

EPD Annual Report 2021

This report highlights activities conducted from January to December 2021 in line with EPD Key initiatives.

Transparent Information

- **MIS Development Collaboration**
 - ✓ Visited SHS companies to deliberate on sharing information and adoption of EPD MIS for ease and fast track reporting and performance of sector and market sales report.
- **EPD Website**
 - ✓ Revamped EPD website with new look and feel; new and updated content, new pages and features; posts and links to other member's websites.
- **Data Collection**
 - ✓ Data collection and survey on SHS actual growth rate; Monthly SHS HH connections; Access rate for SHS and Mini-grid;
 - ✓ Data collection on mini-grid connections;
 - ✓ Data collection on clean cooking technologies and on-going financial opportunities; and
 - ✓ Conducted EPD Members and stakeholders surveys.
- **EPD Newsletter**
 - ✓ Published EPD Q1, Q2, and Q3 Newsletters that capture market trends, collaborative initiatives, and sector investment opportunities.

Reports

- ✓ Monthly Factsheets;
- ✓ Clean cooking status report in Rwanda;
- ✓ Strengthening the Off-grid Solar Electrification Market through improved Policy and Advocacy in East Africa
- ✓ Members and stakeholders satisfaction reports; and
- ✓ Market sales report

Consumer Awareness

- Carried Campaign on SHS; message pushed for public consumption included description of SHS Kit; functionality; maintenance; accessibility and eligible commercial outlets; funding sources and overall importance.
- Identification and mapping of underserved (in terms of electrification) districts.
- Developed a Concept Note on Capacity Development of LPG Retailors. Aiming to increase the awareness on safe use and handling equipment.
- Organizing above the line traditional Media Roll-out plan.

Investment Facilitation

- Fast tracking of REF performance benchmarks that included update on the implementation of Deal Origination Agents training activities for 2020/21.
- Facilitated for changes in the Window 5 (REF subsidy financing program) suitable for member companies; various changes that include; removal of Subsidy cap of FRW 1 billion per participating off-grid solar company; Removal of the requirement to participate in other REF credit windows/acquiring a loan from REF credit windows; removal of the Rwf 200 million subsidy cap; Removal of the proof of payment as a requirement prior to subsidy disbursement; and New and flexible verification procedures, whereby Contract verification through mobile telephony for all unreached customers was acceptable;
- Facilitated dialogue between ASER Capital and EPD member companies to secure funding agreement;
- Solicited for collaboration between EPD and Project Development Program (PDP)/GIZ on market development to support Solar PV small and medium sized enterprises (SME) of the renewable energy sector to emerging the market.
- Participated in Stakeholders consultation workshop on the draft regulation for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) in Rwanda in collaboration with RURA, with Technical support of USAID; Power Africa and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). A new draft regulation covering Licensing Requirements and Conditions; Imposition of Caps and Compensatory Payments; Technical Requirements Standards; Sale of Surplus Capacity; Monitoring and Enforcement; Miscellaneous and DER Registration Application Form was drafted awaiting validation.
- Participated in the formulation of Clean Cooking National Policy and Market Review organized by Energy for Impact in collaboration with EPD and government stakeholders; reviews that were made include; Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS, opportunities, challenges, barriers to modern cooking, and interventions built on evidence- based market and consumer research.
- Signed an MOU with E4I collaboration to facilitate all our members in different subsectors to bring sustainable solutions to their businesses and promote renewable energy in the sector.
- IBI and EPD Solar partnering with Partner Africa Rwanda under CSC Koblenz to deliver business skills training and introduce level 8/9 with Rwanda Polytechnic to TVETs in line with the Rwanda TVET qualification framework.

Research & Market Development

- Participated in preparation of GIZ call for proposal *“To co-design the structure, Implementation, and Evaluation of the Cooking Energy Business Growth Fund”*.
- Prepared and submitted GIZ call for proposal *“Investment for Job Creation”*.
- Participated in the development of Joint Market Enabling Activities proposal on Sustainable waste management of Renewable energy end-of life products and submitted to Gogla for evaluation and consideration for funding. Project Implementation on-going.
- Collaboratively participated in the survey on the Impact Assessment of Fiscal Incentives on Rwanda Off-Grid Sector with Africa Clean Energy with the objective of providing an assessment of various fiscal incentives contribution to supporting the deployment of the SAS industry in Rwanda.
- Participated in research study on the Impact of Electricity and water current tariff Increase on the Rwandan Economy, organized by PSF.

Capacity Building

- EPD Staff participated in the Wire- Empowered Employee (2021) training in leadership skills program, key workplace and business skills designed to support equitable professional advancement; overcoming inevitable workplace challenges; and Self-Empowerment and Equity for Change. This training was conducted in collaboration with WIRE and Johns Hopkins University;
- In collaboration with BRD, EPD organized and hosted a two Days virtual training on an eligibility tool that will be used by SHS companies that have qualified for REF window 5 (subsidy financing program).
- Conducted EPD Professional Apprenticeship program through WIRE initiative: 2 WIRE Apprentices completed their 6 months apprenticeship program at EPD that ended with June 2021.