



# P WERISE

Volume 1  
August 2024

A message from GEAPP's  
new CEO, **Woochong Um**

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## **Alliancing in Action**

New breakthrough stories  
from Africa, Asia and LAC

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Updates from the GEAPP  
Leadership Council



## In this issue

- 3** Message from the Board Chair
- 4** CEO Corner
- 5** GLC Overview & Priorities for 2024
- 7** Breakthrough Story: Vietnam
- 9** Regional Updates
  - Africa
  - Asia
  - LAC
- 14** Breakthrough Story: Haiti
- 15** Leadership Insights
- 16** Alliance Partners Corner
- 18** Breakthrough Story: Uganda
- 19** Knowledge Hub
- 20** Breakthrough Story: Myanmar



GEAPP Indonesia team recently visited cold storage facilities in North Maluku, Indonesia, to find opportunities for Productive Use of Energy (PUE)



## Welcome to an exciting chapter in GEAPP's journey!

As the global population continues to grow and the effects of climate change are becoming more apparent, recent reports from the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency show progress on 'SDG7 and tripling renewables' not moving fast enough. Our work together has never been more urgent. The time has never been more important than now to come together, pool our resources, and change energy for people and the planet. 3.6 billion people, half of the world's population, live in energy poverty with over half a billion lacking any access to electricity. Clean energy fosters development and unlocks sustainable prosperity for all. We are seeing the untapped potential of emerging markets catalyzed through innovative financing techniques, radical collaboration and, of course, renewable energy.

The GEAPP Alliance is taking a transformative approach toward energy—harnessing the power of renewables and uniting our efforts to create lasting global impact. Our mission is to accelerate the transition to clean energy for people and the planet. Founded at COP26 in 2021, GEAPP was established to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time—providing affordable, green energy access to all, driving the global shift to renewable sources, and ensuring a just and inclusive future. Our strategy focuses on identifying solutions that can scale for systemic issues, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and conducting targeted, country-specific initiatives to fortify the energy ecosystem. In just over two years, we have grown into a powerful alliance of over 50 partners working to help the world and leaders

to achieve rapid systemic change, united by a common belief that equitable green energy access in the world's emerging markets is fundamental to tackling the climate crisis and ending inequality. Together we are changing futures every day through projects to accelerate the uptake of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) Systems, enable Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), catalyze investment into productive uses of green electricity, and bring leaders together at every level to make faster and more effective decisions. By concentrating our efforts towards driving people-centered growth, we aim to transform energy and secure a healthier, more equitable world for generations to come.

I am thrilled to announce the inaugural edition of our official magazine, **POWERISE**, with the hope of illuminating our path towards a cleaner and greener planet by sharing compelling stories, cutting-edge insights, innovative solutions, and development goals and challenges in the energy landscape. POWERISE is more than just a publication; it is a platform dedicated to celebrating the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and progress in the clean energy transition.

The future is closer than we think. Together, we can change energy and lives, unlocking prosperity for future generations and the promise of a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable planet.

Thank you for joining us. Let's change energy together. We hope you find this edition informative, inspiring, and empowering.

### **Ravi Venkatesan**

Board Chair, The Global Energy Alliance  
for People and Planet (GEAPP)

## Message from the Board Chair



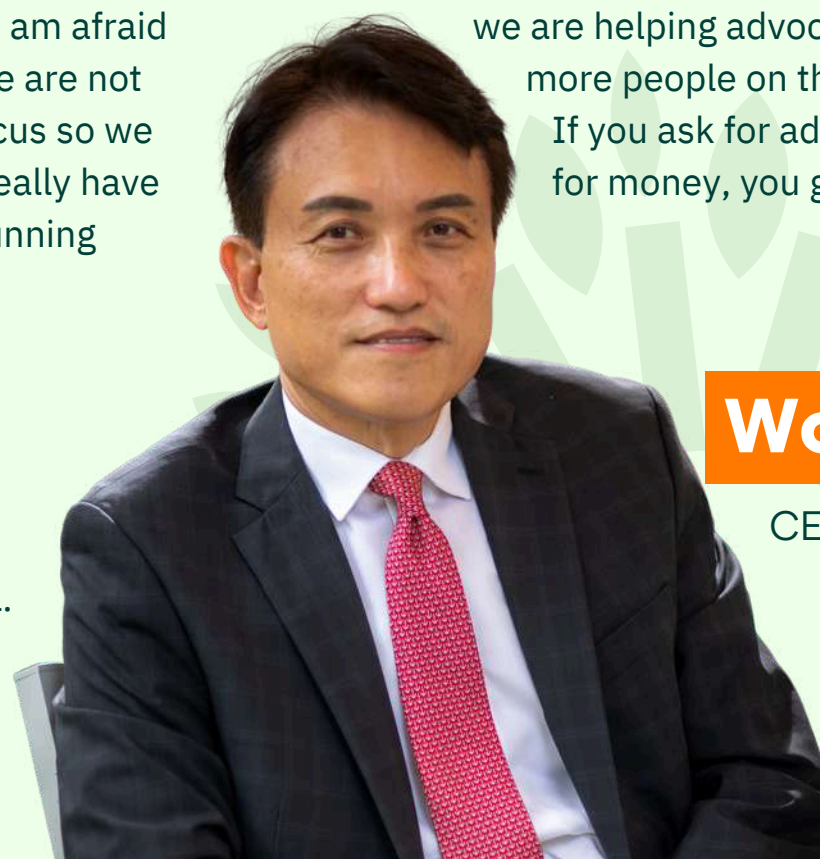
## CEO Corner

**What inspired you to join GEAPP and lead its mission to unlock green energy access in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean to secure an inclusive and resilient future for all?**

There are so many signs of climate change happening around the world right now. Rhetorical comments like “what used to be once in 100-year events, once in a 50-year events” are happening more often. In Manila, it was 48 degrees recently. This is a hot season but it never normally goes that high. This is unbearable and inconvenient for me but for many people out there in the world it is going to be much more devastating, especially in places where people are already low-income. We need to do something urgently.

There are so many people and entities out there working on the same topic – reducing greenhouse gas and providing access to green energy, the just transition and green jobs. There are so many agencies working in the same direction but I am afraid we are not coordinating enough, we are not all putting energy into the same focus so we can be much more impactful. We really have to get our act together as we are running out of time.

So this is where GEAPP’s vision is in the right place to galvanize all players out there to come on this journey together, to do it together so we can be much more impactful. That really caught my attention.



**Woochong Um**

CEO, GEAPP

**What do you see as the biggest challenges facing renewable energy adoption in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, how do you think GEAPP and our Alliance can address them?**

I always use the analogy of sports players – the best players catching the ball or scoring. They never take their eyes off the ball. So this is what the alliance needs to do – ensure we never take our eye off the ball in order to achieve a sustainable future for our children and their children. Financing is critical to this. We have to make sure we maximize the impact of whatever money is out there. GEAPP can play a critical role in bringing different funders and changemakers together. Making sure everyone has a coherent storyline and vision, eliminating duplicates and complementing each other. GEAPP Alliance can make that happen.

And GEAPP isn’t just fundraising. Each time we go out there and we bring partners and people into the mission we are helping advocate, influence and help inform more people on this critically important mission. If you ask for advice, you get money. If you ask for money, you get advice.

**What message would you like to convey to the Alliance about GEAPP’s commitment to a sustainable future?**

GEAPP is still relatively new but we are on the right pathway. We need to do much more to galvanize more partners to come into this journey together. We need to urgently mobilize more financing and funding so we can intervene in more projects and programs to demonstrate that these projects are viable and impactful. By doing so, we can help with policy changes in countries so we can mobilize even more financing in them. We need all these things to come in, such as smart innovative financing. COP29 and COP30 will be key to bringing everyone together.

Clean energy is about clean technology. There are so many opportunities here. We need to learn from best practices so everyone can participate. I believe we can learn from everyone.

I want to integrate development and climate change into one space. Poverty reduction cannot be achieved without the two working hand-in-hand together.

This is why GEAPP’s vision is so important - decarbonization to try to stop further degradation while at the same time resolving energy poverty so that there is peace and prosperity everywhere. And making sure no one is left behind by ensuring we create green jobs.

[Click here to read the full Q&A!](#)





# GLC Overview & Priorities for 2024

**The GEAPP Leadership Council (GLC) galvanizes collective action on an ambitious and inclusive global renewable energy agenda to ensure that GEAPP can deliver optimum impact.**

Launched in 2022, the GLC is a high-level coalition of global leaders co-chaired by Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, and Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, President of The Rockefeller Foundation. Members include heads of development banks, NGOs, corporations, government agencies, and academic institutions.

GLC Principals meet twice a year to align on priorities while their Deputies drive implementation and execution against the GLC's ambitious targets.

The GLC's work focuses on bringing green energy to the world's emerging markets as quickly as possible, tackling the climate crisis and energy poverty. This pioneering group of global leaders is laser-focused ensuring the GLC's initiatives target the critical barriers faced by emerging markets as they work to expand economic opportunity while dealing with the challenges of climate change.

**“Renewable energy is out of reach for too many people. Extending access to affordable and stable clean energy is a crucial component of our climate solution. The World Bank supports the efforts of GEAPP Leadership Council to address these challenges, and we must continue to move with even more urgency and scale.”**

**Ajay Banga**  
President, World Bank



New York  
September 2023

This April, the GLC **confirmed** in a statement that they are on track to meet the commitments set during the 2023 United Nations General Assembly. Progress is especially encouraging around the GLC's signature initiative, the **BESS Consortium**, a multi-stakeholder partnership of countries and resourcing partners focused on expanding Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by accelerating project deployment, improving the regulatory environment, building favorable markets, and unlocking commercial and public financing.





The GLC launched the BESS Consortium at COP28 in conjunction with world leaders and pledged to secure 5GW of energy storage commitments by the end of 2024 and fully deploy 5GW of BESS infrastructure across 30 countries by 2030. As of June 2024, 15 countries and 19 resource partners have joined the consortium—including capital, industry, and technical partners. In addition, 20 projects are in the pipeline in countries including India and Vietnam, totaling 1.4GW, with in-market technical work progressing to accelerate deployment.

**“Africa must achieve universal access to electricity. Unlocking the continent’s enormous renewable energy potential will require massive investments in solar and wind energy and battery energy storage systems (BESS). That is why the work of the BESS Consortium, an innovation of the GEAPP Leadership Council, is so important, and has the strong support of the African Development Bank Group”.**

**Akinwumi Adesina**  
President, African Development Bank (AfDB)

The GEAPP Leadership Council was built to support and help advance programs like the recent World Bank and African Development Bank’s ambition to electrify 300 million people in Africa by 2030. Working closely with these leaders, GLC members aim to develop a proposed roadmap by UNGA to align resources, tools, pipelines, and advocacy efforts to coordinate targeted support for this initiative.

## GLC leaders visit projects in Nigeria

In June, GEAPP joined The Rockefeller Foundation and SEforALL in Nigeria for a **high-level visit**, led by GLC members **Dr. Rajiv Shah** and **Damilola Ogunbiyi**, to successful energy transition projects in the country. The group visited an interconnected mini-grid site in Toto—which is supported by GEAPP’s partner RMI and GEAPP. The community did not have power for over

ten years until the mini-grid was built. It now serves close to 1600 connections and powers the General Hospital in Toto.

In a visit to Lugbe, GLC leaders met with beneficiaries like Mohammed and Vivian. Around 50 of these small businesses, now powered by the Universal Energy Facility Standalone Solar for Productive Use project, provide essential services like tailoring, pharmacies, and supermarkets and play a vital role in the community’s local economy and daily life. The trip also included a visit to the Nigerian Government’s Energizing Education Phase II project at the University of Abuja.

During the visit, RMI and GEAPP **launched a 10-year roadmap** which pointed to a market opportunity of over 20 GW in Nigeria through rapid expansion of utility-enabled distributed energy, especially renewable and batteries, over the next 10 years.





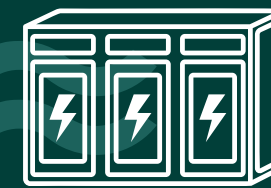
GEAPP Vietnam team visited a BESS facility at Senon factory in Saigon High-Tech Park



# Breakthrough Story

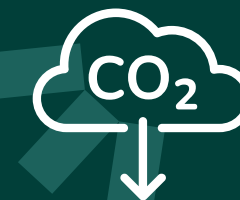


## By the numbers



### 50 MWh

BESS capacity approved as pilot project



### 23,717

tons of CO2 reduced during the project lifecycle



### 300 MW

energy storage target by 2030

**BESS plays a pivotal role in addressing the challenges of variability of renewable energy sources, combined with increasing power demand which often results in unreliable supply and frequent power shortages in Vietnam. BESS helps in minimizing the intermittency of renewables, enhancing grid flexibility, and ensuring reliable power supply.**

**Vietnam says YES to BESS: GEAPP Drives the Nation Towards Renewable Energy Goals with Battery Energy Storage Systems**

Vietnam Electricity (EVN) has been assigned to develop the first pilot BESS project with a capacity of 50 MW/50MWh. Developed by EVN, in collaboration with RMI, ADB, GEAPP and the Vietnam Energy Institute, this marks a crucial step towards Vietnam's target of developing 300MW of energy storage by 2030, as outlined in the latest Eighth Power Development Plan (PDP 8).

The development of a 50 MW pilot BESS by EVN was approved by the Prime Minister under Decision no 1009/QD-TTg on the 'Scheme for the Implementation of the Political Declaration on Establishing the Just Energy Transition Partnership'. The pilot BESS project aims to create an ecosystem that supports the development of robust infrastructure, the introduction of policy reforms, and collaboration important for a smooth transition to clean energy sources.



In an effort to facilitate the integration of BESS into Vietnam's power grid, the Electricity and Renewable Energy Authority (EREA) of the Ministry of Industry and Trade recently hosted a **technical workshop** in collaboration with GEAPP. By bringing together multiple stakeholders and industry experts, the workshop provided a platform for discussions and exchange of valuable insights on various aspects of BESS integration, such as available technologies, financing mechanisms, policy regulations, and cost considerations.



IFC, SIMA, GEAPP announce the first close of a \$150 million Solar Green Bond, marking the first inaugural investment of the IFC-GEAPP partnership.



Woochong Um announced as GEAPP's new CEO



Climate Africa Warsha launched for climate journalism, with Prof. Yemi Osinbajo joining the first event as guest speaker



Okra Solar and Alina Eneji report installing meshgrids to 400+ households in April



A workshop in Addis Ababa to discuss expansion of DREAM and the additional 150 sites that could be part of the scale-up



**INDIA**



**BARBADOS**

Shortlist's new report launched in Nigeria

**NIGERIA**

Zeph Kivungi talks to TV47 Kenya on the role of BESS in Africa's energy transition



The IDB President highlighting the success of the IDB's work alongside GEAPP at the IDB partners forum.

GEAPP, IFC, DFAT and USAID together championed women's leadership in the energy space in Vietnam at this event



**HAITI**

**JANUARY**

**NIGERIA**



DART 3.0 launched in Nigeria

**FEBRUARY**

**KENYA**

SEFA/AfDB meeting held in the GEAPP Africa office

**Catalytic Capital Holds the Key to Southeast Asia's Green Transition**

*The past few years have underscored the massive investments required to develop clean energy infrastructure in developing economies. To close the climate financing gap and help ASEAN countries achieve net-zero emissions, philanthropic funds, governments, and financial institutions must work together to mobilize investment resources.*

Kitty Bu and Stefanie Fairholme wrote an article on Project Syndicate on how to facilitate a just transition in the ASEAN countries



Clime Capital's SEACEF II secures \$127M for a low-carbon future in Southeast Asia

**MARCH**

**INDIA**

Vaishali Mishra was featured in a professional profile feature for Renewable Watch Magazine.



GEAPP's work on BESS was featured on France24



Dentsu announced as Campaign and Marketing Partner

**APRIL**

**BELIZE**



Working closely with the Belize Minister, RMI, and the World Bank to support BESS deployment in Belize

**MADAGASCAR**

GEAPP-supported Powering Healthcare Report launched

**INDONESIA**



GEAPP participated in the 2nd Indonesia Clean Energy Summit 2024 and PT SMI's Donor Coordination Meeting and Launching of Socio-Economic Framework.

**INDIA**

**ZAMBIA**



GEAPP, World Bank pen blog on distributed renewable energy



Zambia launches a financial mechanism under Pres. Hichilema's 1000 Mini-Grid Initiative with GEAPP's support



Malawi President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera mentions GEAPP in his State of the Nation Address on our collaboration on BESS

GEAPP, Vietnam's Electricity Authority (EVN), Institute of Energy (IE), ADB and RMI came together to discuss a BESS pilot project in Northern Vietnam



Prof. Yemi Osinbajo talks to CNBC Africa on how Africa can be a global leader in green energy



First utility scale BESS project gets regulatory approval in India with GEAPP's support



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE LATEST ON GEAPP'S WEBSITE



# Regional Updates

**Africa represents a hotbed of potential, energy access gaps can be leveraged as opportunities to make lasting impact and generate green growth. With more than 640 million Africans having no access to energy and the continent, as a whole, with the lowest electricity rate, just over 40 percent per country, Africa needs \$250 billion in climate investments per year, yet receives 12% to date, to achieve climate goals. To date, only 12% of this is supporting sustainable energy access solutions.**

With these gaps, other global organizations are concentrating efforts on Africa with the announcement by Alliance partners, the World Bank group and the African Development Bank, to provide 300 million Africans with electricity access by 2030 through distributed renewable energy (DRE) systems and the distribution grid. GEAPP boldly joins, bringing support

for growth and change driven by communities and countries across the continent. GEAPP is rewriting the rules by breaking bottlenecks, using our support to catalyze change to help move the needle closer.

## South Africa | Green energy for all

With a local to global approach, household solar grew 300%, largely driven by consumer demand and government incentives. Municipalities hope to replicate this growth with 2GW of green energy projects, needing support from partners like GEAPP – where together with partners such as USAID and PCC we are creating a municipality targeted program - to overcome financing hurdles. This is in addition to GEAPP's government enablement and ecosystem support for JETP and Just Energy Transition initiatives. Battery storage is gaining traction with Eskom's first **200MW** in construction and further government-led efforts expected. The private sector is following suit with **120 large scale projects**, including 12,000MW expected to be connected to the grid before 2028.

## Nigeria | Building connection

Nigeria is bringing stakeholders together for a new national electrification policy that grows green energy. These efforts impact every level, with recent upward tariff adjustments increasing attractiveness to grid-connected renewables and engagement from utilities from electricity access expansion programs, like GEAPP and RMI's pioneering work with **Solar Interconnected Mini Grids (IMGs)**. The initiative bridges gaps in the grid by serving communities during the day, while electricity distribution companies (DisCos) serve them at night. This promotes productive use for small and medium businesses, growing local economies. The long-term goal will facilitate **10 gigawatts (GW)** across the country, with an initial aim of deploying IMG plants in each of the country's 11 DisCos. Utilities are working with solutions, positioning themselves to maximize impact from initiatives like GEAPP-supported World Bank **DARES** program, where DisCos are actively soliciting private investment with investment pipelines, consultations and open procurement calls to match the growth of energy needs.



GEAPP and RMI convened workshops with DisCos and representatives from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to discuss overcoming challenges related to adoption and scaling of utility enabled DERs



# Regional Updates

## Ethiopia | Diversifying power

By exploring different renewable solutions, Ethiopia is creating energy systems with the future in mind - just consider the national ban on non-electric car imports. Hydropower currently delivers 90% of its renewable energy, but wind and solar are expected to expand. With a recent \$8 million boost from the African Development Bank, the GEAPP-supported DREAM initiative will develop **200 mini-grids**, providing electricity to over 290,000 people, creating 60,000 jobs, and reducing 200,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The initiative enables mini grid developers with crucial financing to expand energy access.

## DRC | Scaling solutions

GEAPP convened partners to accelerate electrification initiatives, fostering active collaboration and co-creation. This provides a platform to streamline inter-donor efforts, avoid duplication, and enhance electrification impact in the DRC. Alongside Nuru, notable Alliance programs include the World Bank's AGREE program supporting the Subsidy Fund, USAID's EECA program offering technical assistance, and GEAPP's support to the regulator and government institutions in scaling mini-grids.

## Empowering African journalists

Climate reporting obstacles in Africa include insufficient coverage, generic stories, a lack of access to experts and training in renewable energy and climate. Recognizing the role of media, GEAPP in collaboration with its Alliance partners hosted the inaugural **Climate Warsha Africa** which brought nearly 100 participants from over 20 countries to help change Africa's energy transition narrative. The forum will be conducted at least twice annually to support improved climate reporting.



GEAPP convened our DRC Alliance partners to discuss activities and private sector challenges like taxation, tariffs, financing and entry barriers, attended by EED Advisory, Beyond the Grid Fund Africa, CrossBoundary, Power Africa, Nuru and more.



# Regional Updates

**Asia's renewable energy landscape is witnessing remarkable advancements across multiple fronts. There have been a number of milestones across the regions, suggesting the region's leadership in the clean energy transition. From political and policy shifts to funding plans that support sustainable growth, Asia is creating the future of energy today.**

With a focus on increasing reliance on wind and solar energy sources, some countries, like Vietnam, aim to attract new investments and ensure energy security amidst global fuel price fluctuations. Overall, Asia's renewable energy sector is experiencing significant expansion, driven by policy initiatives, technological innovation, and regional collaboration, paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

## Indonesia | Switching to renewables

Indonesia is working to accelerate coal power retirement while ensuring a swift uptake of renewable energy solutions. GEAPP secured a high-level partnership with the Government of Indonesia to support the Just Energy Transition Partnership with the International Partnership Group. GEAPP is also supporting the government's Diesel Replacement Program through Renewable **Energy Access for the Last Mile** in close collaboration with PLN and Alliance partners (USAID, UK FCDO). Through this, residents of remote islands will gain access to secure, reliable, and affordable energy. A feasibility study for solar PV and BESS is also underway; this project is a key part of transitioning PLN's diesel power plants to renewable energy across 50 sites. As a result of the auction design contractors' procurement for this project, GEAPP received interest from 25+ renewable energy engineering consultants.



GEAPP visited diesel power plants and cold storage facilities in North Maluku, Indonesia to support PLN's de-dieselization efforts



## Lifting leaders

As part of our commitment to the Just Energy Transition, the GEAPP-supported **Climate Leaders Network (CLN)** has given a platform to women leaders and allies. Launched in June 2023, with USAID, IFC and DFAT, it aims to increase women's leadership, visibility and influence in Vietnam's green transition. Partners and members work together to enable different activities such as meetings, roundtables, and networking events to generate cross-learning, mentorship opportunities for aspiring climate leaders and research on the business case for women's active inclusion in the green transition. Dedicated to integrating gender equality into the climate discourse, CLN celebrates, represents, supports, and amplifies women's contributions in climate action.



# Regional Updates

## India | Making milestones

In recent years, Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) has become one of the least cost and most efficient ways to bring electricity to last-mile communities. DRE typically consists of installing solar panels, in small or bigger quantities, and aggregating them with battery storage. DRE systems are nimble, financially accessible, and provide the same quality electricity as the grid. For example, in **Uttar Pradesh**, India, GEAPP's deployment of a standalone rooftop solar system reduced energy costs for micro, small and medium enterprises from \$0.17/kWh using the existing diesel system to as low as \$0.04/kWh—enabling a local grain mill to double its volume of wheat.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) help reduce the intermittency of renewables, strengthen grids and ensure access to reliable power. GEAPP's BESS pilot project in New Delhi, in partnership with BRPL, IndiGrid and AmpereHour Energy, is a **20 MW/40 MWh system** which will improve power quality and reliability for over 100,000 consumers. This system is the first commercial standalone BESS project at the distribution level in India to receive regulatory approval for a capacity tariff. To facilitate the system deployment, GEAPP has provided a highly concessional loan amounting to 70% of the total project cost (at 1% cost of debt).

GEAPP and The Rockefeller Foundation visited India's first-ever standalone BESS project with New Delhi's utility



## Vietnam | BESS build up

We have partnered with the **Electricity and Renewable Energy Authority (EREA)** of **Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT)** to effectively and efficiently integrate Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) into Vietnam's power grid. This strategic push aligns with Southeast Asia's sustainable development goals, positioning Vietnam as a frontrunner in the region's clean energy transition.



GEAPP, SEforALL, and WRI India facilitated a South-South collaboration with delegates from Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan, focusing on the successful deployment of electric buses in India



# Regional Updates

**When GEAPP was launched at COP26, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was a relatively new region for many of GEAPP's partners. To jump start operations in LAC, a well-structured partnership was established with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that has clear investment criteria that advances our mission, an effective governance framework that allows us to have clear visibility and input on the pipeline of projects, ambitious leverage targets to maximize the impact of philanthropic capital, and an agreement on key performance indicators that allows GEAPP to monitor impact.**

Two and a half years later, our efforts are supporting 11 projects in 15 countries in the region. We've allocated about USD 10 million, to join the USD 300 million leveraged from other funders.

Additionally, GEAPP partners, like the IDB, work closely with its member countries - given their continuous presence on the ground - so this strong partnership has been incredibly effective in establishing relationships with ministries in the region, that in turn have become supporters and advocates of other global initiatives such as the BESS consortium. GEAPP's cooperation with the IDB has helped leverage its origination and due

diligence capacity to source projects that can benefit from philanthropic capital to accelerate impact or scale up the work. This is demonstrated by the ~USD 300 million that GEAPP has leveraged with its funds as well as by the increase in the number of projects focusing on energy access.

## Bolivia | Rural electrification

A Rural Electrification Project in Bolivia, with the goal of **providing electricity to more than 50,000 new households**, will finance electrical networks with sufficient capacity to promote productive uses of energy, increase income, and enable the provision of other basic services. The program will strengthen institutional capacity to prepare and implement rural electrification projects, including training personnel and beneficiaries, especially women, to operate and maintain systems.

## Suriname | Making the most of the Amazon hinterland

Supporting rural electrification with renewable energy, potable water and telecommunications in Suriname, this project will help increase access to affordable, reliable, clean and sustainable energy, potable water and communication service for rural villages and promote productive use of energy in the Amazon hinterland.



LAC



Credit: Masha Hamilton / The Rockefeller Foundation

## EL Salvador | Setting up success

The **Universal Access Program** in El Salvador with the Hydroelectric Commission for the Lempa River (CEL), the new energy distribution company, will help strengthen the planning and management capacity of CEL to operate and maintain rural electrification projects, including grid extension, individual PV solar systems, and hybrid mini-grids. The team is currently carrying out assessments to prepare for the **USD 93 million investment loan** that will implement El Salvador's Universal Access Program and support the regulatory agency in defining the subsidies, tariffs and service regulations to enable the program.





# Breakthrough Story

Alina Enèji technicians Wenchel and Charleron install PV generation on a new customer's roof. Credit: Nadia Todres for GEAPP



## Introducing Meshgrids: GEAPP Supports Haitian-led Innovation to Drive Rapid Electrification in Rural Communities

**Meshgrids, a novel architecture of distributed renewable energy, have shown immense potential to overcome the scalability and viability challenges that have stymied other off-grid solutions in the Haitian context.**

Alina Enèji is nearing **3,000 live connections** across multiple locations in Central and Northern Haiti after having started as a pilot project of only 30 connections in 2021. GEAPP support for this demonstration phase has further catalyzed \$3.5 million from Alliance partners which is expected to deliver an additional 4,500 connections. This early experience shows that meshgrids offer several benefits over traditional minigrid in a context where 88% of rural Haitians earn less than \$1 per day. They can be scaled rapidly, and provide access to electricity for charging, lighting, television, refrigeration, and other personal and productive uses that improve quality of life and offer savings over common alternatives like candles, kerosene, and charcoal.

## By the numbers



**3,000**

connections achieved with GEAPP support



**6.2 million**

Haitians estimated to lack access to electricity



**\$520**

CAPEX cost of a meshgrid connection, compared to a range of \$1,800 to \$2,700 for minigrids



Meshgrids scale rapidly in Haiti, demonstrating the potential of Haitian-led innovation to drive rapid electrification for rural communities.



# Leadership Insights



## The Nexus of Gender and Energy: Bridging the Gap for Sustainable Development

GEAPP VP for India, **Saurabh Kumar**, and SEforALL CEO, **Damilola Ogunbiyi**, explore the link between gender equality and sustainable energy development. Achieving clean energy access requires empowering women. Gender disparity in the energy sector hinders progress on Sustainable Development Goals, especially clean energy and climate action. The authors propose policy changes and programs to promote gender equality and empower women as entrepreneurs and leaders in sustainable energy. They envision a more inclusive and sustainable future by harnessing women's collective power in the energy sector.

[Read more](#)



## Africa's Steady Race Towards Renewable Energy Sources

GEAPP Senior Advisor for South Africa, **Dr. Snowy Khoza**'s blog highlights Africa's growth and economic potential. To sustain momentum, leveraging renewable energy, particularly DRE and BESS, is crucial. The renewable energy shift enhances Africa's energy security, providing cleaner energy, fostering innovation, and creating investment and job opportunities. GEAPP supports this with initiatives like the GEAPP Leadership Council-led BESS Consortium and the DREAM project in Ethiopia. Collaboration and long-term financing are essential for Africa's renewable energy potential and sustainable development.

[Read more](#)

## Catalytic Capital Holds the Key to Southeast Asia's Green Transition

GEAPP VP for Asia (ex-India), **Kitty Bu**, and GEAPP Chief Investment Officer, **Stephanie Fairholme**, write about the financial hurdles Southeast Asia faces in its clean energy transition. Achieving net-zero emissions demands significant capital. They propose leveraging philanthropic funds to mitigate risks in clean energy projects, thereby attracting private investment. By adopting a collaborative investment approach, philanthropic funds, governments, financial institutions, and private investors can foster an equitable and economically viable transition to clean energy in Southeast Asia and globally.

[Read more](#)



## Alliance Partners Corner

### Thinking beyond the traditional power grid – making universal access to electricity by 2030 a reality

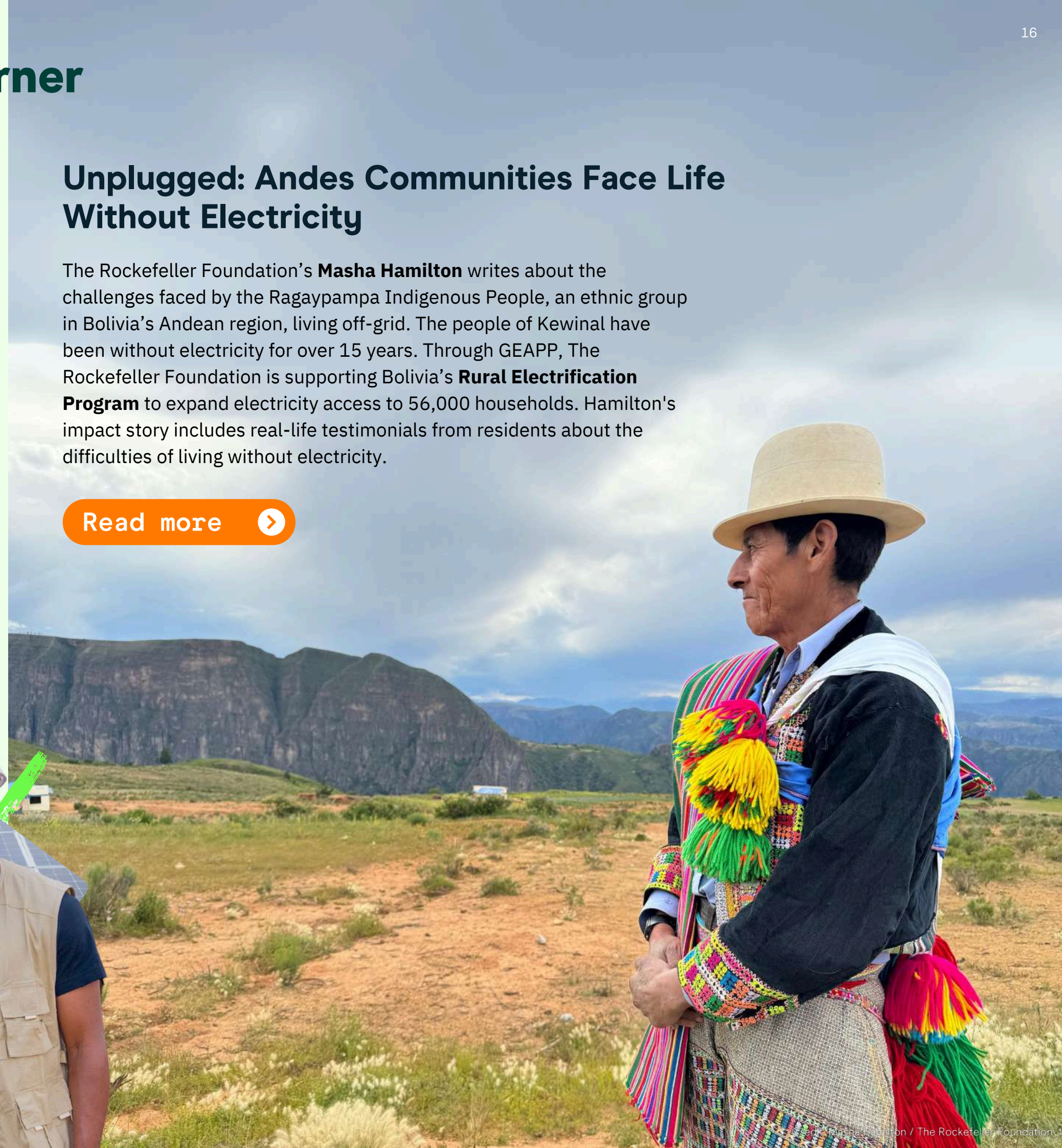
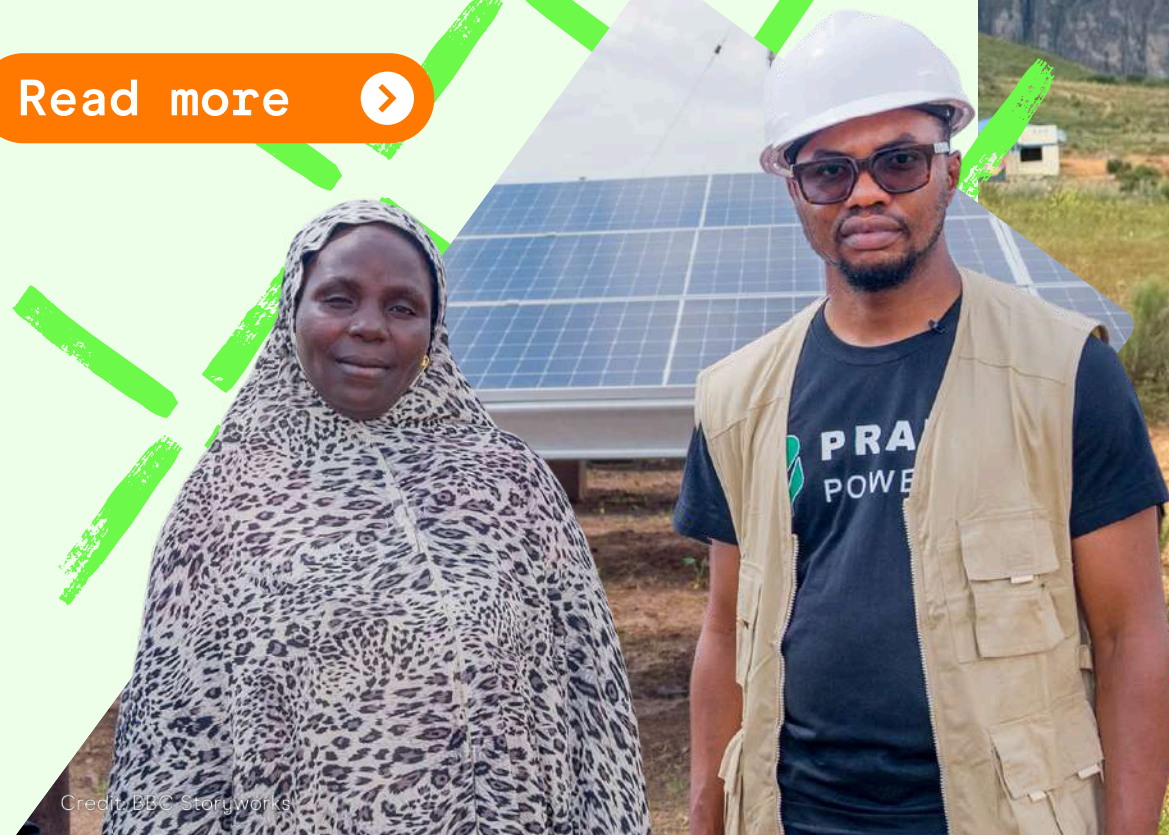
GEAPP's **Joseph Ng'ang'a** and World Bank's **Guangzhe Chen** write about the progress and challenges in achieving universal electricity access, focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa. They emphasize the role of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) in reaching the last mile. DRE systems, which typically include solar panels and battery storage, are proving financially viable, resilient, and capable of delivering reliable electricity. Innovative partnerships, such as the World Bank's **DARES (Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-Up)** program and ESMAP, are bridging the funding gap through catalytic finance. Collaborative initiatives by philanthropies like GEAPP are also key to scaling DRE deployment.

[Read more](#)

### Unplugged: Andes Communities Face Life Without Electricity

The Rockefeller Foundation's **Masha Hamilton** writes about the challenges faced by the Ragaypampa Indigenous People, an ethnic group in Bolivia's Andean region, living off-grid. The people of Kewinal have been without electricity for over 15 years. Through GEAPP, The Rockefeller Foundation is supporting Bolivia's **Rural Electrification Program** to expand electricity access to 56,000 households. Hamilton's impact story includes real-life testimonials from residents about the difficulties of living without electricity.

[Read more](#)





# Alliance Partners Corner



## IFC and SIMA launch \$150 million Solar Green Bond for African Solar Developers alongside Finland and GEAPP

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, in partnership with Social Investment Managers and Advisors LLC (SIMA Funds or SIMA) and other financiers, have reached the first close of a **\$150 million solar green bond**, which will finance productive-use solar projects throughout Africa. The bond will finance one of the largest impact-driven funds exclusively focused on furthering the rooftop solar sector in Africa, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises, which are harder to reach. It will offer short-term corporate financing and project financing of up to 10 years to support the growth of small and medium-sized local developers for individual projects less than 5 megawatts (MW), focusing on manufacturing, services, education, healthcare, and agri-processing.

## SEforAll's Universal Energy Facility (UEF) Signs Grant Agreements with 19 Clean Energy Developers for the Deployment of Stand-Alone Solar Solutions for Productive Uses Across Nigeria

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) announced the signing of grant agreements with **19 clean energy developers** under its Results-Based Financing (RBF) multi-donor fund, the **Universal Energy Facility (UEF)**, Stand-Alone Solar for Productive Use (SSPU) program, for the deployment of high capacity solar + battery storage systems to businesses and institutions across Nigeria. These systems are expected to be fully installed and operational before the end of this year.

*"This marks a significant step forward in our shared vision for a sustainable future. By signing these grant agreements, the UEF is truly making a difference by empowering clean energy developers to bring their innovative solutions to life,"* said **Joseph Ng'ang'a**, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). *"I'm incredibly proud of the UEF's work and excited to see the positive impact these projects will have on many lives."*

The Universal Energy Facility (UEF) is a multi-donor results-based finance facility established to significantly speed up and scale up energy access across Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, in line with SDG7 and the Paris Agreement. The UEF provides incentive payments to eligible organizations deploying energy solutions and providing verified end-user electricity connections (including mini-grids and stand-alone solar systems)



and clean cooking solutions based on predetermined standards. The facility is managed by Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and supported by the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, Shell Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Bezos Earth Fund, Africa Minigrid Developers Association, Power Africa, Good Energies, UKaid, Carbon Trust, IKEA Foundation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



## Breakthrough Story



### CLASP and GEAPP Partnership: Bringing Reliable Solar-Powered Refrigeration to Refugee Healthcare

In Northern Uganda, CLASP, POPO Africa and GEAPP are partnering to bring **solar-powered appliances to off-grid communities**, enhancing healthcare and empowering small businesses with **reliable access to electricity**.

The Rhino Camp, a refugee settlement in Northern Uganda, houses the Ofua Health Center 3, a solar-powered medical facility with only two doctors serving over 45,000 people. **Dr. Gideon Anguerini** emphasizes a major issue: the center depends on an energy-inefficient fridge unsuitable for solar power. To address this, the health center plans to acquire an efficient solar-powered fridge from **POPO Africa**, a Ugandan appliance distributor. This new fridge will enhance the center's services, reduce energy costs, and enable the treatment of more patients.

POPO's solar batteries provide essential support to community businesses, allowing them to operate after dark, offer phone charging services, and more. With 54 distribution points across five districts, POPO's reach is extensive, directly employing 75 people and indirectly supporting many more through its distribution network. Additionally, POPO Africa is committed to women's economic empowerment, with **70% of its workforce being female**.

POPO received funding from CLASP's **Productive Use Financing Facility**, enabling them to begin selling solar-powered refrigerators, benefiting healthcare facilities and empowering local businesses in Northern Uganda.

## By the numbers



**140**  
**refrigerators**

to be sold within one year



**45,000**

refugees served through the  
medical facility

### About The Productive Use Financing Facility

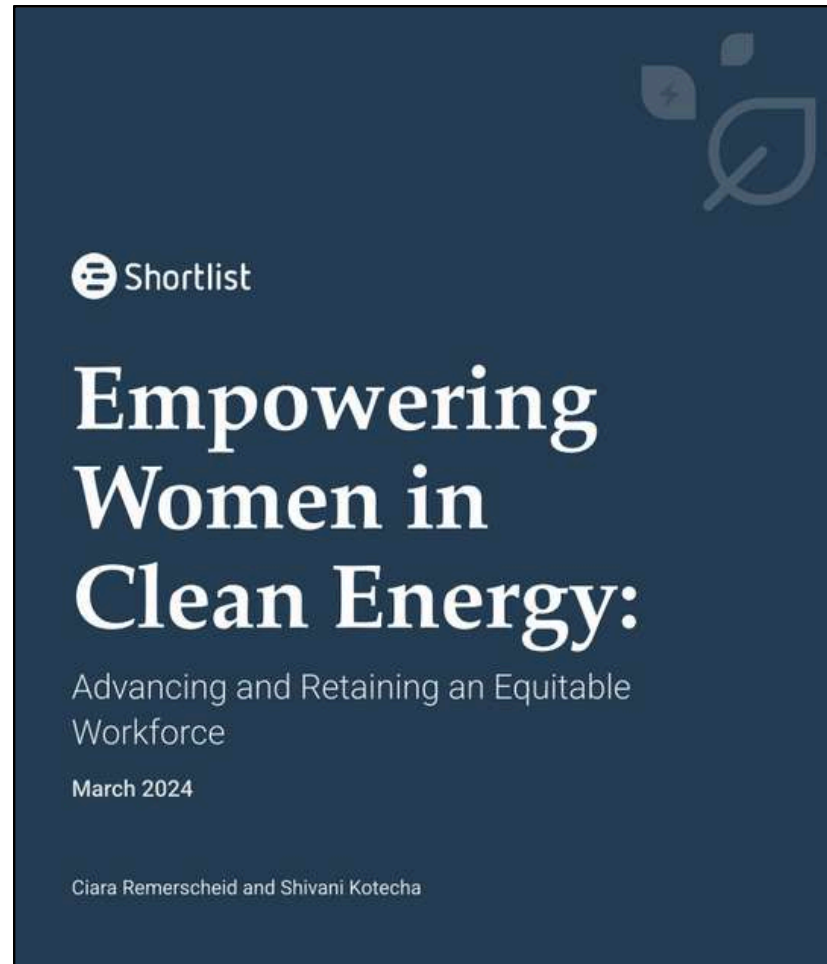
CLASP's **Productive Use Financing Facility**, is supported by The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). It has provided financing to 24 companies in six countries, to enable the distribution of over 13,000 productive-use appliances, directly impacting more than 58,000 households.

Dr. Gideon Anguerini next to a  
blood bank refrigerator.  
Credit: CLASP





# Knowledge Hub



## Empowering Women in Clean Energy: Advancing and Retaining an Equitable Workforce

Shortlist and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) have released “Empowering Women in Clean Energy: Advancing and Retaining an Equitable Workforce,” a report highlighting new data on the experiences of women in the clean energy sector in Africa.

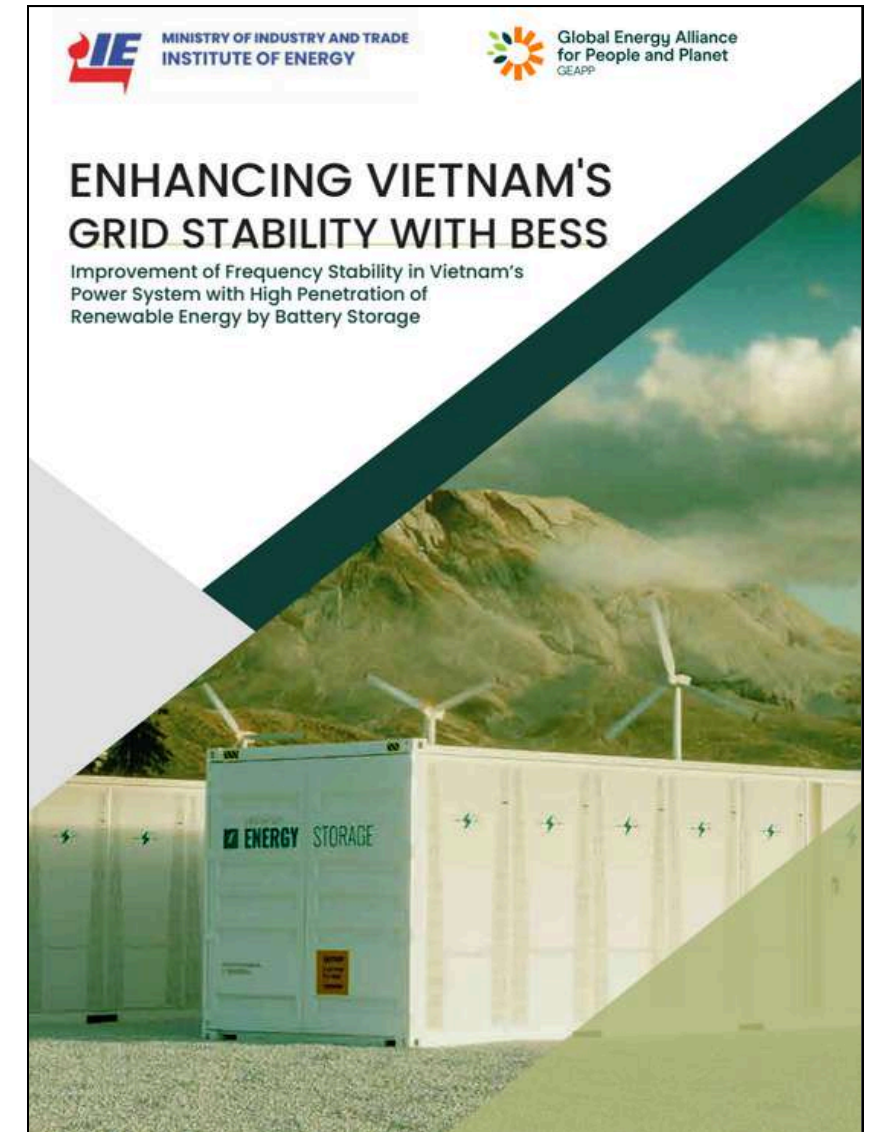
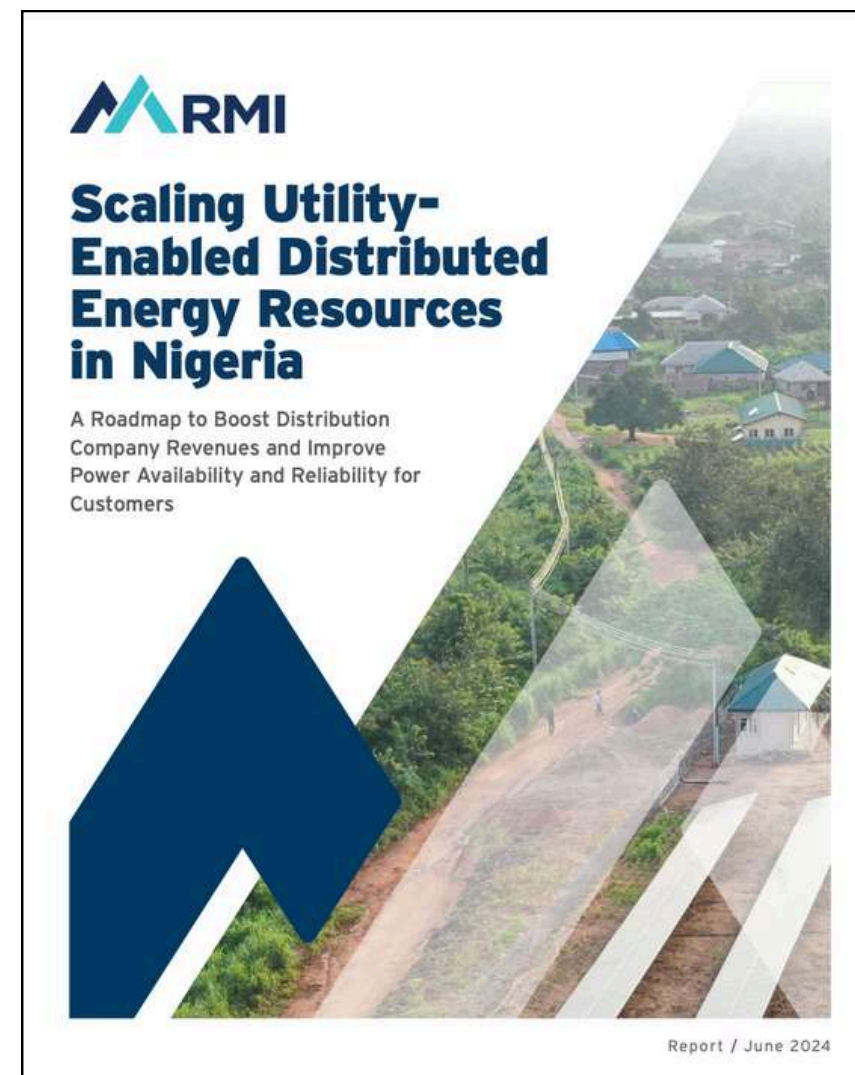
Read more



## Scaling Utility-Enabled Distributed Energy Resources in Nigeria

The roadmap outlines a significant investment opportunity of over \$8 billion in deploying Distributed Energy Resources (DER) across five Nigerian DisCos over the next 10 years, scaling to nearly \$14 billion nationwide.

Read more



## Enhancing Vietnam's Grid Stability with BESS

Developed as a collaborative effort of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) and the Institute of Energy (IE), the study addresses the pressing need for improved frequency stability and the role of BESS in managing Vietnam's power system.

Read more





# ★ Breakthrough Story



## Sunshine for Success: How GEAPP is Helping Local Businesses in Myanmar Thrive with Solar

A collaboration between Smart Power Myanmar and GEAPP helped finance solar power for Myanmar's first avocado oil producer, reducing their reliance on diesel and making solar power more accessible to businesses.

Shan Orchard, the first avocado oil producer in Myanmar, supports the agriculture value chain through work with 264 local businesses and employing 16 people. Nathan Win, managing director, had a major challenge: the 14-hectares that his business spanned was not connected to a power grid. They produce 5000 liters of avocado oil every month, creating substantial energy needs. Nathan wanted to use solar to fuel operations. However, he didn't have enough capital to purchase a solar system outright and local banks didn't fully understand the potential, forcing Shan Orchard farms to use diesel generators

By providing the financial backing and technical support, Smart Power Myanmar, a PACT initiative, was able to help Nathan get a loan and ensure his solar generator was installed for safe, reliable and efficient use. Previously, Nathan's diesel generator cost him \$3000 per month, but when he was able to switch to solar he saw the cost savings.

GEAPP saw the opportunity to drive impact through solar solutions and is now helping catalyze solar financing in Myanmar in collaboration with Smart Power Myanmar. With this powerful partnership de-risking solar, small and medium-sized businesses as well as commercial industries are seeing the effects.

## By the numbers

Smart Power Myanmar plans to unlock:



**70,000**

new green jobs within two years



**600,000**

people with improved livelihoods by 2026

**“If you look around, the closest [electricity] pole is about one mile (1.6 kilometers) away from us. Our biggest challenge is that there is no grid power here.”**

—Nathan Winn

Managing Director, Shan Orchard








# POWERISE

Volume 1 | August 2024

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