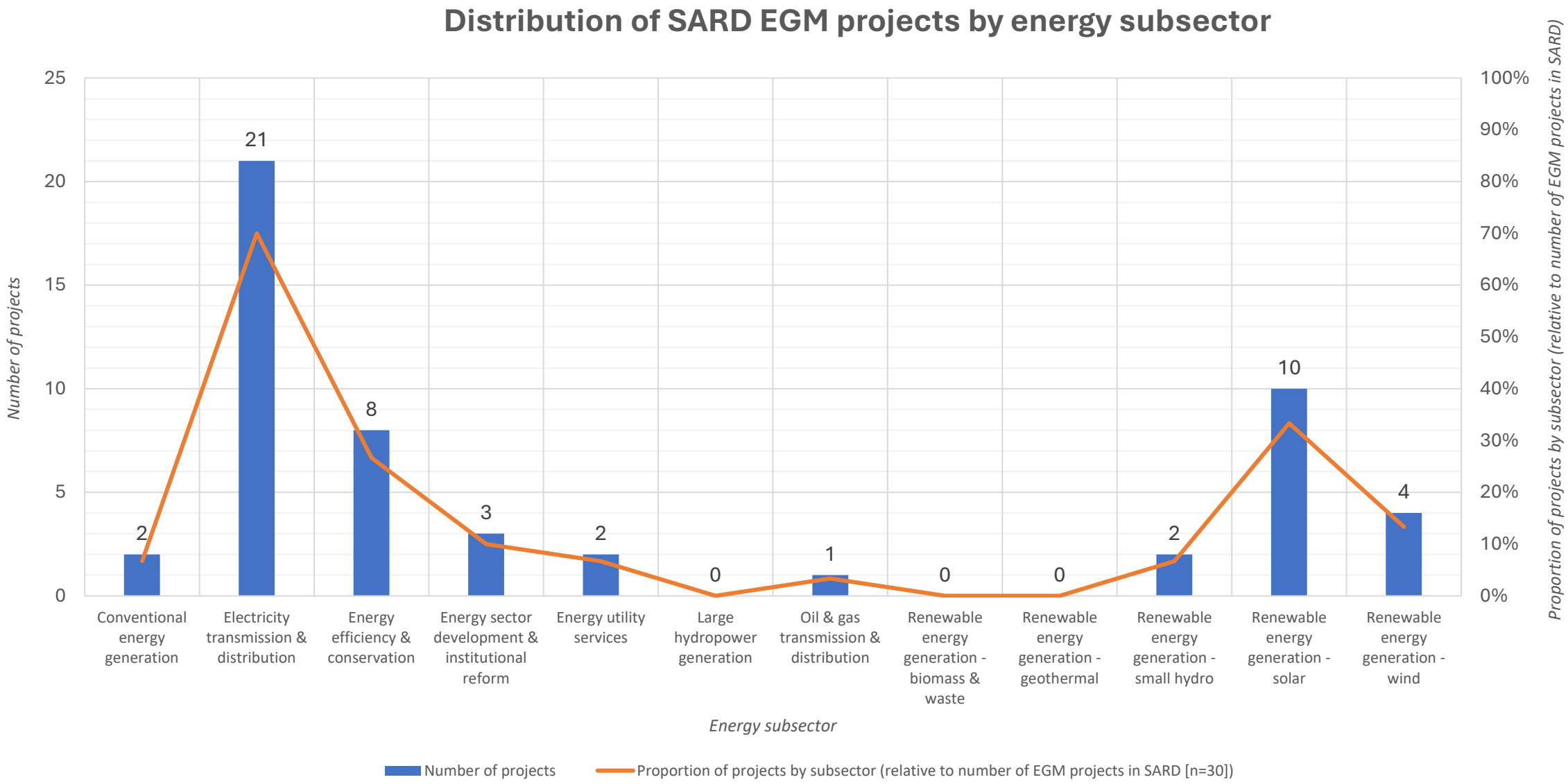
- Number of EGM and SGE projects peaked in 2020, with 7 and 3 projects taking place in the year, respectively (two signed across Aug-Sept, eight across Oct-Dec)
- Gradual recovery from late 2021, particularly for EGM (less so for SGE)

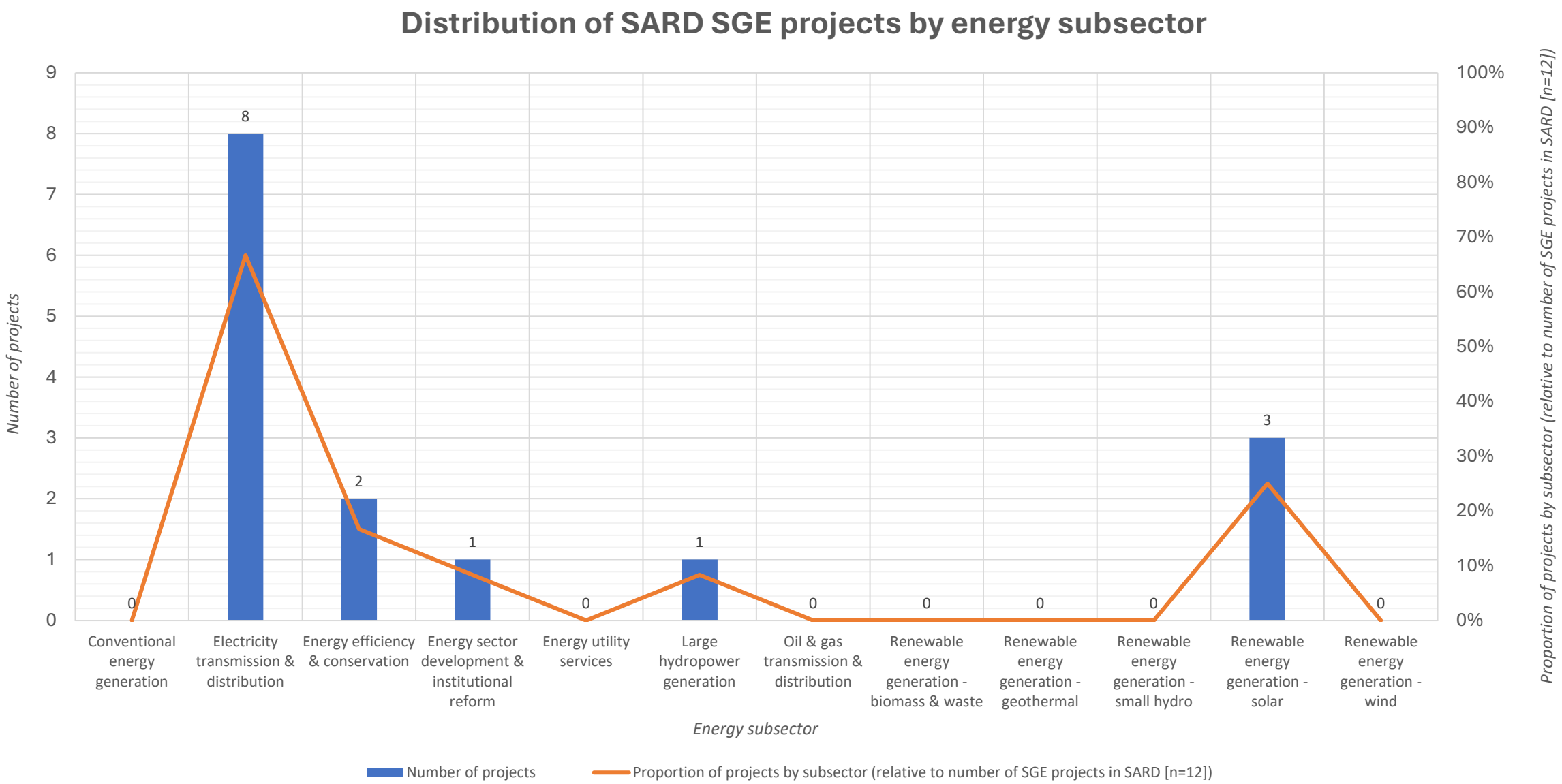
Distribution of EGM & SGE projects compared to all energy projects from 2014-2024



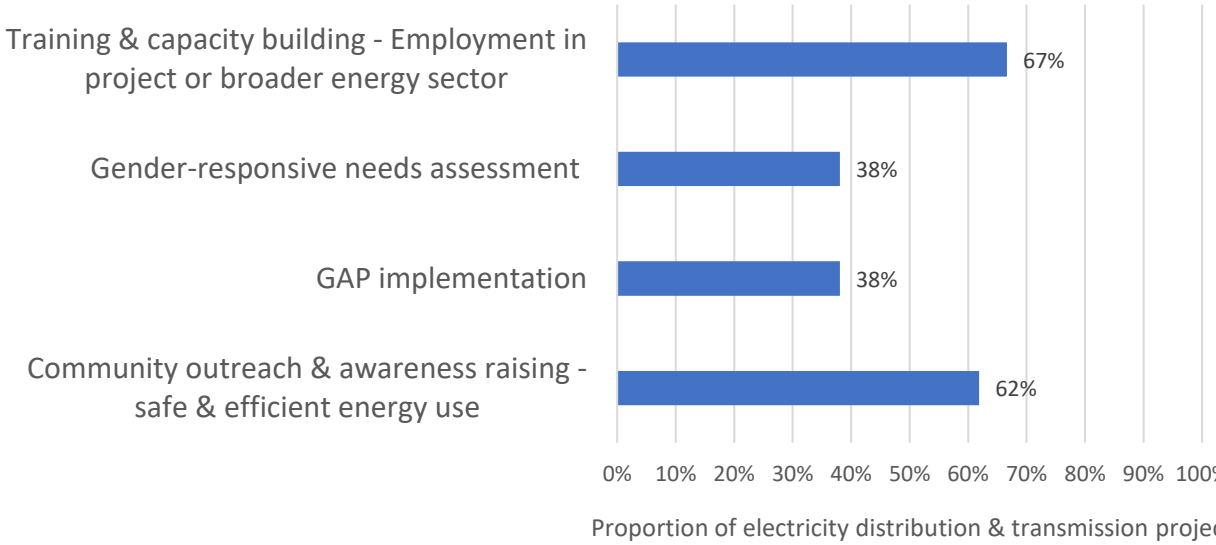
E.g. interpretation: 50 percent of EGM projects that took place in 2014 were based in the SARD.

- Drop in proportion of EGM & SGE projects based in the SARD in 2019 is due to an increase in other regional departments (no. of projects in SARD remained relatively consistent across this time period *with the exception of two spikes in:*
  - 2020 (7 EGM + 3 SGE), and
  - 2024 (7 EGM + 1 SGE)/

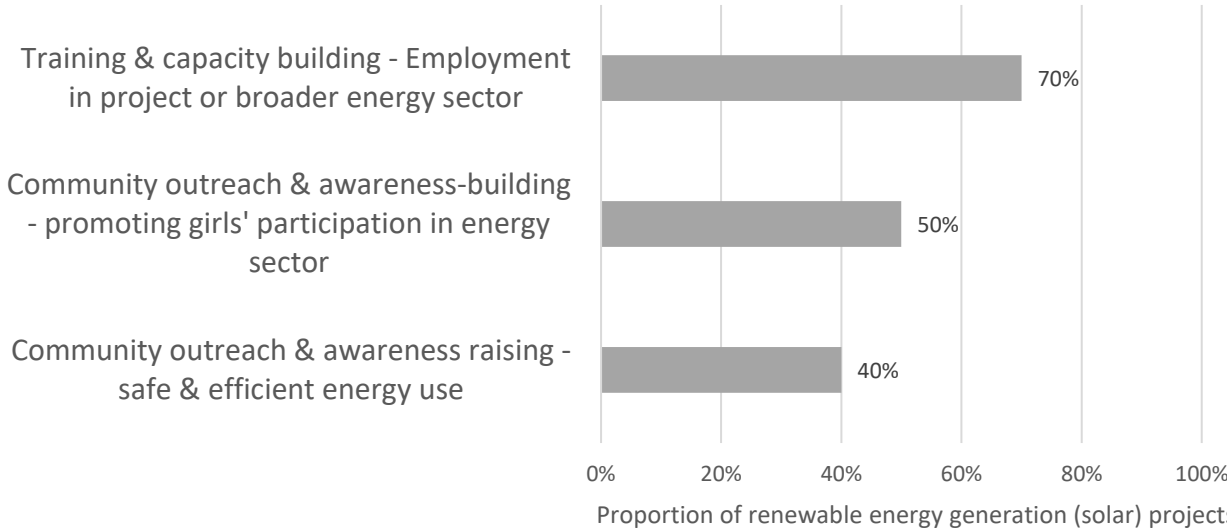

Distribution of SARD EGM projects by energy subsector
Number of projects
Proportion of projects by subsector (relative to number of EGM projects in SARD)
25
20
15
10
5
0
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
2
21
8
3
2
0
1
0
0
2
10
4
Conventional energy generation
Electricity transmission & distribution
Energy efficiency & conservation
Energy sector development & institutional reform
Energy utility services
Large hydropower generation
Oil & gas transmission & distribution
Renewable energy generation - biomass & waste
Renewable energy generation - geothermal
Renewable energy generation - small hydro
Renewable energy generation - solar
Renewable energy generation - wind
Energy subsector
Number of projects
Proportion of projects by subsector (relative to number of EGM projects in SARD [n=30])


Distribution of SARD SGE projects by energy subsector
Number of projects
Proportion of projects by subsector (relative to number of SGE projects in SARD [n=12])
Energy subsector
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
0
8
2
1
0
1
0
0
0
0
3
0
Conventional energy generation
Electricity transmission & distribution
Energy efficiency & conservation
Energy sector development & institutional reform
Energy utility services
Large hydropower generation
Oil & gas transmission & distribution
Renewable energy generation - biomass & waste
Renewable energy generation - geothermal
Renewable energy generation - small hydro
Renewable energy generation - solar
Renewable energy generation - wind
Number of projects
Proportion of projects by subsector (relative to number of SGE projects in SARD [n=12])

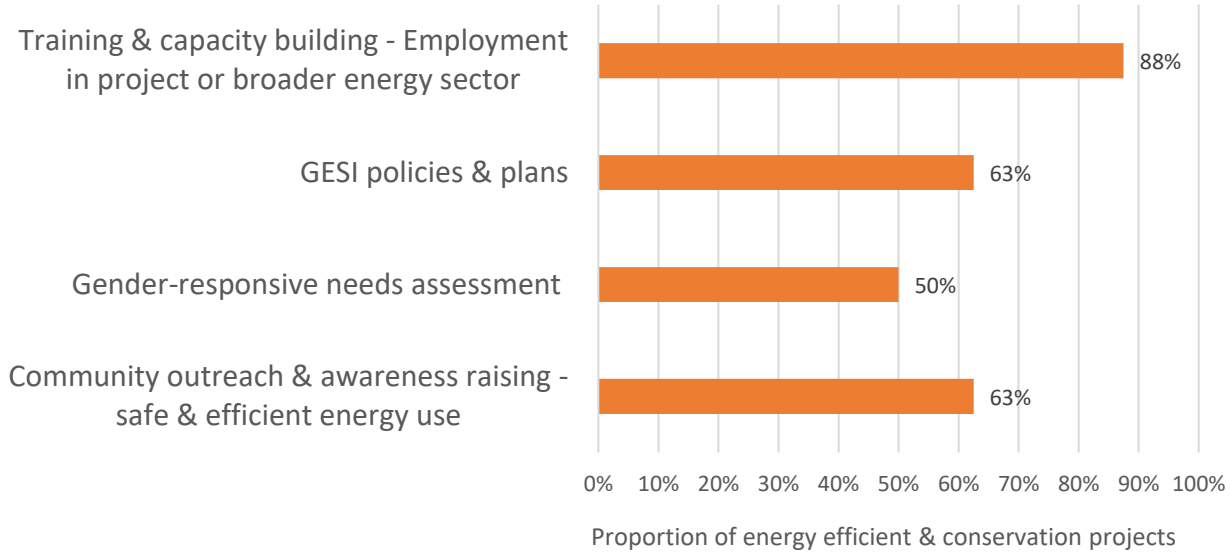
1. Top three gender design features of EGM electricity transmission & distribution projects



2. Top three gender design features of EGM renewable energy generation (solar) projects



3. Top three gender design features of EGM energy efficiency projects



Learnings and Take Aways

a. The main activities are still very relevant and important

- ✓ Capacity building and training
  - *Skills development for the future workforce*
- ✓ Raising community awareness
  - *'Social License' to operate*
  - *Girls and women in STEM/energy sector*
- ✓ GESI—responsive needs assessment

b. Low-carbon energy transition provides opportunities for inclusive solutions

- *RE-based Distributed Energy Resources; Active Demand*
- *Developing the workforce.*

c. Energy Efficiency must incorporate end-user engagement

d. How to better capture?

- *Resilience?*
- *Project effectiveness?*
- *Policy engagement and development?*
- *Workforce development?*

THANK YOU!

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