SEforALL and the Decade of Action
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Damilola Ogunbiyi began her roles as CEO of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (SRSG) and Co-Chair of UN-Energy on 1 January 2020.

Her first 100 days have been devoted to transitioning SEforALL away from a focus on problem dimensioning and awareness raising to an engagement model that prioritizes data-driven decision-making, partnerships with high-impact countries and implementation on the ground. Her vision for SEforALL is for it to be an international organization at the center of a renewed global compact that re-commits countries and companies to the actions necessary to Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

The transition towards this new strategic approach has led to a busy first three months for SEforALL trying to align current and potential partners and funders around her vision. Damilola has been on two official CEO missions, accompanied by SEforALL delegations. The first mission came just two weeks into her tenure, when she travelled to Abu Dhabi to participate in the IRENA Assembly, the World Future Energy Summit and a meeting of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group.

Damilola’s second official mission was to Kigali, Rwanda to discuss the SEforALL Forum plans with co-host, the Government of Rwanda. While in Kigali she met with the Prime Minister of Rwanda, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Infrastructure, and with other local Forum partners. After this mission, due to the global situation around COVID-19, it was decided to postpone the Forum to 16-18 February 2021. However, SEforALL will maintain close collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, and the two co-hosts are continuing to work on the execution of the 2021 event.

In addition to her CEO missions, Damilola has attended and participated in several key engagements over the past three months with the aim of drawing attention to SEforALL’s new strategic approach, building partnerships and securing new funding. These engagements included moderating the Clean Energy Transformation panel at the UK-Africa Investment
Summit; meetings with UN Permanent Missions in New York City and Vienna; engaging with the UK government on making SDG7 a point of focus at COP26; and bringing universal energy access onto the G20 agenda with a presentation to the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group in Riyadh. Working Group members agreed to focus on universal access to energy as one of four priority themes moving forward and requested the G20 Presidency to continue to develop options with the support of SEforALL.

On the sidelines of these engagements, Damilola also held key bilateral meetings with high-level diplomats, government ministers and leadership from international institutions to garner their support for SEforALL’s work.

Under Damilola’s leadership, SEforALL launched two major research products in the past three months, including the Energy Safety Nets research series addressing how governments can close energy affordability gaps for the poor and marginalized, as well as the Switching Gears: Enabling Access to Sustainable Urban Mobility report. SEforALL participated at the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP) strategy meeting in
Mexico City and continues to reinforce its thought leadership and advocacy around sustainable cooling.

The next 100 days will focus on furthering relationships with those engaged over the past three months and driving several key new initiatives forward. Damilola and SEforALL continue to mobilize resources for its operations, core programs and partnerships, including for the Universal Energy Facility, a new results-based financing facility for which SEforALL is Program Manager.

SEforALL is also organizing a virtual workshop to build consensus around a universal integrated data standard, working with the COP26 team on coal phase-out and supporting the Saudi G20 Presidency and the G20’s Energy Sustainability Working Group.

Meanwhile, as part of her efforts to deepen and redefine the roles of UN SRSG and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, UN-Energy will launch a new SDG7 Coalition on Energy Access and Transition and will hold extensive consultations with UN-Energy members and UN member states’ Permanent Representatives.

These activities are evolving during challenging times as the world grapples with the effects of COVID-19. We continue to collaborate effectively with our partners in executing our workplan through virtual communication.
Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on the Energy Access Sector
A lack of energy access has the potential to magnify the human catastrophe from COVID-19 and significantly slow a social and economic recovery from the virus. This is especially true for countries and regions with major energy access deficits, such as Sub-Saharan Africa.

Establishing vital energy access should be part of emergency response and recovery plans. Here are three priorities that should be pursued:

1. **Prioritize energy solutions to power health clinics and first responders**: Frontline medical services will need to deal with emergencies during the pandemic and eventually distribute and administer safe therapeutics and, when found, vaccines for the virus, requiring uninterrupted cold chains. Those clinics that do not have access to reliable electricity in low- and middle-income countries need to be prioritized.

2. **Keep vulnerable consumers connected**: We need to identify solutions for low-income households and communities who will likely be unable to afford energy bills and are most at risk of being disconnected. An important step will be to work with developers and ensure a commitment to providing energy at low or no cost, suspend bill payments, and commit to no disconnections during the crisis. Governments should adopt a suite of mandatory safeguards to protect consumers, as well as work with donors and investors to support and cover costs to keep off-grid developers and utilities in the market.

3. **Increase reliable, uninterrupted and sufficient energy production in preparation for a more sustainable economic recovery**: Countries must make use of affordable energy sources that can help the economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19. This could allow countries to recover better and create a whole-economy approach to ensure universal sustainable energy access – in turn helping place the global economy in line with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

During this unprecedented time, the international community must coordinate efforts, work with decision-makers within at-risk countries and find rapid solutions to ensure access to sustainable energy for all during this pandemic and beyond. SEforALL is working with companies and international institutions to understand and quantify the effects of COVID-19 and also provide sustainable solutions for the energy sector.

To bring greater attention to the importance of energy access for fighting this pandemic, Damilola contributed an Op-Ed to Thompson Reuters Foundation on the subject, which is available at: [https://news.trust.org/item/20200331134807-w6a0h](https://news.trust.org/item/20200331134807-w6a0h)
New Approach to SDG7
In her first 100 days as CEO, SRSG and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Damilola’s main objective has been to transform and position SEforALL to deliver on a new core focus: developing a renewed global compact to re-commit countries and companies to the actions necessary to achieve SDG7 by 2030.

This global compact is urgently needed. Globally, we are not on track to achieving SDG7, with 840 million people unconnected to electricity and 3 billion with no access to clean cooking. Nor are we succeeding in keeping a global temperature rise to less than 1.5°C Celsius. While efforts are being made to provide energy access and mitigate climate impacts, these efforts have proven to be insufficient, fragmented and lack accountability thus far.

The communities and countries most impacted by climate change and a lack of energy access must be partners in developing approaches tailored to their contexts and in implementing solutions that are affordable and deliver

Meeting the SDG7 targets on time will require new commitments, resources, and activities focused on broad partnerships and scalable programs.
productive energy use. This recognition is the basis for SEforALL’s new approach, which involves close collaboration with governments and in-country partners to devise and execute strategies that close energy access gaps while ensuring solutions are both clean and efficient. This applies to both electrification and clean cooking.

Our approach means consulting with governments and answering their calls for financial, technical and policy support with our resources and expertise. At the same time, we are forging innovative partnerships that harness the insights and resources of other key players in the sustainable energy movement to support the countries we work with.

Based on this approach, SEforALL’s work has been reorganized under four strategic pillars: data, policy, financing and technical. This structure captures several of SEforALL’s existing activities, using the organization’s existing thought leadership in areas like energy finance, policies and regulations, integrated energy planning, and sustainable cooling.

However, many new initiatives and partnerships will be developed under the new strategic pillars. Work is already underway on building these initiatives, notably on establishing a results-based financing facility for energy access and developing investment-grade policies and regulatory frameworks.

These initiatives, and many other activities undertaken by Damilola to align the sustainable energy community around her vision, are discussed in this first 100 Days Report.
Key Initiatives
Universal Energy Facility

Closing current energy access gaps in just ten years requires massive amounts of capital for electricity (both centralized and distributed) and clean cooking infrastructure. So far, this capital is not flowing at the speed or scale it needs to.

The financing and delivery of energy access in Africa is hampered by a lack of funding and existing procurement models for energy projects. The latter are time consuming and impose high administrative costs on governments, donors and implementers.

To solve this problem, SEforALL and key partners are sparking a paradigm shift towards results-based financing for energy access projects through a new initiative called the Universal Energy Facility. The facility is a collaboration between SEforALL, Shell Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, USAID, Good Energies, Carbon Trust, DFID Transforming Energy Access, and the Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA).

The Universal Energy Facility’s mission is to significantly speed up and scale up access to energy across Africa by providing results-based financing (RBF) for verified connections for electricity and solutions for clean cooking.

RBF is a proven, viable alternative to procurement approaches for energy projects to deliver connections faster and more efficiently. It allows governments and donors to shift risk of delivery to the private sector, provides regulatory certainty to industry about financial support to be provided, aggregates financing and scales support across multiple countries. RBF approaches have already proven to be successful on this front. For instance, in Nigeria, the RBF portion of the mini-grid component of the Nigeria Electrification Project has produced a pipeline of projects and some of them have already been commissioned.

The Universal Energy Facility aspires to be a USD 500 million RBF vehicle that delivers 1 million energy connections by 2023. The facility will commence with mini-grids and then expand to include solar home systems and clean cooking solutions.

SEforALL is the Program Manager of the facility and is responsible for its ongoing operations and oversight. Together with the Universal Energy Facility partners, we are currently fundraising and finalizing all processes and documentation for the facility’s operation and governance. This includes creating standardized operating manuals for mini-grid developers and solar home system providers. We are also establishing a project pipeline platform that will serve as the web-based interface for developers and the Program Manager.

Growing the facility is a major strategic priority for SEforALL moving forward that will be integrated with several other SEforALL initiatives, including our work on Universal Integrated Energy Planning and Investment-Grade Policy and Regulatory Frameworks.
Providing financial support at the required speed and scale to achieve SDG7 will require a paradigm shift towards results-based financing.

- Traditional government procurement methods such as minimum required subsidy tenders are time-intensive and difficult to scale.

- Shifting to results-based financial incentives allows governments & donors to:
  - Shift risk of delivery to the private sector
  - Provide regulatory certainty to industry about financial support to be provided
  - Aggregate financing and scale support across multiple countries

Source: SIDA, Results Based Financing Approaches (RBFA) – what are they?, 2015
**Investment-Grade Policy and Regulatory Frameworks**

According to the World Bank’s Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE), the world is only about half way towards the adoption of advanced policy frameworks for sustainable energy, hindering progress on SDG7.

With effective policy and regulatory frameworks and strong institutions, governments will be able to attract much needed private investment; donors and investors will have greater confidence and less risk aversion; industry will gain access to new business opportunities and lower cost capital; and consumers will gain access to better quality and more affordable energy services.

SEforALL and partners are developing solutions to accelerate the adoption of strong policy and regulatory frameworks for sustainable energy in high-impact countries – those with the biggest energy access deficits. SEforALL is establishing a centralized platform that includes:

- **Virtual knowledge hub**: A suite of off-the-shelf policy and regulatory tools, including model regulation guidelines and regulatory governance diagnostics
- **Country Customization Support**: Thematically clustered technical assistance offers for policy and planning support, including strategies, policy guidance, regulatory reform, and country-level learning and capacity building

The platform will help link governments with a broad range of support (development finance institutions, investors, industry and civil society) under a single umbrella.

SEforALL has already begun engaging countries to identify their needs for technical support, with Sierra Leone being the first country that SEforALL will engage. A research project reviewing the country’s existing regulatory and policy frameworks for various electrification technologies has already been launched.

---

**Country-level support will focus on 10 of the 20 high-impact countries, where the need for policy support is highest**

---

Source: Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE), World Bank, 2018
Universal Integrated Energy Planning

While many governments have embraced multiple technologies to electrify their citizens, centralized grid, mini-grid and off-grid solutions are often deployed independently of one another rather than designed as complementary solutions that form part of a cohesive vision for delivering universal access. A lack of clear electrification and clean cooking plans from governments has resulted in fragmented solutions and in many cases stagnated progress towards SDG7. A lack of coordination among decision-makers is also contributing to a waste of scarce resources and funding, making large-scale resource mobilization more difficult.

In recent years, the international energy community has identified integrated approaches to energy policy planning as a means of leveraging all electrification solutions. While some countries are pioneering an integrated approach, many others have yet to adopt such plans or struggle in designing plans that are accurate and reflective of their citizen’s needs.

SEforALL is developing a new initiative that will support high-impact countries to develop geospatial-based universal integrated energy plans that identify the optimal mix of technologies and their associated costs for achieving universal electricity access and clean cooking at a community level. This includes identifying best practices and establishing data standards – high-quality, reliable, comparable and transparent.

Multiple data sources are layered to make a determination of the least-cost mix for energy access at the settlement level

**Inputs:** demand, generation capacity, and cost data

**Output**

- Main grid connections (30-40% of total new connections)
- Mini-grids (5-10% of total)
- Solar Home systems (50-65%)

Clean cooking layers could be added to understand the economic implications of extending pipelines and surface transportation networks as well as to determine the best locations for refill stations and retailing points for cookstoves

1 Full list of contributors included RCMRD-SERVIRESA, Government of Zambia, NASA, USAID, USEPA

*Source:* GeoNames.org, WorldPop, Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite, ZESCO transmission infrastructure map, Solar Atlas, REA, DIVA-GIS
– that would be common across plans and allow for evidence-backed decision-making. SEforALL will also support countries in incorporating clean cooking into their integrated planning.

Universal integrated energy plans allow for visually powerful modelling of least-cost energy pathways that clearly define the role of utilities, mini-grid and off-grid solar companies and clean cooking solution providers. More specifically, such plans can be used by:

- Governments to aid planning, coordination and resource mobilization for universal energy access efforts
- Utilities to prioritize grid densification, extension to communities where it is most cost effective, and improving reliability of service
- Mini-grid developers to find suitable sites more quickly and reliably, with reduced risk and certainty of exclusivity for a defined timeframe
- Off-grid solar companies to identify attractive sales regions, cross-check customer information and better plan distribution channels in a transparent policy environment
- Clean cooking solutions companies to develop business models for underserved areas

In preparation for the rollout of this initiative, SEforALL is carrying out research on the extent to which countries already have universal integrated energy plans. This will help us target countries for assistance and establish a baseline against which progress can be measured moving forward.

We are also hosting a virtual workshop on improving and standardizing data for integrated energy planning. By convening key stakeholders involved in the production and use of data for integrated energy planning, we aim to build consensus around what core data sets and standards are needed for these planning exercises to be more accurate, consistent and practical. The workshop will be a critical input to the eventual rollout of universal integrated energy plans.
CEO Missions
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
11-13 January 2020

In one of her first interactions at a major convening after officially assuming her duties, Damilola and an SEforALL delegation travelled to Abu Dhabi to participate in the IRENA Assembly, the World Future Energy Summit and a meeting of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group. In addition to participating in the Ministerial Plenary Session during the IRENA Assembly, Damilola held a series of bilateral meetings, including with Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director General; H.E. Tomas Anker Christensen, Denmark’s new Climate Ambassador; MASDAR senior management; and representatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s (KSA) Ministry of Energy.

In the meeting with the IRENA Director General, the importance of revitalizing the partnership between IRENA and SEforALL to help increase faster implementation at-scale of SDG7 was particularly emphasized. Damilola’s meeting with the new Danish Climate Ambassador was also an important moment to discuss how SEforALL would continue to support Denmark and Ethiopia in further developing initiatives that came out of Energy Transition Track at the UN Climate Action Summit last year. In addition, meeting with senior members of the KSA Ministry of Energy were instrumental in laying the groundwork for SEforALL’s contribution to the Saudi G20 Presidency and the G20’s Energy Sustainability Working Group over the coming months.

At the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group meeting, Damilola presented to the multi-stakeholder group the new vision for SEforALL, including the important opportunities that exist for UN-Energy. This participation allowed UN agencies and other TAG stakeholders to exchange ideas with Damilola on different priorities and potential areas for collaboration.
Kigali, Rwanda  
20-21 February 2020

With SEforALL set to hold its next Forum in Kigali, Damilola had her first official visit to Kigali to meet with Dr. Édouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda, Dr. Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment, and Claver Gatete, Minister of Infrastructure. Together, they discussed Forum plans, energy access issues, Rwanda’s National Strategy Plan for 2024 and SEforALL support in its implementation. The visit also included meetings with a local youth organization, Kigali Global Shapers; Claire Nelson, Rwanda Power Africa Lead, USAID; partners from UN agencies; and private sector partners.

A meeting with Hubert Ruzibiza, CEO of Rwanda Green Fund FORNERWA, focused on funding opportunities for green projects in Rwanda such as the Sustainable Cities initiative. Damilola also met with Dr. Fodé Ndiaye, UN Resident Coordinator, and Stephen Rodrigues, UNDP Resident Representative, to discuss the involvement of UN at the SEforALL Forum and plans for the UN’s Decade of Action in Rwanda. The delegation also visited the Nyamirambo Women’s Center (NWC), an NGO launched at the end of 2007 to address gender-based violence, gender inequality and discrimination, with whom SEforALL will be partnering for the 2021 Forum.
Key Engagements
UK-Africa Investment Summit – London
20 January 2020

The UK-Africa Investment Summit brought together UK and African leaders from business, government (including Heads of State), international institutions and youth entrepreneurship. Damilola moderated the Clean Energy Transformation panel, which discussed strategies for scaling investment into sustainable energy access across Africa. The panel comprised Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Helen Tarnoy, Chair of Gridworks; Lucy Heintz, Partner at Actis; and Mustapha Bakkoury, President of the Moroccan Sustainable Energy Agency (MASEN).

Prior to the official event, Damilola took part in the summit’s Africa Clean Energy Pacesetters Group workshop hosted by DFID. Here Damilola shared lessons from her experience in Nigeria on how to best design procurement and financing models for electricity access. She emphasized the importance of results-based financing for delivering energy access at the speed and scale required for SDG7.

UN Permanent Mission and World Bank meetings – New York City and Washington DC
3-10 February 2020

In New York City, the Co-Chairs of the Friends of SEforALL group hosted a briefing for Damilola to present her vision for SEforALL and the energy transition. This group includes the Permanent Representatives of Denmark, Norway, Ethiopia and Pakistan: Ambassadors Martin Bille Hermann, Mona Juul, Taye Atske Selassie Amde and Munir Akram.

The briefing was attended by over forty Permanent Representatives. Separately, Damilola had bilateral meetings with Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator and Co-chair of UN-Energy, and several ambassadors. She also met with representatives of Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Rockefeller Foundation and the UN Development Programme regarding the Climate Investment Platform.

In Washington DC, Damilola presented her vision to the World Bank and discussed areas of cooperation between SEforALL and the bank, including support for the bank’s power sector funding for Nigeria. She met with Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Regional Vice President for Africa; Rohit Khanna, ESMAP Manager; Laura Tuck, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development; and Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice President for Infrastructure, among others.
UN Permanent Mission meetings – Vienna
13 February 2020

Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, Director-General of OPEC Fund, and Ambassador Gabriela Sellner, Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna, hosted a session for Damilola to meet with UN Permanent Representatives in Vienna and heads of the Vienna Energy Club. This event was attended by over sixty participants as well as the Li Yong, Director-General of UNIDO. This was an opportunity for Damilola to introduce herself to the international community in Vienna and discuss the urgent steps needed to achieve SDG7 and the need to rally countries, the UN system and other relevant international institutions behind implementing the work required to achieve significant progress on energy in the next decade. She also had a bilateral meeting with Dr. Alkhalifa to discuss partnership between the two organizations.

European Commission meetings – Brussels
18 February 2020

As part of an effort to build collaboration at the highest levels between the UN and European Commission, on 18 February 2020 Damilola accompanied Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed in Brussels, Belgium for meetings with Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice President of the European Commission; Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy; and Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, and Head of the European Commission’s Department for International Cooperation and Development.
UK Government COP26 meeting – London
2 March 2020

During her time in the UK at the beginning of March, Damilola met with the UK Government’s COP26 Unit to identify areas for collaboration to build momentum around a more ambitious coal phase-out and clean energy transition and to propose SDG7 become a focal theme at COP26 in Glasgow. As a follow-up to this meeting, SEforALL, the UK COP26 Unit and other core partners are approaching key countries in order for them to make commitments to the clean energy transition in the lead-up to COP26.

SEforALL has also entered discussions with the Government of Italy, co-host of COP26, to support the Pre-COP26 Summit and Youth Event in Milan, Italy by mainstreaming an Energy Track. In addition, on 3 March 2020 Damilola joined the Advisory Board for the Future of Cooling program team of Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford.

G20 meetings – Riyadh
7-8 March 2020

The Saudi G20 Presidency requested SEforALL’s collaboration in organizing a one-day workshop, Strengthening Institutional Cooperation on Energy Access, prior to the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group meeting as a way of providing the latest evidence and trends on the challenge of universal access to electrification and clean cooking. With SEforALL’s collaboration, the one-day workshop brought together many partners and raised the profile of the clean cooking challenge.

During the plenary of the official Working Group session, Damilola addressed G20 members on the global challenges that still exist on universal energy access (electrification and clean cooking) and cautioned that current efforts will not be enough to achieve SDG7 targets. As part of their conclusions, the G20 members of the Working Group agreed to focus on universal access to energy as one of four priority themes moving forward and requested the G20 Presidency to continue to develop options with the support of SEforALL.

On the sidelines of the G20 meeting, Damilola held important bilateral meetings with HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Mansur Muhtar, Vice President of Operations of the Islamic Development Bank; the German delegation; and the UK delegation. During these bilateral exchanges Damilola was able to build support for the importance of focusing on implementation during the last decade of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as need for raising ambition on clean cooking.
Key Activities

**SEforALL Leadership workshop – London**  
**22-24 January 2020**

SEforALL held a Leadership workshop in London to discuss reorienting its core focus away from problem dimensioning and awareness raising to an engagement model that prioritizes partnerships with high-impact countries.

Led by facilitators from the Rocky Mountain Institute and McKinsey & Co., the meeting established a shared understanding of the new SEforALL, an implementation strategy and organizational implications. The main focus of the workshop was on defining priority SEforALL initiatives that will make up the SEforALL workplan for 2020 and beyond.

Three weeks later the new strategic vision and implementation plans were discussed and refined with input from all SEforALL’s staff as part of a two-day all-staff workshop in Vienna.

**Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP) strategy meeting – Mexico City**  
**4-7 February 2020**

At the 3rd Annual K-CEP Strategy February meeting, SEforALL provided a scene setting, data-driven presentation to all participants. SEforALL also formalized its support for several cooling access projects, such as the Million Cool Roofs Challenge, Ashden Awards, Health Care Without Harm, and the WWF fisheries cold chain project for tracking beneficiaries who gain access to cooling. In Mexico, SEforALL also participated in a meeting on national cooling action plans, which are needed to ensure that access to cooling is part of a general approach among grantees.
Switching Gears: Enabling Access to Sustainable Urban Mobility report launch 5 February 2020

SEforALL released and launched a scoping report on the energy and transport nexus called Switching Gears: Enabling Access to Sustainable Urban Mobility. The report examines mobility solutions for bottom-of-the-pyramid populations in fast growing secondary cities and explores how sustainable energy access and low-carbon mobility can be developed together to deliver new sustainable services for those previously underserved.

At Energise 2020 in Hyderabad, India from 11-13 February, SEforALL presented the report findings and discussed tools for evaluating the best solutions for cities. Energy and transport nexus issues are gaining further global support through the new SUM4All Energy and Transport working group co-led by DFID and SEforALL.
Energy Safety Nets research series launch
18 February 2020

For the launch of the Energy Safety Nets research series, SEforALL published *Energy Safety Nets: Using Social Assistance Mechanisms to Close Affordability Gaps for the Poor* and an accompanying *Guide for Policymakers*. The online launch was timed to coincide with the Global Off-Grid Solar Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, which provided multiple opportunities for in-person engagement with sector colleagues regarding the research. Energy Safety Nets was included in a panel session on public finance in the off-grid sector and during a workshop on demand-side subsidies, where the series was mentioned as a key reference for programs to address energy affordability for the poor.

In the following weeks, SEforALL published *Energy Safety Nets* country case studies for Kenya, India, and Brazil, with three more to be published in Q2 of 2020. SEforALL also hosted a public webinar on the key findings of *Energy Safety Nets* on 5 March.
Powering Africa Summit
– Miami
24-26 February 2020

SEforALL’s engagements at the summit included meeting representatives from Power Africa, Standard Bank, Tesla, Tony Blair Institute, and Rocky Mountain Institute. SEforALL’s work on Universal Integrated Energy Planning and Energy Safety Nets were also presented during a session called ‘Empowering Communities: Women, Energy & Agriculture’ on 25 February.
Engaging through Social Media

Damilola Ogunbiyi
@DamilolaSDG7

For her first day as CEO, SRSG and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, SEforALL filmed an inaugural video in which Damilola explained how she will channel her extensive experiences in Nigeria into her new roles to help achieve SDG7 by 2030. The video was shared through Damilola’s own social media platforms and all SEforALL’s digital channels.

In just a few months, Damilola has amassed thousands of followers on her Twitter account – @DamilolaSDG7. Going forward, her social media channels will be used to highlight the engagements under her different roles and involvement in international fora, as well as promote raising the ambition for SDG7 and SEforALL’s campaigns, reports and activities.
The Next 100 Days
With Damilola’s support, SEforALL will continue to mobilize resources for its operations, core programs and partnerships, including the Universal Energy Facility, a USD 500 million results-based financing initiative. SEforALL is working towards the launch of the first wave of the Universal Energy Facility focusing on mini-grids in the coming months.

As part of our work on Universal Integrated Energy Planning, we are organizing a workshop to build consensus around a universal integrated data standard, bringing together participants from key data agencies and least-cost modelers. This work will be carried out virtually due to the current global COVID-19 crisis and related travel restrictions.

SEforALL is accelerating its work on Investment-Grade Policy and Regulatory Frameworks and we will be engaging several countries in Africa and South East Asia over the next few months.

Meanwhile, work is underway on this year’s contribution to our Energizing Finance research series. This flagship research series provides concrete evidence of financial flows for sustainable energy access, highlighting where progress is being made, and where it isn’t, based on a wide set of data sources. Data from Energizing Finance inform all SEforALL activities and will be crucial to our newly launched initiatives.

Damilola’s meeting with senior members of the KSA Ministry of Energy was instrumental in laying the groundwork for SEforALL’s contribution to the Saudi G20 Presidency and the G20’s Energy Sustainability Working Group over the coming months, such as an analysis of options to address energy access.

With the 2020 SEforALL Forum postponed to 16-18 February 2021 due to the COVID-19 situation, Damilola and the SEforALL team will continue to develop the Forum agenda in close collaboration with the Forum’s co-host, the Government of Rwanda.

We will also continue to lend expertise to partners to help raise funds for initiatives and coalitions in which we are a member, such as the Climate Investment Platform and Three Percent Club.

Internal initiatives

With SEforALL’s new strategic direction coming into force, SEforALL will be reviewing and adjusting its Theory of Change and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework. This process will be conducted in collaboration with its board, partners and SEforALL staff. The new framework will closely link programs directly to the three SDG7 targets and support the delivery of quantifiable results to inform evidence-based decision-making.
SRSG and UN-Energy

As part of her strategic vision, Damilola proposed that UN-Energy launch a new SDG7 Coalition on Energy Access and Transition and in her role of UN-Energy Co-Chair will hold extensive consultations on this vision with UN-Energy members over the coming weeks. This global platform would connect and scale-up existing initiatives/partnerships and catalyze new action by all stakeholders in support of the UN’s Decade of Action and achievement of the global climate goals.

An SDG7 Leadership Forum, composed of champions from high-impact country governments, international organizations, business and civil society will lead the narrative, drive for commitments and advocate for strong ambition.

To implement the Secretary-General’s vision for UN-Energy and in support of her role as as SRSG, Damilola will build a team in New York.