

UGANDA IMPACT REPORT 2021

ABOUT NEW ENERGY NEXUS



VISION

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

PROBLEM

There are not enough diverse and thriving clean energy entrepreneurs to match the scale of the clean energy transition in Uganda.

MISSION

New Energy Nexus aims to support diverse entrepreneurs to drive innovation and build equity into the global clean energy economy.

2021 IN NUMBERS



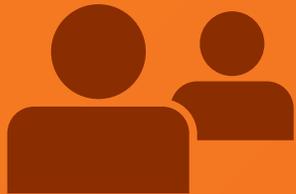
31
STARTUPS



102
ENTREPRENEURS
TRAINED

4

ENTERPRISES
GRADUATED TO EGF
(OUR FINAL PHASE OF
INCUBATION)



82%
FEMALE
ENTREPRENEURS
TRAINED



4,974
TONS OF CO2
67974 METRIC TONNES
SINCE 2016 MITIGATED



74.19%
WOMEN-LED
ENTERPRISES
INCUBATED



US\$41,775
GIVEN OUT IN GRANTS AND/OR AMOUNT
INVESTED IN 2021



1,234
HOUSEHOLDS REACHED



US\$117,669
INCOME SAVED AS A RESULT OF THE ADOPTION
OF CLEANTECH



JULIUS MUJUNI

**Country Director at
New Energy Nexus Uganda**

What are your major achievements of 2021?

We won a prestigious Ashden Award under the Energy Access Innovation category, which celebrates pioneering organizations lowering carbon emissions and building a fairer world. The award was presented at COP26 in Glasgow at a ceremony attended by the President of Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado Quesada.

We also launched five clean energy kiosks in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement that are solving clean energy access challenges within the settlement and host communities. These kiosks have reduced the long distances traveled by women and girls to collect fuels and increased night study hours. We also successfully piloted our model of working with Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), which gives us a better shot at reaching more households and beneficiaries in the communities we work.

What are you focusing on in 2022?

Thanks to our partnership with GIZ under the Small Project Fund and Engie Equatorial, we'll extend appliance loans for energy efficient appliances to over 200 entrepreneurs on Lolwe Island, a hard-to-reach off-grid island on the waters of Lake Victoria. The entrepreneurs will be equipped with business development skills, business mentorship for them to boost and scale their business, and help those without businesses to discover their entrepreneurial potential and start new businesses.

We'll also be scaling our partnership with Village Savings and Loans Associations and we'll be extending our operations to work with the BATWA, a marginalized forest dweller tribe in southwestern Uganda.

What major challenges have you identified and overcome in 2021?

The pandemic affected our work with several projects and program activities delayed due to the lockdowns: boot camps for our new entrepreneurs had to be postponed, and market activities were pushed to later dates in the year. We adapted and got innovative by taking our training online, for example.

The presence of low-quality products in the markets is a continuous challenge our entrepreneurs face because it affects their revenue. There are several sub-standard products on the market which make our products seem more costly.

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 highly centralized dirty 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, and became part of New Energy Nexus in 2020.

In 2021, 31 entrepreneurs received low-cost clean energy loans and one-to-one business mentorship to become agents of clean energy tech in their communities. Despite a COVID lockdown that lasted almost since months, we launched and scaled our model further to refugee settlements establishing five clean energy kiosks that will serve over 62,000 people in the Kiryandongo Refugee settlement and the host community.

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT



“Clean energy products reduce stress on environmental resources. I hope that our work can help the community appreciate the importance of the cookstoves, briquettes and solar lanterns so they can become self-appointed ambassadors and users.”

Deacon Rwemigio Raphael,
Founder and Director
of Children’s Hope
International Ministry



CHILDREN’S HOPE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Supplying clean energy products to refugee communities

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement is an off-grid community hosting over 65,000 people from countries bordering Uganda. The majority of the households rely on firewood for cooking, kerosene for lighting and drink unsafe boiled water. Children’s Hope International Ministry is a community-based organization extending psychosocial support to children and women and increasing energy access by distributing and selling clean energy products in the settlement and its host community, with a particular focus on women.

Impact

Children’s Hope International Ministry has reached over 100 households and hopes to expand and create awareness of clean energy products, especially cookstoves and solar lanterns. It has also earned revenue from the profits to run more activities.

Support from New Energy Nexus

We introduced the CBO to the clean energy business model, provided training to increase sales and run a business. We also offered stock capital to start the business as the CBO had no funds or collateral to present to banks to access financial assistance.

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT



AGRI-LIGHT

Delivering clean fuels to rural household

Agri-Light is helping households transition from traditional energy fuels to modern energy sources through a door-to-door delivery service via Village Savings and Loan Associations. Agri-Light believes that VSLAs are the best avenues through which rural communities can access clean energy products.

Impact

Agri-Light has developed from operating one small outlet to becoming a distributor. It has agents in all sub-counties in Nwoya districts and part of Pakwach District, with the size of the team growing from one to 12 employees (including five women and seven men). They have distributed over 1,200 clean energy products to over 10 VSLAs.

Support from New Energy Nexus

Agri-Light received a stock loan to increase its product variety from just lanterns to cookstoves and water filters. They managed to repay the loan within three months and qualified for the ENventure growth fund to boost their business. They received business training and mentorship. We have also linked them to suppliers, one of them being D-Light a producer of the D-Light line of solar lanterns.

They also benefited from our market activation activities, where our regional coordinator greatly supported them in the marketing of their products to increase their sales. In 2021, Agri-Light signed a Memorandum of Understanding with New Energy Nexus Uganda to distribute D-Light products to all of our VSLAs.



“Joining New Energy Nexus Uganda turned my business from a small outlet to distributor level: my business was struggling, making less than 100 sales a month. After enrolling in the New Energy Nexus Uganda EGF program, our monthly sales averaged at approximately 208 products.”

David Olodi,
Director and Founder
Agri-Light Limited



SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT



DISABILITY ART PROJECT UGANDA

Providing livelihoods for people with disabilities

Disability Art Project Uganda (DAPU) is a community of people with disabilities (PWD) who come together with the aim of empowering others with disabilities, develop practical skills, confidence, and fulfill their creative potential. Their clean energy business creates additional revenue for their organization, as well as help some of their beneficiaries gain meaningful employment.

DAPU offers art and design skills to PWD who reside on the streets, villages and in the slums to create unique products. They also manage mobile shops in Kasanga and Mayuge district through which they sell clean energy products.

Impact

DAPU's beneficiaries are not only limited to people with disabilities but also anyone interested in their projects within the community. New Energy Nexus' clean energy program has played an important role in the lives of PWDs, who now have access to clean cooking products and lighting technologies at an affordable cost. This saves them more money which they can allocate to other basic needs.

Support from New Energy Nexus

Disability Art Project Uganda joined Nexus as a startup through our Clean Energy Program. With the clean energy program and the profits generated from the seed loan (stock loan), DAPU was able to start a skills training program. This has so far transformed the lives of over 40 youths in Mayuge and Jinja District. The youth have been trained in shoe and craft sandals making. The products manufactured by the youth are sold off locally in the communities and the profits generated are in turn reinvested to sustain the project.

A start-up struggling to survive but a sustainable business instilled with a healthy company culture that upholds transparency and communications between team members and stakeholders.

“ We believe people with disabilities should also be able to achieve their dreams. We are grateful to New Energy Nexus Uganda for helping us get a step closer to attaining ours. Our program has since grown from the time we received the seed capital.”

Fred Batale, Founder of Disability Art Project Uganda



WHO WE ARE



Julius Mujuni
Country Director



Robert Birungi
Head of Credit



George William Walakira
Credit Officer



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Regional Coordinator



Susan Akwii
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Vicky Alum
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Thank you to all our funders who made this work possible and all our partners for actively supporting us.



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