POWER FOR ALL FACT SHEET:

Decentralized Renewables: A Faster Road to Energy Access

POWER FOR ALL

14.6 million

NEW CONNECTIONS NEEDED P/A IN LOW-ACCESS COUNTRIES

9 years

TIME IT TAKES TO COMPLETE A TYPICAL GRID PROJECT

3 months

TIME IT TOOK FOR 49,000 NIGERIANS TO ACCESS SOLAR

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With a "business as usual", centralized grid-only approach, it is not possible to achieve Sustainable Energy for All by 2030. To rapidly increase the pace of energy access, decentralized renewables are critical.

Energy access via grid extension is too slow

» In low access countries[1], achieving universal energy access by 2030 requires a "quantum leap" from the present pace of connecting 1.6 million new homes each year to electricity, to connecting 14.6 million[2]

» On current trend, it will take until 2080[3] for every African to have access to electricty, while in India, the country's current figure of 300 million people unelectrified[4] is expected to reduce by only 5% over the next 10 years[5]

» Energy access via traditional power plants alone is too time-intensive. The median time it takes for a World Bank power plant project is 9 years[6]

» Even when the centralized grid is available, many families cannot afford to connect. In Thailand, 25 percent of households in "electrified" villages remain unconnected after more than 20 years[7]

Decentralized renewables provide a faster way to reach unelectrified communities

» In contrast, leading decentralized renewables companies can reach households with modern energy services in weeks or months[8]

» In the first 3 months of the Solar Nigeria program, 49,000 families and businesses purchased solar products[9]

» In Bangladesh, the number of households benefiting from home systems today (4 million) is expected to reach 6 million by 2017[10]

» In Nepal, where 22 MW of hydro-powered micro-grids is powering 20 percent of the population, the capacity is expected to more than double by 2017[11] to 50MW

» Combined, the leading decentralized renewables companies are pacing—even outpacing—the world's traditional electrical utilities based on number of customers[12]

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Share the Message

200 years after electricity was first harnessed, over a billion people still lack power. Join Power for All and share these messages with key stakeholders to #endenergypovertyfaster:

» Decentralized renewable solutions are vital to achieve SE4All by 2030, or before

» Rapid decentralized solutions can be deployed in a fraction of the time of the centralized grid

» We must create the investment, policy and enabling environment that will accelerate access to decentralized renewable solutions—energy access does not have to wait

Sources:

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3. The Business Case for Off-Grid Energy in India. Climate Group (2015)IRENA, Renewable Energy and Jobs (2016)
4. Low-access countries are classified by the World Bank as those with under 50% energy access
5. World Bank Group Support to Electricity Access, FY 2000-2014: An Independent Evaluation. (World Bank, 2015)
6. World Bank Group Support to Electricity Access, FY 2000-2014: An Independent Evaluation. (World Bank, 2015)
7. Addressing the Electricity Gap. (World Bank 2010)
8. Decentralized Renewables: The Fast Track to Energy Access. Power for All (2016)
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