

## SUMMARY NOTES EEAP WEBINAR 30

### Results-Based Inclusive and Just Energy Transitions

16 September 2026 | Online webinar

On 16 September 2026, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP) convened its 30th webinar to explore how gender equality and social inclusion can be integrated into the clean-energy transition in a practical, measurable, and results-oriented way. The session examined the links between energy justice, just transition, climate finance, and evaluation, with particular attention to who benefits from transition policies and investments, who may be left behind, and how evidence can support more equitable outcomes.

**Speaker:** Sohna Ngum, Senior Officer, Gender, Conflict Management and Social Development, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

**Moderator:** Yoonyoung Jung, Officer, Impact and Evaluation Unit, GGGI, and EEAP Steering Committee Member

The webinar combined conceptual framing with practical lessons on programme design, results-based management, stakeholder engagement, climate finance, and evaluation. It also served as the first part of a two-part discussion, with more practical case examples to be presented at the EEAP Virtual Conference on 1 October 2026.

#### Central message

A just and inclusive energy transition must be designed and measured as a social, economic, and environmental transformation not only as a technological shift. Results-based approaches help translate inclusion from an aspiration into measurable outcomes by defining indicators, baselines and targets, tracking who benefits, and using evidence to improve future action.

### Webinar Agenda

| Time (KST)        | Session / Speaker                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00–11:05 AM    | Welcome remarks and context setting – Yoonyoung Jung, Officer, Impact and Evaluation Unit, GGGI, and EEAP Steering Committee Member |
| 11:05–11:40 AM    | Presentation – Sohna Ngum, “Results-Based Inclusive and Just Energy Transitions”                                                    |
| 11:40–11:55 AM    | Moderated audience Q&A – Yoonyoung Jung                                                                                             |
| 11:55 AM–12:00 PM | Concluding comments and vote of thanks                                                                                              |

### Introduction and Context Setting

**Yoonyoung Jung, Officer, Impact and Evaluation Unit, GGGI, and EEAP Steering Committee Member**

Yoonyoung introduced EEAP as a community of practice established in 2018 to strengthen objective evaluation of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy programmes and policies across the Asia-Pacific region. She emphasized collaborative learning, robust data analysis, capacity building, and post-implementation monitoring to understand what works, how programmes can improve, and what can be scaled.

She then positioned the webinar within GGGI's broader mission of advancing strong, inclusive, and sustainable green growth. GGGI's Strategy 2030 includes gender equality and social inclusion and a just and inclusive energy transition among its priorities and themes, providing the institutional context for the session.

## Why inclusive and just energy transitions matter

The clean-energy transition can open new economic opportunities, strengthen livelihoods, improve health and safety, and increase access to modern energy services. However, these benefits do not automatically reach everyone. Energy systems reflect existing social structures, policies, history, access to resources, and power relations. Without deliberate attention to inclusion, transition policies and investments can reproduce or deepen existing inequalities.

- Energy justice asks who has access to energy, whether it is affordable, how benefits and burdens are distributed, and whether people can participate meaningfully in energy decisions.
- A just transition focuses on an environmentally sustainable economy in which workers, communities, and different social groups can access decent work and share in the benefits of change.
- Gender equality concerns equal rights, opportunities, responsibilities, and access to material and non-material resources across genders.
- Social inclusion recognizes that disadvantage is multidimensional and can relate to income, location, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, education, or other characteristics.

Sohna stressed that inclusive transition therefore requires both top-down and bottom-up action: governments and institutions need enabling policies and tools, while communities must have meaningful opportunities to shape decisions and participate in the systems being created.

## Asia-Pacific context

The presentation highlighted the scale and urgency of the transition in Asia-Pacific. Electricity demand continues to grow rapidly, while the region is also a major center of renewable-energy expansion. At the same time, substantial energy-access gaps remain, including lack of electricity and clean cooking for large populations. These gaps affect education, livelihoods, safety, health, and economic opportunity.

Sohna also emphasized that the energy value chain includes diverse groups of consumers, workers, entrepreneurs, suppliers, communities, and decision-makers. Structural gaps in income, opportunity, skills, and representation can determine who is able to benefit from the transition. An inclusive approach should therefore seek to close these gaps rather than widen them.

## 1. From Inclusion as an Aspiration to a Measurable Result

**Sohna Ngum**, *Senior Officer, Gender, Conflict Management and Social Development, GGGI*

A central argument of the presentation was that gender equality and social inclusion can be measured. Although concepts such as fairness, inclusion, and justice may appear abstract, they can be translated into concrete and verifiable indicators. Existing frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, already demonstrate how social and gender dimensions can be tracked alongside environmental and economic progress.

### A continuum of GESI integration

Sohna described gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) integration as a continuum rather than a simple yes/no condition:

- GESI-negative: unequal roles, relations, or norms are reinforced or left unchallenged.
- GESI-sensitive: inequalities are recognized, but the intervention does not actively address them.
- GESI-responsive: inequalities are recognized and addressed through measures such as capacity building, improved access, or income-generating opportunities.
- GESI-transformative: interventions seek to address deeper structural causes of inequality, including identity-based roles, norms, relations, and policy barriers.

Transformative change, she noted, must be locally grounded. External organizations can provide evidence, options, and technical support, but lasting changes to policies and social norms require meaningful participation and ownership by the people and institutions within the country or community.

## 2. Applying a Results-Based Approach

Sohna defined a results-based approach as a management approach in which processes, outputs, and services are deliberately designed and managed to contribute to intended results, supported by clear accountability, continuous monitoring, and self-assessment. The approach assumes that programmes learn as they implement: data from current interventions should shape future projects, policies, and financing decisions.

### Practical insight

The key shift is from asking “Did we carry out the activity?” to asking “Did meaningful change happen, for whom, and with what positive or negative effects?”

### What results-based management adds

- A clear results chain: activities and outputs are linked to outcomes and longer-term impacts rather than monitored in isolation.
- Indicators, baselines, and targets: inclusion objectives are given a concrete place at each stage of the results chain.
- Accountability and learning: monitoring is used not only for reporting, but to understand what is working and where course correction is needed.
- Structured partnerships: actors contributing to different results are identified and loose collaboration is turned into more deliberate multi-level partnerships.
- Attention to unintended effects: programmes track both positive and negative outcomes and ask who benefits and who may be left behind.

### A multidimensional view of disadvantage

The session cautioned against treating gender and social inclusion as a simple binary. Different combinations of location, income, age, education, gender, employment, disability, or social status can change who is disadvantaged in a particular context. For example, a worker in a traditional energy industry may face job loss because of a skills gap, while another group may face barriers to accessing new technologies or decision-making spaces. Disaggregated data and local analysis are therefore essential for understanding who actually faces which barriers.

## 3. What Is Missing in Energy Evaluation?

Sohna identified several persistent gaps that prevent inclusive-transition ambitions from translating into measurable outcomes:

- Limited GESI-specific indicators, particularly indicators that capture outcome-level change rather than only participation or process.
- A weak evidence base of concrete examples showing how GESI integration influences project design, implementation, access, benefits, sustainability, and longer-term outcomes.
- Over-reliance on compliance and safeguards. “Do no harm” remains essential, but it is different from proactively ensuring that people can participate and benefit.
- Difficulties collecting, disaggregating, interpreting, and using social data within results-based management systems.
- Fragmented action across institutions, donors, ministries, communities, and the private sector, which limits shared learning and coordinated delivery.
- The webinar distinguished between a safeguard-oriented approach—avoiding harm—and a more transformative “leave no one behind” approach that actively seeks positive socio-economic co-benefits and meaningful participation. The latter often requires inclusion to be built into project design and financing from the beginning rather than added later.

## 4. Entry Points for Stronger Evaluation and Climate Finance

### Evaluation entry points

- Develop clearer indicators for GESI-integrated energy transitions and capture both process and outcome-level change.

- Document case studies that show what worked, what did not, and why, including effects on access, benefits, implementation quality, and sustainability.
- Generate lessons that climate-finance actors, policymakers, development partners, and implementers can use in future programming.

### System-level entry points

- Strengthen multi-level partnerships across national and local government, communities, the private sector, development partners, and other actors.
- Pool resources and reduce siloed initiatives so that complementary institutions can contribute to shared outcomes.
- Use credible evidence and examples of good practice to build political and donor commitment.
- Move beyond compliance toward transformative approaches that treat inclusion as a driver of positive outcomes rather than an additional requirement.

### Climate finance and inclusion

The session emphasized that climate finance should account for the socio-economic dimensions of the energy transition, not only emissions reductions or economic returns. Credible results, practical examples, and evidence on who benefits can help strengthen the case for financing that supports inclusive transition pathways. The discussion also noted that multilateral climate funds and development banks increasingly include social and gender requirements, while private-sector instruments such as targeted lines of credit can support women, youth, and green entrepreneurs.

## 5. Audience Discussion and Q&A

### Financing a gender-just energy transition

A participant asked which financial instruments can help manage the difficult transition period between declining traditional energy systems and emerging renewable-energy systems. The discussion pointed to climate-finance institutions and mechanisms that incorporate social-development or gender requirements, including the Green Climate Fund, Climate Investment Funds, and the Global Environment Facility, as well as financing available through multilateral development banks. Private-sector options such as lines of credit for women and young entrepreneurs were also discussed.

### How to handle local diversity and context

Another question focused on the challenge of designing indicators when social conditions differ widely within and between countries. Sohna agreed that there is no single universal approach. She emphasized flexible results-based management, context-specific GESI assessments, and stakeholder mapping to understand which groups are present, what barriers they face, and which organizations are already working in the area.

- Consultation methods should be accessible to different groups and may need to use multiple languages and media, including radio, social media, mobile phones, text messages, and trusted local intermediaries.
- Timing and location matter. Consultation may need to take place within communities and at times that account for caregiving, work, mobility, or safety constraints.
- Separate or smaller-group discussions may be appropriate where some groups are less comfortable speaking in mixed settings.
- Programmes should be realistic about what one project can solve and should partner with others to address gaps that exceed their own resources or mandate.

### GGGI's experience and learning

Asked how GGGI is applying these principles in practice, Sohna stressed that the organization is still learning and reviewing its own approach to inclusive and just energy transition. She cited work with women and young people in refugee communities in Jordan to build skills and participation in the energy sector, as well as a newer initiative supporting just energy transition in Indonesia. These examples were presented as part of an evolving organizational learning process rather than as a claim that all challenges have been solved.

## What mechanisms appear to work?

In response to a final question, Sohna returned to the importance of combining top-down and bottom-up action. Effective approaches bring policymakers into dialogue with communities, involve the private sector, connect energy policy with employment, education and skills, and encourage multiple ministries and development partners to work together. Avoiding silos, pooling resources, and sharing experience across countries and regions were highlighted as recurring enabling conditions.

## Key Takeaways

- Energy transitions are social as well as technological. Their success should be judged not only by clean-energy capacity or emissions reductions, but also by access, affordability, decent work, participation, and distribution of benefits and risks.
- GESI can be measured. Inclusion becomes more actionable when programmes define clear indicators, baselines and targets and link them to outcomes and impacts.
- Context matters. Social disadvantage is multidimensional, so programmes need disaggregated data, local consultation, and flexible approaches rather than one universal model.
- “Do no harm” is necessary but not sufficient. A stronger approach also asks how the transition can create positive socio-economic benefits and meaningful participation for groups that might otherwise be excluded.
- Results-based management supports learning. Evidence should be used to improve project design, financing, partnerships, and future policy not only to satisfy reporting requirements.
- Partnerships are essential. Inclusive outcomes depend on coordinated action by communities, governments, local authorities, the private sector, financial institutions, development partners, and other actors.
- Climate finance can reinforce inclusion when GESI is incorporated at the design stage and supported by credible evidence of results.