



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY ACCESS
PRACTITIONER NETWORK

February, 2015

Energy Access Practitioner Network - monthly call summary

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Updates

Energy for Women & Children's Health initiative update, by Jem Porcaro, Senior Director, Energy Access, UN Foundation, jporcaro@unfoundation.org

- [The Energy and Women's Health HIO](#), focusing on the electrification of medical clinics initially focusing on several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, co-led by the UN Foundation, WHO and UN Women, continues to make progress.
- Jem returned from a two week trip to Uganda, Malawi, and Ghana. The trip focused on assessing the energy needs of health facilities in five to ten districts in each of the three countries, in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Energy.
- The first tranche of the results should be ready in the coming weeks, and the final version is expected to be completed by the end of March/early April, after which the team will engage in discussions with partners for on-the-ground deployment.
- Based on preliminary findings, mini-grids (especially solar PV systems in the 1-5 KW range) may be viable options for some of the clinics. Prefeasibility studies will be conducted to evaluate the business models and support systems needed to ensure sustainability. Within this context, we will also be looking at capacity building and maintenance in the next phase of this work.
- Sierra Leone and Liberia were also included in the first focus countries, but the field work has been stopped temporarily because of the Ebola outbreak. Uganda, Malawi, and Ghana were selected on a priority basis and the team will be looking to expand into other areas in the future. Suggestions on potential candidate countries are appreciated –we also invite practitioners who have had experience working with energy for health systems to share their lessons learned regarding structuring, operations, maintenance, and funding of their energy solutions.
- The initiative is also supporting WHO in organizing an event in Geneva from March 24-26. The event will focus on how energy considerations can be better integrated into health systems strengthening and specifically tools currently being used by the international health community.

"Accelerating SE4ALL Country Action in Africa" meeting, 26-27 January 2015, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire by Richenda Van Leeuwen, UN Foundation, rvanleeuwen@unfoundation.org

- This meeting focused on SE4ALL regional work in Africa – forty three African countries have already formally joined SE4All, and the African Development Bank serves as a hub for the initiative's work in Africa.
- The majority of these countries have completed the initial rapid assessment stage; twenty countries have action agendas under development, and of these ten have been finalizing their investment prospectuses.

- The action agendas are owned by the governments, but Practitioner Network members have been contributing where possible in stakeholder engagement processes, highlighting the relative contributions of off- and mini-grid solutions. For this reason, we encourage members to stay informed via the SE4ALL initiative as well as the Practitioner Network's efforts around country-level consultations that are being used to inform the development of action agendas. National level consultations focus on groups that benefit from market-based solutions, especially highlighting South-South cooperation.
- The SE4All technical facility in Cote D'Ivoire, with the collaboration of the World Bank, is extending support to Liberia, Senegal, Burundi and Mozambique. The intention is to look at bankable projects.
- The Practitioner Network plans on repeating our 2013 exercise of communicating our members' investment needs via an updated Investment Directory to help connect enterprises to investors and showcase the continued financing needs in the sector. More details to come.

Towards Universal Energy Access: Tanzania, Sustainable Energy for All stakeholder consultation for the Action Agenda, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, 10-11 February, by Richenda Van Leeuwen, UN Foundation, rvanleeuwen@unfoundation.org

- The three-day workshop served as a consultation on energy access as part of the overall country development and action agenda process under SE4ALL.
- The workshop brought together over 120 attendees spanning government, private sector, public sector and civil society, and was attended by the new Minister of Energy of Tanzania.
- A report of the proceedings will be compiled and shared with the Practitioner Network members.

Annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, 18-22 May 2015

Registration is now open for the second Annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum at the United Nations in New York, which will be focusing on financing. For more information and to register, please visit www.se4allforum.org.

Practitioner Presentations

Carmen Dienst, carmen.dienst@wupperinst.org & Dipti Vaghela, diptimv@gmail.com, [WISIONS](#) & [HPNET](#)

Based in Germany, WISIONS was started by the Wuppertal Institute ten years ago to help make clean energy available in developing countries. The initiative focuses on 3 areas:

- Regional partnership networks: started in 2010 to stimulate the exchange of technological know-how
 - Sustainable Energy Project Support (SEPS): mentors over 80 projects and activities worldwide, namely RedBioLAC (has been running in Latin America for the past five years), its subdivision RedBioCOL (in Colombia), global wind empowerment projects (started in 2014), and hydro empowerment (started in 2012).
 - Research: WISIONS analyses and evaluates implementation models, lessons learned, with results made available on the WISIONS website.
- WISIONS' efforts in hydro empowerment under HPNET have supported micro and mini hydro programs in South and Southeast Asia, and include 25 members across 11-12 countries.
 - The micro hydro initiative had its second annual meeting this year which refined its structure into three groups:

- Technologies (looking at common weak points of implementation for turbine and electro mechanical systems),
- Policy (collecting various policies for scaling micro hydro and investigating reasons behind bottlenecks), and
- Practice (looking at post-installation sustainability and financing strengthening).
- In Myanmar, the Renewable Energy Association of Myanmar (REAM) organized a workshop *Micro Hydro and Decentralized Renewable Energy for Myanmar: Practice-to-Policy Dialogue, Applying Lessons from Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka* in November 2014, where cases were featured from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Nepal, with local practitioners brought into the discussions for a better understanding of what was already being done on the ground for rural electrification. The workshop served as an entry point for Myanmar to develop a new electrification plan under the SE4ALL umbrella. More information on the event: [Agenda Booklet](#), [Event Proceedings](#), and [Event Video](#).

Sally Bolton, [Kopernik](#), sally.bolton@kopernik.info

- Kopernik, named after Copernicus, aims to be a catalyst for change by connecting simple technologies with people who need them the most. Based in Indonesia, Kopernik is active in 21 countries and has provided over 200,000 people with solar lanterns and clean cookstoves to date.
- The organization pays for the upfront cost of the technology and gives the units to women entrepreneurs called “Wonder Women”, who then sell them within their community and earn commissions. This not only improves energy access for the last mile, but also empowers women as role models.
- Kopernik works with 300 women who have sold 10,000 units in Indonesia to date. The program was able to decrease CO2 emissions by more than 5,000 tons. Over the next three years, Kopernik aims to expand their work to engage 500 more women.
- The initiative is supported by USAID, the Australian government and ENERGIA.

Koen van Seijen, [Toniic](#), koen.van.seijen@toniic.com

- Toniic is a global impact investor network with 150 active investors who direct part of their funds into impact projects.
- Toniic does not perform any due diligence for its members but makes sure that the investment files fit the countries/sectors relevant to their network of investors. 20% of the screened applications usually make it to the next round where they are presented to investors. Projects related to renewable energy and agriculture continue to be top interest areas for Toniic’s investors.
- Toniic is constantly looking for projects that need assistance beyond the start-up phase. The process only takes two weeks for analysts to screen the proposals. Tonic also has periodic calls to provide a platform for pitches of accepted proposals. Applications can be made on a rolling basis on Toniic’s website.

Tomas Garcia, [SunEdison](#), TGarcia@sunedison.com

- SunEdison is working to expand rural electrification via social innovations. Their projects are focused in India, Nepal and Africa. SunEdison is targeting reaching 10 million people in the next five years.
- SunEdison is also working on rural mini-grids with the aim to become a rural utility by owning the assets and selling the power to households and businesses.

- The company also focuses on a new off-grid power generation unit called an [outdoor microstation](#). The unit is expected to require little to no maintenance, withstand harsh conditions, and last for 10 years. It is available in two sizes: 1 KWp solar and 3KWp solar. SunEdison has already installed 50 units in different African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana and Mozambique. In all cases, the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) is lower than the alternative diesel generator.
- For more information, please see the slides attached to the call summary e-mail.

Upcoming Events

Be sure to visit our [News](#) and [Events](#) pages to stay informed on all the latest developments and opportunities!

Solar lighting in humanitarian emergency settings

***Assuring quality and sustainability of small-scale renewable energy solutions in global emergency response
United Nations Foundation, Washington, DC, February 19.***

Please see the invitation attached to the call summary for further details and to RSVP. Please note online participation is available but also requires an RSVP. To follow the conversation on Twitter, please use the hashtag [#power4disasters](#).

Updates from Call Participants

- **Jack Werner, ISP Global, jackfwerner@aol.com**: The standards/PV installer certification program for West Africa via IRENA is continuing with a workshop for country representatives tentatively scheduled in March. Those interested in participating should contact Jack directly.
- **Ling Ng, ARE, l.ng@ruralelec.org**: The Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) would like to share the following events:
 1. [International ARE Energy Access Workshop](#), March 5, Madrid, Spain. The one-day event has been organised to advance cooperation between the public, private and finance sectors. It will provide a platform for exchange on upcoming initiatives, business opportunities and pipeline projects. Participation is free, and registration can be completed via the website.
 2. [ARE General Assembly](#), 6 March, Madrid. ARE members are invited to contribute to the ARE strategy and activities.
 3. [International Invest'Elec Salon](#), March 10-13, Yaoundé, Cameroon. This conference and exhibition will focus on realising current and future investment and business opportunities in renewable energy to boost clean rural electrification in Cameroon. We are accepting applications from participants and potential exhibitors.
 4. [Intersolar Europe](#), 9-12 Jun, Munich, Germany. Together with Intersolar, OTTI and BSW, ARE will launch the new OFF-GRID PLATFORM during Intersolar Europe 2015. There's a limited number of exhibitor slots so get in touch. Speaking slots and sponsorship opportunities are also available.
- **Neha Misra, Solar Sister, neha@solarsister.org**: Solar Sister is participating in the following events during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) organized by UN Women in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015:

1. March 9, 2015: Solar Sister will be participating in the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and ENERGIA's panel titled, Health, Livelihood, Gender, and Environmental Benefits of Access to Energy for Women and Girls, which is an official Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) NGO parallel event, on Monday, March 9, from 12:30pm to 2:00pm at the Church Center for the United Nations (777 1st Avenue, East 44th Street, New York City).
2. March 10-11, 2015 - UN Women and UN Global Compact's Women Empowerment Principles Annual event - [Unlimited Potential: Business Partners for Gender Equality](#). Convened by the UN Global Compact and UN Women and timed to observe International Women's Day, this milestone event will bring together inspiring leaders from business, government, civil society and the UN for a unique exchange on the essential role that business can and must play to realize gender equality and achieve sustainable development. Solar Sister will be a part of the Executive Roundtable Exploring New Models for Business, Investing and Networks, March 11.
3. March 12, 2015 - The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (GACC), International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and ENERGIA event - Access to Energy is a Key Driver of Gender Equality, a high level event to celebrate International Women's Day and commemorate Beijing +20, on Thursday, March 12, at the Westin Grand Central (212 East 42nd Street, New York City). The event will include a series of panel discussions from 1:00pm to 4:30pm, followed by a reception and technology exhibit from 4:30pm to 6:00pm to raise awareness about the wide variety of household energy products available in the developing world. Solar Sister will be contributing to the session on "Empowering Women throughout the Energy Value Chain and Leveraging Women's Entrepreneurship" at 3:30pm.