



ENERGY ACCESS
**PRACTITIONER
NETWORK**



SPOTLIGHT

[The Practitioner Network Chats with Sita Adhikari, Co-Founder of Empower Generation and CEO of Kalpavriksha](#)

In this issue's interview Spotlight, Sita Adhikari, Empower Generation talks to the EAPN about their energy access enterprise bringing sustainable, clean energy to rural communities in Nepal and the work they do promoting gender inclusion in the energy access space, empowering women entrepreneurs and providing training and mentorship.

[Read the Interview](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [PFAN - Call for Proposals for Climate & Clean Energy Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia](#) | No Deadline
Selected projects will receive no-cost coaching by professional consultants and, once they are investment-ready, benefit from PFAN's Investment Facilitation services. Entrepreneurs looking to initiate or scale-up clean energy or other climate change-related projects and seeking an investment of up to \$50 million are invited to apply.
- [OCEF Call for Proposals in Benin](#) | Deadline: 22 May 2018
The OCEF funds will be awarded for three windows of project funding for the first Call for Proposals: Window 1: Critical Public Infrastructure; Window 3: Household Energy Services; Window 4: Energy Efficiency Measures.
- [CLASP LEIA Invitation for Prequalification](#)
CLASP has received funding from the UK DFID toward the cost of the LEIA project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the accountable grant for consulting services.

[Read More](#)



Photo Credit: Empower Generation

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

[BBOXX Secures US\\$4 Million Debt Finance for Off-Grid Solar](#)

UK-based off-grid solar company BBOXX has secured a package of US\$4 million in debt financing from Togo-based bank Union Togolaise de Banque (UTB) to expand its services across the country.

[ECREEE Launches Regional Certification Scheme for Solar PV](#)

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) has announced the launch of the Regional Certification Scheme, an initiative to accelerate the deployment and improve quality of solar PV in West Africa.

[Rafiki Power and Mobisol Partner to Pilot a Hybrid Grid Approach](#)

Rafiki Power and Mobisol have partnered to pilot a new approach labelled the Hybrid Grid for off-grid clients in rural Tanzania. The Hybrid Grid is combining the best of mini-grids and solar home systems to bring higher value and better service to their mutual customers at lower cost.

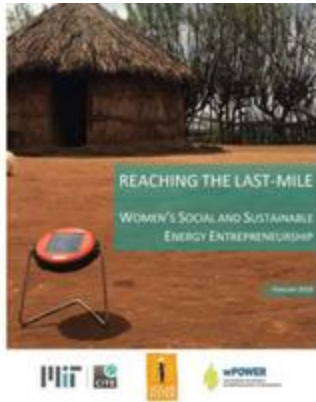
[GAIA Impact Fund & Solaris Off-grid to Conclude the First Foreign Direct Credit Facility](#)

- GAIA Impact Fund & EAPN member Solaris Off-grid to conclude the first foreign direct credit facility of 500k€ to fund a custom PAYG SHS lease portfolio tailored to a specific investment mandate.

[How Simpa Networks Is Creating Impact by Involving Women in Rural India](#)

To mark International Women's Day, [Simpa Networks](#) launched a new effort to reach more than 36,000 female customers per year, and train more than 5,000 women-village level entrepreneurs to deliver solar electricity.

[More Member Highlights](#)



Featured Resource:
MIT CITE, wPOWER and Solar Sister
Release “Reaching the Last-Mile:
Women's Social and Sustainable Energy
Entrepreneurship” Report

With the support of the wPOWER program, Solar Sister partnered with MIT's Comprehensive Initiative on Technology Evaluation (CITE) to study last-mile customer preferences and evaluate the reach of Solar Sister's women-centered distribution chain. MIT conducted over 600 interviews in Tanzania with both Solar Sister customers and non-customers. [Read More](#)



From the Network:
A New Addition to the Team!

Updates for the upcoming SEforAll Forum and a note from the new addition to the team. [Read More](#)

NEW PRACTITIONER NETWORK MEMBERS

[d-Suon Energy](#) · [ExSol](#) · [Havenhill Synergy Limited](#) · [LED Safari](#) · [Office of Clean and Renewable Energy/Safety Advocate of Nigeria \(CRESAN\)](#) · [Permanent Steel Manufacturing Co.](#) · [POWERnSUN](#) · [SD Strategies](#)

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