



WePOWER Story

Regional Assessment (Feb, 2018)

To better understand the gaps and barriers impacting women in the South Asian energy sector, the World Bank conducted a regional baseline assessment. The study collected data from over 100 energy sector organizations and academic institutions and interviewed almost 500 women and men. The findings helped inform the creation of WePOWER.

For complete findings, click [here](#).



The World Bank hosted the First WePOWER Partnership Forum in Washington DC on September 27, 2018, as a first attempt to convene major regional stakeholders from industry, academia, and civil society. Based on the findings of the baseline assessment and deliberation between the stakeholders and experts, the stakeholders agreed to form a regional network where institutions commit to incremental gender activities.

Key Pillars

The Forum showed unanimous support and provided concrete guidance for establishing WePOWER, and pursuing gender activities under the framework of five key pillars: (i) Science,



Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education; (ii) Recruitment; (iii) Development; (iv) Retention; and (v) Policy and Institutional Change. We are working with select partners to develop a simple charter for WePOWER.

WePOWER Partners



Photo courtesy: Asian Development Bank

WePOWER Partners are essential for a vibrant professional network. Our partners commit to doing incremental gender activities using their own resources under the five pillars. They set concrete targets which are monitored and reported every quarter.

We are engaged with over 50 organizations including the major power sector utilities/institutions in each South Asian and international organizations such as USAID, ADB, IRENA, AusAID, RTE France, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

For latest details about our partners, click [here](#).



WePOWER hosted two major events to launch and institutionalize the network in 2019.

First WePOWER Regional Conference (Feb 2019, Kathmandu)



The first WePOWER regional conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal (Feb 20-21). Some popular sessions included STEM is for Girls!, Women Entrepreneurs in Energy Access, and Jobs in the Renewable Energy Sector. More than 250 participants joined from South Asian utilities, female engineers, female engineering students, donors and local governments. The conference was highly successful in raising awareness of the gaps and barriers faced by women in the power/energy sector.

Please see the [feature articles](#), blogs, and [videos](#). Please find details [here](#).



Second Partnership Forum (Nov 2019, Manila)



Photo courtesy: Asian Development Bank

The objective of the forum was to convene the WePOWER Partners and Stakeholders to: i) present the WePOWER's Charter, ii) highlight commitments and accomplishments of strategic and institutional partners; and iii) host technical sessions on how to enhance STEM education outreach, recruitment, development and retention of women in South Asian utilities in order to achieve higher productivity, more diverse decision-making, and better understanding of gender-based needs of staff and clients.

The program [agenda](#) included gender activity updates from WePOWER Partners and the presentation of the WePOWER Charter. Almost 100 participants, including ADB, WB, USAID, JICA representatives, and partners from all 8 South Asian countries, the USA and France. In addition, representatives from France, Jordan, Indonesia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Zambia joined the forum.



Third Virtual Partnership Forum (May 11, 2020)

On May 11, WePOWER Secretariat organized the Third Partnership Forum (virtual meeting). Around 32 WePOWER members from across the region participated in the Forum. In the online business meeting, partners interacted with each other and shared the insights, experiences and impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and female employees. [Click here](#) for agenda.

Fourth Virtual Steering Committee Meeting (Sep 16, 2020)

On Sep 16, WePOWER Secretariat organized the fourth Steering Committee meeting. Valuable guidance was provided by the Committee members on the WePOWER partners, among other topics. The Secretariat updated the Committee on 2020 targets and revisions due to COVID-19.

COVID-19

For E-Discussion Brief on **COVID-19 and its Impact on Women Professionals in the Energy Sector**, please [click here](#).