

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mini Grids for Half a Billion People



WORLD BANK GROUP
Energy & Extractives

**5th Mini Grid Action Learning
Event and Summit**
Global Technical Conference on
Mini Grids

June 26, 2019



ESMAP

TECHNICAL REPORT 014/19

MINI GRIDS FOR HALF A BILLION PEOPLE

Market Outlook and Handbook for Decision Makers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**5 Action Learning Events with
about 2,000 participants in
total**

**10 knowledge frontiers
researched in detail**

**Learning by doing through 37
World Bank mini grid operations
for example Bangladesh,
Myanmar, Kenya, Nigeria, Haiti
possibly Ethiopia and Ghana**

**Roster of outstanding experts
and magnificent team**

**Partnerships for example with:
industry: AMDA, companies
civil society: RMI, SNV
development partners: DFID,
CIF, AfDB, GIZ
service providers: HOMER,
Odyssey, Castalia, TTA, Inensus
research: NREL, MIT
host and client governments**



ESMAP

TECHNICAL REPORT 014/19

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Databases with:

- 26,000 mini grid projects
- 53 solar (hybrid) mini grids with detailed CAPEX costing
- 1,000+ operator surveys in 3 countries
- 37 World Bank mini grid investments in 33 countries

Executive report part of knowledge package with focus on implementation:

- 500 page main report, answering the 'how' question
- Volume with supporting annexes
- Volume with country and case studies
- Videos, animations, infographics
- More than dozen presentations

**A mini grid is
anything else than the main grid.**

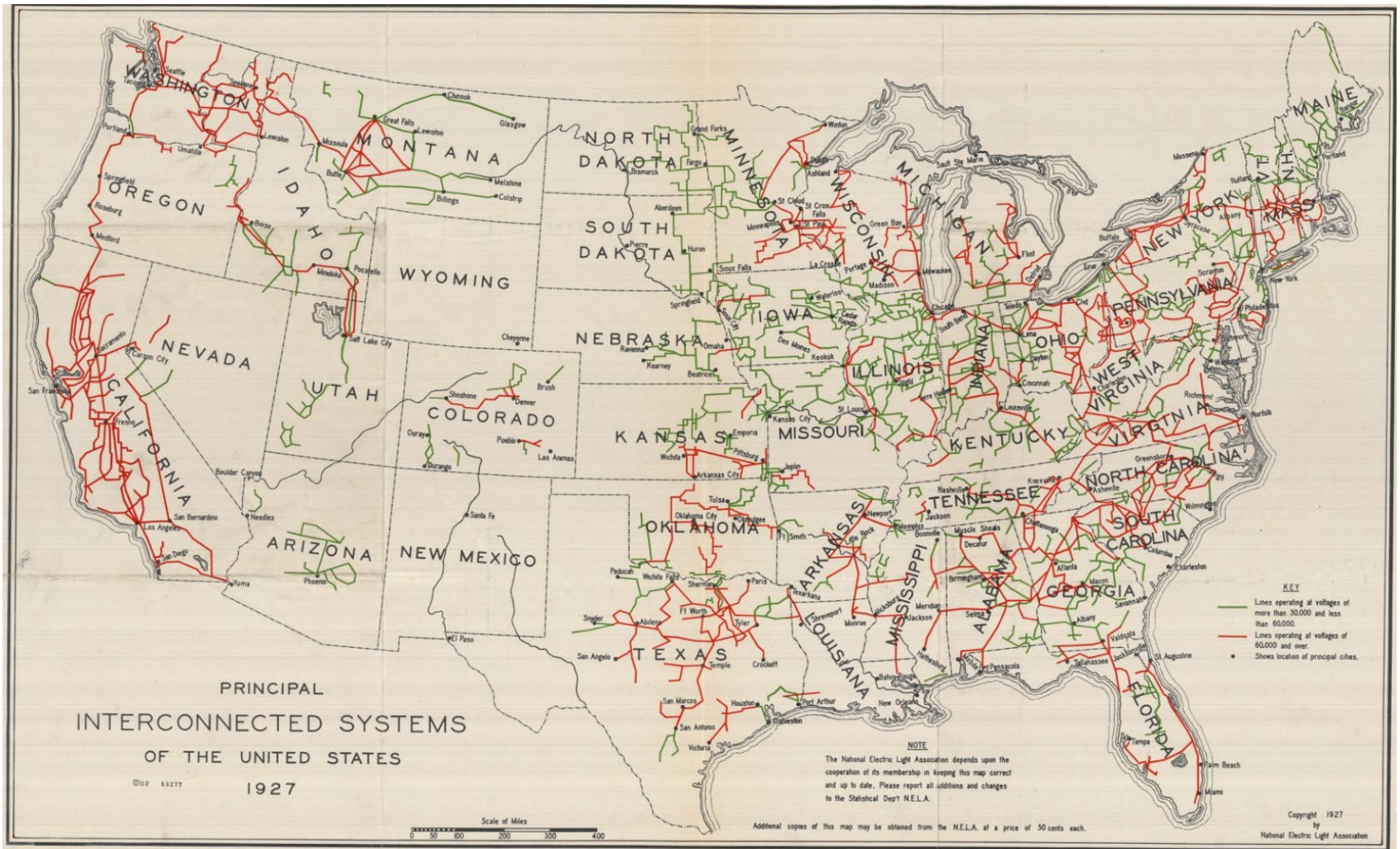
A mini grid is an electricity generation and distribution network that supplies electricity to a localized group of customers.

Mini grids can be isolated from and/or connected to the main grid.

Definition of a Mini Grid

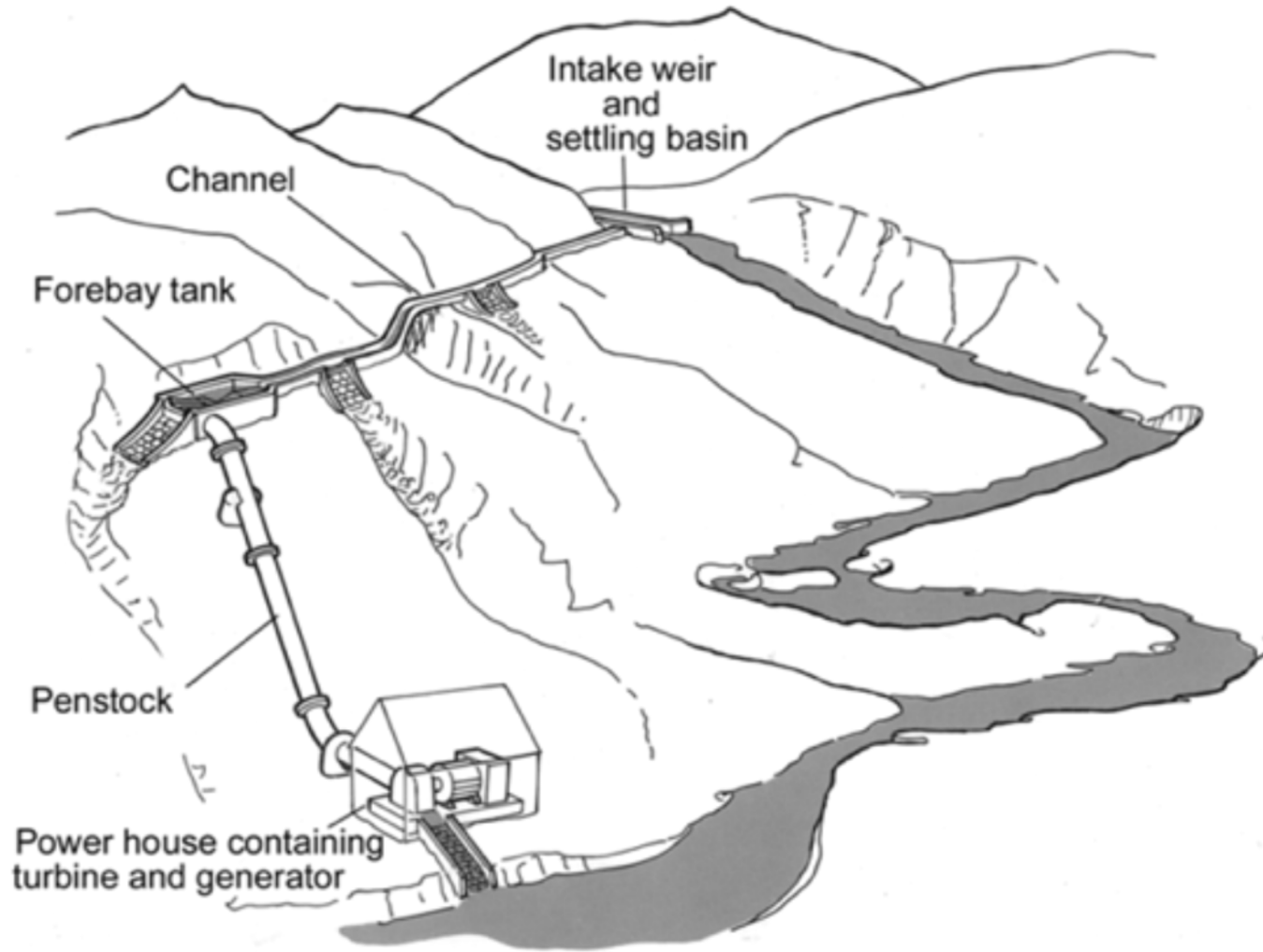
Mini grids are electric power generation and distribution systems that provide electricity to just a few customers in a remote settlement or bring power to hundreds of thousands of customers in a town or city. They can be fully isolated from the main grid or connected to it but able to intentionally isolate (“island”) themselves from the grid. Mini grids supply power to households, businesses, public institutions, and anchor clients, such as telecom towers and large agricultural processing facilities. They are designed to provide high-quality, reliable electricity. A new, third generation”of mini grids has recently emerged, which are solar hybrids, incorporate the latest technologies such as smart meters and remote monitoring systems, and are typically designed to interconnect with the main grid. The “Where Mini Grids Fit in the Electricity Sector” section provides a detailed description of 3rd generation mini grids.

1st Generation of Mini Grids

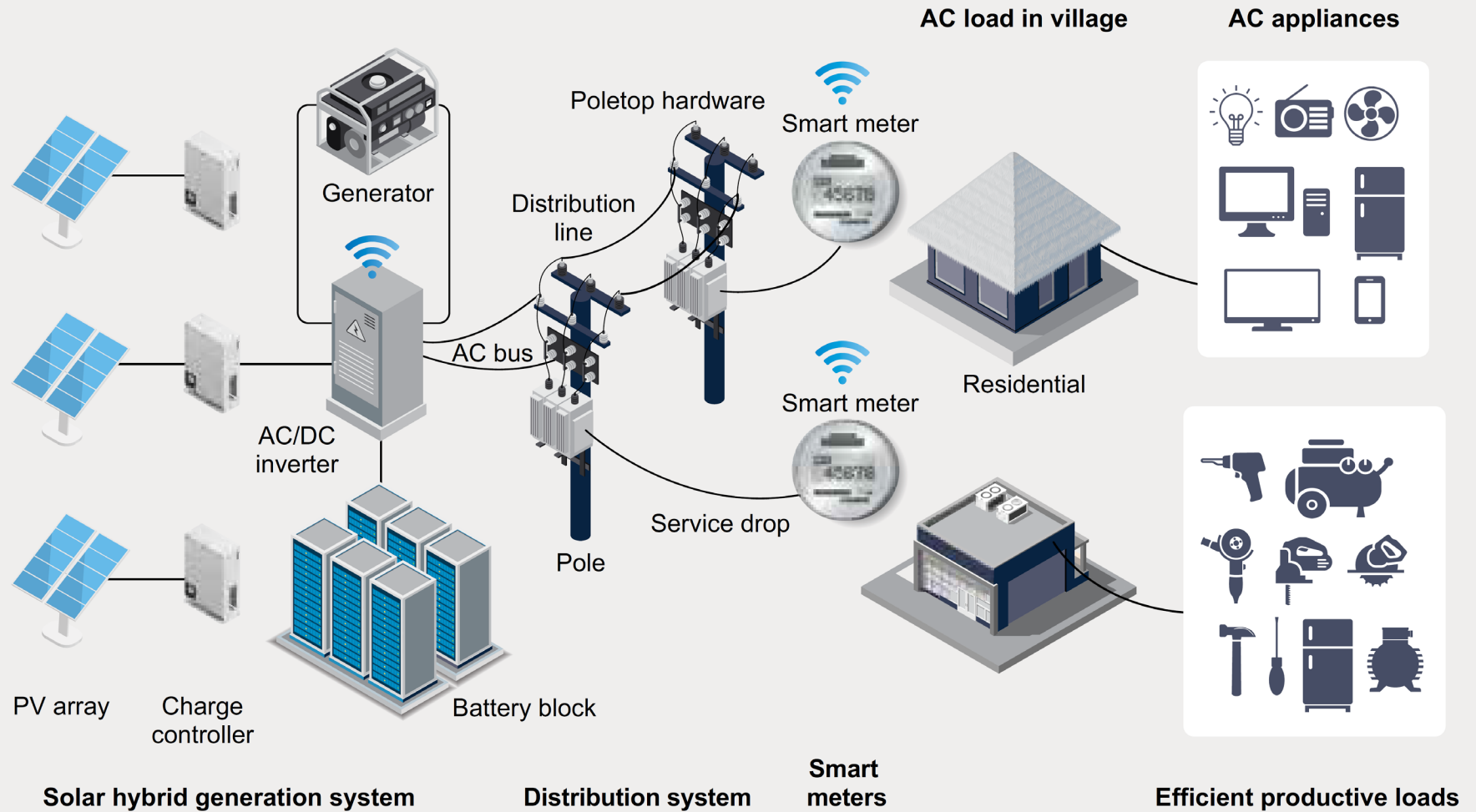


U.S. power system network in 1927

2nd Generation of Mini Grids



3RD GENERATION OF MINI GRIDS



Note: AC = alternating current; DC = direct current; PV = photovoltaic.

10 BUILDING BLOCKS AND FRONTIERS



..... Innovative
Technology



..... Income-
generating use
of electricity



..... Training
and Skill
Development



..... Geospatial
& Portfolio
Planning



..... Community
Engagement



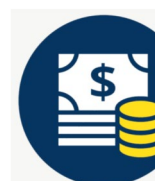
..... Private Sector
Participation



..... Workable
Regulations



..... Enabling
Business
Environment



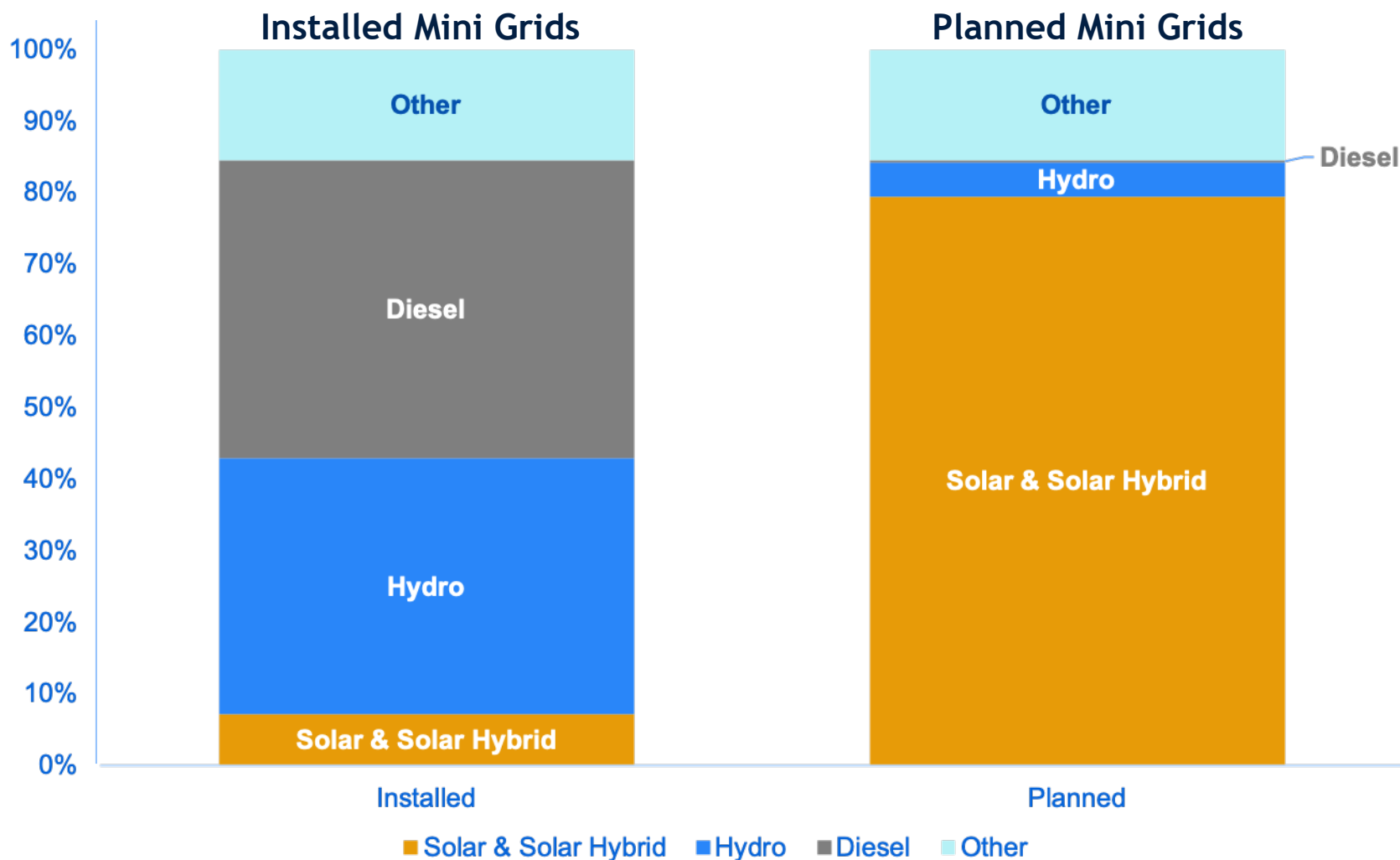
..... Access to
Finance

**Institutional
Arrangements**

From diesel and hydro to solar hybrid systems

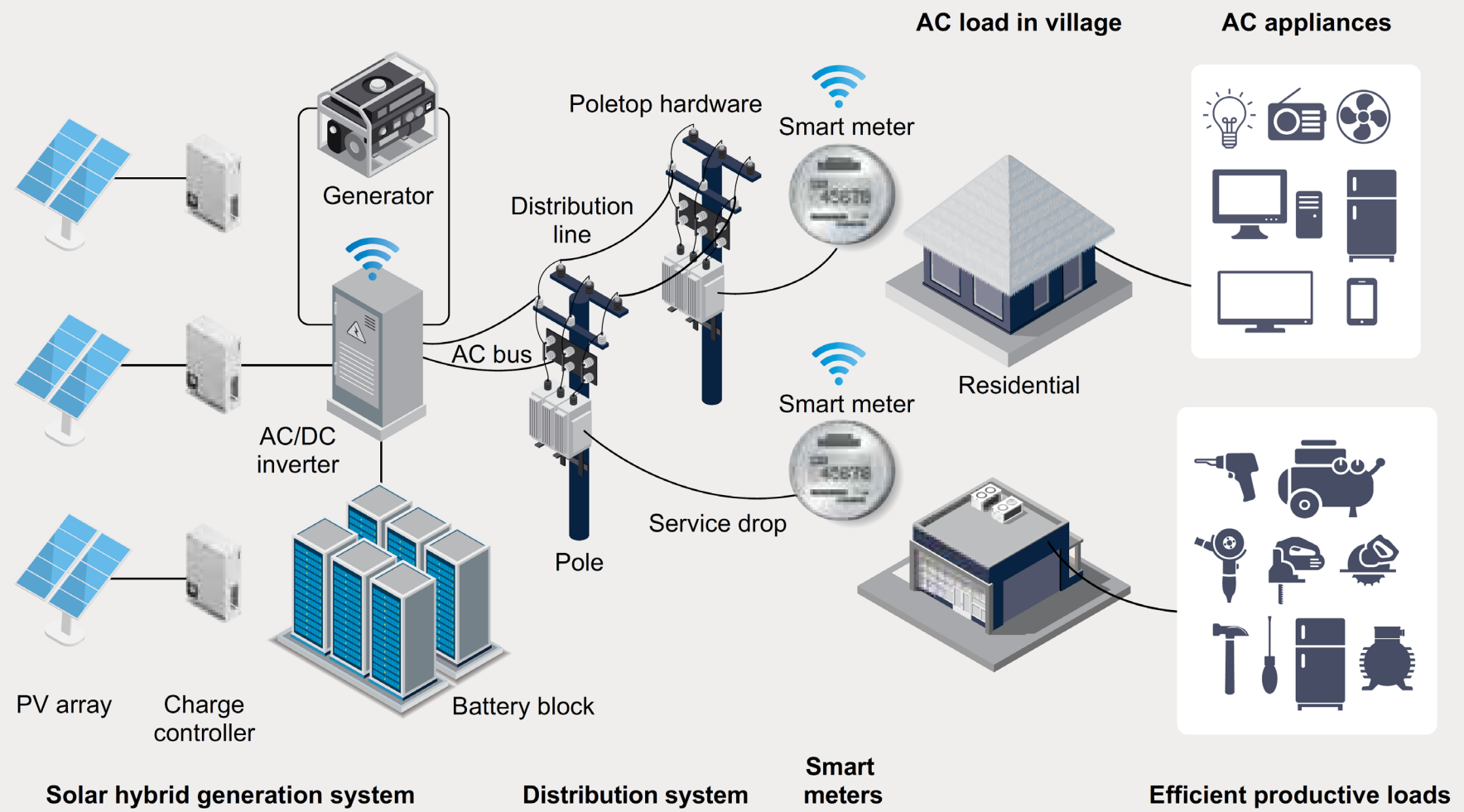


..... Innovative Technology



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REMOTE CONTROLLED | SMART METER ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES | GRID INTERCONNECTION READY



Note: AC = alternating current; DC = direct current; PV = photovoltaic.

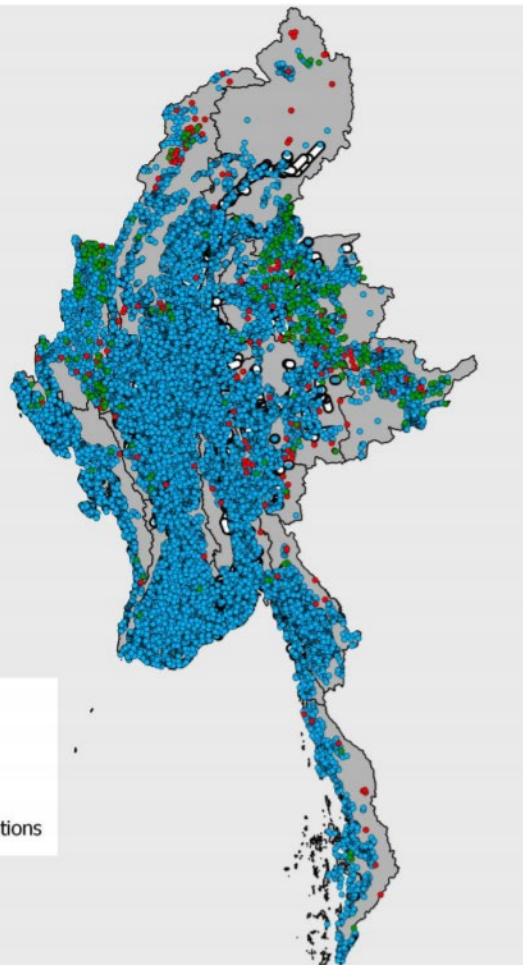
National Least-Cost Electrification Planning

Grid Extension | Mini Grid | Off-grid



Geospatial
& Portfolio
Planning

Myanmar

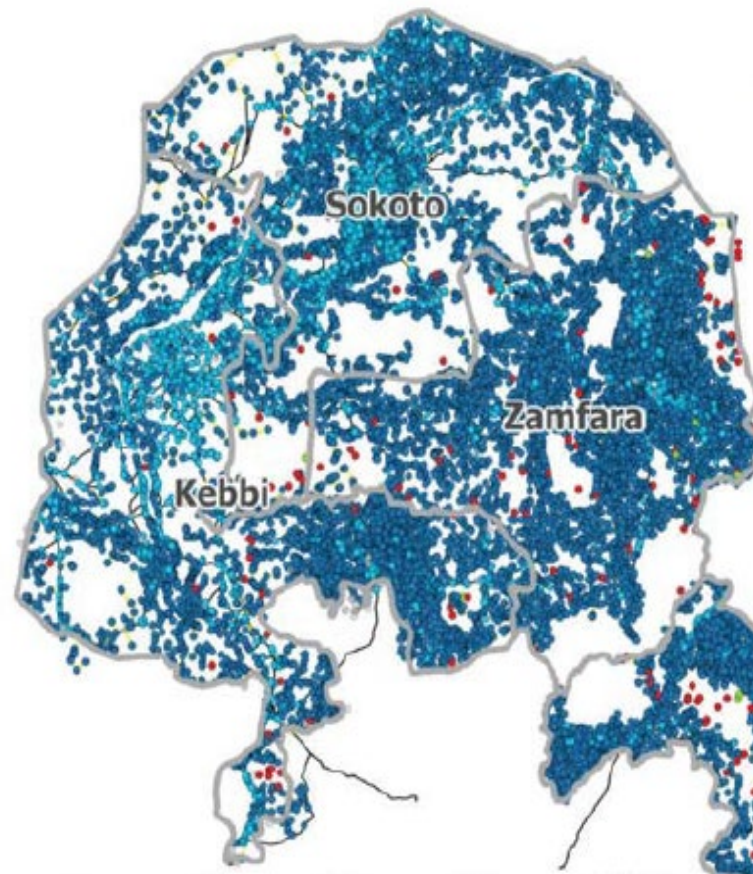


Myanmar National Rollout

- On-Grid
- Mini-grid
- Off-grid

Existing MV and HV Substations

Nigeria (4 states)



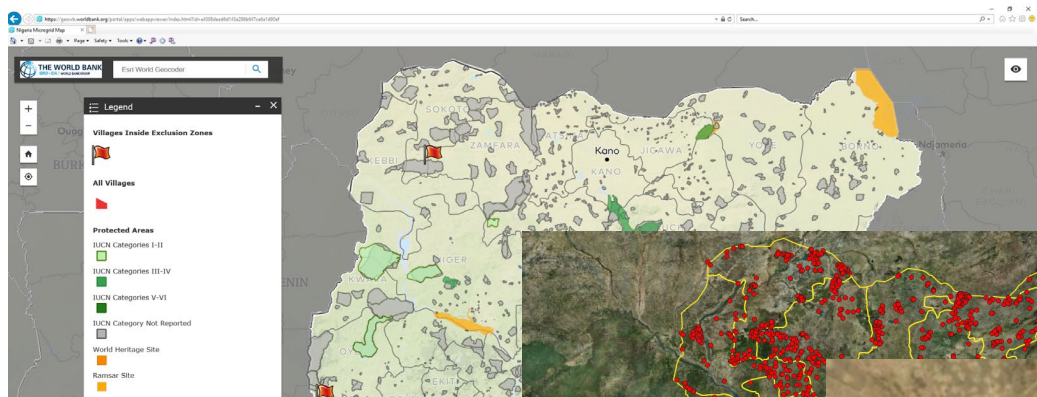
Source: Myanmar National Electrification Program (NEP) Roadmap and Investment Prospectus, Castalia, 2014;
Achieving Universal Access in the Kaduna Electric service area, World Bank, 2015



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Mini Grid Portfolio Planning

Magnitude Change in Costing | \$3,200 per site



	No diesel constraint		Diesel limited to 20%	
	Size	Capital (USD \$)	Size	Capital (USD \$)
Solar PV + installation	535 kW	374,150	914 kW	639,450
Battery + installation	-	-	9,174 kWh	1,994,400
Diesel Generator	350 kW	126,000	100 kW	36,000
Inverter	403 kW	84,304	404 kW	84,304
MPPT Charge controller	-	-	-	96,634
Distribution network	17.3 km	284,386	17.33 km	284,386
Total		868,840		3,135,174
Network Design	Length (km)	Capital (USD \$)		
Weasel	13.4	160,735		
Ferret	0.5	6,305		
Rabbit	0.9	12,019		
Horse	0.2	2,930		
Dog	1.0	19,280		
Dingo	0.4	10,233		
Panther	0.5	12,454		
Zebra	0.3	23,637		
Other	0.2	36,793		
Sub Total	17.3	284,386		

Topics in Mini Grid Regulation



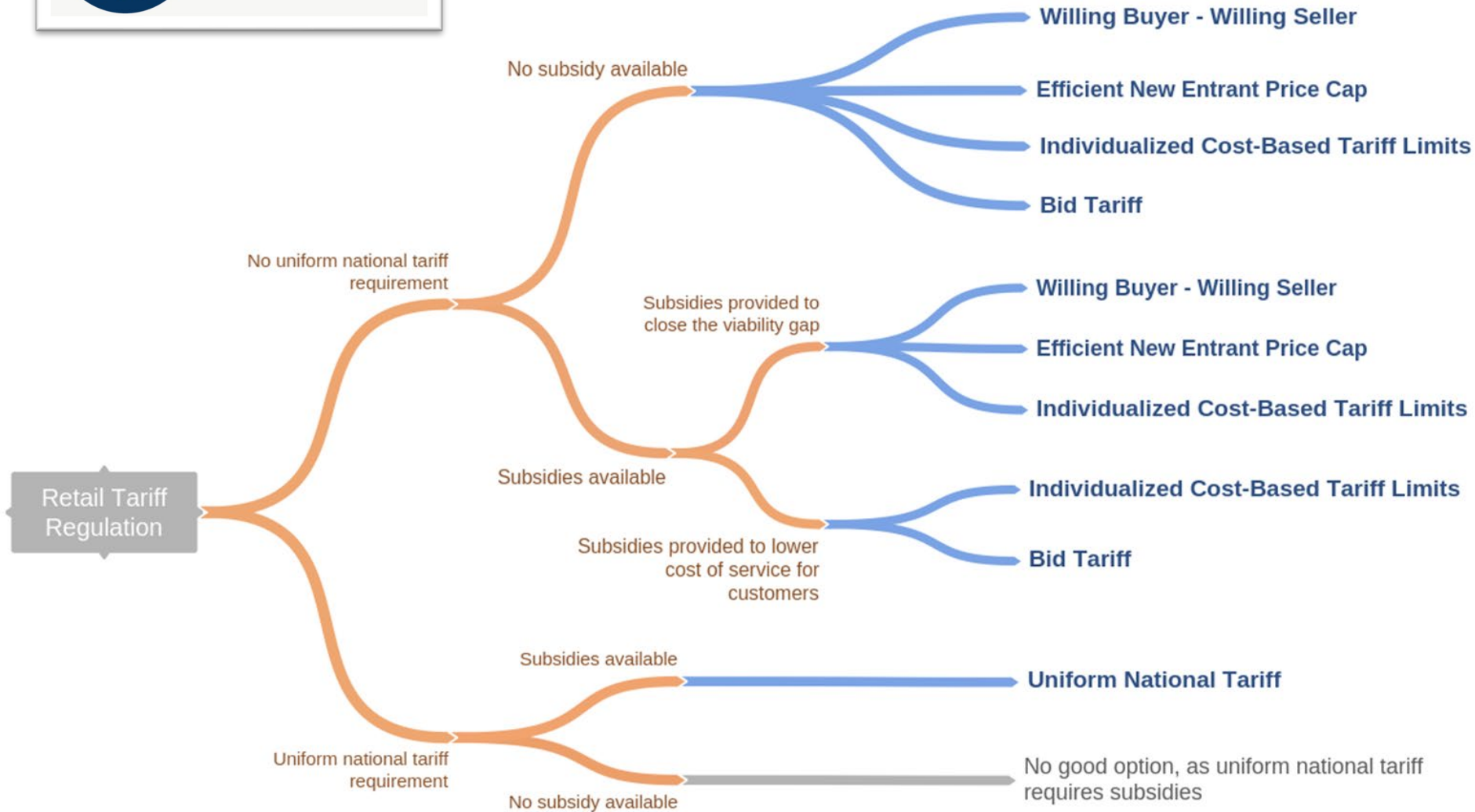
Key topics in mini grid regulation include:

- **Entry** to the market
- **Retail tariff**—tariff charged to customers
- **Service standards**—quality of power, quality of supply, quality of commercial services
- **Technical standards**—safety, equipment or construction quality, connection with the main grid, environmental sustainability
- **Relationship with the main grid**—commercial options available for the mini grid developer when the main grid arrives




Workable Regulations

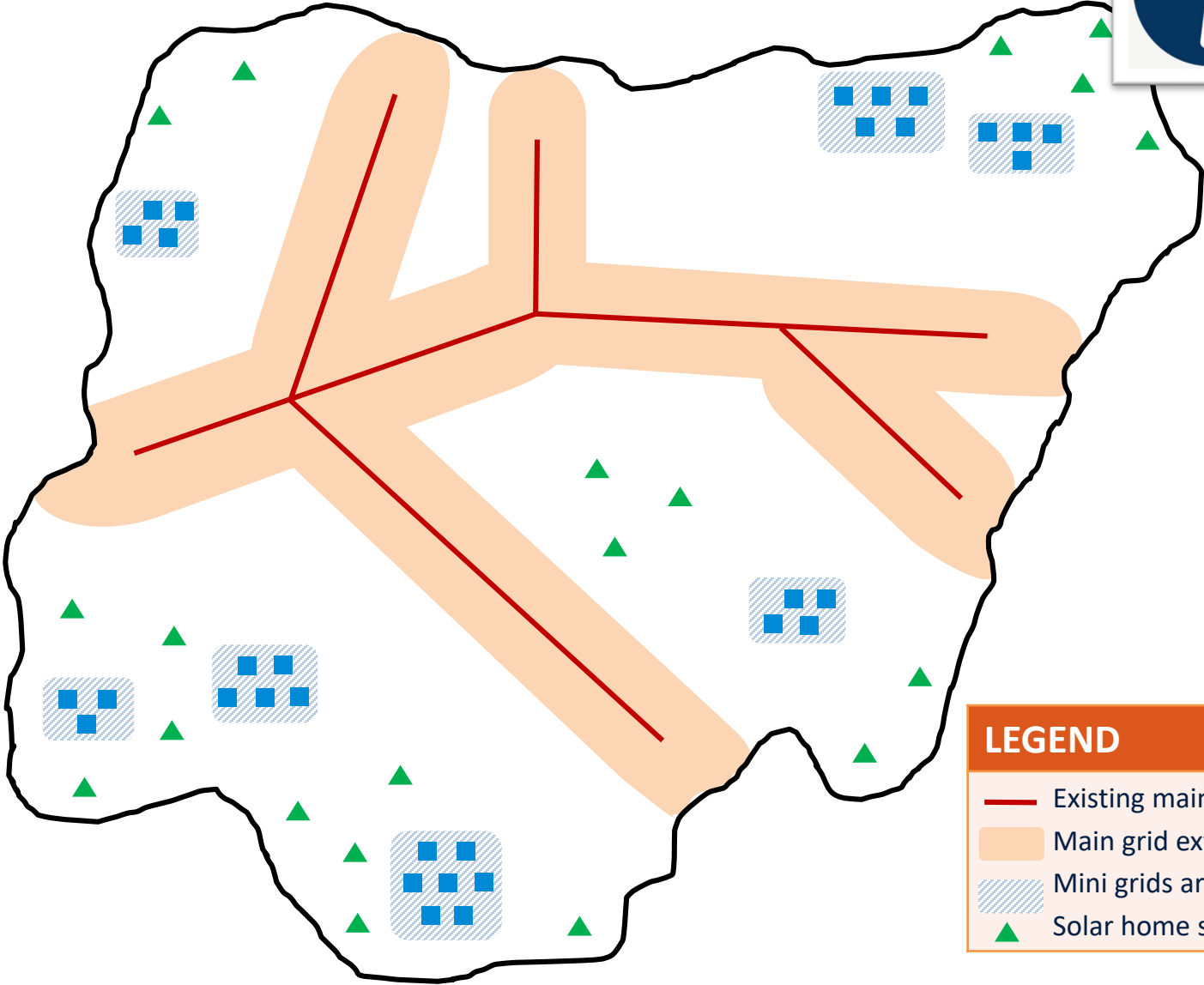
Non-prescriptive Decision trees



Mini Grids Evolve Over Time



..... Workable Regulations



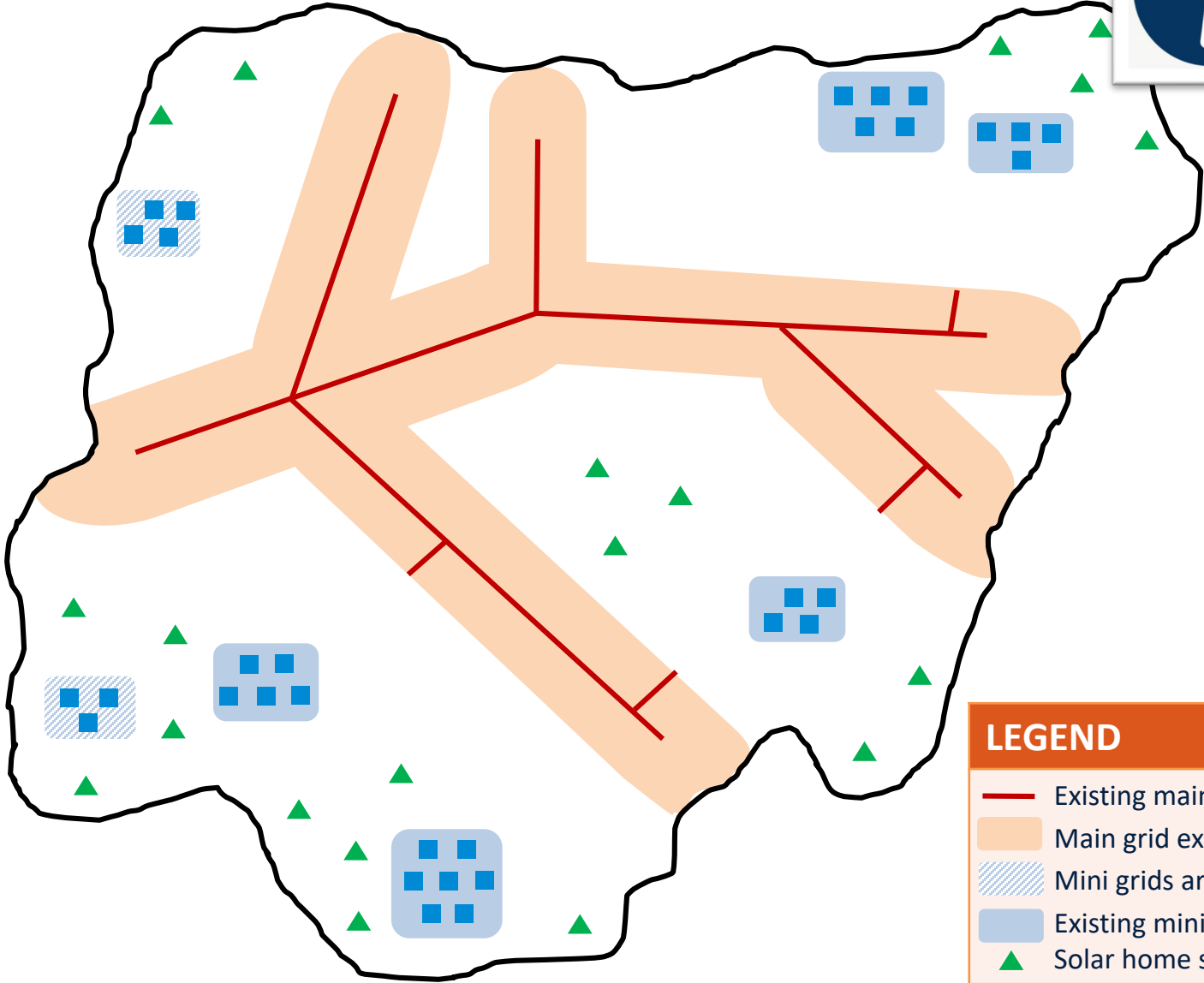
LEGEND

- Existing main grid
- Main grid extension is economically viable
- Mini grids are economically viable
- ▲ Solar home systems

Mini Grids Evolve Over Time




..... Workable Regulations



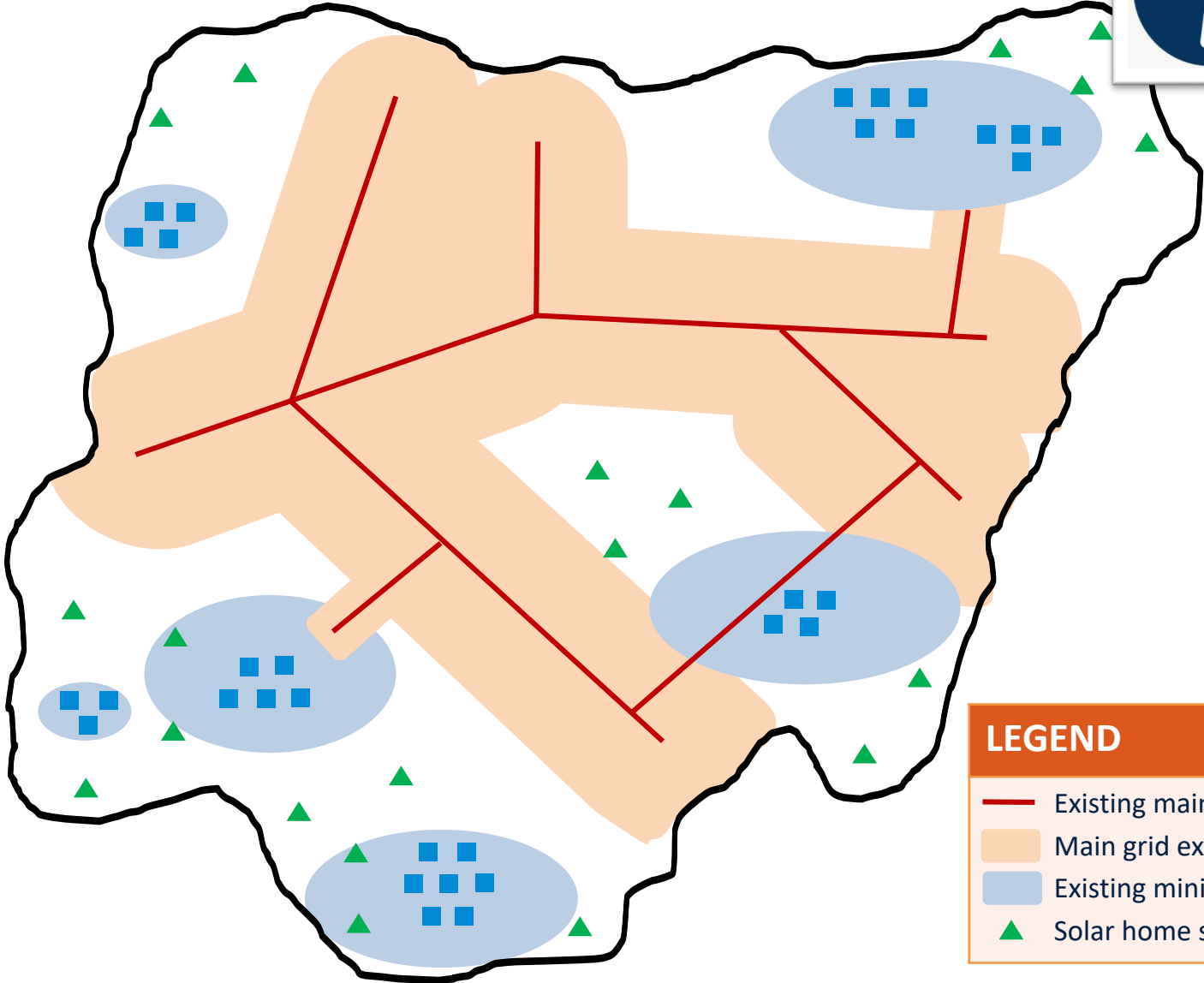
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Mini Grids Evolve Over Time



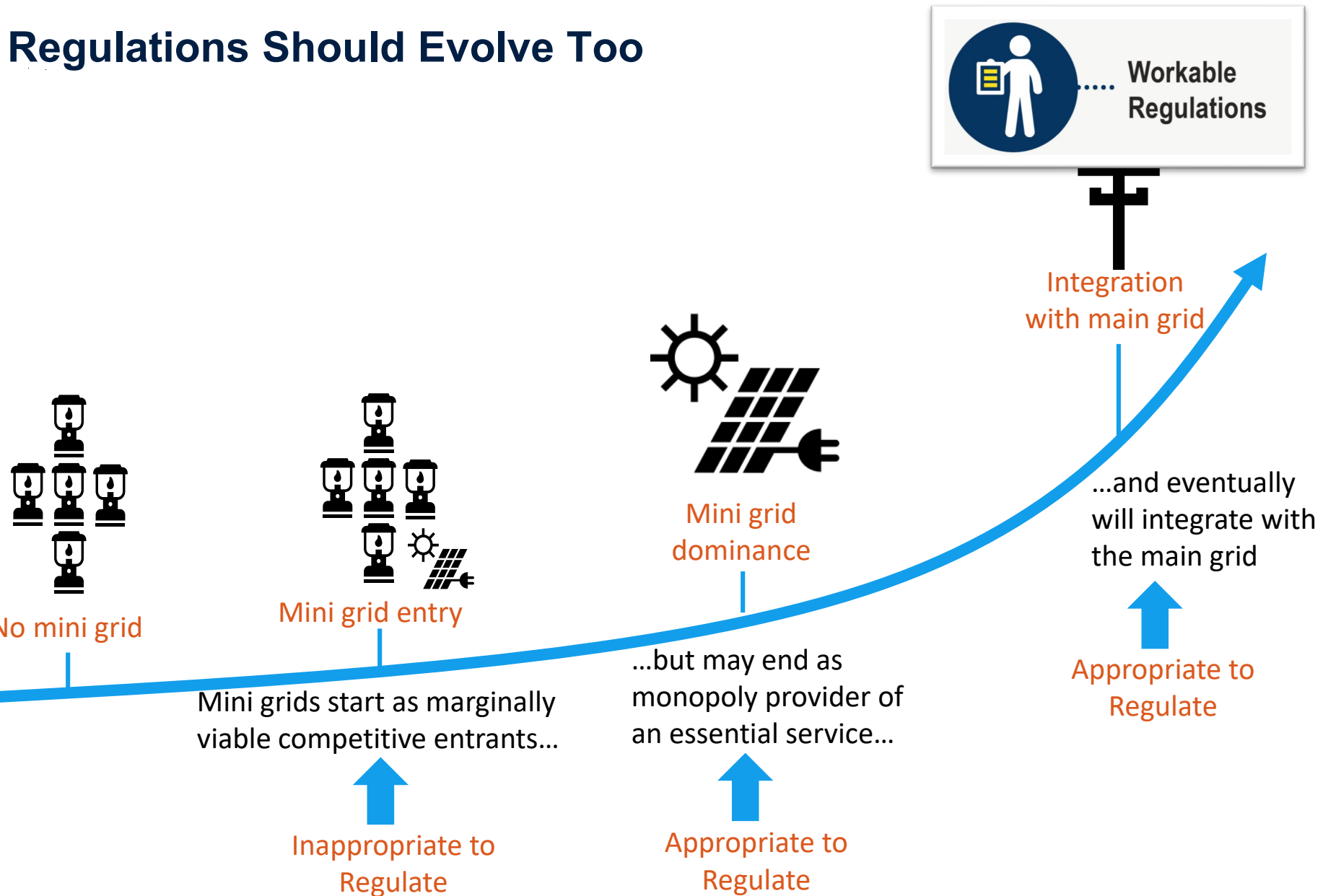
..... Workable Regulations



LEGEND

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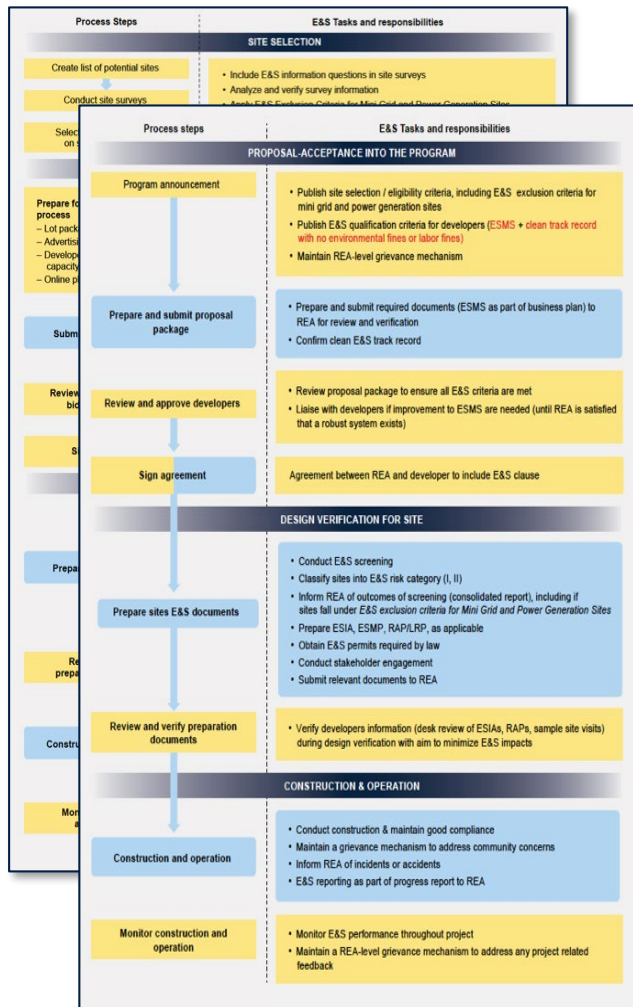
Regulations Should Evolve Too



Standardized, pre-approved templates



Enabling
Business
Environment



Nigeria ESMS

STANDARDIZED POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

FOR PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY FROM A GENERATION FACILITY
CONNECTED TO THE MAIN GRID
NAMELY

BETWEEN

(The Buyer)

AND

(The Seller)

DATED.....2.....

Tanzania PPA

TEMPLATE

Agreement Between

the Mini-Grid Owner:

and

the Utility/Discom:

for the

Transfer of Mini-Grid Assets to the Utility/Discom

and the

Compensation Due to the Mini-Grid Owner

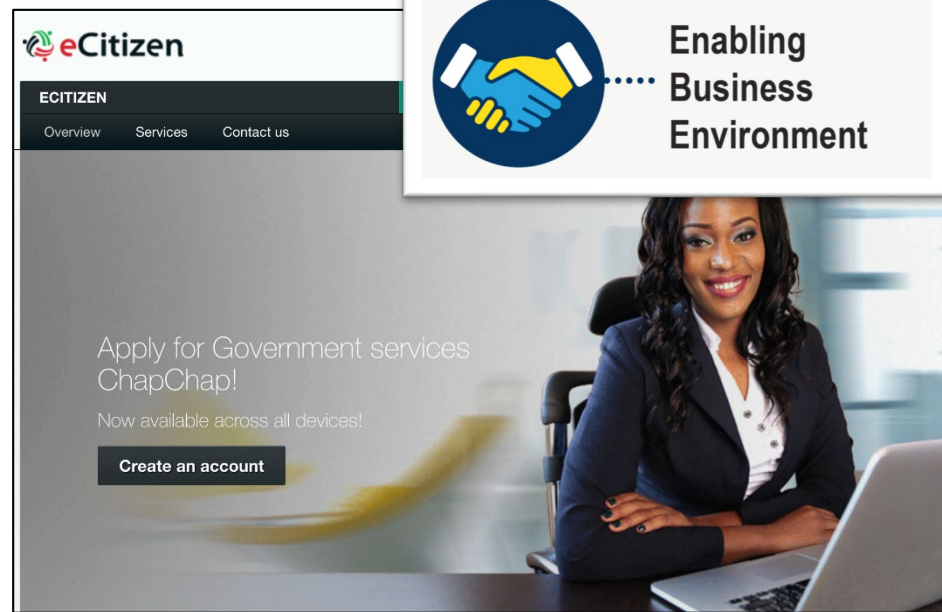
Asset Transfer Template
(Under preparation by
ESMAP)

Examples

e-Government Initiatives

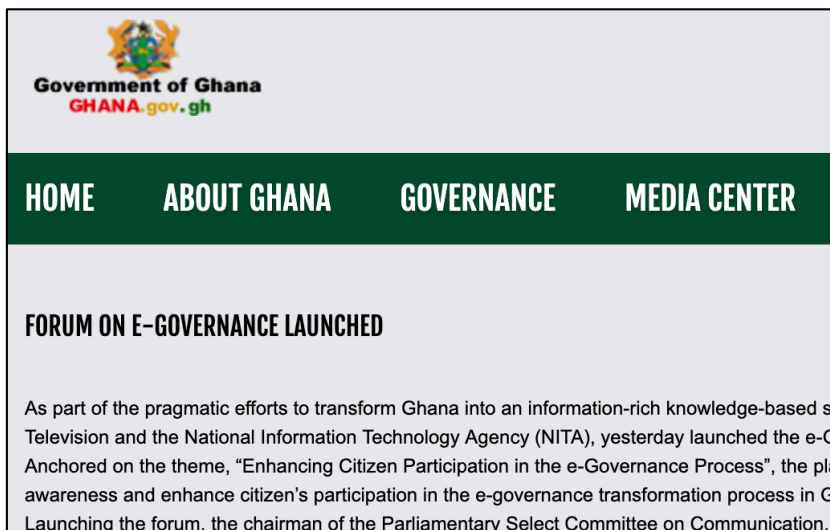


Nigeria

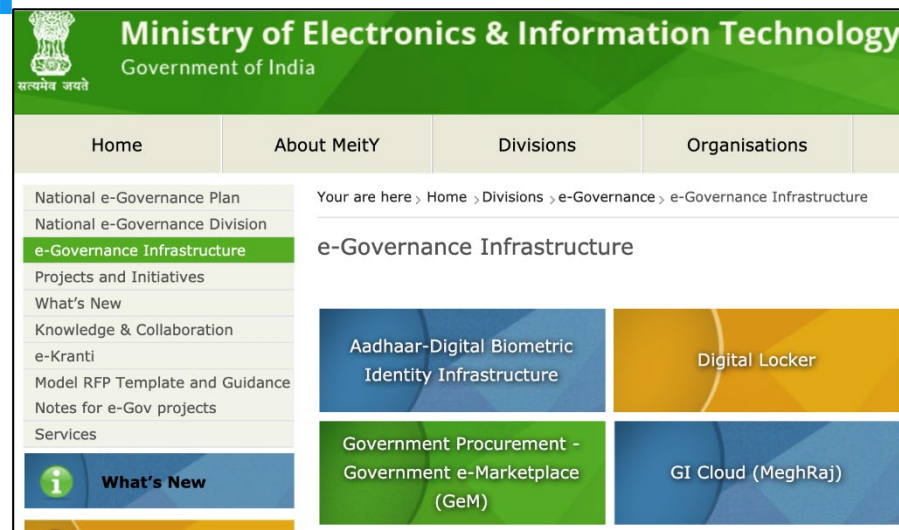


Kenya

Examples



Ghana

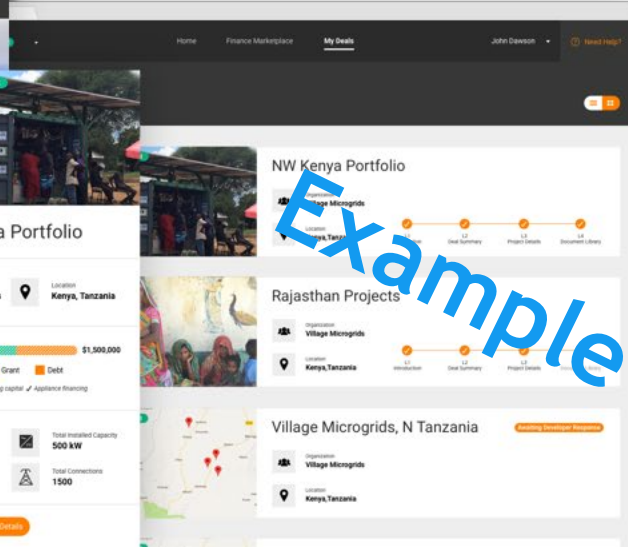
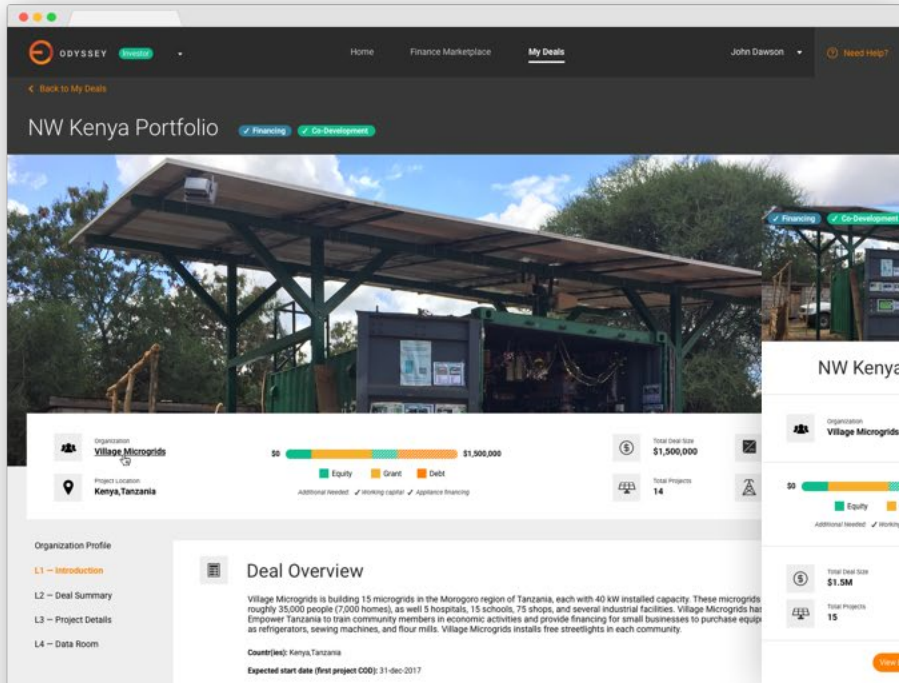


India

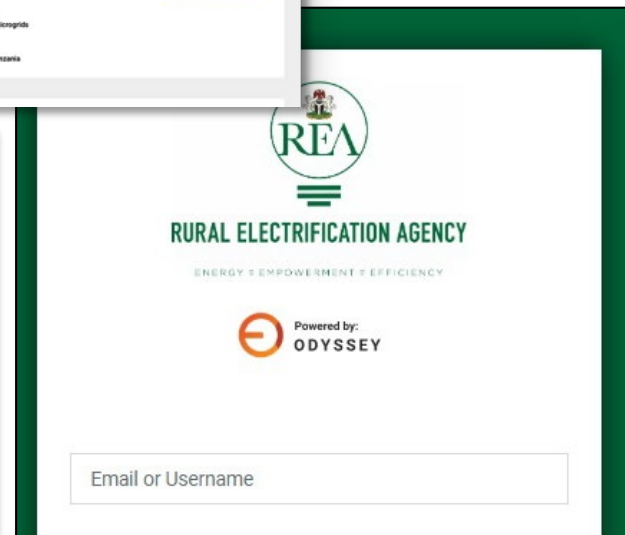
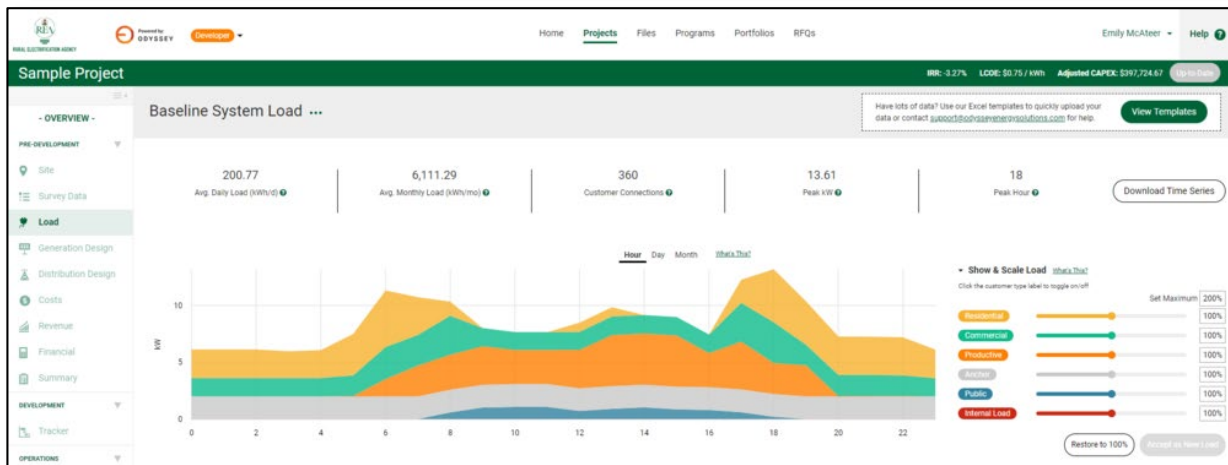
Data-based, Technology Platforms

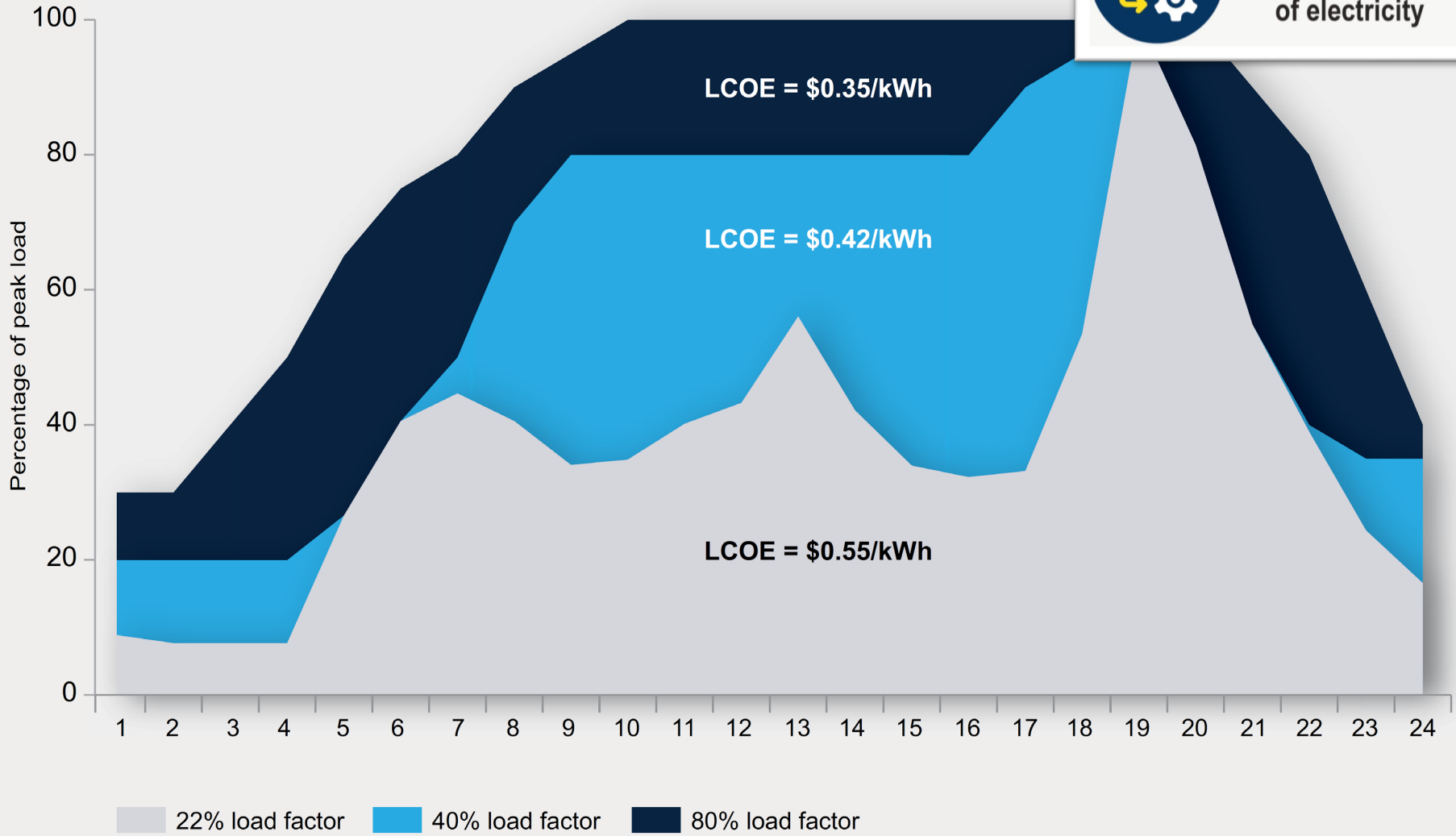
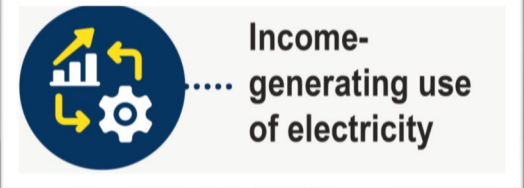


Enabling
Business
Environment



Example





Source: ESMAP analysis.

Note: kWh = kilowatt-hour.

APPLIANCES WITH PAYBACK < 1 YEAR NEED SUPPLIERS AND MICRO-FINANCE



Income-
generating use
of electricity

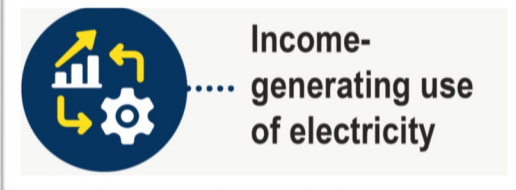
Sector	Activities / Appliances	Power required (kW)	Cost from supplier (\$)	Payback period (months)
Primary industries (agriculture, fishing)	Egg incubator	80 to 160W	\$50 to \$100	1 to 3
	Grinder for pulses and beans	5.2 kW	\$1,500 to \$4,000	6 to 12
	Water irrigation pump	3.7 to 22.4 kW	\$200 to \$1,000	3 to 6
	Sterilizer (for dairy processing)	3 to 6kW	\$600 to \$2,000	1 to 3
	Packager	250W to 3kW	\$500 to \$1,000	6 to 12
Light manufacturing	Electronic welding machine	3 to 7.5 kW	\$200 to \$300	6 to 12
	Jigsaw	400W	\$100	3 to 6
	Electric drilling machine	400W	\$20 to \$50	3 to 6
	Popcorn maker	1.5 to 2.1 kW	\$50	1 to 3
Commercial and retail activities	Computer	15 to 100W	\$250 to \$800	3 to 6
	Printer/scanner for stationery	0.5 to 2kW	\$150 to \$250	3 to 6
	Sewing machine	200W	\$30 to \$100	3 to 6
	Television for local cinemas and bars (including decoder)	50 to 200W	\$100 to \$200	1 to 3

Source: ESMAP, Alibaba, Inensus.

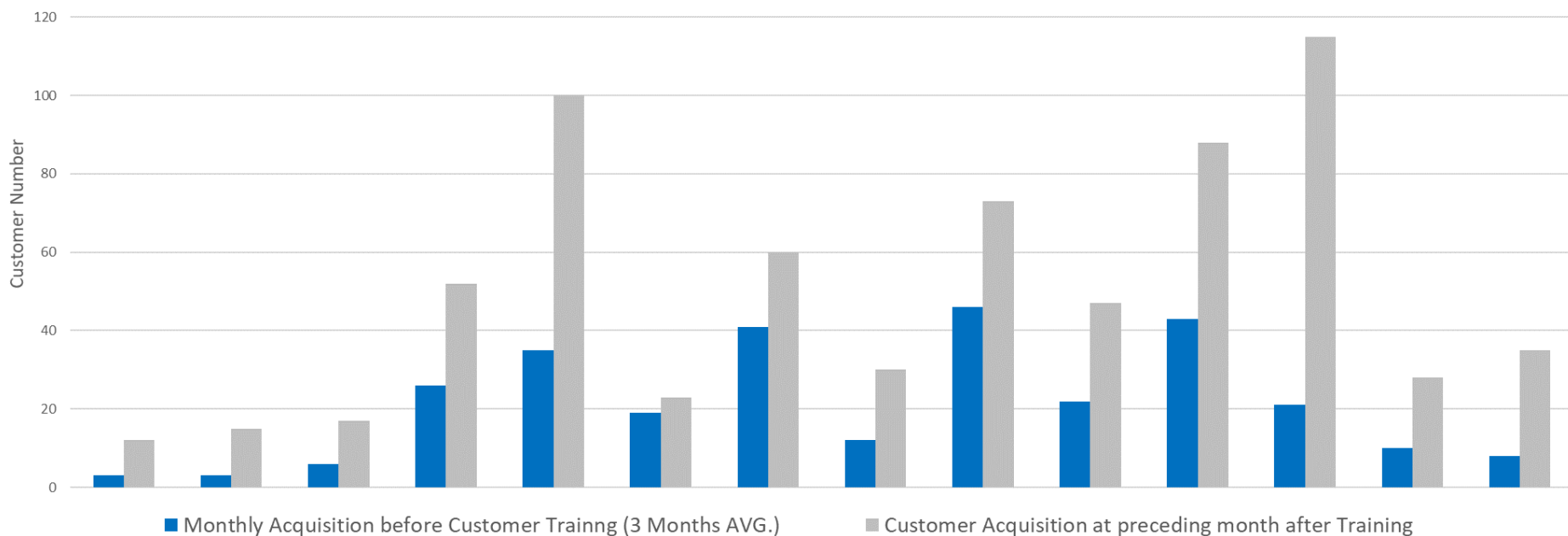
Note: Chapter 5 of the main report provides the full table of 37 income-generating machines and other equipment.

kW = kilowatt; W = watt.

Awareness campaigns can lead to 2 to 3 times improvements in rate of customer acquisition



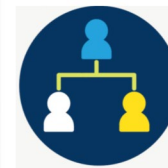
Effect of extensive customer awareness campaigns on load uptake in Bangladesh



Source: IDCOL

There is 50 times more financing available to generate electricity than for promoting its consumption in Africa (RMI)

Assessing profitability of operators



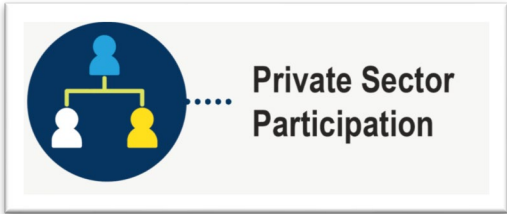
Private Sector Participation

	ESCO 1	ESCO 2	ESCO 3	ESCO 4	ESCO 5	IPP		
Revenue	\$46	\$85,050	\$1,564	\$40	\$145	\$73.9 M	\$43.7 M	\$10.5 M
Gross Profit	-\$251	\$63,168	\$985	\$4	-\$36	\$32.1 M	\$9.9 M	\$2.5 M
Net Income	-\$2,600	-\$33,448	\$672	-\$11,100	-\$148	\$2.2 M	\$4.8 M	-\$148,000
Net Profit (% of Revenue)	-5454%	-39%	43%	-2744%	-102%	2%	10%	-11%
SG&A (% of Revenue)	2,700%	15%	16%	370%	88%	16%	8%	2%
Asset turnover	0.01	0.15	0.12	0.01	1.88	0.43	0.69	0.32
Return on Assets	-65%	-6%	5%	-32%	-191%	1%	7%	-4%
Current Ratio	7.14	0.81	1.82	0.32	0.04	1.06	1.12	1.06

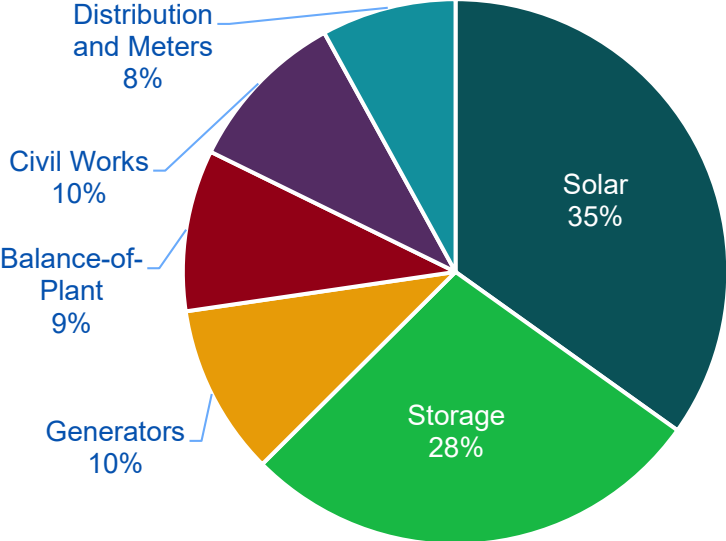
- **Profitability remains challenged:** high personnel expense, other revenue (e.g. grants) key to offset more loss, need to incur CAPEX, should target 1-10% net profit
- **Cost containment:** SG&A high relative to comps ... focus on hiring local resources, using digital tools to drive productivity
- **Low asset turnover / ROA:** driven by high investment needed over low revenue base; identify other monetization opportunities



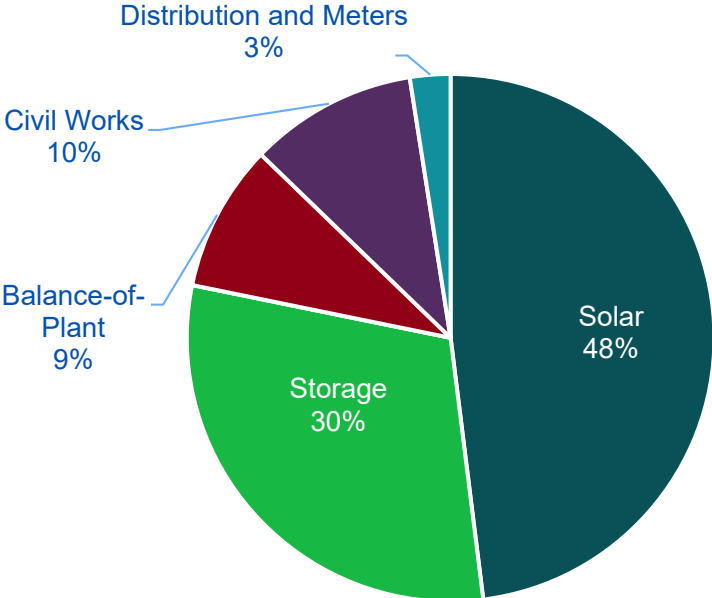
Equipment value chain profit potential



2019 Equipment profit



2030 Equipment profit



Partnership among local and international industry

Results from first ever survey of operators

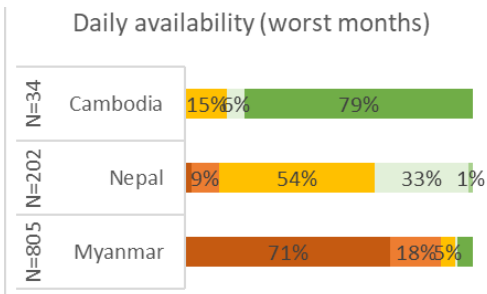
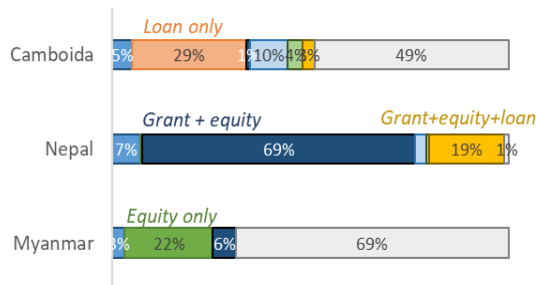
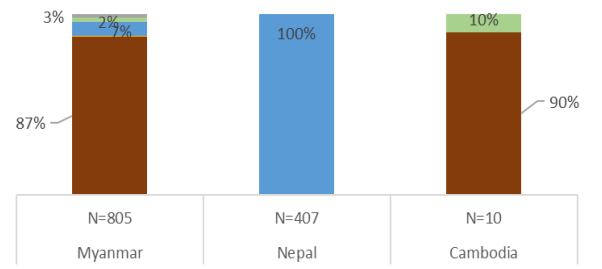
Select findings



Majority of mini grids diesel-powered; all hydro powered in Nepal

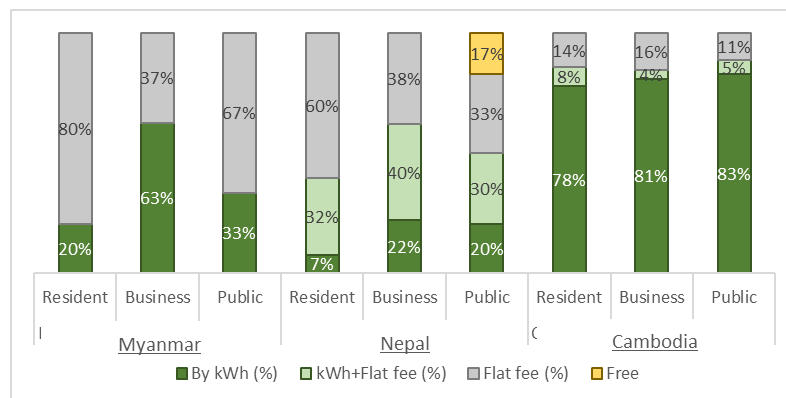
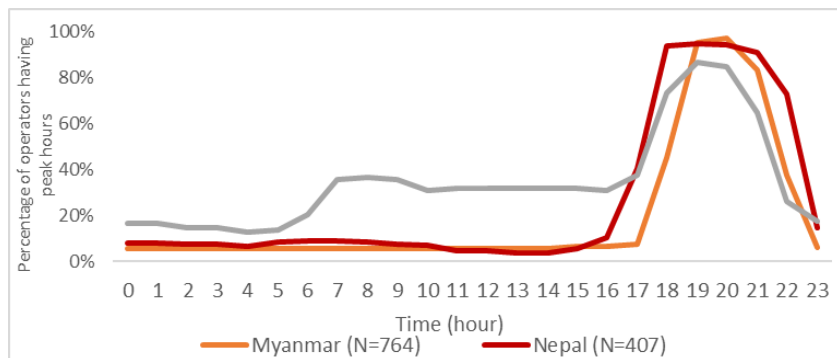
Most capitalized w/ grant & debt; use grant & equity in Nepal

Cambodia: 24 hrs; Myanmar: 0-4 hrs., Nepal: <12 hrs.



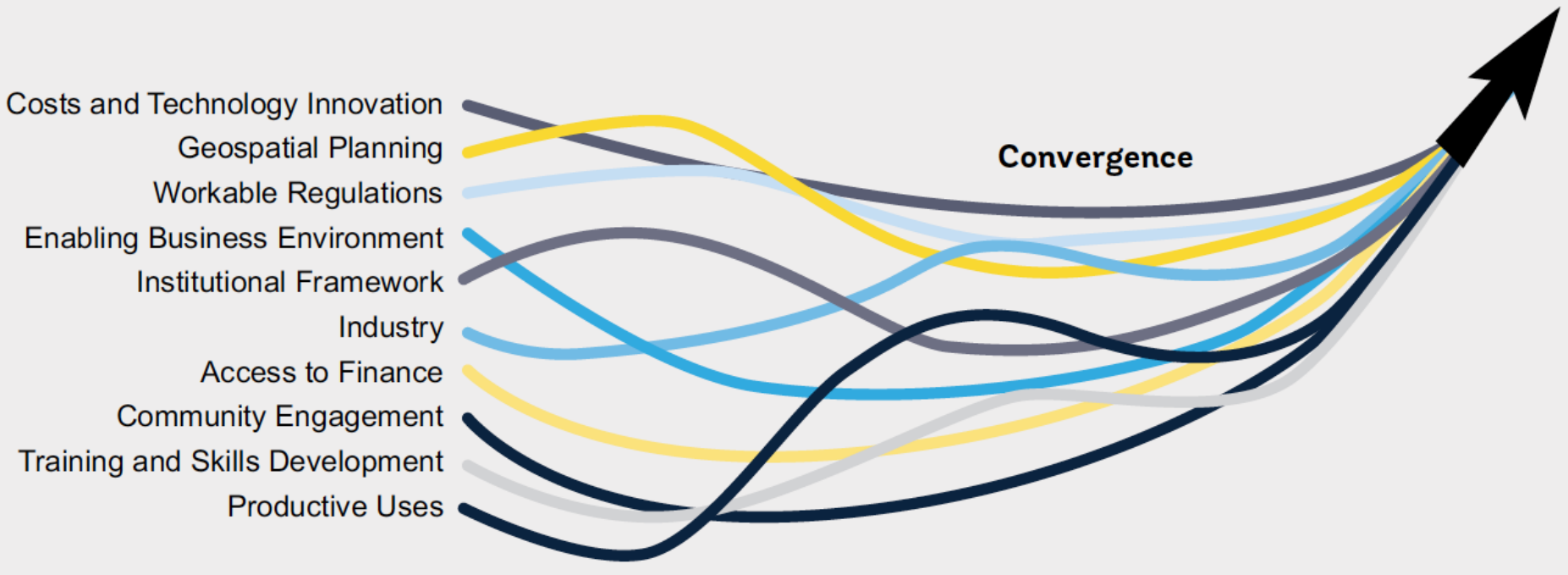
Large evening peak, with some productive uses driving day load in Cambodia

Large portion of developers use flat fee in Myanmar & Nepal; volumetric in Cambodia



Full results available in "Mini grids for half a billion people" report

CONVERGENCE OF THESE BUILDING BLOCKS CAN RESULT IN TAKE-OFF



KEY DRIVER FOR TAKE-OFF: COSTS

Cost of Solar-Hybrid Mini Grid Today ...

\$3,908/kW

Total Capital Expense

\$690/kWp

Solar PV Module

\$598/kWh

Lithium-ion Batteries

\$264/kW

PV Inverter

... and by 2030

<\$3,000/kW

\$140/kWp

\$62/kWh

\$58/KW

Cost of Unsubsidized Solar Hybrid Mini Grid Electricity (LCOE) ...

\$0.55/kWh

baseline today

\$0.42/kWh with income-generating machines to achieve 40% load factor

\$0.22/kWh with income-generating machines & expected 2030 costs

... Compared with Utilities in Africa

\$0.27/kWh average across 39 utilities

2 of 39 utilities with cost-recovery tariffs

Load factor (percent)	Levelized cost of electricity (\$/kWh)	
	2018	2030
22%	0.55	0.33
40%	0.42	0.22
80%	0.35	0.23 ⁷

Source: ESMAP analysis.

Note: LCOE data are for a well-designed 294kW_{firm} solar-hybrid mini grid in Bangladesh serving more than 1,000 customers (more than 5,000 people). A detailed description of the underlying analysis is provided in chapter 3 of the main book. kWh = kilowatt-hour.

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IMPACT OF PERFORMANCE BASED GRANTS ON LEVERLIZED COST OF ELECTRICITY

Load factor (percent)	Share of performance-based grants of CAPEX (percent)	2018 (\$/kWh)	2030 (\$/kWh)
22	0	0.55	0.33
22	40	0.43	0.23
22	60	0.37	0.19
40	0	0.42	0.22
40	40	0.34	0.15
40	60	0.31	0.12
80	0	0.35	0.23
80	40	0.31	0.19
80	60	0.29	0.17

Source: ESMAP analysis.

Note: Levelized cost of electricity data are for a well-designed solar-hybrid mini grid with 294 kilowatts of firm power output serving more than 5,000 people. A detailed discussion of the underlying analysis is presented in chapter 8 of the main book. CAPEX = capital expenses; kWh = kilowatt-hour.

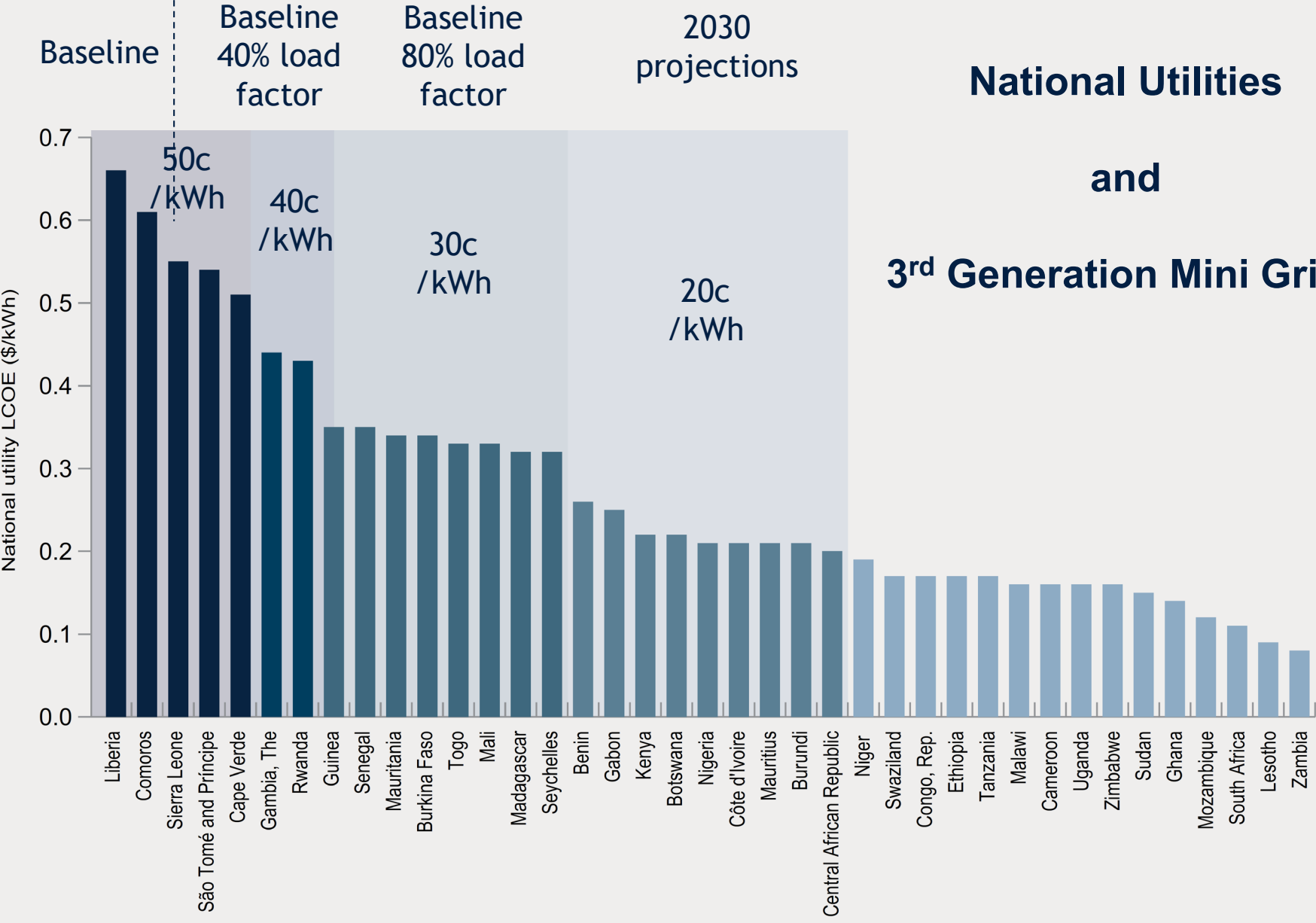
40 - 60% of CAPEX Performance Based Grants is about \$300 to \$800 per connection

Cost Reflective Tariffs

National Utilities

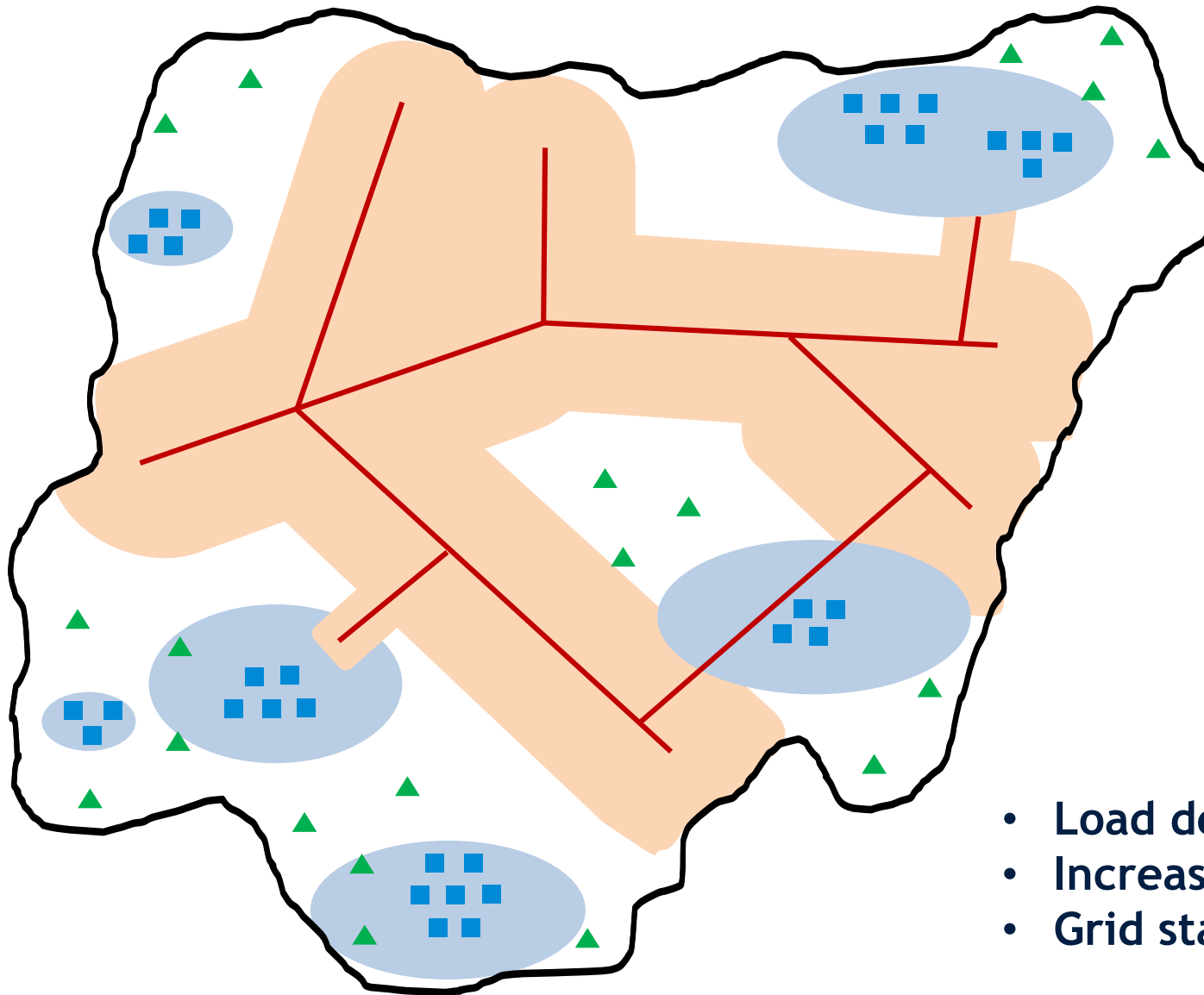
and

3rd Generation Mini Grids



Source: Based on Kojima & Trimble 2016.
 Note: kWh = kilowatt-hour; LCOE = Levelized cost of energy.

Win-Win for Utility and Mini Grid Developer



- Load development
- Increase in affordability
- Grid stabilization

MAKING IT HAPPEN

1. PACE

portfolio approach to around 1,500 projects per key access-deficit country per year by 2030.

2. QUALITY

keep quality of service at current 97% of up time, as well as increasing the industrywide average load factor to 45 percent

3. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

establishing enabling mini grid business environments to average RISE (Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy) score in the top-20 access-deficit countries to 80 out of 100

4. FINANCE

Leveraging development partner funding to crowd in almost \$220 billion of investment from private sector, donors, AND governments between 2019 and 2030

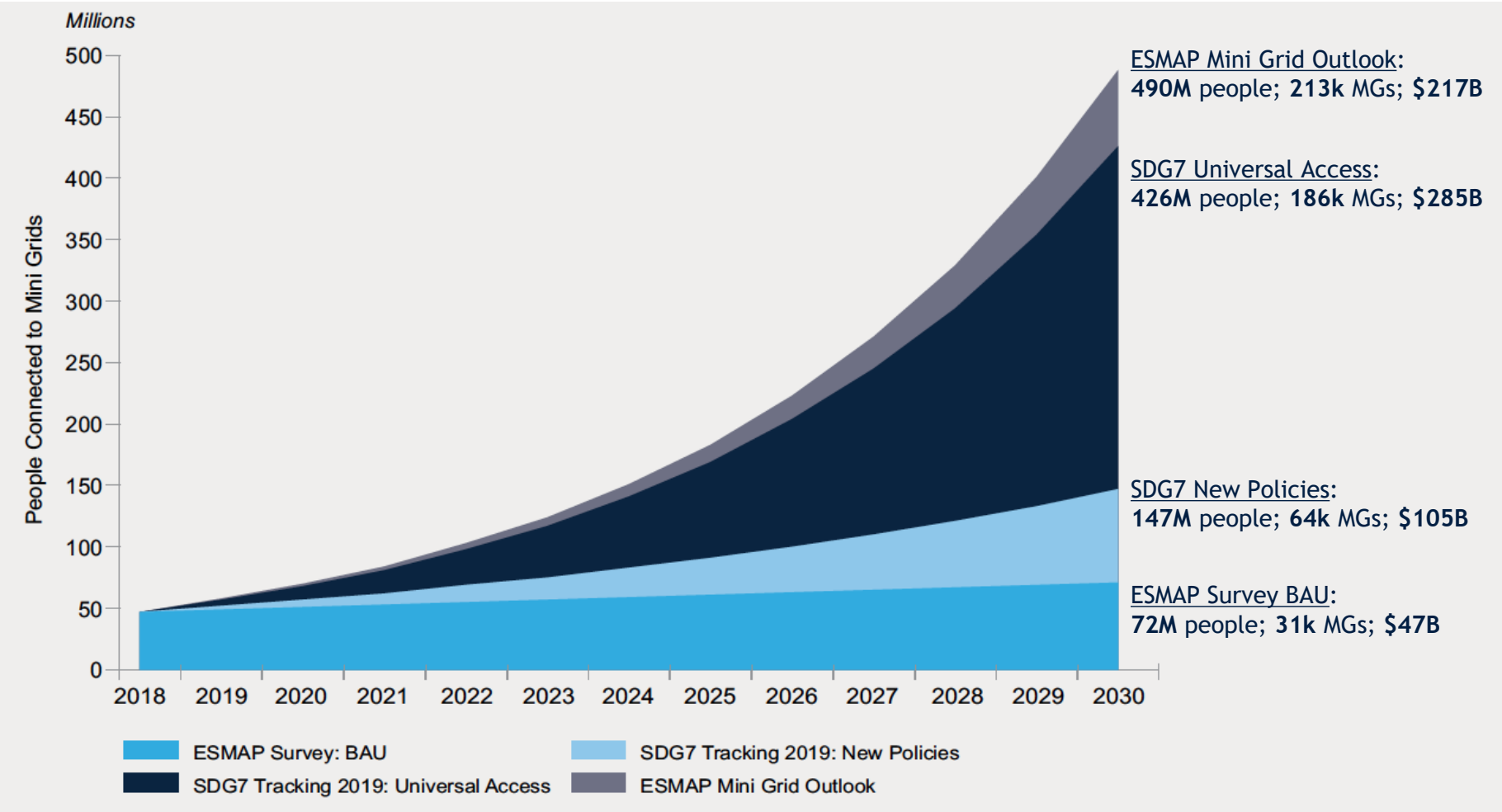
5. COST

Reducing the cost of solar-hybrid mini grids - which the other four market drivers will also support - to \$0.20/kWh by 2030

Objective/indicator	What is measured	2018 Baseline	Target		
			2020	2025	2030
1. Increase pace of mini grid development					
Time from purchase order to commissioning (weeks)	Cohort of leading private sector developers	6–12	7	6	5
Time from goods arriving on site to commissioning (weeks)	Cohort of leading private sector developers	6–12	5	4	3
Mini grids per portfolio per year	Portfolios from rural electrification agencies, utilities, private developers, or industry associations	10–50	> 100	> 250	> 750
2. Provide superior-quality service					
Industry-wide standard for minimum technical specifications	Industry associations	Under preparation	Developed for solar hybrid mini grids	Developed for solar and hydro mini grids	Developed for all renewable energy mini grids
Industry-wide standard for reliability of electricity supply	Representative sample of mini grid developers	90–97 percent uptime	97 percent uptime during promised availability times	97 percent uptime for 24/7 electricity	99 percent uptime for 24/7 electricity
Customer satisfaction (percent)	Representative sample of mini grid customers	82–84	85	88	90
Average load factor across the industry (percent)	Representative sample of mini grid developers	22	25	35	45
3. Establish enabling mini grid business environment in key access deficit countries					
Average RISE score for mini grids framework in top 20 electricity access deficit countries	Top 20 electricity access deficit countries	59	60	70	80
Average Doing Business Score in top 20 electricity access deficit countries	Top 20 electricity access deficit countries	52	55	65	75
4. Crowd in government and private-sector funding					
Ratio of government and private funding to donor funding	Cohort of leading development partners	1.7: 1	2: 1	5: 1	10: 1
Ratio of developer investment to donor funding	Cohort of leading private sector developers	7: 1	8: 1	9: 1	10:1
Billions of dollars Invested	Sum of all funding for mini grids in a country	28	40	93	217
5. Reduce cost of solar hybrid energy					
Levelized cost of energy (\$/kWh)	Average across a cohort of leading mini grid developers	0.55	0.30	0.25	0.20

Note: A detailed discussion of the underlying analysis for each target is presented in the Introduction to Part II of the main book. kWh = kilowatt-hour. RISE = Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy.

Market Outlook to 2030



ESMAP Mini Grid Outlook: \$444 investment per person; mini grids provide 40% of all new connections to achieve SDG7.
SDG7 Universal Access: \$669 investment per person; mini grids provide 35% of all new connections to achieve SDG7 (IEA 2017).
SDG7 New Policies: \$713 investment per person; mini grids provide 26% of all new connections to achieve 92% global electrification.
ESMAP BAU: Number of mini grids, investment, and people connected grow linearly following 2007-2017 trajectory.



ESMAP

TECHNICAL REPORT 014/19

MINI GRIDS FOR HALF A BILLION PEOPLE

Market Outlook and Handbook for Decision Makers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hardcopies available outside

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<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31926>

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ANNEXES

ACCESS TO FINANCE

Environmental Impact by 2030

10–15 GW Solar PV installed by 2030

50–110 GWh Batteries mostly lithium-ion

60% Energy Savings from energy efficient appliances

1.5 billion Tons of CO₂ emissions avoided

Typical 3rd Generation Mini Grid

0.5–1.0 million US\$ investment

200–800 Clients connected

800–4,000 People receiving electricity for the first time

50–100 kWp Solar PV installed

200–500 kWh Batteries installed



ACCESS TO FINANCE

Current Financing

\$28 billion—Cumulative global investment in mini grids to date

\$5 billion—Cumulative global investment in Africa and South Asia in mini grids to date

\$1.3 billion—Development Partners committed including AFD, AfDB, DfiD, Islamic Development Bank, GIZ and WB.

\$660 million—World Bank commitment to mini grids in 33 countries through 2025

\$259 million—Private-sector investment in mini grid developers in low-income countries since 2013

25%—Average World Bank share of total mini grid investment (government, development partners, and private sector) in client countries



REGULATIONS – NON PRESCRIPTIVE - DECISION TREES

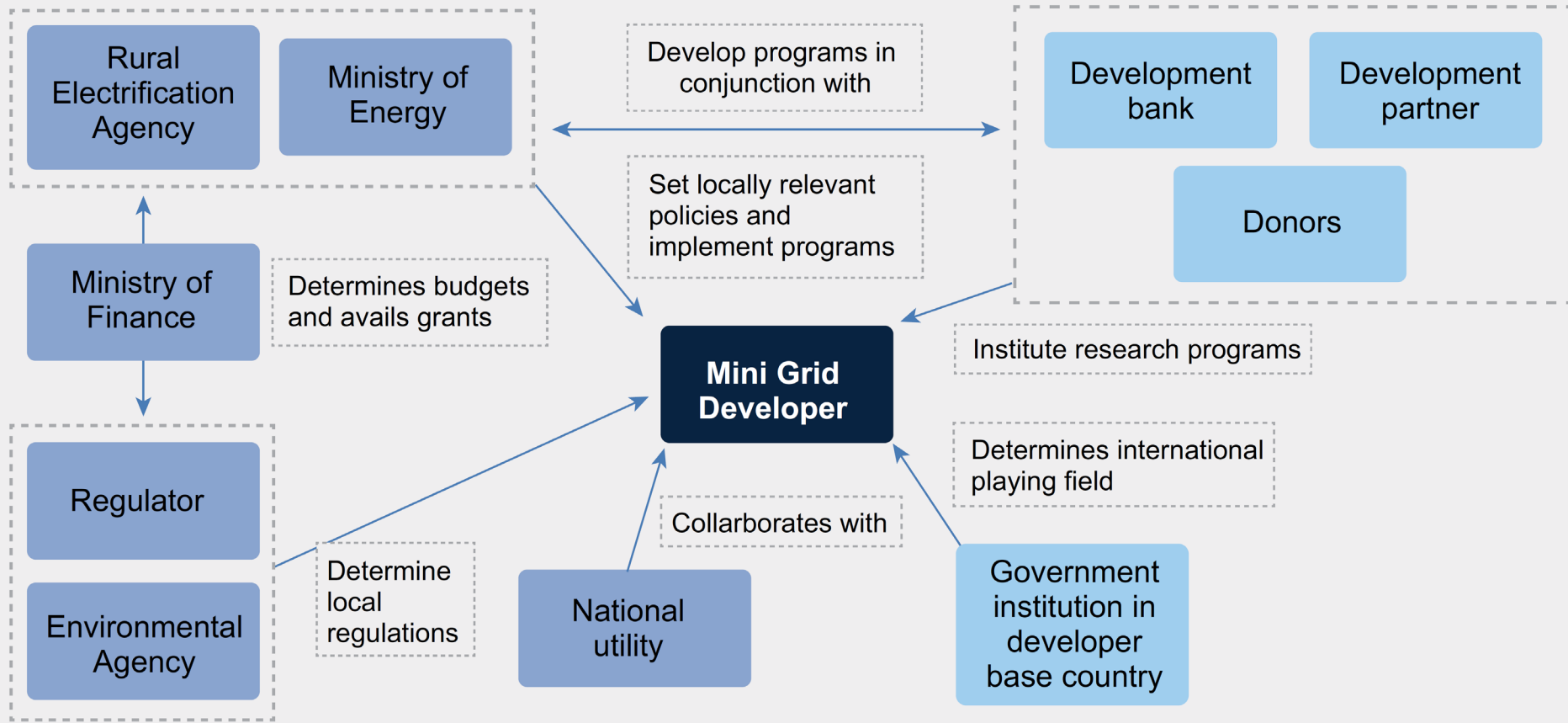
Decision Tree Topic	Overview
Arrival of the main grid (see figure ES.6)	This decision tree provides options for what happens when the main grid arrives in the service area of a mini grid, including operating as a small power distributor (SPD) or small power producer (SPP).
Market entry	This decision tree provides options for regulating entry of mini grid developers into the market and indicates the conditions under which one of the four entry regulation options (registration, permitting, licensing, or no regulation of entry) would be most appropriate. The first branches of the tree are determined by what is legally required to operate as a mini grid business and how much control the regulator wishes to exert on who enters the market.
Retail tariffs	The options presented in this decision tree depend on the availability and type of subsidies and whether or not a uniform national tariff is required. The five options include willing buyer-willing seller tariff-setting schemes, efficient new entrant price caps, individualized cost-based tariff limits, bid tariffs, to uniform national tariffs.
Service standards	The first branches of this decision tree are determined by the maturity of the mini grid market (less stringent service standards may be more acceptable in more nascent markets) and the availability of subsidies. The options for regulating service standards range from no service standards, to reporting standards, to differentiated standards, to uniform mini grid-specific standards, to grid-level standards.
Technical standards	This decision tree presents the options for regulating technical standards, and the first branches of the tree are determined by whether future integration of mini grids with the country's main grid is expected. The options for technical standards range from safety standards only, to mini grid-specific, to optional grid-compatible standards, to mandatory grid-compatible or main-grid standards.

FROM A WEB OF INSTITUTIONS

Institutional Arrangements

National institutions

International institutions



Delegating oversight to a single entity

Institutional Arrangements

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More accessible to developers and customers • Enforcement of regulation may be easier given the physical presence of the regulator in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential lack of resources to be an effective regulator • Potential for different rules in different jurisdictions impedes large portfolios 	Community agreements used in Haiti, Nigeria, and Myanmar
REA or grant-giving agency	Complex interfaces between agencies can be avoided if the subsidizing agency also acts as regulator (caveat: other gov. entities still may have authority over certain aspects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential lack of resources to be an effective regulator • May lead to conflict of interests 	Bangladesh (IDCOL), Mali (AMADER)