



United Nations



HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2021

Ministerial Thematic Forums

21 – 25 June 2021

Event name: Productive uses of energy: what does it take to stimulate demand?

Event date and time: 23 June 2021 – 06h00 to 07h00 EST

Organizers: International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED)

Number of participants: 116

Main speakers and brief summary [max 300 words]:

Panelists

- Yodit Balcha, Climate Change Adaptation Advisor, Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy - Government of Ethiopia
- Elizabeth Banda, Mini-grid project manager, United Purpose Malawi
- Vincent Sseremba, Country Director, Tulima Solar Uganda
- Liilnna Teji, Ethiopian Women in Energy

Co-Chairs

- Makena Ileri, Manager East Africa, CLASP
- Kevin Johnstone, Researcher energy access, IIED

The world remains far off-track in reaching SDG 7, energy access. One major challenge is financing energy connections to homes and businesses. Governments are working to expand grids and off-grid energy systems are increasingly being used to reach less-densely populated rural areas. But once the connection reaches, what happens? What are the impacts over time?

The challenge to answering these questions is that demand for energy systems does not always grow organically or quickly enough in many contexts, which can reduce the livelihood impacts of energy access and the short-term financial viability of energy system investments. Households typically express limited demand—usually lighting, and phone charging and perhaps a fan or television. However, this access has the potential to transform quality of life but can have limited impact on households' abilities to increase their incomes and develop their livelihoods, and consequently pay for energy services. Promoting productive uses of energy (PUE)—using energy to generate income and add value—has been shown to help communities develop their economies. However, there are important supporting services and elements that must be present for households and entrepreneurs to take full advantage of energy access. These can include access to business inputs, financing, markets, after-sales services, and appliances as well as establishing skills and personal initiative, and so on.

In this productive uses of energy side event, we will offer perspectives and lessons from government, a private company, and practitioners on how they are meeting some of these challenges in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Malawi. The event will be Co-chaired by CLASP and IIED.

Key outcomes [max 100 words]:

- 19 questions asked by participants with 17 answered by panelists
- Participants were from 30 countries, top 10 below

Location	Participant count
Malawi	20
United Kingdom	17
India	11
Ethiopia	10
Uganda	6
Sweden	6
Kenya	6
Italy	4
United States	4
Germany	3

- Sharing numerous challenges and lessons from three country contexts with a global audience
- Building/strengthening partnerships and recognition of practitioners work on the ground

Links to livestream recording/website/social media:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CeIA9EiY54&ab_channel=IIED

Contacts: kevin.johnstone@iied.org and Juliette.Tunstall@iied.org