



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY ACCESS
PRACTITIONER NETWORK

Newsletter - June 2017



From the United Nations Foundation

Dear Friends,

Hujambo! We are happy to report that we have just concluded a successful workshop on Last Mile Distribution in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in collaboration with the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association ([GOGLA](#)). The two-day workshop was designed to address the needs of distributors, who -- in spite of their critical role in meeting the energy access challenge -- are among the least supported parts of the off-grid electricity value chain in Africa today.

Over 75 participants joined us for this country-focused workshop, which provided a platform for in-depth discussions on a range of topics, including: market development, quality standards, marketing and consumer education, and policy. The workshop concluded with three academy-style sessions on business development, data, and financing. Throughout the program, the presenters and participants touched on multiple cross-cutting issues such as how to strengthen the enabling environment, or how to ensure gender is mainstreamed across the value chain. All presentations can be found [here](#).



We will be sharing a detailed workshop report with all participants and Practitioner Network members in the coming weeks to delve into these takeaways further.

Following the workshop, we were joined by 30 local Practitioner Network members for an in-country networking event and happy hour, which we had the pleasure of hosting outside of our Washington, DC office this quarter. To hear from our Practitioner Network members directly about your successes and challenges, your concerns, and to celebrate your accomplishments in person are some of the most rewarding moments for us. We look forward to facilitating more peer-to-peer interactions and partnership building in-country to achieve SDG7 together.

Sincerely,



Jem Porcaro
Senior Director, Energy Access
United Nations Foundation

★ TOP STORIES

[AfDB Combines Energy & Agriculture in Fundraising Drive, and Commits Sh.1.2 Trillion to Light Up Africa](#)

The African Development Bank ([AfDB](#)) has embarked on a fund-raising drive to finance the expansion of energy, with the immediate aim of connecting 200 million people with clean energy even as it continues its push to unlock barriers to effective investments in the agriculture sector. AfDB will spend Sh1.2 trillion (\$12 billion) to enhance electricity access in Africa in the next five years.

[IFC to Provide US\\$55 Million in Funding for Mozambique's First Utility-Scale PV Project](#)

The International Finance Corporation ([IFC](#)), a member of the [World Bank Group](#), will provide a financial package of US\$55 million to build Mozambique's first utility-scale PV project. The financing includes US\$19 million from IFC's own account, US \$19 million from Climate Investment Funds and a syndicated loan of up to US\$17 million.

[Read more](#)

💰 FUNDING & INVESTMENT

[Call for Expressions of Interest for Mini-Grids by the Government of Sierra Leone | Closing Soon](#)

[The Microgrid Investment Accelerator \(MIA\) is Seeking to Finance the Deployment of Microgrid Projects | Closing Soon](#)

[2018 Rolex Awards for Enterprise | Closing Soon](#)

[Call for Expression of Interest: For Private Sector Companies to Expand Distribution of Non-Wood Based Cooking Fuels in and Around Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya | Deadline July 2](#)

[Read more](#)

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

[M-KOPA Solar Announces It Has Connected 200k Homes in East Africa](#)

[Simpa Networks Bring First Solar TV Service to India](#)

[Mobisol is Recognized as Technology Pioneer by World Economic Forum](#)

[Practitioner Network Members Recognized as Winners of Ashden Awards 2017](#)

[Azuri is Named 2017 Gold Edison Award Winner](#)

[Are PayGo Solar Companies a New Type of Microfinance Institution?](#)

[Read more](#)

NEW TOOLS & RESOURCES

[Climatescope: The Off-Grid Data Hub](#)

For the first time, the data hub allows users to discover all of the Climatescope dedicated off-grid sub-indicators. The Climatescope off-grid data viewers offers an overview and comparison of 23 countries, providing electricity prices and fuel prices for each country along with a multitude of indicators. The data hub allows users to discover, by country, the following indicators: barriers, clean energy policies, clean energy rural electrification, distributed energy framework, energy access policies, and power sector structure. The data hub also offers sub-indicators, such as: cost reflective tariffs, mini-grid concessions and thresholds, pico-solar quality standards, presence of a program, and more.

[Smart Villages "Pocket Guide" for Rural Energy and Development](#)

This pocket guide is intended as a quick reference to off-grid technologies, policies, and impacts - including stories of successful village energy projects from across the global south.

For remote off-grid villages, local solutions are often both more realistic and cheaper than national grid extension. Together, energy and entrepreneurship underpin lasting development in smart villages, alongside the many services they can propel: health, education, WASH, livelihoods and productive uses of energy...and beyond.

[Read more](#)

SPOTLIGHT

[Member Spotlight: Fenix International](#)

Since 2009, Fenix International has provided transformative energy and financial services to off-grid customers, while keeping customer experience at the heart of its business.

Fenix has reached over 100,000 customers in Uganda by ensuring high-quality products, selling ReadyPay solar home systems on a lease-to-own basis, and partnering with the trusted telco brand MTN. Fenix continues to expand its product line and reach new geographies in 2017 to bring energy access, an exceptional experience, and better lives to even more families in the future.

[Read more](#)



Photo Credit: Fenix International

SECTOR NEWS

Gulf News Environment
[60 Million Households Use Off-Grid Electricity](#)

Live Mint
[Indo-African Bilateral Trade Will Touch \\$100 Billion by 2018](#)

Inside EVs
[Tesla Powerpack and Solar Power Takes African Camp Off Grid](#)

The Indian Express
[India Government to Electrify All Rural Households by May 2018](#)

[Read more](#)

NEW ENERGY ACCESS REPORTS

REN21
[Renewables 2017 Global Status Report](#)

Hystra
[Reaching Scale in Access to Energy: Lessons from Practitioners](#)

Michaël Aklin, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish Johannes Urpelainen
[Does Basic Energy Access Generate Socioeconomic](#)

GROWING THE NETWORK

Welcome to the following organizations that have joined the Practitioner Network in the past month:

France
[Global Solar Solutions](#)

Kenya
[Pamoja Life](#)

Mozambique
[Research and Development Associates](#)

Nepal
[Khapad Vidhya Niketan](#)

Nigeria
[Sharon Consultative and Research Management](#)

Tanzania
[Strategic Energy](#)

[Last Mile](#)

Benefits? A Field Experiment with Off-Grid Solar Power in India

[Read more](#)

United States
[Empowered Solar](#)

[OffGridBox](#)

[National Regulatory Research Institute](#)



EVENTS CALENDAR

[Africa Solar & Energy Storage Congress & Expo 2017](#)

June 27-28
Nairobi, Kenya

[Hydro Vision International](#)

June 27-30
Denver, Colorado, USA

[African Carbon Forum](#)

June 28-30
Cotonou, Benin

[High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017](#)

July 10-19
New York, USA

[International Energy Workshop 2017](#)

July 12-14
College Park, Maryland, USA

[Solar Africa 2017](#)

July 12-13
Kigali, Rwanda

[International Conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Africa](#)

July 25-28
Sunyani, Ghana

[Solar O&M South Africa](#)

September 5-6
Johannesburg, South Africa

[72nd Session of the UN General Assembly \(UNGA 72\)](#)

September 12-25
New York, USA

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OUR NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to propose an article or contribute to the next edition of the newsletter, please contact [our communication team](#)

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