



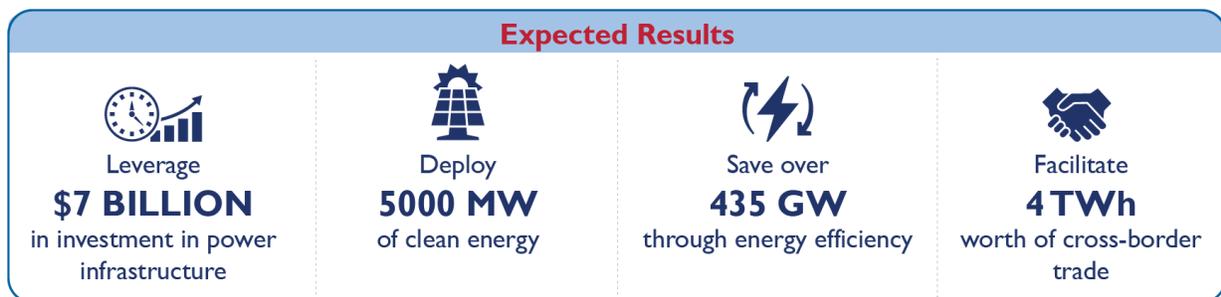
# SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (SAREP)



## SUPPORTING THE SOUTH ASIAN ENERGY SECTOR TRANSITION

Asia is the fastest-growing region in the world with a booming economy. Rapid urbanization and rising middle-class incomes have led to explosive growth in energy demand, accompanied by carbon emissions and air pollution. The vast untapped potential for energy efficiency and renewable-energy deployment, combined with an opportunity to upgrade to advanced technologies and infrastructure, point the way toward a transition to sustainable energy, leading to a wide range of economic, health, and gender benefits for the region's 1.5 billion citizens.

In response to these challenges, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) program aims to improve access to affordable, secure, reliable, and sustainable energy in six countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This five-year activity serves as a linchpin of the U.S. Government's Indo-Pacific Vision and will facilitate collaboration among its six countries to accelerate the transition to clean energy.



## SAREP IN CONTEXT

Importantly, SAREP builds on USAID's successful legacy of energy sector projects over five decades, and complements ongoing activities in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. SAREP will support activities that contribute to the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) and the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue of the Indo-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership (CCEP), established by President Biden and Prime Minister Modi at the April 2021 Climate Leaders' Summit. Through this collaboration, India and the U.S. aim to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive, resilient development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities. In addition, SAREP will build off work done by the former South Asia Regional Energy Hub and enhance coordination among regional stakeholders towards a consolidated approach to monitor and report on USAID's energy programs in South Asia.

## SAREP OBJECTIVES

SAREP will align efforts with initiative-wide strategies and national/regional priorities of the SAREP supported countries of operation, working across four technical objectives:



**Objective 1: Enhanced regional energy markets and integration.** SAREP will increase cross-border trade of electricity and gas and establish regional energy markets. Integration activities will support the transition of the region from bilateral to tri- and multilateral trade, strengthen institutions, develop common regulations and technical standards, and enhance energy cooperation through sharing of best practices.



**Objective 2: Increased deployment of advanced energy solutions and systems.** SAREP will support enabling policies, regulations, and standards, build institutional and human capacity, drive deployment of innovative technologies and business models, and mobilize finance for advanced energy systems and technologies. These technologies will help SAREP countries achieve their clean energy goals.



**Objective 3: High-performing modern utilities.** SAREP will focus on transforming utilities through advanced technologies, new management systems, and enhanced customer orientation. Innovation, technical and process improvements, and reorientation of utilities will improve service delivery and modernize the energy sectors of SAREP countries.



**Objective 4: Transparent, best-value procurement and private sector investment.** SAREP will mobilize billions of dollars' worth of investment from the private sector and development partners, through supporting public-private partnerships, energy transactions, risk mitigation, and working with government to create a more-enabling environment for private sector engagement through improved regulations, policy, and tariff frameworks.

## SAREP PARTNERSHIP FUND

Through its \$12 million Partnership Fund, SAREP will issue multiple grants to advance demonstration and scale-up of transformational and replicable business models, new technologies, innovative financing mechanisms, and other solutions. The Partnership Fund will maximize the impact of USAID resources, expand private sector engagement and partnerships, and facilitate opportunities for co-creation.

## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

SAREP operates in accordance with several cross-cutting themes, all of which support effective implementation, attract private capital, address the political and health challenges of pollution, and increase regional self-reliance:



**Private sector engagement.** Complementing objective 4 described above, SAREP will scale pilot projects, leverage funding for grants, and advocate for better and more streamlined regulation at both the national and regional level to improve the private sector enabling environment and promote replication of successful approaches.



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**Gender diversity and inclusion.** SAREP will increase awareness of gender mainstreaming in the energy sector and promote women leaders and entrepreneurs within its five countries of operation through bringing together women across the energy sector to design interventions focused around outreach, recruitment, capacity-building, and mentorship. Gender considerations will also be integrated in clean energy policies and programs to better ensure more equitable access to services.



**Pollution mitigation.** SAREP will work with pollution regulators in partner countries to develop policies, regulations, and innovative financing.

## IMPLEMENTING CONSORTIUM

RTI International leads the SAREP consortium, in partnership with its India affiliate, RTI India. Five other private sector firms with extensive expertise in the region round out the SAREP consortium: PTC, Fichtner India, e.Gen, CrossBoundary, and Asia Clean Energy Partners.



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