

QUARTER 2 2021 NEWSLETTER EDITION

This second Quarter Issue No.5 showcases opportunities, growth and highlights Off-grid electricity access connections that increased by **1.5%** in June 2021. Currently, cumulative off-grid connectivity is **17.8 %** and the overall rate is at **65%**. It highlights energy projects, energizing lives through sustainable solutions. This second quarter continues to focus on the private and public stakeholders' involvement in the sector.

PARTNER NEWS



STRENGTHENING THE OFF-GRID SOLAR ELECTRIFICATION MARKET THROUGH IMPROVED POLICY AND ADVOCACY IN EAST AFRICA

On 5th August 2021, EPD hosted to launch the East African Community Solar market report. The event was facilitated by CEO Sanday Kabarebe. National Renewable Energy Associations (NREAs) in East Africa, comprising Energy Private Developers (EPD) in Rwanda, Burundi National Renewable Energy Association (BUREA), Kenya Renewable Energy Association (KEREA), Uganda Solar Energy Association (USEA), and Uganda National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Association (UNREEEA) with support from Global Association for Off-grid Solar Industry (GOGLA), and Goldstone Consulting launched the EAC report on strengthening the Off-grid solar electrification market through improved policy and advocacy in East Africa.

The report is a culmination of an extensive year-long study to assess the policy environment in the Off-grid solar sector. Noting that 82 million out of 177 million East Africans do not have access to electricity; **Director-General Energy in MININFRA Mrs. Annick Muhama** gave highlights *on the Off-grid solar policy developments in Rwanda, including the contribution of solar to energy access at 65% and later on pointed out the ambitious 100% target to electricity by 2024.*

Noting that other EA countries' access to electricity stands at 7% in Burundi, 36% in Tanzania, 56% in Kenya, and 42.6% in Uganda.

It is important to note that East African governments have invested heavily in hydropower generation, however penetration to end-users is still slow, service is unreliable and expensive, resulting in inequity between urban and rural populations. As such, the East African region is now increasingly focussing on Off-grid electrification solutions to scale access to energy and fight climate change. The report launch included an EAC Industry Position Paper that NREAs have adopted to advocate for a better Off-grid solar sector policy environment and assist governments to meet national renewable energy targets.

Energy sector strategic plans of different EAC countries target to increase energy access through the contribution of electricity coming from renewable energy sources, particularly Off-grid solar. The contribution of Off-grid solar in the energy mix is being hampered by policy gaps, for instance, salient issues like affordability, taxation, standards, and quality are not comprehensively addressed, implementation of these strategies is weak and disjointed due to limited budgets, competing priorities, weak follow-up by stakeholders, and above-all the policies and strategies remain largely on paper.

“Rwanda’s experience with the results-based framework and how risk mitigation facility has supported local solar companies to access finance from banks and Sacco’s. She also pointed out the need to improve the competitiveness of local companies to qualify for credit from commercial banks including new finance vehicles”, said Peace Kaliisa Donor coordinator in MININFRA.

This report is key in bringing meaningful change in the governance of the renewable energy sector in the individual countries and the EAC region. It is expected to be beneficial to the East African Community governments, Development Partners, International, and local NGOs, impact investors, and philanthropists with interest in improved renewable energy access, especially Off-grid solar electrification.



UNDERSTANDING THE MODERN ENERGY COOKING SECTOR IN RWANDA

Energy 4 Impact has partnered with the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) program to advance access to clean and modern energy cooking in Rwanda. MECS is a five-year, UK aid-funded research program led by Loughborough University and the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). Its objective is to accelerate transitions from biomass-based fuels to cleaner cooking with modern fuels such as electricity, ethanol, and LPG. The program produces evidence that promotes the innovation

needed to make modern energy cooking services more accessible, affordable, reliable, and sustainable.

In Rwanda, Energy 4 Impact shares MECS' vision of transforming the country's clean cooking sector through interventions informed by evidence-based market and consumer research and constructive engagements with the Rwandan government and other key stakeholders, with the goal of addressing policy and regulatory barriers and establishing a robust supply chain. Over the next two years, Energy 4 Impact aims to realize this vision through two main work streams: stakeholder management and targeted research.

Energy 4 Impact recently kicked off the review process with a well-attended stakeholder workshop. The workshop, held at the Park in Hotel in Kigali on June 16th 2021 was attended by representatives from government ministries and departments such as MININFRA and Ministry of Environment, private sector such as EPD and BRD, and other donors. The goal was to gain further insights into the state of clean and modern energy cooking in Rwanda and how that might evolve in the coming years from the perspective of policymakers, regulators, researchers, development partners, and the private sector. The discussion focused on the challenges, opportunities, and initiatives needed to support the clean cooking sector in Rwanda, with an emphasis on modern cooking fuels and technologies. The discussion also touched upon a critical aspect of Energy 4 Impact's in-country partnership with MECS in Rwanda: the need to build robust evidence that cooking with modern energy fuels and technologies, such as pressure cookers, can be compatible with Rwandan cuisine and cooking practices. Energy 4 Impact will meet that requirement as part of its agreed-upon research workstream by carrying out a pilot study with 25 selected households in Kigali to understand how people cook, their existing expenditures on cooking fuels, their cooking practices, their energy consumption, and how e-cooking compares with other cooking methods and practices.

Stakeholder feedback after the workshop showed that it provided a useful opportunity for relevant players in the clean cooking sector to

deepen their understanding of each other's requirements, and it also provided illuminating insights into how modern energy cooking services can be incorporated into energy policies and planning in Rwanda.



WORLD BANK COMMENDS RWANDA FOR SPEEDY ELECTRIFICATION PROCESS

The 2021 energy progress report has listed Rwanda among 20 countries in the whole world that have extensively rolled out electricity to their communities over the past 10 years. The report is a product of a partnership between the World Bank and bodies such as the International Energy Agency that is published ahead of the launch of the first United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Energy in decades, which is due in September.

The report also underscores the importance of policies that promote an enabling environment for fast growth in line with the SDG target 7.1 which is universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services. [read more>>](#)



RWANDA'S 100% ELECTRIFICATION TARGET BY 2024 RECEIVES FRW 82.1 BILLION FINANCING BOOST

The Government of Rwanda and the African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a financing agreement worth US\$ 84.2 million (Approximately Frw 82.1 billion) to support the Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity Project. The financing agreement was signed by Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, on behalf of the Government of Rwanda and Ms. Aissa TOURE, AfDB Country Manager for Rwanda

Under the last mile connectivity project, works will include the construction of a total of 595 km of medium voltage and 1,620 km low voltage connections which will result in the connection of 77,470 households [read more>>](#)

MEMBERS NEWS



ROLLOUT COVID-19 VACCINES FOR EPD MEMBERS

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly changed our world and the past year has been challenging for many. It has caused unprecedented health, economic and social crisis. It has threatened lives and livelihood for many causing poverty and inequity as well as reversing developmental gains and moving towards a global recovery will require

sustainable, financial, and support to governments and the private sector.

The Ministry of Health started a rollout campaign to have every Rwandan citizen within the country starting from the city of Kigali to get vaccinated and the City of Kigali has dedicated over 40 Covid-19 vaccination sites where an eligible person can go and present his or her identity card or any other official document that shows their age.

Energy Private Developers in collaboration with stakeholders facilitated over **675 members** of EPD across all subsectors to get their first dose. [read more>>](#)



AN EPD MEMBER ENERGY FIRM RAISES Rwf 3.5bn VIA CORPORATE BOND

ENERGICOTEL (ECTL) PLC, a member of EPC Africa Group, an independent power producer and an engineering consulting company has raised Rwf 3.5bn by listing a corporate bond on the Rwanda Stock Exchange via public offer.

[The firm sought to raise Rwf 3.5B](#) in its first tranche with a 10 year bond with a 13.75 percent per annum interest rate meaning they had a 100 percent subscription rate. [read more>>](#)



ENGIE MOBISOL TAKES SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS TO RWANDA CYCLING FANS

Engie Mobisol Rwanda is a leading provider of Solar Energy Solutions. ENGIE Africa is committed to delivering affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions and life-changing services with exceptional customer experience. We are our clients' trusted partners to help achieve their energy goals.

As sponsors of Tour du Rwanda for the third consecutive time in a row, ENGIE Mobisol used the opportunity to reach out to all cycling fans and Rwandans in general with off-grid energy solutions during the sporting event. This was a great opportunity to spread awareness and the importance of using SHS products like durable solar panels, batteries, and Solar TV Systems (STS).

ENGIE Mobisol also introduced its new systems (**50W and 24 inches TV**) in a one-week Tour du Rwanda tournament that was held from 2nd May to 9th May 2021 through a campaign

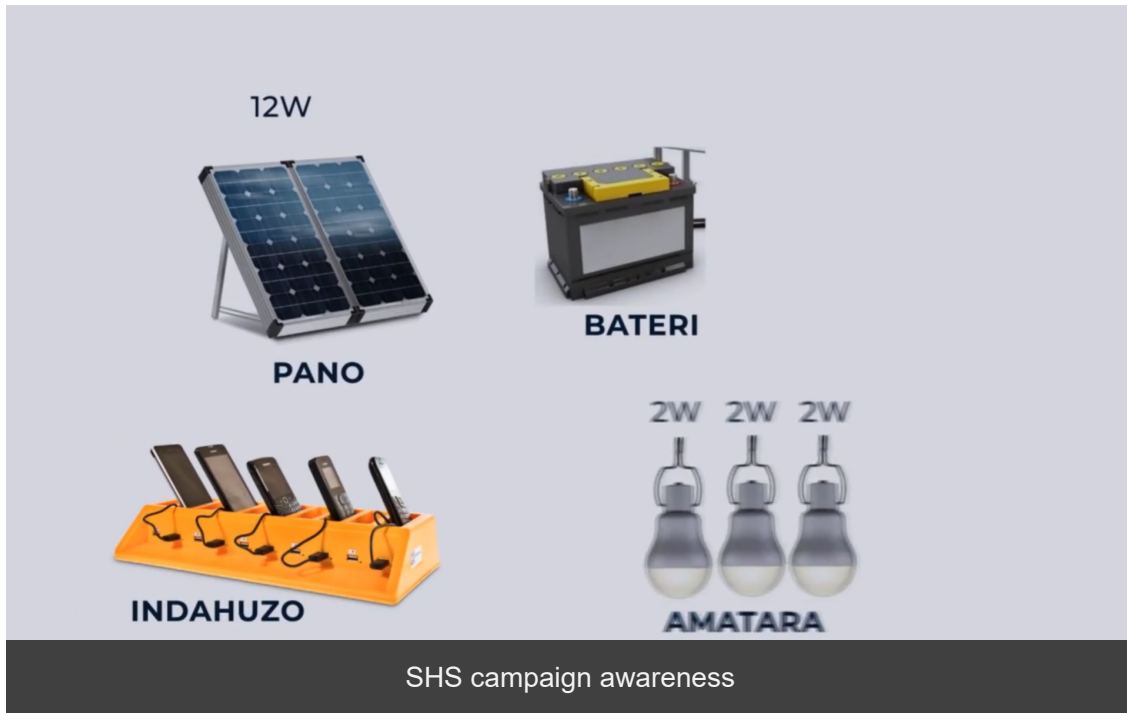
"TWAKUZAMUYE MU NTERA".



This year, cycling fans had a chance to experience a wide range of SHS products from ENGIE Mobisol including; SHS 120w & 200w with a battery of 50 amps & 100amp and more appliances such as TVs (24", 32" and 43") stereo radios, torches, flat-iron boxes to mention but a few.

Mr. Blaise Butoyi who's ENGIE Mobisol's Head of sales said that Tour du Rwanda served as one of the platforms to bring Solar Home Systems closer to cycling fans and Rwandans in general to reach targeted clientele.

"We want them to light their homes with quality solar energy systems at lower costs, to empower children who study in rural areas to access information on solar TVs & Radios and remind them that they can access loans to buy these solar home systems through SACCOs," he said.



[visit our website](#)

NEW JOBS

BBOXX

- [Product Manager- Power DC \(Kigali, Rwanda\)](#)
- [Training Specialist \(Kigali, Rwanda\)](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

AFSIA Solar Awards
Deadline: September 24, 2021
<http://afsiasolar.com/afsia-solar-awards/process/>

NEW DOCUMENT

[EAC REPORT](#)
[JUNE FACTSHEET](#)
[MAY FACTSHEET](#)

GET. Invest – Covid-
19 window
[https://www.get-
invest.eu/finance-
catalyst/services/covid
-19-support/](https://www.get-invest.eu/finance-catalyst/services/covid-19-support/)



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