



SUSTAINABLE
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ENERGY ACCESS
PRACTITIONER NETWORK

May 12, 2016

Energy Access Practitioner Network – monthly call summary

Opening remarks – Reid Detchon, Vice President for Energy and Climate Strategy, UN Foundation, rdetchon@unfoundation.org

- As many of our Practitioner Network members have heard by now, the United Nations Foundation’s Energy and Climate team has had a difficult staffing transition due to budgetary reasons over the past month. In particular, we want to acknowledge the contributions of Tripta Singh as well as Richenda Van Leeuwen, who established the Practitioner Network and has built its success.
- With the acceptance of SDG7 on sustainable energy, the agenda around implementing SDGs alongside the Paris Agreement is now a top priority. The UN Foundation would like to reiterate its commitment to the energy access space, with the expectation to continue and rebuild over time with additional resources, especially at a time when sustainable energy and sustainable development have been linked at a global level in a way that has never been seen before.
- The UN Foundation intends to go forward with the remaining team as a stable and sustainable platform to continue its Practitioner Network services and engagements with the same ambition as before, and welcomes the support and suggestions of Practitioner Network members.
- For any further questions, comments or ideas on how you would like to see the Practitioner Network move forward, please reach out to Yasemin Erboy Ruff via yerboy@unfoundation.org.

Briefing on Energy for Women’s and Children’s Health Initiative – Jem Porcaro, Senior Director, Energy Access, UN Foundation, jporcaro@unfoundation.org

- The United Nations Foundation, under the aegis of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, co-leads this health clinic electrification initiative with [WHO](#) and [UN Women](#), looking at ways to improve the quality and accessibility of health services by improving access to energy specifically within the context of maternal and child health.
- The United Nations Foundation, in partnership with UK’s [DfID](#), is working on electrifying 80 health facilities in Uganda and Ghana, with the aim to add 320kW of installed solar PV capacity in the health sector between the two countries. The project is expected to impact about 1 million community members and 1,000 healthcare workers. This implementation project follows the needs assessments that were done previously in Ghana, Uganda and Malawi, which showed that while solar PV was not new in these health facilities, many systems were not properly maintained or functional. UNF promotes a holistic, service-driven approach for installation and maintenance to demonstrate a new model to improve the sustainability of systems used in the health sector.



- While gender considerations and enhancing maternal and child health services are the focus of the project, the mini-grid systems are intended to serve the entire facility including staff quarters. UNF hopes to be able to announce the implementing partners in the next couple of the weeks, while the project will officially start in country in the next month or so.
- In tandem, UNF has been collaborating with WHO to conduct impact evaluations of this project to help fill the gaps in the evidence base and showcase the extent of the positive impact of decentralized energy systems on health facilities and healthcare provision.
- UNF, with the generous support of Ari Getty and the [Fuserna Foundation](#), is also working in collaboration with [We Care Solar](#) and [UNICEF](#) in Uganda, having facilitated the deployment of 50 Solar Suitcases in the past year. This is the first time that We Care Solar is combining the deployment of the solar suitcases with a long-term maintenance program. Over the next year UNF will be supporting the deployment of another 100 Solar Suitcases, most likely in Tanzania.
- UNF is also looking at Tanzania for additional energy needs assessments, similar to those already conducted in Ghana, Malawi and Uganda.

Practitioner Presentations

Will Perego, CEO, [mPower, will@greentechendeavors.com](mailto:mPower_will@greentechendeavors.com)

- The mPower solar generator is the size of a suitcase with two solar panels and a lithium-ion phosphate battery that generate 200W of electricity and store 1200W/hour of electricity. It will be available in the market next February.
- mPower has created a buy one, donate one Indiegogo [crowd-funding campaign](#) to create awareness around energy access issues. For every unit sold in the US, mPower donates a smaller one to a family in a developing country.
- Currently mPower works with [TECHO](#) to implement the solar generators in Latin America. They are now interested in connecting to national distributors in Africa, Asia or Latin America to bring the mPower solar generator to additional countries.
- As a part of this awareness campaign, mPower also launched the [Light Up the World](#) campaign to find the next “mPower ambassador”. This person will fly to Latin American countries through 2017 to deliver the solar generators and document the work being done on scaling energy access in these countries. Those interested can follow the link provided or reach out to Will directly.

Peter Weston, Direct of Investment Advisory, [GVEP International](#), Peter.Weston@gvepinternational.org

- GVEP is a UK nonprofit that serves as a professional advisor, supporting enterprise development and entrepreneurship in off-grid energy.
- It focuses on three main areas:
 - [SMEs](#), which include manufacturers and distributors of solar lanterns, solar home systems, clean cook stoves, mini grid developers, and more. GVEP provides early stage support, strategy building, all the way through capital raising and business development.
 - [Micro-entrepreneurs](#), which include kiosks, pico-hydro, and other very small businesses at the community level. GVEP has staff in several African countries supporting such micro-entrepreneurs.



- A loan guarantee fund, to encourage more access to capital for micro-entrepreneurs.
- GVEP is also very active around mini-grids. They have just signed a contract with the African Development Bank ([AfDB](#)) for a market development program across Africa, and hope to start supporting developers within the next three to four months.
- GVEP is also involved in Crowd Power, led by DfID, to support crowd funding and work with eight different platforms to effectively test if DfID involvement can help an energy access campaign to run more effectively.
- GVEP is also in the early stages of building their work on the humanitarian side, looking at bringing commercial solar products and cookstoves into refugee camps, and getting the private sector more involved in humanitarian relief.
- GVEP's services are free for users. For further details or to receive assistance, please reach out to Peter directly.

Key Events

- Practitioner Network & Rexel Foundation webinar: "[Energy Efficiency for Energy Access: Fighting fuel poverty in developed economies](#)", 18 May 2016
- [World Humanitarian Summit](#), 23-24 May, 2016, Istanbul, Turkey
- [Clean Energy Ministerial](#), 1-7 June, 2016, San Francisco, USA
- [EU Development Days](#), 15-16 June, 2016, Brussels, Belgium
 - There will be sessions on the water, energy and food nexus as well as a session dedicated to energy access which may be of interest to Practitioner Network members.
 - Luc Severi, Project Manager, Energy Access, UN Foundation, lseveri@unfoundation.org will be attending the EU Development Days. Any members who will be in attendance can reach out to Luc directly to set up a meeting.
- [Africa Energy Forum](#), 22-24 June, London, England
 - AEF is the global investment meeting for Africa's power, energy, infrastructure & industrial sectors, widely regarded as the most respected and established annual gathering of power players. Up to 1,000 investors, 500 public sector stakeholders, 300 technology providers, 270 developers and 82 countries represented is expected. Practitioner Network members will be receiving a special invitation for AEF with a discount shortly.

Proposed changes to monthly member calls

- When the monthly calls were established at the inception of the Practitioner Network, the Network did not have the same robust array of communications channels that exist today through the Practitioner Network newsletter, webinars, website engagement and direct emails.
- In order to ensure the monthly calls are effective and of use to the membership's changing needs and interest areas, UNF plans to change the timing of the calls to every other month, as well as slowly making changes the format of the calls to reduce redundancy across our communications channels and improve interest levels.



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- If Practitioner Network members have any ideas, speakers they would like to hear from, requests for regional or topical focus areas, or other concerns, please feel free to reach out to Yasemin Erboy Ruff via yerboy@unfoundation.org.

Practitioner Updates

Jens Jaeger, Alliance for Rural Electrification, j.jaeger@ruralelec.org

- [Second Stakeholder Forum of the AEEP: Business & Science: Leading the way to sustainable energy](#) (Milan, 16-17 May)
ARE is a part of the Custodian Workstream for Energy Access, and will be well-represented at the event. There is expected participation of African and European Ministers, AU and EU Commissioners, and more than 300 other high-level participants representing policy-makers, regional institutions, international organisations, the banking & finance industry, the private sector, academia, the civil society and the media. This is the first high level meeting of the AEEP since 2010.
- [Financing Rural Electrification in Africa](#) (Berlin, 30-31 May)
Building upon the success of the ARE-RECP Off-Grid Investment Forum held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, last month, the international seminar will focus on key financing issues such as accessing funding sources & financial instruments, blending private & public funding as well as maintenance financing.
- [Asia Clean Energy Forum](#) (Manila, 6-10 June)
The event will cover interesting topics in the deep-dive workshop such as gender-focused rural electrification and innovating business models for standalone PV systems.

Ranisha Basnet, Energypedia, ranisha.basnet@energypedia.info

- Energypedia has launched its [opportunity database](#). This database consolidates information on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and includes latest opportunities in the renewable energy sector with regards to financing (grants, tenders and scholarships), awards, call for papers, training courses and other materials. Energypedia users can explore as well as update the database with new information going forward.
- Ranisha will also be at AEEP. Please reach out to her directly if you will be in attendance and would like to meet.

Sustainable Energy for All, info@se4all.org

- SE4All is working on a new strategic framework, moving into a more implementation-heavy period. The strategic framework was just presented today to the Advisory Board Sherpas and will be shared with the Advisory Board mid-June. The main change will be on placing a strong focus on creating results, and prioritizing the engagement with leaders to make progress and affect change where impact is maximized. Practitioner Network members who are interested in more information regarding the strategic framework process can reach out to UNF's Energy and Climate team.