



Private Sector Partnership Forum

Innovative Solutions to Challenges in Slums & Informal Settlements in Africa
24 to 26 June 2020, eConference

Scaling Solutions: Scaling Up Inclusive Financial and Clean Energy Innovations
Date: Friday, 26 June 2020, 1315-1415h

Topics Explored

1. Community Needs
2. Government Priorities
3. Taking Stock of the Innovations
4. Recommendations and Way Forward

Moderator

Vincent Kitio, Chief, Urban Energy Unit, UN-Habitat

Presentations & Panel Discussions

1. Mwangi Githaiga, Managing Director, KWFT
2. Murefu Barasa, Managing Partner, EED Advisory
3. Linda Onyango, CEO, SME Solution Centre
4. Mercy Leta, Programme Manager, Energy 4 Impact
5. Government Representatives
6. Community Representatives

Innovator Pitches

1. PayGo Solar

An innovative pay-as-you-go model combining solar and mobile payment to connect the unconnected and energise off-grid Africa.

Snehar Shah, GM East Africa, Azuri Technologies Ltd

Website: www.azuri-group.com

2. Smart Gas

An innovative pay-as-you-cook model accelerating access to affordable, safe and reliable LPG.

Tim Bauer, President & COO, Envirofit

Harish Anchan, Managing Director, Envirofit

Website: www.envirofit.org

3. Eco-Charcoal

Sustainably produced clean and safe biomass briquettes.

Beatrice Despioch, Eco-Charcoal Ltd

About the Private Sector Partnership Forum

The three-day Private Sector Partnership Forum has been organized in recognition of the critical roles played by the private sector in innovating and piloting novel solutions to development challenges, and the public sector in scaling up successful innovations. To this end, the Forum seeks to facilitate partnership between national governments and municipalities with private sector companies, specifically investors and innovators with low-cost innovative solutions to development challenges.

Description of the Session

It is estimated that 1 billion people lack access to electricity and approximately 3 billion people cook using polluting open fires or simple stoves fuelled by kerosene, coal and biomass in the form of wood, animal dung and crop waste. Household air pollution is one of the leading causes of disease and premature death in the developing world, causing an estimated 3.8 million premature deaths annually and acute respiratory infections,

particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where advances in the use of clean fuels and fuel-efficient stoves have not kept pace with population growth.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the informal economy is the backbone of development, employing nearly 86% of the labour force. Sadly, the financing needed by small-scale industries (manufacturing and services) to grow, innovate, improve efficiency and create employment opportunities remains a significant challenge. While 31.5% of small-scale industries worldwide benefit from loans and lines of credit, only 20.7% of those in sub-Saharan Africa receive those types of financial services.

As COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the global economy, the livelihoods of millions of Africans are at stake owing to reduced earnings and increased poverty from a lack of social protection and support mechanisms. With 12 million Africans joining the labour force each year, more income and employment opportunities need to be created, and this means finding innovative ways of accelerating access to loans or lines of credit for households and businesses.

The session panellists and innovators will discuss the needs of communities and businesses, government priorities, the challenges facing the urban poor, opportunities, global trends and the investment requirements to meet the access challenge in the energy and microfinancing sectors. In addition, the innovators will describe some of their innovative energy and financing solutions that are successfully responding to these challenges.

Guiding Questions

- ✓ What are some of the challenges plaguing the energy and microfinancing sectors in Africa?
- ✓ What is the need and therefore the market potential in the energy and microfinancing sectors in slums and informal settlements in Africa? What are some of the opportunities available to mSME (entrepreneurs, innovators) in the energy and microfinancing sectors?
- ✓ What are some of the key innovations in the energy and microfinancing sectors that are worth taking note? What has been the recipe for their success?
- ✓ What are some of the good practices or flagship programmes or partnerships or innovative financing models in Africa that have been successful and need replicating in these sectors?
- ✓ What are the key barriers to private sector entry into the energy and microfinancing sectors in Africa? What are some of the actions that governments need to take to eliminate these barriers?
- ✓ What measures can governments implement to incentivize or reduce the risks to private sector entities willing to venture in the provision of low-cost energy solutions to the BOP? What measures can governments implement to streamline the energy and microfinancing sectors and attract investment?
- ✓ Which key sector reforms would accelerate the realization of the energy-related SDG? What has been the impact of recent policy reforms, and government plans and strategies on the delivery of energy and financial services in informal settlements in your country?
- ✓ What existing infrastructure, investments or partnerships can be leveraged to accelerate the realization of the energy-related SDG and access to microfinancing in informal settlements?
- ✓ What investments are required to meet the access challenge in these sectors? What are your municipality's plans and budgetary commitments towards provision of basic energy and financial infrastructure and services to residents of informal settlements?
- ✓ What does success look like for the energy and microfinancing sectors in Africa?
- ✓ What is the role of communities living in informal settlements in the realization of the energy SDG and financial objectives?

Expected Outcomes

The Forum is among a series of events organized by UN-Habitat to strengthen partnership with the business community to support sustainable and inclusive urban development and the New Urban Agenda. It provides a platform for matching the needs of informal settlements residents and demands of cities with innovative private sector solutions. The session is expected to have:

1. Demonstrated the business potential and identified opportunities to develop and deploy low-cost innovative housing and construction solutions in informal settlements
2. Identified opportunities for partnership and matched governments and investors with investable innovative solutions and models are explored
3. Identified bankable and investment-ready projects to be piloted in slums and informal settlements.