



NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 1, 2020

ENERGY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS

Is a registered professional association in Rwanda, regrouping private companies operating in energy sector. EPD focuses on advocacy of its members, encouraging collaboration and partnership for development of energy sector in Rwanda.

Our **Mission** is *Universal energy access in an environment in which Private sector can innovate, grow and thrive* and Our **Vision** is *All homes in Rwanda have access to modern energy.*

It is in this line that EPD releases a regular quarterly newsletter to highlight energy related news in Rwanda.

GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA - WORLD BANK SIGN US\$ 100 MILLION FINANCING AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT RWANDA'S COVID19 RESPONSE IN ENERGY.

This budget support will enable the Government of Rwanda to prepare a timely fiscal response to the economic shock from the COVID-19 pandemic, set up platforms for policy development and coordination of prevention and preparedness, and safeguard the reform agenda supported by the budget support series.

[READMORE](#)

EPD'S IMPACT DURING THE COVID - 19 PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN

During this pandemic EPD worked effortlessly to engage and help each and every subsector, Issues such as;

1. Passes for staff and vehicles in the city of Kigali were given to our members
2. Operationalization of the call centers was allowed by Gov't of Rwanda
3. Operationalization of service centers in various districts was allowed with minimum guidelines around social distancing and masks

Most companies were allowed a minimum of two staff per service center and call centers. In the districts out of Kigali city, two vehicles or a motorcycle per company were given a pass for police clearance

Research survey on the impact of the ongoing COVID – 19 pandemic to the energy sector specifically the off-grid subsector in Rwanda

A survey was conducted by [EPD](#) to SHS companies which are registered to do operations in Rwanda. In this report, we on off grid companies and the consequential lockdown instituted by the government to fight against the spread of the pandemic. A sample of 20 participants was selected, 16 responded to the survey, and 4 didn't take part. Some the findings are: In 2-4 weeks, 30% of businesses interviewed said they will experience significant negative impacts if the current business environment continues. Negative impacts include layoffs, temporary, or permanent closure. Unsurprisingly, 5 out of 6 businesses that reported to have already experienced or were expecting to experience the negative impacts of COVID-19 in 2-4 weeks, were smaller businesses (less than 21 employees). Only 2 out of the 16 businesses interviewed reported not expecting any closures or layoffs. More findings for this survey are available. [READMORE](#)

Another research was conducted by Private Sector Federation (PSF) to assess the impact of covid-19 to its members and EPD responded to the survey; EPD's members came out with different issues observed together with proposed solutions.

Observed Issues:

Witnessed financial losses; Failure of companies to meet their regular financial obligations, including overhead costs; Failure of companies to continue with their production line in order to meet customer demands; Failure of companies to meet and honor their obligations to their existing clients

Proposed Measures or Solutions:

present the results of a survey designed to assess the impact of COVID-19 outbreak

Initiate an opportunity to Introduce and offer low-interest loans that energy sector businesses with financial burdens caused by the pandemic that don't have credit available elsewhere can be eligible for loans of up to Rwf20 million with a 3.75 percent interest rate (2.75 percent for nonprofits) and through a very swift application process; companies won't need to provide a personal guarantee or collateral. These loans are immediately available to eligible businesses with no payments due for the first six months; Proposal to introduce a Government-guaranteed loans to energy Sector businesses through a grant program; This grant program could be launched at a provincial level for every energy sector companies suffering from the coronavirus pandemic could apply for their respective provincial locations; Government to allow delayed tax declaration and remittances for 3 months to give taxpayers and businesses extra time to file their tax returns without interest or penalties. For instance, RRA could Defer the first and second quarter 2020 tax payments; introduce import tax clearance facilitations to allow energy sector companies to import materials through RRA blue channel facility arrangements; Social Security payroll deferred payment; Government to be able to allow this in order to facilitate companies to offer Paid sick leave for all workers, including temporary and part-time employees; Provide for 3 months' unemployment insurance for workers whose employers have reduced their hours or shut down operations; Disability insurance for workers who are certified by a

medical professional as having been exposed to Covid-19; Up to three of benefit payments for employees who are unable to work because they're caring for an ill or quarantined family member. This arrangement would come with a caveat, however; that all the amount that is forgiven will be reduced for businesses that lay off employees during the first eight weeks following the loan; Provide references, recommendations and links to affected businesses and with developmental partners private-sector focused financial partners and

philanthropic organizations about providing credit, lending flexibility, and direct financial support to affected businesses; Initiate a temporary moratorium, which will be in effect for 90 days with the possibility of an extension each month, is meant to protect energy sector companies who cannot make rent on businesses by prohibiting landlords from evicting them. These were shared to different stakeholders for finding solutions to help the Energy sector during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Investing in smart off-grid utilities can offset COVID-19 induced energy crisis.”

RWANDA ENERGY GROUP (REG) CELEBRATED THE MILLIONTH CUSTOMER



In Kigali, Rwanda - Hon. Claver GATETE, Minister of Infrastructure, officiated the ceremony to celebrate the increase in numbers of on-grid connections which has already reached 1,000,000 households connected to the grid. Electricity used to be a luxury; some people never knew that they are actually entitled to have electricity in their home. That's

why in 1994, access to electricity was less than 1%. By 2010, it had moved up to 9%, and today we have reached 52% by the end of 2019 mentioned by the Minister of Infrastructure. He added that today, Rwanda is aiming to reach 100% access to electricity by the year 2024.

Looking at the projection of increase of the number of households in Rwanda, around 3.8 million households will have access to electricity by 2024. This means that a total of 2.4 million households will be connected in the coming 5 years. Among these, 1 million will be connected to the grid while 1.4 million will be provided with off-grid solutions. [READMORE](#)

Ministerial Guidelines on Minimum Standard Requirements for SHS: Frequently Asked Questions

In June 2019, [The Ministerial Guidelines on Minimum Standard Requirements for Solar Home Systems](#) was published. This document is written to act as a guide to the relevant standards that should be consulted in importation, design, and installation of off-grid renewable energy systems, namely stand-alone power systems utilizing photovoltaic. Information is provided to help identify the relevant clauses in relevant standards in Rwanda. This guide does not attempt to provide a reference to all relevant clauses and all considerations as this is the purpose of the

standards in their totality. This guide not in any way replaces the standards or relevant training in the design and installation of these systems.

On April 28, 2020, a webinar to review the spreadsheet Tool for Determining if Products Meet the Service Level Requirements in Rwanda's 2019 Ministerial Guidelines. In this webinar different stakeholders were present to mention: Energy Private Developers (EPD), Lighting Global, GOGLA, MININFRA, and off-grid companies. [Read more](#)

NEW CLEAN COOKING PRODUCT AVAILABLE

Geni Green Solutions a Clean Cooking Company in Rwanda, has put available "NGUFU", it is a new stove that promotes clean cooking energy.



More details on how to access this check https://mobile.facebook.com/pg/ggsltd/posts/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=



MunyaxEco is a Rwandan company specialized in solar energy and energy efficiency, selling, and installing environmentally friendly and high-quality products at an extremely competitive price.

Main products: Solar water heater, Solar PV system, Solar Street lighting, LED lights, and Solar pumping.



40 kWp Solar PV Mini-grid in Karusi- Burundi



Solar water Heater at Bethanie Kibuye -Rwanda

- Due to the economic impact of Covid 19, MUNYAXECO has extended the payment by instalments period up to 12 months.
- In addition to different services provided, MUNYAXECO also offers new solar systems such as Solar Cold room, equipment for Solar Irrigation , Smart & flexible mini-grids ...
- You can follow our activities on our social media platforms - Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
- Do not hesitate to call our toll-free number 8088 for information on our products.



BBOXX POSITIVE IMPACT DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

COVID-19 and the changing world of work places

Adapting workplaces and protecting workers

At this point, it's probably safe to say just about everyone has been impacted by the

Coronavirus pandemic. This strain of Coronavirus, or COVID-19, has scientists and medical researchers racing to identify potential cures and vaccines but has proven highly complex and resistant.

For more than two weeks, Rwanda was under total lockdown, save for a few essential service providers such as medical personnel, security agencies, banks, pharmacies, and energy service providers. Being under lockdown meant that people had to work remotely to minimize the risks of contracting or spreading the virus and we were no exception.

In the preceding weeks before total lockdown, we already had preventive measures at BBOXX. Hand sanitizers were placed at the entrance, people were asked to make sure they maintain a distance of 1 meter between them and the next person, training was conducted and for anyone with symptoms such as flu or cough, they were allowed to work from home.

When we entered a lockdown, everything changed and this also applied to the very nature of how we live and work. Thanks to modern technologies, much larger numbers of global citizens have the ability today to self-contain without losing the ability to work and earn a living.

Call Center Operators: *The Unsung Heroes of the Pandemic*



The heroes of the coronavirus pandemic are the doctors, nurses and paramedics working long hours at great risk of exposure. As businesses were forced to work remotely, doctors, nurses, law enforcement, pharmacies and other essential service providers took Centre stage as the heroes of the pandemic.

However, at BBOXX we had a different set of heroes; Call Center Operators. The call operators kept services going on, working behind the scenes, amidst the Covid-19 crisis to make sure our customers keep lighting. The men and young at our call Centre never wavered in their determination despite all the worry and anxiety that was going on about an uncertain future.

To enable the operators to continue their work without putting them at risk of contracting the virus, we switched to remote call Centre operations. As a company that relies heavily on technology, we took advantage of our tools out there that could permit call operators to work efficiently and allow for business continuity even in times of crises, such as the Coronavirus Pandemic. As the heroes on the frontlines are working tirelessly to keep people healthy and safe, the call Centre heroes serve the nation by keeping thousands of customers electrified. Their morale on remains high as ever and their service remains of great importance during this crisis and deserves to be acknowledged.

BRD REF PROJECT AWARENESS CANA UHENDUKIWE CAMPAIGN



The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) project was created to address the challenge of affordability, by facilitating access to finance to households and facilitating the private sector to invest in off-grid renewable energy.

An action was taken to raise awareness of the opportunities offered to Rwandan households, institutions and businesses to access off grid electricity services through loans, capacity building and technical support by REF project which will run for a period of two years (Sept-2019- Sept-2021).

Public awareness will continue in order to market the benefits of using clean and renewable energy, for economic development and wellbeing of people in Rwanda. Legacy XP a leading communications and marketing agency in Rwanda, has been working on the REF project for a period of six (6) months starting from the month of October 2019 where several successes and milestones have been achieved together in collaboration with the PIU team.



Campaign Objectives; Brand creation - Establish the brand architecture/positioning/language/message/ tone/ that will be common across organizations and externally for campaigns Conduct top of mind outreach and awareness campaign of the Off-grid electricity services (REF), through informing the target audience that they can easily access funds through their SACCOS, Finance Institutions and be able to get the solar power in their homes and businesses.

Public service announcements (PSAs) - Draft PSAs and distribute to area radio stations

Offer consistent communications while pushing out a campaign on what makes the products so invaluable through different

UPDATES



EPD 2019 REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

[Energy Sector Report](#)

[EPD 2019 Annual Performance Report](#)

[Covid-19 pandemic impact on SHS survey results](#)

#StaySafe

platforms like social media, online and print Public relations; to help form emotional connections with customers. Facilitate the generation of leads that will help grow Product sales and access to funds.

Available Opportunities

- Companies operating in the African and Caribbean region can now apply for the newly launched [Covid-19 window](#) within GET.invest's Finance Catalyst to receive business advisory for acute and critical finance-related problems. www.get-invest.eu.
- The European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), under the Investment windows of the Guarantee Fund, two Spanish accredited entities (AECID and COFIDES) have jointly presented a Renewable Energy Program for Sub-Saharan Africa. <https://cofides.es/en/rfp-renewable-energy-program-sub-saharan-africa>.
- Coaching opportunity from PUM Netherlands experts <https://www.pum.nl/en>

Wash Your Hands Thoroughly.
Ensure to wash for 40 - 60 Seconds; between Fingers, inside Nails & around Your hands.

Wash hands

This reminder is brought to you by:

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Association Umbrella of all Energy Sector Private Developers in Rwanda
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#COVID19

MoH is asking everyone to wear Face Mask while...

...outdoor to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

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If You are allowed Outdoor, Even if you are free from COVID-19, Keep One Meter apart for proper social Distancing.

1mtr

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Text COVID-19 Symptoms to 114
Take proactive actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our society.

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