Access to Energy for All in Rural Areas in Africa

Progress and perspectives within the CLUB-ER:

The Experience of Uganda

Barbara Asiimwe, Manager Legal and Board Service, Rural Electrification Agency

Sheraton Djibouti Hôtel, 26 November 2013
Overview of Access to Energy in Uganda

Strategies to Increase Access

Rural Electrification Achievements

Access Targets

Lessons Learnt
Population in Uganda was projected to be about 34.1 million by mid 2012, with a total of 6.5 million households of which 85% are rural.

National electricity access is estimated at approximately 12%. Rural access in Uganda is estimated at approximately 7%.
STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ACCESS

- Service territories – Country divided into 13 distribution service territories.
- Implementing a special program to increase connections – Output Based Aid Project.
- Currently, connection cost is embedded in all new construction projects.
- Support development of mini hydros
STRATEGIES CONTINUED

- Grid extension targeting viable/potential load centres like district headquarters, health centers, schools, agricultural farms.
- Use of low cost technologies in house wiring e.g. ready boards
- Use of prepaid metering systems
- Provision of subsidies for solar PV for isolated communities.
- Provision of subsidies to community / enterprise schemes
RE ACHIEVEMENTS

Grid Extension

- Over 3000km of MV and 2500km of LV lines have been constructed.
- 2100km of MV and 1000km of LV are under construction to be commissioned by the end of Financial 2013/2014.
- Developed the Indicative Rural Electrification Master Plan to guide selection of projects to be constructed.
ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

• To facilitate connection of poor rural households Ready Boards have been introduced.
• Developed and sustained 3 User Based Energy Cooperatives.

Solar PV Systems
Over 20,000 Solar systems have been installed using subsidies.
Nyadri Solar Water Supply System
ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

Mini hydros
5 mini hydros producing about 40MW have been supported.

Bagasse Co-generation Projects
2 Bagasse projects generating about 30MW have been supported
Nyagak Mini Hydro – 3.5MW
Customer recharging energy using a card
The Rural Electrification Strategy and Plan 2013 – 2022 has set a rural electrification access target of 26% by the year 2022.

The National Development Plan target is to achieve Universal Access by 2040.
LESSONS LEARNT

- Planning and management for RE should be centralised with one lead agency.
- Investing in RE infrastructure has to be Government led instead of Private Sector that focuses on short-term profits.
- Service territories need to be large enough to generate adequate revenues to finance capital developments & operational costs.
• Development Partners & Political will are key to successful investment in RE
• Difficult to attract the private sector to undertake investments in RE particularly distribution power lines.
• Construction of power lines should include a component for connections.
Thanks for your attention

Rural Electrification Agency, Uganda