

# Unlocking private capital for mini-grids

**5th Mini Grid Action Learning Event & Summit** 

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26th June 2019

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Finance at scale is the key to unlocking the potential of mini-grids in Africa



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#### **CrossBoundary facilitates the investment of private capital into frontier markets**

#### Our mission is to *unlock the power of capital* to make a **strong return** and a **lasting difference** in frontier markets



#### CROSSBOUNDARY ADVISORY

Investment advisory services to unlock private capital for key sectors in frontier markets



#### CROSSBOUNDARY ENERGY

Dedicated investment fund to finance commercial and industrial solar in Africa



CROSSBOUNDARY ENERGY ACCESS

Project finance fund for solar mini-grids in Africa

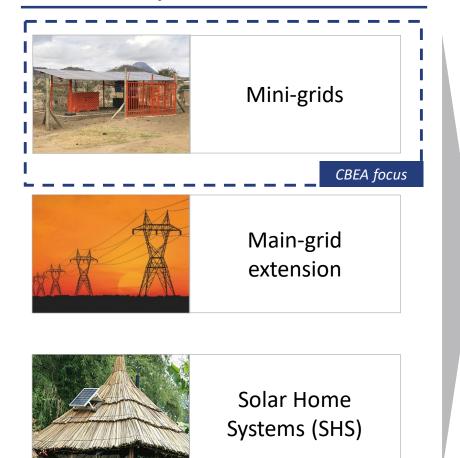


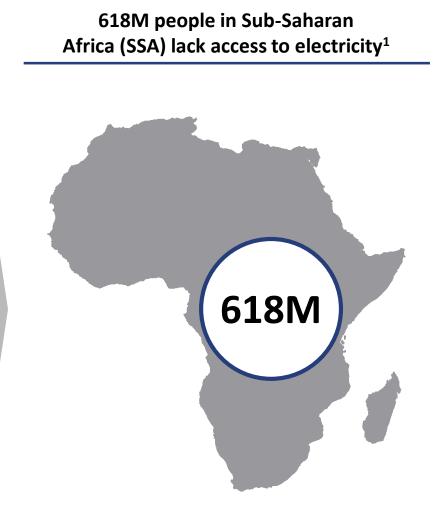
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### There are 3 principal means of bringing electricity to the 618M people in SSA who lack electricity

3 principal means of providing electricity to those in need in SSA

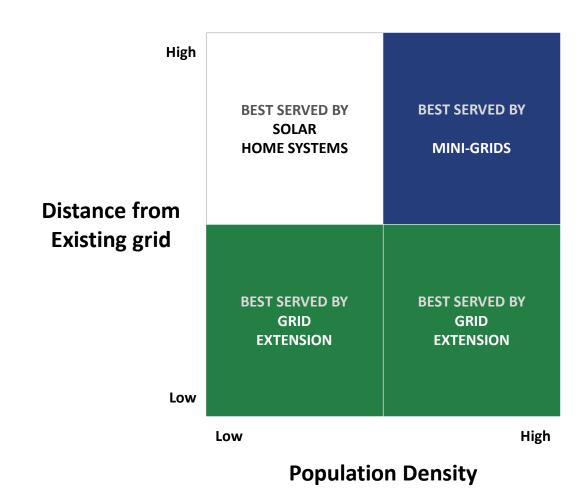




1. World Bank population and electrification rate data, 2014; UNEP population data 2015 onwards



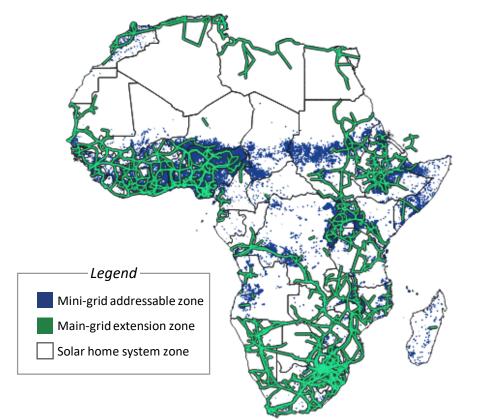
### This 618M can be segmented by the most cost-effective means of electrification; (i) grid extension, (ii) Mini-Grids or (iii) SHS





### CBEA analysis shows mini-grids are the most cost-effective means of electrifying at least 100 million people, based on today's costs





**100M best served by mini-grids** 

#### 210M best served by grid extension

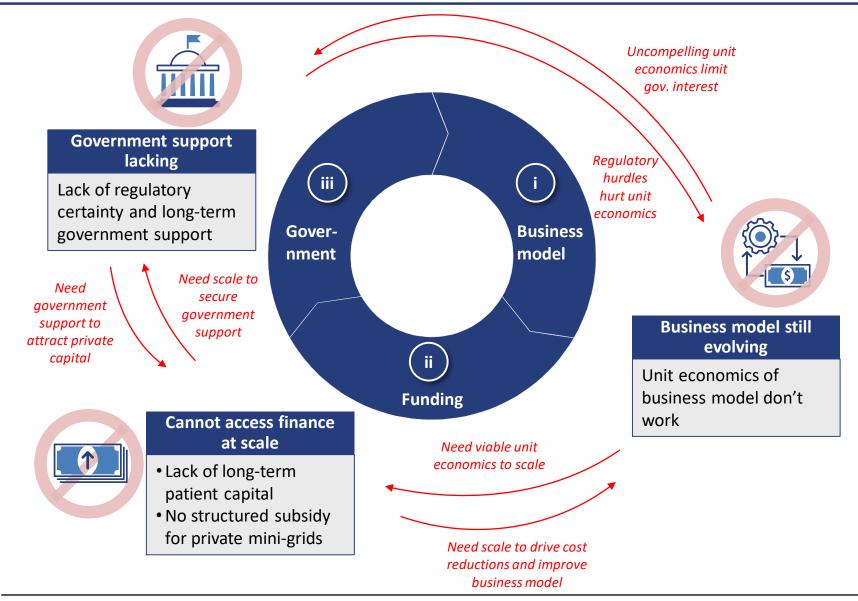
#### 308M best served by SHS

*Note:* Zones in Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt have been excluded from total potential given high electrification rates (99%+) Source: Electrification for Under Grid households in Rural Kenya, Kenneth Lee et al 2016; Africa's Pulse, April 2017, volume 15, World Bank; World Bank African Transmission and Distribution lines 2017; WorldPop 2015 population density map, Africa, UN adjusted, International Energy Agency Africa Energy Outlook 2014



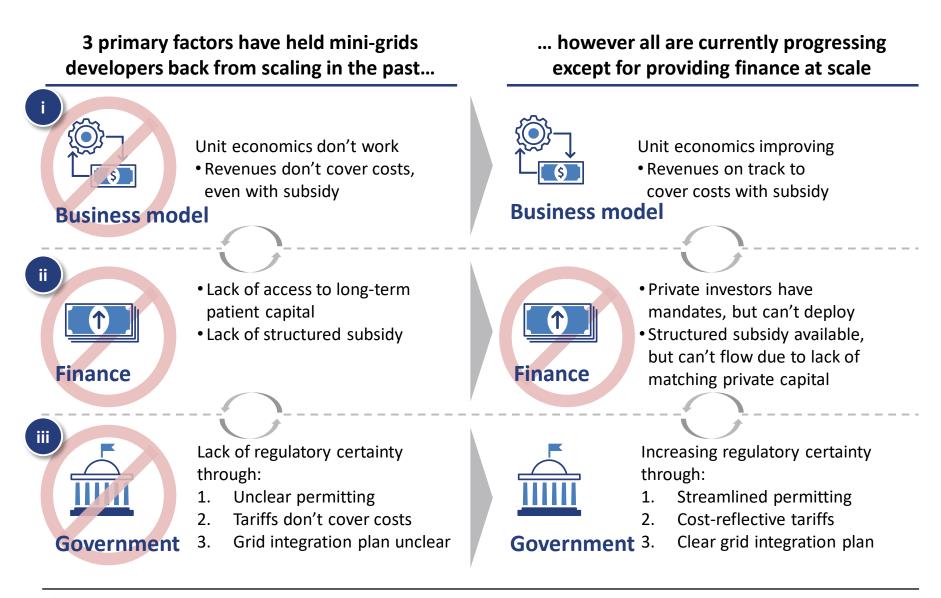
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### Mini-grids have historically been stuck in a 'doom loop', need (i) improved unit economics, (ii) finance to scale and (iii) government support to thrive





### Progress is being made on unit economics and regulations; Mini-grid financing is emerging as a binding constraint

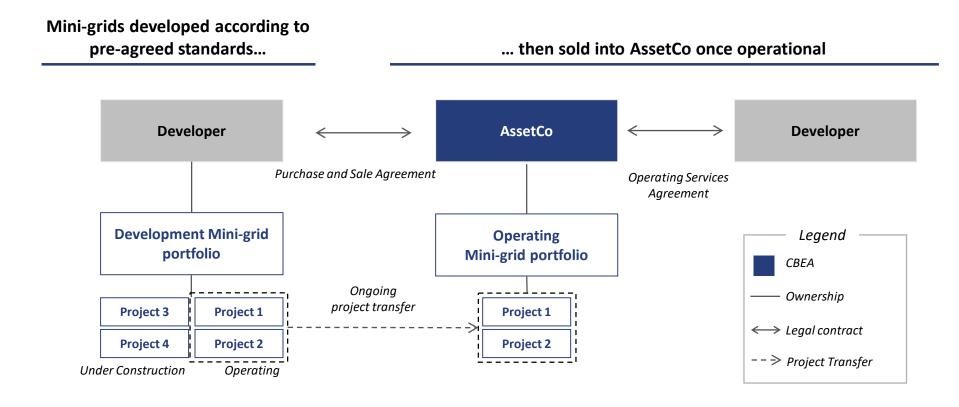




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### CBEA finances mini-grid assets directly, acquiring a mini-grid portfolio and becoming the long-term owner of the assets



This project finance approach has the potential to unlock substantial capital that is willing, but currently unable to invest in mini-grids



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### CBEA's investment approach focuses on partnering with proven developers, delivering grid-quality power, in countries with favourable regulations

## CBEA invests in markets with strong regulatory frameworks and environments...



#### **Regulatory environment**



Streamlined permitting
Cost-reflective tariffs
Grid integration

### ...and partners with top tier developers providing customers with grid-quality power



#### System characteristics



- Solar PV + battery storage + diesel backup if necessary
  6kW – 250kW PV peak
  - 100+ connections
- Smart meters



#### Power quality

 92.5% customer uptime
Productive use power (more than just lighting)

