



Regional: Promoting Transformative Gender Equality Agenda in Asia and the Pacific

Project Name	Promoting Transformative Gender Equality Agenda in Asia and the Pacific
Project Number	52214-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Promoting Transformative Gender Equality Agenda in Asia and the Pacific Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 2.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agriculture research and application Education - Technical and vocational education and training Finance - Small and medium enterprise finance and leasing Information and communication technology - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development Public sector management - Public administration
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Gender equity
Description	The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will generate new knowledge and evidence and build capacity of stakeholders in developing member countries (DMCs) to pursue transformative approaches to gender equality that will have a multiplier effect on both Asian Development Bank (ADB) operations and DMC policies and practices. The TA will support accelerating progress in gender equality, which is one of the operational priorities of ADB's Strategy 2030. It will also support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, which is dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, in the Asia and Pacific region. The TA is included in the 2018-2019 work plan of the Gender Equity Thematic Group approved by Management. It will support the implementation of a new Gender Equality Operational Plan 2019-2024.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

While Asia and the Pacific have made important progress on gender equality and women's empowerment over recent decades, stubborn gender gaps persist across all socio-economic areas. Female labor force participation rates have declined since 1990; this is the only global region with this negative trend. Girls are still less likely than boys to complete secondary education and pursue higher levels of education. Subject segregation (wherein more boys study science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information technology subjects than girls) contributes to the ongoing feminization of non-technical occupations and concentration of women in less valued and unskilled jobs. Gender wage gaps remain very high across many DMCs and women's access to leadership positions remain among the lowest globally. On average, close to one in three women report an experience of intimate partner violence during their lifetime: this increases to one in two women in some DMCs. Increasing evidence points to the adverse impacts of such gender inequalities on development outcomes and economic growth: McKinsey's estimates that the cost of gender inequalities in Asia and the Pacific is up to \$2.2 trillion.

The SDGs' transformative approach to development provides an important opportunity to accelerate progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific. The transformative gender agenda is defined by the ambitious gender targets included in SDG 5 and across other SDGs, which provide strategic entry points for challenging the discriminatory social norms that drive such inequalities. Targets include gender-based violence, unpaid care and domestic work, sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's participation in decision-making and leadership, access to economic and productive resources, access to information and communications technology, and legal/institutional reforms. For Asia and the Pacific, adopting a transformative approach to gender equality is particularly relevant given the rapidly changing regional context, (e.g., demographic shifts, automation and digital transformations of the economy, and climate change) which threatens gender equality gains if a business-as-usual approach were to continue.

Strategy 2030 offers an avenue for ADB to scale up its support to its DMCs in responding to these persistent and emerging gender challenges. Accelerating progress in gender equality is one of Strategy 2030's seven operational priorities, which includes gender targets for sovereign, as well as, for the first time, for non-sovereign operations. Building on its strong track record of innovation in gender equality, ADB is also increasing its attention to SDG 5's transformative gender agenda under Strategy 2030 and the Gender Equality Operational Plan 2019-2024. However, limited evidence and resources on 'what works' to operationalize the transformative gender agenda is restricting operational opportunities. Stronger innovation, knowledge and evidence that can demonstrate the development benefits of transformative gender approaches are needed to ensure ADB can better support its DMCs in achieving SDG 5 by 2030.

Complementing this approach will be scaling up the capacity development of executing agencies (EAs) and implementing agencies (IAs) in DMCs to deliver gender-inclusive and transformative projects. Promoting a knowledge-action loop through demonstration effects, capacity development and knowledge sharing events that are both cross-regional and cross-sectoral will foster more opportunities to pursue and mainstream transformative gender agenda approaches across a range of development areas at the country and regional levels.

Impact	SDG 5-related gender equality results in ADB operations improved in DMCs. Strategy 2030c gender targets supported.
Outcome	ADB operations (both sovereign and nonsovereign) integrating the transformative gender agenda in DMCs increased
Outputs	Evidence and knowledge on the transformative gender agenda in operations strengthened Gender knowledge and capacity of DMCs enhanced
Geographical Location	Regional

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services ADB will engage international and national consultants and carry out procurement following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.

Procurement None

Responsible ADB Officer

Nowacka, Keiko

Responsible ADB Department	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Responsible ADB Division	SDTC-GEN
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	15 Oct 2018
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	31 Oct 2018

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/52214-001/main
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