

Power Africa's Beyond the Grid: Increasing Access through Small-Scale Energy Solutions



Beyond The Grid's

27 founding partners

have committed
to invest over

\$1
billion

in off-grid and small-
scale energy solutions
over the next

5
years

More than 240 million people live without electricity in rural and peri-urban communities across the six Power Africa focus countries. Recognizing that Power Africa cannot achieve energy access goals through the use of large grid extension projects alone, the U.S. Government has recently launched a new framework focused exclusively on unlocking investment and growth for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions on the African continent.

Known as “Beyond the Grid”, this new framework leverages Power Africa’s innovative transaction-focused model to galvanize collaboration, engage in critical actions to accelerate transactions, and drive systemic reforms to facilitate future investment specifically relating to off-grid and small-scale energy solutions. Beyond the Grid has been developed in close collaboration with investors, practitioners, and donors. Beyond the Grid strives to create an effective enabling environment, as well as increase access to finance and technical assistance in order to address some of the recurring constraints in the small scale-energy space.

Over a five year period, Beyond the Grid will partner with over 27 investors and practitioners that have committed to invest over \$1 billion into off-grid and small-scale solutions to this underserved market. These private sector commitments will be significant in helping Power Africa meet and exceed its objective to provide access to 20 million new connections for households and commercial entities.

Mobilizing Finance

Sustainable, private sector-led business models for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions are beginning to succeed in the marketplace — bolstered by decreasing costs of renewable energy generation, new technologies, innovative business models, and a growing cohort of entrepreneurs meeting the demand of sub-Saharan Africa’s underserved populations. Building on this momentum, Beyond the Grid will utilize the various tools and resources of the 12 U.S. Government agencies which work together as part of the Power Africa team to mobilize finance to small-scale energy projects.

Enabling Environment

Growth of the small-scale energy sector hinges on the public sector providing transparent regulatory and policy regimes which provide clear, predictable rules for project development, investment and operation. However, existing policies and regulatory frameworks are not always primed to support new and emerging business models enabled by rapidly transforming energy technologies. In order to catalyze the private sector and the significant resources it can bring to bear, Beyond the Grid will support activities that create an enabling environment for development and investment in this space.

Beyond the Grid
Founding Partners*

Acumen Fund
Bamboo Finance
BBOXX
Capricorn Investments
CrossBoundary
d.light
Embark Energy
Energiya Global
Fenix International
Global Off-Grid Lighting Association
Gray Ghost Ventures
Invested Development
Khosla Impact
LGT Venture Philanthropy
Liberia Energy Network
Low Carbon Enterprise Fund
Mosaic
Off Grid Electric
Persistent Energy Partners
Powerhive
Schneider Electric
Shell Foundation
Solar Sister
SunFunder
Tony Elumelu Foundation
United Nations Foundation
Virunga Power

The Beyond the Grid Toolbox

	Tools	Examples of BTG-Supported Mechanisms
	Grants and Financing	U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative USADF — Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge USAID Development Credit Authority Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)
	Technical Assistance	Quality Assurance Framework for Mini-Grids
	Capacity Building for Rural Energy Agencies	Transaction Advisors
	Partnerships	Global Development Alliance
	Policy Dialogue	Millennium Challenge Corporation U.S. Department of Treasury U.S. Department of State
	Market information for governments and businesses	Climatescope 2014 U.S. Trade and Development Agency
	Convening	Impact Investor Forums

Power Africa represents a whole of U.S. Government, transaction-based development approach to increase access to power in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa works with African governments, the private sector, and other partners such as the World Bank and African Development Bank in six focus countries — Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania — to add more than 10,000 MW of cleaner, more efficient electricity generation.

For more information on Power Africa’s Beyond the Grid, visit www.usaid.gov/powerafrica

