BACKGROUNDER
Twaake, More Than Just Light

What

Twaake "More Than Just Light" (also known as the Utilities 2.0 Uganda pilot)

Electricity Access + Productive Use + Future grid access

Where

Kiwumu and Nyenje in Mukono district

Twaake How

Collaboration by a consortia of energy partners providing complementary energy services and products for a faster, reliable, productive customer product.

- Set up of a solar mini-grid in a grid-edge non-electrified site for providing electricity access with the aim of customer development
- Provision of commercially productive appliances to the customers in one of the electrified villages and the non-electrified villages.
- Preparation for near future integration by alignment of the solar mini-grid network and metering designs to Umeme standards
- Support for Agro-processing with maize processing partnerships

Implemented By

- East Africa Power (agro-processing partnerships)
- EnerGrow (appliances and productive usage appliance provider)
- Equatorial Power (mini-grid developer,site operator and electricity distributor)
- Power for All (over-all project managers and lead researchers of the project
- In collaboration with Umeme (alignments on the grid network and metering standards for future on grid integration)
- The Rockefeller Foundation (main project funder)

Research Goals

- To test collaborations between a centralized and decentralized energy companies will bring faster connections, increase productive use of electricity, improve grid reliability and stability, reduce grid losses, promote economic growth in rural communities, and improve business profitability

Why

- Fast track access to electricity in non-electrified areas.
- Improve the quality of life with street lighting, safer and cheaper drinking water, and access to reliable electricity.
- Grow customer electricity usage by providing easy, flexible, and affordable access to productive assets.
- Allow the community to get more value from agriculture by fostering partnerships in the major agro-processing value chains
- Prepare for integration for when the grid meets with the decentralized renewable energy systems
- A unified project brand (Twaake) required to simplify the intervention for the end-user and provide cross-partner brand recognition

Summary of Project Implementation and Partnership

Kiwumu- off grid site - project implementation and partnership:

- Equatorial Power is the mini-grid developer that operates the project site, onboards the customer, manages servicing and growing customers, and encourages interested customers to consider productive use product services from EnerGrow and East African power for productive use development. Equatorial Power provides power to East African Powers containerized milling and drying units.
- Umeme supports Equatorial Power by building the distribution network and provides the smart meter and backend system that allows the customer to purchase electricity. Umeme further provides Equatorial Power access to the meter data to manage both the customer and the network at the site.
- Energrow provides asset financing targeting over 50% of the businesses
- East African Power builds the EMPWR PODS - which are containerized milling and drying units to service the agriculture community. Partners with a local miller to assist in the operations and management of the containerized milling and drying units at the site. East African Power is a micro-industrial customer to the mini-grid operated by Equatorial Power.

Nyenje - on-grid - project implementation and partnership:

- Energrow is an asset financing company that provides productive use assets to both businesses and households
- Energrow provides productive use assets targeting 50% of the businesses in Nyenje with asset financing
- Umeme will support EnerGrow where possible to identify potential customers (through data sharing agreement and partnership)
- Existing co-branding between EnerGrow and Umeme using the Twaake Project brand to emphasized collaboration with Umeme

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Project coordinator and lead Research organization

Implementing decentralized renewable energyPartners

Project endorsement and collaboration with the Utility

Research Partners

Endorsed and Supported by the GoU

Funder

Supporting Partners