

NEW ENERGY NEXUS

Uganda

IMPACT REPORT
2022



PHOTO BY ESTHER MBABAZI

ABOUT NEW ENERGY NEXUS

New Energy Nexus is the world's leading clean energy ecosystem builder. We provide funding, accelerators, and training to help diverse entrepreneurs build a 100% clean energy future, from emerging tech through to clean energy adoption and distribution.

Our Vision

An abundant world with 100% clean energy for 100% of the population, in the shortest time possible.

Our Mission

To support diverse entrepreneurs to drive innovation and build equity into the global clean energy economy.

Our Goal

To reach 100,000 entrepreneurs by 2030.

Our Impact



Tackling climate change



Building an equitable clean energy economy



Increasing energy access



Creating green jobs



Connecting innovation ecosystems

2022 IMPACT IN NUMBERS

UGANDA

Entrepreneur Data



141

Entrepreneurs supported



88

Women entrepreneurs

Startup Data



22

Startups

(Number of startups supported through incubator, accelerator, scale or funding programs)



27%

Women in leadership

(Founder/co-founder/c-suite)



686

Jobs created

Since 2016



US\$17k

Distributed in loans

Additional Data



US\$84k

Income saved

As a result of the adoption of cleantech



68,682.53

Metric tons of CO2 mitigated

Since 2016



5730

People reached



22

Loans disbursed

6	7	9
Business Enhancement Loan	Business Accelerator Loan	Incubator Startup StockLoan

Q&A WITH JULIUS MUJUNI

Country Director at
New Energy Nexus Uganda



What are your major achievements of 2022?

We were able to pilot our Energy for Productive Use program for island communities in Lolwe. We are currently learning from the pilot what works and what does not in order to scale the access to these PUE technologies for other SMEs in off-grid communities in Uganda.

What unique role does New Energy Nexus play in Uganda?

We have been supporting clean energy startups longer than any other accelerator in Uganda. We have a mentorship program through which our entrepreneurs are able to first and foremost get access to business fellows who support them for three months and then a long term program where they get additional mentors once the business fellows' engagement stops.

What are you excited about for 2023?

We are looking forward to piloting our 'Energy for Productive Use' project that targets agribusinesses. We are looking to explore how clean energy can be used to productively power some processes in the agriculture sector in Uganda, for example sorting, milling, shelling, drying, cooling irrigation. We will primarily do this work for agricultural cooperatives in off-grid communities. We also anticipate training more village Technicians — bringing after-sales services closer to end users of clean tech products — as well as scaling our refugees entrepreneurs' project.



WHAT WE DO

Only 19% of rural communities in Uganda have access to electricity, and less than 2% have access to modern cooking facilities. But rather than rely on fossil fuels, there's an opportunity to transition directly to clean energy.

That's where we come in. New Energy Nexus Uganda's model leverages the untapped potential of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to incubate clean energy entrepreneurs and distribute clean energy technologies to last mile communities.

These CBOs provide many essential services - supporting better health, education, sanitation and work for local people. We learned very quickly that these organizations have the networks, trust, and community reputation to bring new technologies, such as solar lights, water filters, briquettes and clean energy cookstoves, to rural villages. That was the basis for ENventure - a social enterprise that empowers rural distributors to start sustainable clean energy businesses - that started in 2016. ENventure became part of New Energy Nexus in 2020.

Our program supports local entrepreneurs through financing, and capacity building such as bootcamps, mentoring and coaching, as well as cloud bookkeeping technology via our own ENvision software.

Seed Incubator

Selected CBOs and VSLAs receive up to US\$2,000 over one year, including a three-day training course and three-month on-site business mentorship.

Growth Accelerator

CBOs and VSLAs that pass specific business targets are then eligible for further financing for a period of one to two years, one-year remote mentoring, and accounting software support via ENvision.



SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT



“The partnership with New Energy Nexus has been of great importance to women and youth dating back to the COVID-19 pandemic. People who lost their jobs were able to easily adopt to the distribution of clean energy products.... [They] were also able to reach remote and hard to reach places with no electricity and poor infrastructure...[and] women are now able to raise their voice against.. income inequality and energy poverty.”

**— Nimusiima Mudapharu,
CEO CCACCH**

Collaborative Coalition Against Community Challenges (CCACCH)

Collaborative Coalition Against Community Challenges (CCACCH) is a community-based organization (CBO) that serves mostly women and youth in Ntungamo district in Western Uganda. CCACCH directly engages both individuals and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in activities such as clean energy businesses, agriculture and metal fabrication. The organization currently has 56 registered groups and 432 members.

CCACCH joined the ENVenture program in April 2022 and provides improved cook stoves, clean

energy cooking fuel briquettes and pico solar lanterns to reduce the level of energy poverty in their community and promote energy access. CCACCH's success has garnered the attention of influential community leaders such as the Mayor of Ntungamo district who joined the CBO as a member.

56 registered VSLAs are currently operating in five sub-counties with the intention to reach all the sub counties of the district. They have sold 130 improved cookstoves, 500kgs of clean energy briquettes and 40 pico solar lanterns, which has reduced the use of firewood for cooking.



Support from New Energy Nexus

CCACCH received a seed loan of US\$544, and a grant of US\$1000 from the All The Sky Foundation as a result of a recommendation from New Energy Nexus. CCACCH has graduated from the Incubator Startup stock loan and is currently being considered for the Business Enhancement Loan. They've also received one-on-one skills development and training from ENVenture on marketing and sales, business planning, and record keeping.

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT

“Working with ENventure has enabled our organization to add new products to the market, and achieve a new partnership with Amped Solar Company as their local brand agent in Uganda. We attained a master class training conducted by Uganda Green Energy Accelerator (UGEFA) and we are full time members of Global Distributors Collective. Thank you Aneri, thank you ENventure.”
**—Daniel Akena, Program Manager
Safe Plan Uganda**

Safe Plan Uganda

Safe Plan Uganda (SAPU) is a community-based organization that distributes solar home systems, solar lanterns, and clean energy cookstoves in mid-western Uganda. SAPU started out as one of New Energy Nexus’ community partners, went through the growth phases of the ENventure program, and now is a fully registered Not-for-Profit Organization.

SAPU has sold over 1,500 clean cookstoves, 500+ solar lanterns and 200+ solar home systems, generating annual sales of US\$8,432 and reaching 11,000 beneficiaries across the country. SAPU operates in three districts and plans to open a hub in a fourth district by the end of 2023.

Support from New Energy Nexus

SAPU received a legacy loan from ENventure of US\$1,900 in 2017 after which Safeplan graduated to an ENventure Growth Fund of US\$2,983. SAPU staff also received financial literacy training from New Energy Nexus through the ENVision application. Other training included marketing and sales strategies, business planning, and financial reporting.



SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT



“Through the partnership with New Energy Nexus, we’ve seen the impact of the clean energy program in Buikwe District. The extended reach of the products to many households has led to the awareness and utilization of these energy saving products such as solar lanterns, as well as benefiting the environment due to the wide adoption of clean cooking technologies and fuels.”

—*Tamale Samuel,*
LODCU Secretary

Light For the Orphans and Disabled Children Uganda (LODCU)

Light For the Orphans and Disabled Children Uganda (LODCU), is a community-based organization located in Buikwe, Uganda, focused on supporting orphaned and children with disabilities through scholastic materials and education sponsorship. LODCU does this by selling clean energy products through the ENVenture program to meet the needs of their financial costs.

The organization joined the ENVenture program in August 2021 and has generated enough profits to implement their core activities. In addition, LODCU supports households with families living with HIV-Aids through clean energy entrepreneurship, and provides psycho-social support to orphaned and disabled children within their communities.

LODCU has distributed 385 improved cookstoves and 215 solar lanterns, with sales of US\$1,907. Part of the profits are allocated to providing entrepreneurial training for youth in their community.



Support from New Energy Nexus

LODCU received a seed loan of US\$2000 in 2020, and is currently being considered for the accelerator programme (Growth Fund phase). LODCU staff have received training on the ENVision app on financial reporting as well as sales and marketing, record keeping and management.

WHO WE ARE



JULIUS MUJUNI
Country Director



ROBERT BIRUNGI
Head of Credit



GEORGE WILLIAM WALAKIRA
Credit Officer



CYPRIAN ODYEK
Regional Coordinator



SUZAN AKWII
Regional Coordinator



VICKY ALUM
Regional Coordinator



NATHAN BUSINGE
Regional Coordinator



MOURINE KABAGENYI
Regional Coordinator



SHAMIM NAMADALI
Regional Coordinator



SMITH TUKAHIRWA
Fellowships Coordinator



JOY MUSIIMENTA
Project Officer



HASSAN MPANGA
Technology Associate



SHINE NUWASASIRA
Fundraising/Partnerships Officer



ELLA KOBUSINGYE TIRWOMWE
Programs Analyst

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Uganda

For more information about
New Energy Nexus,
please contact us by email:

elizabeth.andrews@newenergynexus.com



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