

**National Off-grid Electrification Forum:  
Mini-grid Action Learning Event  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
February 12, 2020**

Mini-grid Action Learning Event, February 12, 2020	
<b>08:00- 09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:00- 09:30</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Keynote Remarks</b>  <i>Dr. Frehiwot Woldehanna, State Minister, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE)</i>  <i>Mikul Bhatia, Ethiopia Energy Program Lead, World Bank</i></p> <p>Keynote speeches on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievements of the National Electrification Plan to date</li> <li>• National Electrification Plan 2.0</li> <li>• The role for mini grids</li> </ul>
<b>9:30- 10:45</b>	<p><b>The Evolution, Opportunities, and Challenges of the Mini Grid Sector in Ethiopia</b>  <i>Hizkyas Dufera, Senior Energy Advisor, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy</i>  <i>Shiferaw Telila, CEO, Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU)</i>  <i>Belayneh Gizaw, Head , Regional Operation Coordination Support Office and A/ Director, Licensing and Economic Regulation Directorate)</i></p> <p>Brief presentations and audience questions addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the off-grid sector evolved over the past 5 years? What is the current status of mini grids?</li> <li>• What are the challenges to achieving universal access, in particular in the deep rural, rural and peri-urban areas in Ethiopia?</li> <li>• What investments are currently planned for developing the mini grid sector in Ethiopia, and how do they intersect with the NEP 2.0 and Ethiopia’s universal access policy?</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
<b>10:45- 11:00</b>	<b>Networking Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:00- 11:45</b>	<p><b>Learning from Challenges and Successes Abroad</b>  <i>Jon Exel, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</i>  <i>Uche Honnah, Senior Technical Design Expert, Nigerian Rural Electrification Agency</i>  <i>Suman Sureshbabu, Director, Power Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation</i>  <i>Md. Wahidur Rahman, Sr. VP, IDCOL</i></p> <p>Brief presentations on lessons from abroad for handling key challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workable Regulations</li> <li>• Private Sector and Enabling Business Environment</li> <li>• Technology and Costs</li> <li>• Institutional Framework</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
<b>11:45– 12:45</b>	<p><b>Panel: Overview of Energy Legislation/Energy Regulation/Directive</b>  <i>Moderator: Gosaye Mengistie, Sr. Energy Advisor, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE)</i>  <i>Panelists: Belayneh Gizaw, Head , Regional Operation Coordination Support Office and A/ Director, Licensing and Economic Regulation Directorate</i>  <i>Shiferaw Telila, CEO, Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU)</i>  <i>Yiheis Eshetu, Director of Energy Policy, Strategy and Info, MoWIE</i></p> <p>Moderated panel discussion followed by audience Q&amp;A on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does the new legislation mean for private sector mini grid developers?</li> <li>• What is the role of the utility in implementation?</li> </ul>

- Business Models for Distributed Generations/Mini grids within the reach of the grid/the case for Industrial Parks/
- Should the uniform tariff policy apply to mini grids?
- Q&A

**12:45- 13:45 Networking Lunch**

**13:45- 15:15 Panel: Scaling up Financing and Unlocking Private Markets**

Moderator: *Hizkyas Dufera, Sr. Energy Advisor, MoWIE*

Panelists: *Aaron Leopold, CEO, Africa Mini-grid Developers Association (AMDA); Quentin Peries-Joly, Business Development, Engie Africa; George Harris, New Market Expansion, PowerGen; Robert Kremer, Energy Services Senior Director, Smart Power Myanmar; Steve Gray, Regional Representative, UK Export Finance; Jon Carrick, Business Development Manager, InfraCo Africa*

Moderated panel discussion followed by audience Q&A on barriers and opportunities for scaling up mini grid, off-grid and productive use markets through:

- International, PPP, and private sector financing
- Local commercial financing
- Social impact and micro financing
- Unlocking private mini grid and off-grid investments
- Q&A

**15:15- 15:45 Networking Coffee Break**

**15:45- 17:00 Panel: Productive Uses and Community Engagement**

Moderator: *Francis Elisha, Rocky Mountain Institute*

Panelists: *Awet Tekie Bahta, Senior Technical Expert for Agricultural Finance, Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA); Omer Bomba, Managing Partner, Veritas Consulting; Getachew Abegaz, Senior Partnership and Project Manager Officer, VisionFund Microfinance; Meskerem Legesse, Senior Gender Specialist, World Bank*

Moderated panel discussion followed by audience Q&A on:

- Role of productive uses in making mini grids financially viable
- Leveraging agricultural clusters to create anchor loads
- Challenges in financing productive use appliances
- Creating opportunities for gender equity in productive uses, access to finance, and entrepreneurship
- Q&A

**17:00-17:20 Close of Day Remarks:** *Jon Exel, World Bank and Dr. Frehiwot Woldehanna, State Minister, MoWIE*

**17:20 Evening Reception**