

# Driving Bold Action Toward 2030



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) is an independent international organization that works in partnership with the United Nations (UN) and leaders in government, the private sector, financial institutions, civil society and philanthropies to drive faster action towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 – in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.**



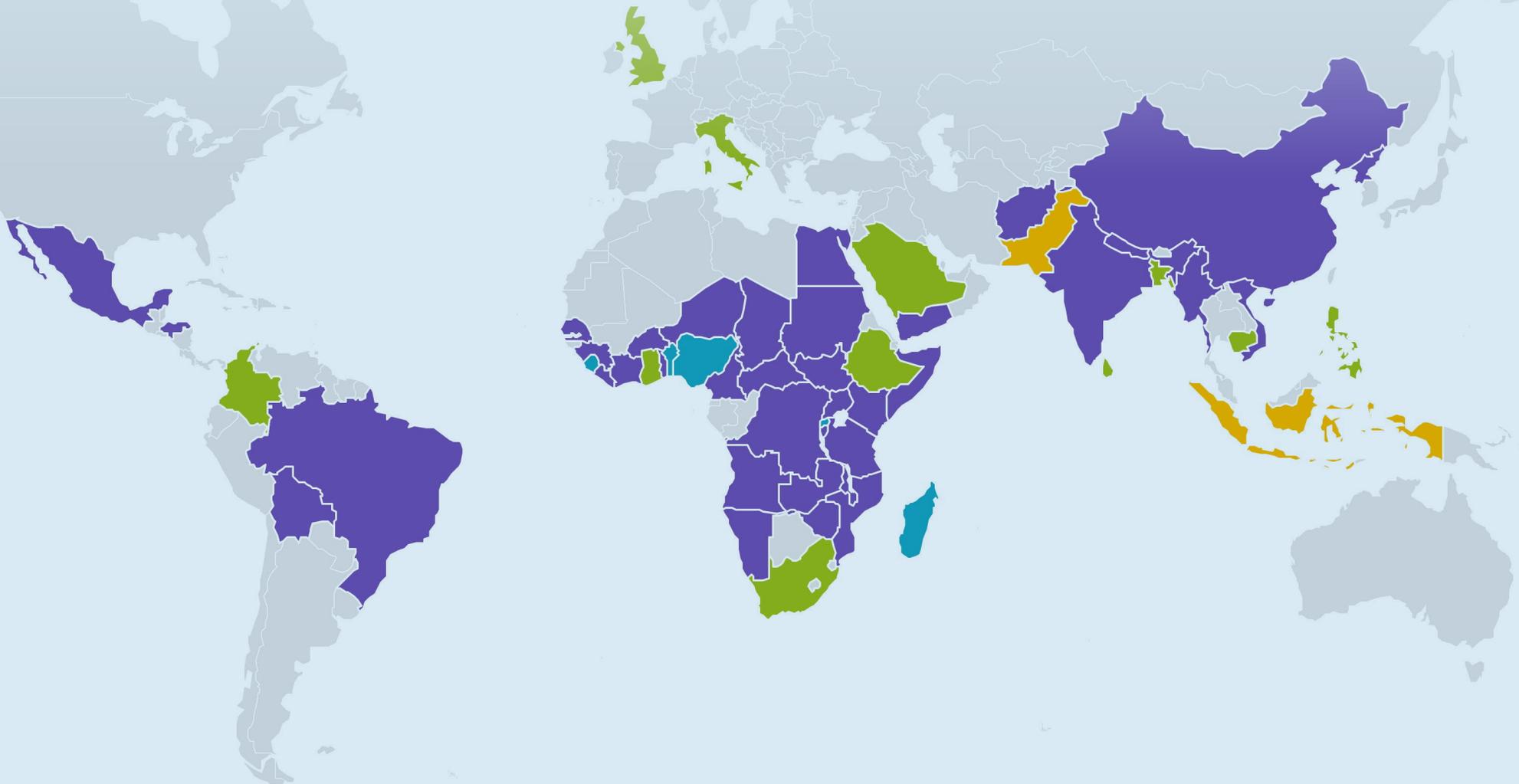
# SEforALL Country Engagement in 2020

● Type 1: Implementation Support

● Type 3: Identification and Formulation

● Type 2: Advocacy and Advisory

● Type 4: Research and Analysis



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# Message from the UN Secretary-General

The Sustainable Development Goals, along with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, represent our shared vision for ending poverty, restoring the health of the planet and building a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive world by 2030. Our ability to deliver these 17 global goals hinges on a profound energy transition that is already under way.

Moving away from polluting fossil fuels towards the efficient use of renewable energy is central to averting increased climate disruption. It can also help eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and improve public health. Bringing affordable, renewable energy to everyone will create massive new opportunities for human development.

That is why Sustainable Development Goal 7 calls for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Currently, 789 million people lack access to electricity, 2.8 billion live without clean cooking fuels or technologies and less than one-third of global electricity generation is from renewables. It is imperative that we accelerate the energy transition with a sharp focus on phasing out fossil fuels while bringing energy access to all who need it.

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) is a catalyst for action on Sustainable Development Goal 7. In alignment with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, SEforALL is working with countries to help them embrace and deploy renewable energy technologies that will serve people, communities and economies. Enabled by its special relationship with the United Nations, SEforALL is also part of a major global push for leaders to prioritize renewable energy and energy access in their COVID-19 recovery plans.

This September, I will convene a High-level Dialogue on Energy to secure ambition and commitments from governments, businesses and other organizations. The meeting will launch a 10-year global plan of action to achieve SDG7. SEforALL will continue to have a critical role to play throughout the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs as we pursue an energy transition that leaves no one behind.

**António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary-General



Photo: Getty Images

# Message from the CEO

On 1 January 2020 I began my roles as CEO of SEforALL, Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy. This day also marked the beginning of the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals, as called for by the UN Secretary-General.

Our priority is to align SEforALL's work with this call to action. The organization had previously established itself as a strong advocate for a clean energy transition that leaves no one behind and a powerful convener of stakeholders interested in pursuing Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7). Our focus now is to drive real, urgent action on SDG7. For this to happen, the role of SEforALL has expanded beyond advocacy to one where we are supporting the implementation of energy initiatives that will bring electricity to the 789 million people who currently lack access and solutions to the 2.8 billion who lack clean cooking access.

In just one year, we have developed a robust offering of country support so that we can help ambitious governments set and pursue their energy goals. Several examples of this country-focused work are profiled in the pages that follow, notably our development of a new results-based financing facility that has mobilized mini-grid developers to build projects in Sierra Leone, Madagascar and Benin, as well as helping the Government of Nigeria execute its plan to deliver 5 million new solar connections.

At the same time, SEforALL has intensified its advocacy and diplomacy work to help secure high-level support for SDG7. COVID-19 made 2020 a year of tragedy and struggle, and the pandemic has laid bare inequalities. We are showing global leaders that closing energy access gaps helps developing countries rebuild their economies, giving their people new opportunities to thrive. And by focusing on clean energy development, such opportunities can be created in harmony with global climate goals. By strengthening our relationship with our UN partners, we have been able to collaborate to create a compelling platform for decision-makers to heed these messages and make commitments, with new Energy Compacts being a key feature of this year's High-level Dialogue on Energy.

In a year fraught with challenges due to COVID-19, one where we had to adapt both 'how' we work and 'what' we work on, SEforALL positioned itself as an organization that will have a more direct impact on the energy transition. I am extremely grateful to the work of our staff and the support of our funders in helping us realize our new organizational focus. The successes described in this 2020 Annual Report are just a small sample of what we are doing to bring affordable, clean energy to all by 2030.

**Damilola Ogunbiyi**  
CEO and Special Representative  
of the UN Secretary-General for  
Sustainable Energy for All and  
Co-Chair of UN-Energy



# Message from the Chair of the Administrative Board

Access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is a basic requirement for a more sustainable and prosperous future for all. My entire professional career, including my current role as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Enel, has been dedicated to the energy sector, whose purpose is to provide an essential service, bringing energy to all in an efficient and sustainable manner. It was therefore a privilege to be appointed Chair of the Administrative Board of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) in 2020. The organization is truly unique in its focus on supporting the global push for all of the targets outlined under Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) along with climate mitigation.

The current pandemic struck at the time we entered the Decade of Action on the SDGs, with just 10 years to reach the global targets by 2030. We already knew that more urgent action was needed on delivering sustainable energy to all, and COVID-19 reinforced this urgency. We must therefore unite all our efforts to protect people's health, rebuild economies, fight climate change and create a more equitable world with sustainable energy at the heart of this global shift.

This is why SEforALL's work has never been so important, and the Administrative Board is proud to have helped the organization reshape its strategy in 2020, which emphasizes the need for multi-stakeholder actions and global compacts on energy access and energy efficiency.

Building on its 2020 achievements, the organization now has great momentum and influence on the energy transition, with SEforALL's contributions to the upcoming UN High-level Dialogue on Energy and COP26 being strong examples of its leadership. The outcomes of these two major global fora can transform our energy systems and bring SDG7 and the Paris Agreement within reach.

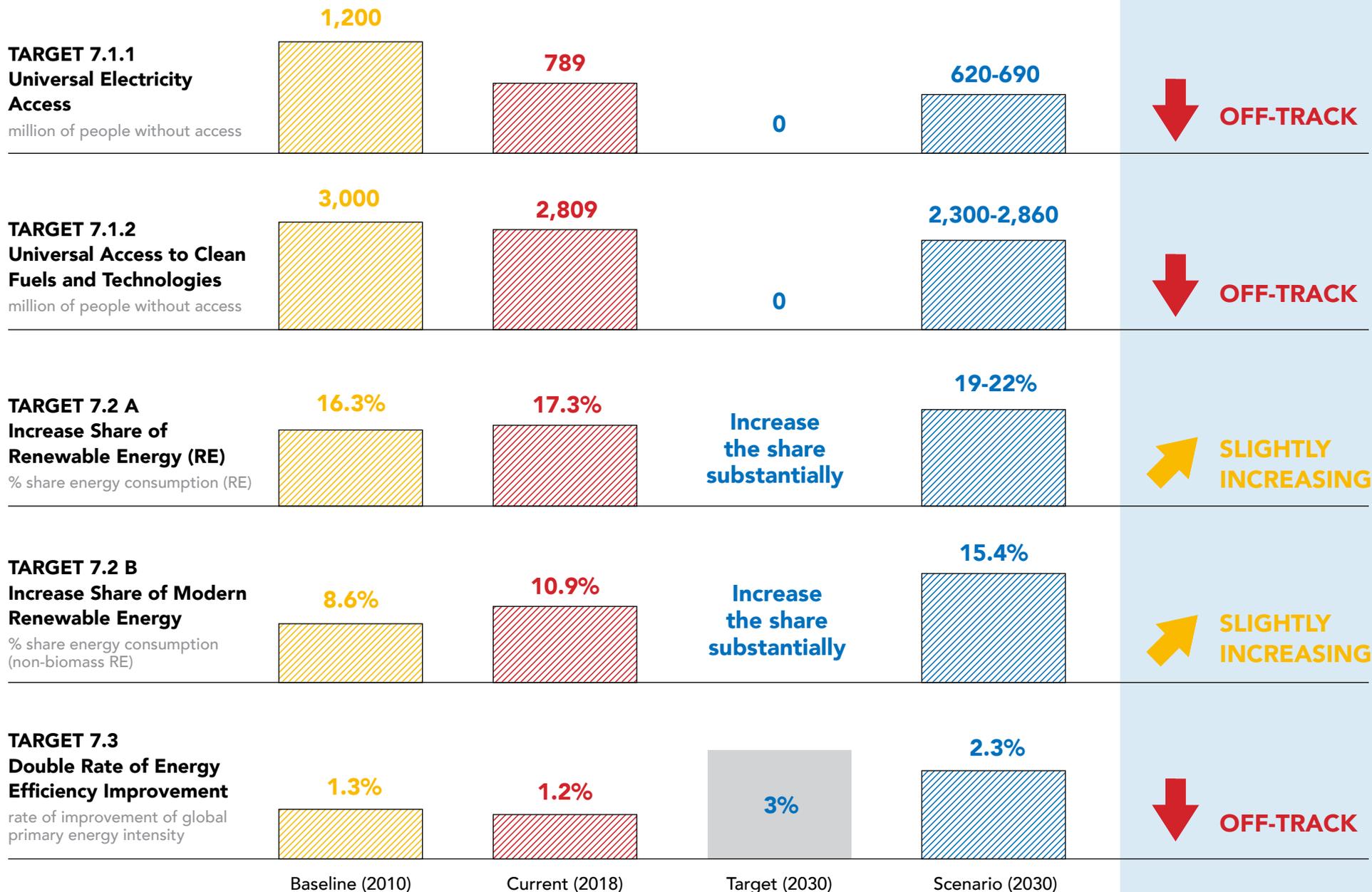
However, beyond this year, much work will be needed to keep the world on track to achieve these goals. SEforALL will continue to be a driving force on all areas of the energy transition and will need the continued support of its current and new partners. The successes you will read about in this 2020 Annual Report are just a snapshot of the impacts the organization can have. On behalf of the Administrative Board, I encourage all of you to consider how you can support SEforALL in building on these successes in the coming years as we increase our efforts to drive ambitious action toward 2030.

**Francesco Starace**  
CEO and General Manager,  
Enel SpA, Chair of the SEforALL  
Administrative Board

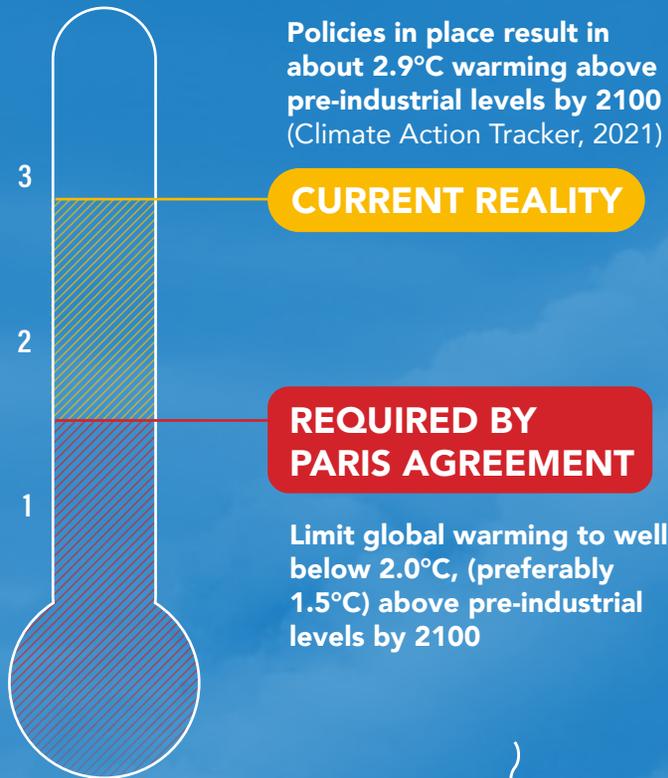




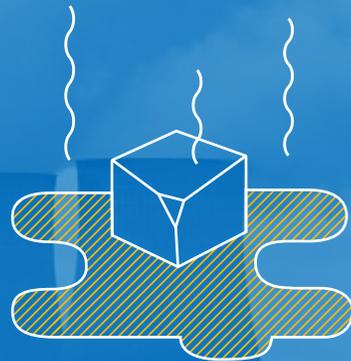
# The State of the Energy Transition



## CLIMATE PROGRESS

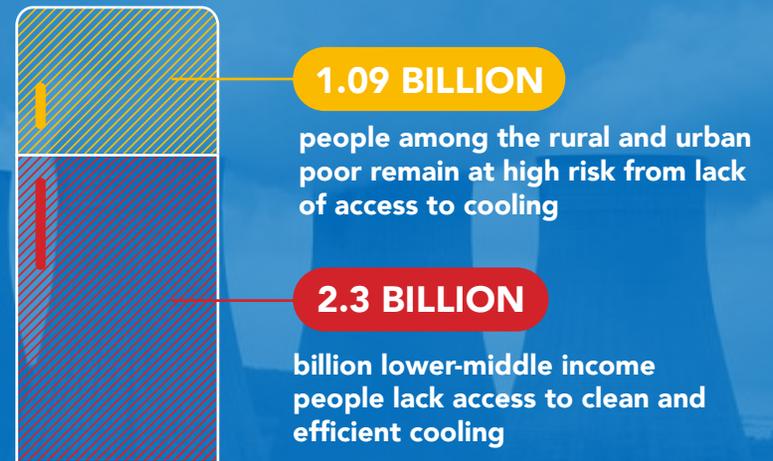
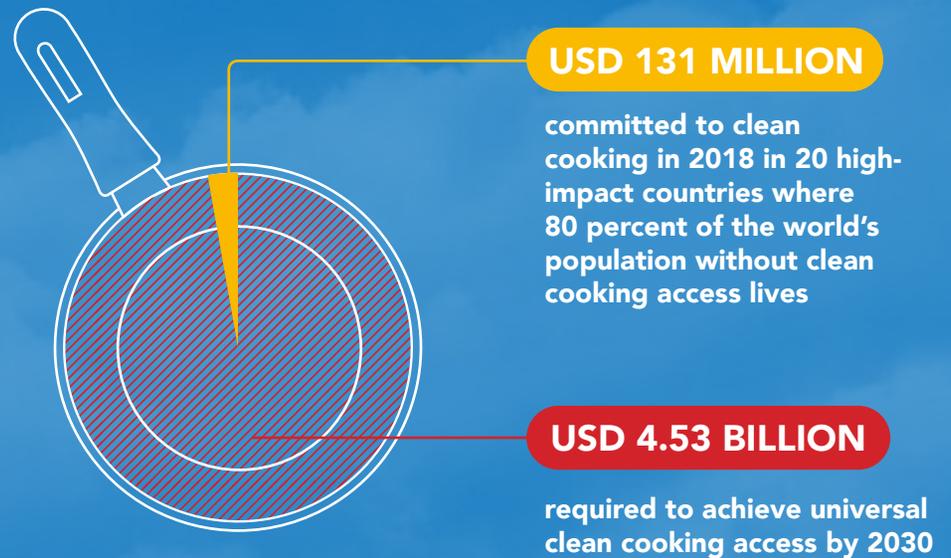


## SUSTAINABLE COOLING



**USD 630 billion**  
in economic loss due to heat stress

## ENERGY FINANCE





**USD 16 billion**

committed to residential electrification  
in 2018 in 20 high-impact countries  
where 80 percent of the world's  
un electrified population lives

**USD 41 billion**

of annual investment is required to achieve  
universal residential electrification by 2030

## SEforALL 3.0: Driving Action on SDG7

Since our inception as a UN initiative in 2011, we have advocated for an energy transition that will end poverty and address climate change. Our efforts helped establish the dedicated Sustainable Development Goal for energy, SDG7, which calls for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Helping the world achieve this goal, in full alignment with the Paris Agreement, has been our mission since the SDGs were introduced.

2020 was the start of the final decade to achieve SDG7. Based on data tracked against its three core targets, the world was, and still is, off track to meet this goal. Faced with this reality, and with the UN Secretary-General proclaiming a Decade of Action on the SDGs, we embarked on a new strategy in 2020 under the leadership of our new CEO Damilola Ogunbiyi.

Our new approach to supporting SDG7 success is action- and solution-oriented and has two main lines of work. The first is strengthening global agenda-setting through advocacy and diplomacy. We need political and business leaders to make access to affordable, clean energy one of their top priorities. Through our strong relationship with the UN, we push leaders to make commitments and connect them with the resources and partners they need to act.

We also engage directly with high-impact countries where energy access deficits are highest. Our country engagement is based on specific country needs and goals. We help governments develop plans, policies and regulations conducive to sustainable energy development. We also work with businesses, finance and development partners to identify their needs for investing in a country's energy sector. We then work with these partners and governments to develop solutions that unlock finance for energy projects.

Our new [3-Year Business Plan](#) organizes this work under 12 Programmes, each with expertise and partners related to specific areas that are integral to a clean, equitable energy transition, allowing us to take a holistic approach to our diplomacy and country engagement.

All of our country work is supported by the data and insights developed under our Programmes and by our partners.

A complete breakdown of the work undertaken by our individual Programmes in 2020 and the results they achieved is available in our 2020 Annual Monitoring Review.



### Energy Diplomacy and Advocacy

- UN-Energy
- International Relations and Special Projects
- Energy Finance
- SEforALL Forum



### Energy Access and Closing the Gap

- Investment Grade Policy and Regulatory Frameworks
- Results-Based Financing
- Universal Integrated Energy Planning
- Clean Cooking



### Energy Transitions and Climate Change

- Sustainable Cooling for All
- Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Development



### Intersection with Other SDGs

- Powering Healthcare
- Women at the Forefront

## Responding to COVID-19

*The emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020 caused a massive shift in priorities for everyone – from governments to businesses to individuals. It also caused a jolt to SEforALL, as we realized the need to immediately adapt our workplan to support a pandemic response. This flexibility was made possible by the core support provided to us by the governments of Austria, Denmark and Iceland, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the IKEA Foundation, all of which supported our pivot towards pandemic-response activities.*

### Powering Healthcare

Healthcare centres need reliable power to treat patients with COVID-19 or otherwise. But this power isn't a given, especially in countries and regions suffering from major electricity access gaps.

Building on our existing work to support healthcare facility electrification under our Powering Healthcare programme, we worked with our partners at the World Bank ESMAP to develop a [Powering Healthcare Solutions Catalogue](#) that showcases power solutions for resource-constrained health facilities, and we disseminated these solutions to governments and their health partners. The catalogue was in great demand, downloaded more than 1,400 times in 2020.

Throughout the year, we also provided advisory services to government agencies and development partners in the design and implementation of health

facility electrification efforts. This included support, in collaboration with the World Bank, to the Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria for the design of a 500-facility electrification intervention, and planning support to the governments of Sierra Leone and the Philippines.

Through these engagements and others, we further strengthened our existing partnerships with the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and World Health Organization, and formed a new strategic partnership with Power Africa, which is funded through a USD 1 million grant from USAID. This new partnership will support African governments and the donor community to coordinate and assist national health facility electrification efforts beginning in 2021.



## Africa region impact

**565 million**

Size of unelectrified population

**USD 28.6 billion**

Annual spending for universal access



**26.6 billion**

Estimated annual GDP impact

Source: The Recover Better with Sustainable Energy Guide for African Countries, SEforALL

## A Foundation for Building Back Better

Access to clean and affordable energy is essential to creating resilient communities equipped with infrastructure for responding to a pandemic. Energy is also a catalyst for economic development, making energy systems an important consideration for countries' COVID-19 economic recovery plans.

To help developing countries reboot their economies in the wake of COVID-19, we developed a series of [Recover Better with Sustainable Energy Guides](#) targeted to specific regions: Africa, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and South Asia. Each of them outlined key policies and enabling measures that countries

should take as part of an ambitious 'recover better' strategy that will deliver resilient economic growth, new jobs, and sustainable energy for all over the long-term.

Many off-grid companies already struggled with financial viability in serving hard-to-reach, rural communities before the pandemic. With the pandemic putting their critical work in greater jeopardy, we saw the need to have their calls for support heard. After surveying mini-grid and solar home systems companies about the impacts of the pandemic on their work, we collaborated with Ashden and the World Bank ESMAP to bring together the donor community and spark financial support for the off-grid sector.

**The work of SEforALL has taken on even greater importance amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are proud to support them as a core funder. With 789 million people without energy access, this is not a matter of light or darkness, but one that affects economic development and healthcare delivery – which becomes even more visible during a global pandemic. SEforALL is ensuring the transition to renewable energy continues to gain momentum, bringing power to the people and places who need it the most.**

**Per Heggnes**  
CEO, Ikea Foundation





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**Healthcare providers need access to reliable electricity to treat patients and save lives. SEforALL has proven experience and commitment to developing sustainable off-grid energy solutions for effective health facility electrification in Sub-Saharan Africa. Together, we are building strategies and leveraging our collective resources to increase access to clean energy solutions that will power quality healthcare services and clinics across the region.**

**Mark Carrato**  
Coordinator,  
Power Africa



# Energizing Impact

*The new strategy we implemented in 2020 looks to spark progress on SDG7 by cementing it as a priority on the global agenda and by working directly with countries to develop solutions to their energy needs.*

## Setting the Global Agenda



### UN High-level Dialogue on Energy

With 2020 proclaimed the Decade of Action on the SDGs, and with COVID-19 threatening progress on the clean energy transition, the UN Secretary-General announced that in 2021 there would be the first dialogue on energy at the summit level in 40 years during the General Assembly.

As part of her roles as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable Energy and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, our CEO was named Co-Chair of the High-level Dialogue on Energy, along with the United Nations Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner. The Secretary-General also named her the High-level Champion of the Dialogue. SEforALL took on a leadership role in the planning of the Dialogue, along with the United

Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. One of our major contributions to the Dialogue is to mobilize and support the development of “Energy Compacts.” These are voluntary commitments from Member States and non-state actors, such as companies, regional/local governments, NGOs, and others. When these stakeholders commit to a compact, they must include the specific actions they will take to support progress on SDG7 with specific targets that will be monitored. The Energy Compacts will be a unique platform for action and collaboration on SDG7 for the Decade of Action.

In addition to our work on the Energy Compacts, we established a series of Technical Working Groups for the Dialogue. These multi-stakeholder groups will create roadmaps for actions needed by 2030 to achieve SDG7 across the five themes of the Dialogue: Energy Access; Energy Transition; Enabling SDGs through Inclusive, Just Energy Transitions; Innovation, Technology and Data; and Finance and Investment. The Technical Working Groups include Global Champions, which are countries that have committed to spearheading advocacy, raising awareness, and inspiring commitments and action on the Dialogue’s five themes. We engaged these countries’ governments in 2020 to secure their support.

### COP26 Energy Transition Campaign and Council

A clean energy transition is prerequisite to progress on climate change. Developed countries need to shift away from fossil fuels towards efficient use of renewables, while new and expanded energy access in developing countries needs to come from clean sources and technologies. **Achieving SDG7 by 2030 can therefore set the world on path to achieve net zero by 2050.** This message was at the core of our advocacy and diplomacy work in 2020. It is also the reason why we were given a leading role in the Energy Transition Campaign and Council, developed by the COP26 Presidency, the Government of the United Kingdom.

We worked throughout 2020 with the Government of the United Kingdom on the Energy Transition Campaign to develop data-driven business cases for countries to transition away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy. In September, an Energy Transition Council was formed to take that work forward as one of the key initiatives of COP26 for promoting and supporting ambitious clean energy targets in developing countries. Our CEO is the Council Co-Chair and we are directly involved in supporting the Council’s engagement with Egypt, India, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria.

This is the first year that such a country-support model has been run as part of the COP process. Engagement with countries brings together a mix of finance, technology, development and government stakeholders to build attractive clean energy offers and incentives to move away from fossil fuel investments. If successful in 2021, the model could become a mainstay for future COPs, with SEforALL continuing to foster country engagement.

### G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group

We played a key role in 2020 in moving energy access onto the G20 agenda.

Throughout the year, we were involved in the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group at the request

of the G20 Presidency, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our main contribution to the working group was leading the development of a report on forward-looking options to improve universal access to energy for G20 Members, written in partnership with the Clean Cooking Alliance, International Energy Agency, Islamic Development Bank, OPEC Fund for International Development, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Health Organization and World Bank.

One of the report's key recommendations was to create a G20 Initiative on Clean Cooking and Energy Access that would concentrate G20 efforts moving forward. At the G20 Energy Ministers' Meeting in

September, the final communiqué endorsed the initiative and formally recognized the importance of energy access, ensuring the issue remains a focus for the G20 Italian Presidency in 2021, which we have already begun working with.

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**The goals of addressing climate change and delivering clean and affordable energy are compatible. The Energy Transition Council launched as part of COP26 is supporting countries to build clean energy systems while creating new growth and employment opportunities across the world. The Council's engagement with these countries would not be possible without the expertise and dedication of members like Sustainable Energy for All.**



**The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP**  
Minister of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth), Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Government of the United Kingdom

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**In 2021, the G20 Italian Presidency is prioritizing people, planet, and prosperity. The issue of universal access to energy plays a crucial role in these three priorities. SEforALL has provided the G20 Energy Transition Working Group with critical insights to help build consensus among G20 members for addressing energy poverty through improved energy access. The eradication of energy poverty is expected to be among the most significant deliverables of the first ever G20 Energy-Climate ministerial meeting, that Italy has resolved to organize to show leadership in the fight against climate change through the clean energy transition.**

**Luca Sabbatucci**  
Director General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Government of Italy

## Country Engagement

*In 2020, we expanded our activities to include country engagement that prioritizes data-driven decision-making, partnerships with high-impact countries and implementation on the ground. Our focus is on helping countries with the highest energy access gaps develop their energy policies and regulations and attract finance for building clean energy systems – powering their economies and ensuring a green and equitable recovery from COVID-19. We supported 18 countries in 2020, 15 of which were official development assistance recipients. This section presents highlights of this work, and all country support is described in detail in our Annual Monitoring Review.*

### Nigeria

SDG7 cannot be achieved without major engagement and contributions from the private sector. In Nigeria, our work is helping the government attract the private sector to help fulfil its plans to establish 5 million new solar energy connections and localize economic benefits from the solar industry, including the creation of 250,000 jobs.

At the request of the government, and with the support of major energy access company All On, we developed two tailor-made solutions to support private sector engagement in Solar Power Naija, the government's flagship solar energy programme.

#### Data platform

With support from the Nigerian government's Rural Electrification Agency, we used geospatial data to determine the best sites for solar home system deployment across the country. The government then used this data to assign allotments to companies approved under Solar Power Naija, with the requirement that companies provide at least 20 percent of their energy connections to their allotted

zones. Using the geographic, energy and consumer data, we also built a data platform that helps approved companies identify opportunities, inside and outside their zones, for developing projects.

The platform will continue to be updated to reflect the ongoing off-grid deployment across Nigeria, thereby offering up-to-date data that will guide business decisions from companies participating in Solar Power Naija. It will allow the government to see exactly which populations are being served by new projects to ensure equitable distribution of new connections.

#### Solar Value Chains

The government requested the support of SEforALL and All On in analysing the potential to increase local content in the off-grid solar value chain and growing the local solar manufacturing industry.

After analysing the strengths and weaknesses in the existing solar component value chain, we developed an economic model that simulates the impact of key private and public sector levers on socio-economic indicators, such as product price, jobs created,

greenhouse gas emissions, etc. The publicly accessible model can be used by companies and the government to explore how they can support further localization and achieve the targets set under Solar Power Naija.

### Universal Energy Facility

For energy businesses, the economics of powering people living in remote, rural communities across Africa are not viable without some form of added incentive. Yet current grant or subsidy mechanisms have proven inefficient in catalysing off-grid projects. Electrifying people in remote areas requires alternative funding mechanisms that can deliver speed, scale and efficiency.

In response to the off-grid sector's growing demands for results-based financing, in 2020 we launched the [Universal Energy Facility](#), a multi-donor results-based financing facility that will catalyse two million energy connections by 2023.

The Universal Energy Facility provides incentive payments to eligible organizations deploying energy solutions and providing verified end-user electricity connections (including mini-grids and solar home systems) and clean cooking solutions based on pre-determined standards.



The facility is a strong example of our new focus on having impact on the ground since it will directly lead to the delivery of energy to populations in need. We were able to set up the facility in less than a year, and in October 2020 it opened to applications from mini-grid developers seeking results-based finance for projects in Sierra Leone and Madagascar. In this initial wave, the facility will support approximately 7,000 electricity connections in the two countries, bringing vital electricity access to remote communities and powering local infrastructure.

The facility will also support more than 7,000 mini-grid connections in Benin, opening there in 2021. The Universal Energy Facility was only made possible because of the shared vision and support provided by The Rockefeller Foundation, Shell Foundation, Power Africa, Good Energies, UK aid, Carbon Trust, Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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**The Rockefeller Foundation is committed to bringing reliable and sustainable electricity, powered by renewable technologies, to a billion energy-poor people by decade's end. We cannot achieve such dramatic change alone, which is why our partnership with SEforALL is so important. Our collaboration focuses on key challenges inhibiting the energy transition. Together we are driving innovation, from implementing results-based financing for energy projects, to helping countries revamp their policy and regulatory frameworks for renewable energy.**



**Dr. Rajiv Shah**  
President, The Rockefeller  
Foundation



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**We support the Universal Energy Facility because it's designed to scale and to be here for the long term, until universal energy access has become a reality. We believe an effort of this size can be most effectively championed and coordinated by the Sustainable Energy for All team in their next Decade of Action.**

**Sam Parker**  
CEO, Shell Foundation



### **Sierra Leone**

With only 26 percent of Sierra Leone's population having access to electricity, the country has a long way to go to achieve universal access by 2030. But the government is intent on rapidly scaling access in the coming years and asked SEforALL to support this push.

Mini-grids will play a key role in providing electricity access to off-grid populations, which is why the Sierra Leone government is looking to adjust its policy and regulatory frameworks to foster greater participation from mini-grid businesses. In collaboration with the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the United Nations Office for Project Services, we began advising the Ministry of Energy by helping it identify an optimal tariff and subsidy structure for mini-grids that will allow the sector to flourish.

This work was also complementary and supportive to the launch of the Universal Energy Facility in Sierra Leone in 2020.

### **Energy Transition Campaign and Council countries**

If the world is going to achieve both SDG7 by 2030 and net zero carbon emissions by 2050, developing countries will need to close their energy access gaps and power economic development with clean energy solutions. Through our work on the COP26 Energy

Transition Campaign and Council, we are helping these countries develop comprehensive clean energy transition plans that can help them achieve both development and climate goals.

Before the Energy Transition Council was formalized, the Energy Transition Campaign served to attract countries to participate in the process of building clean energy plans as part of COP26. In partnership with the UK's COP26 Unit and Imperial College London, we helped develop detailed, real economy-focused case studies on the potential economic, climate and energy benefits of the clean energy transition for Egypt, India, Kenya, Nigeria and Vietnam, providing a basis for their engagement in what would become the Energy Transition Council.

Once the campaign transitioned to the Energy Transition Council, our CEO was appointed as Co-Chair, and we took on the responsibility of facilitating its ambitious work to support countries with the expertise and finance they need for their energy transitions.

SEforALL will be helping organize a series of country dialogues in Egypt, India, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria in 2021. These dialogues will bring together different players in development, finance, technology and government so they can collectively devise country-specific solutions for clean energy development ahead of COP26.



# The Key Role of Our Partners

*The complexity and urgency of bringing affordable and clean energy to all by 2030 requires like-minded organizations to collaborate towards this common goal. By combining our expertise and resources with others, we maximize our potential for impact. Under our new strategy, we are focusing on enhancing and building new strategic partnerships to deliver our work programmes and scale country-level action.*

## SEforALL and the UN

SEforALL was founded as a UN initiative with a mandate to drive action on SDG7. And while we are now an independent organization, our ties to the UN remain strong through a multi-year partnership agreement. Our CEO is also the Co-Chair of UN-Energy and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, giving us invaluable access to heads of state and other global leaders to spread the message that energy access and a clean energy transition are critical to the overall sustainable development agenda.

In 2020 we deliberately enhanced our collaboration with the UN given our shared interest in sparking action on SDG7. This started by developing a Programme specifically focused on our support to UN-Energy, the UN's mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in the field of energy. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, we began implementing a plan to reinvigorate UN-Energy and utilize this global platform more effectively, particularly in support of the High-level Dialogue on Energy, and the actions

that will need to be followed through on to 2030. As part of this, we established a New York City office and team, who will support our CEO in her UN-focused roles.

Throughout the year, we also engaged with a broad set of agencies on a variety of initiatives. This included the Climate Investment Platform, which was launched at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2019 jointly by the United Nations Development Programme, International Renewable Energy Agency, the Green Climate Fund and SEforALL. In 2020, the platform supported the Government of Colombia in electrifying 500,000 households in underserved and conflict-ridden rural areas. We advised on the redesign of the government energy subsidy regime for unelectrified households to incentivize off-grid solar market-based solutions while offering technical expertise in de-risking private sector involvement and investment.

Additional partnerships with UN agencies include our collaboration with the World Health Organization on Powering Healthcare, and our work with the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Industrial Development Organization as members of

the Three Percent Club, which facilitates knowledge exchange, advocacy, and joint action towards a rapid global transition to energy-efficient economies.

## Partners

In addition to the collaborations mentioned throughout this report, we pursued several other joint activities with a variety of partners throughout the year. We continued to serve as the Secretariat of the [Mini-Grids Partnership](#), a leading network of mini-grid stakeholders, and the [People-Centred Accelerator](#), a voluntary partnership of more than 45 organizations devoted to gender equality, social inclusion and women's empowerment.

Detailed information on the nature of our partnerships with the below organizations can be found in the 2020 Annual Monitoring Review.

## ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University  
Duke University  
Energy Research Center, Tsinghua University  
Florence School of Regulation (FSR)  
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP)  
The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)  
University of Birmingham

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)  
Ashden Fair Cooling Fund  
Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy  
Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)  
Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)  
Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)  
Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW)  
Friends of Europe  
Global Impact Investing Network  
Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)  
Healthcare Without Harm  
International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA)  
Modern Energy Cooking Services  
Nexleaf Analytics  
Overseas Development Institute  
Power for All  
Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)  
Smart Power India  
SNV Netherlands Development Organization  
Student Energy  
The Global LPG Partnership (GLPGP)  
World Resources Institute (WRI)

## COALITION / MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS

Vienna Energy Forum  
Building Efficiency Accelerator  
Climate Investment Platform  
Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency  
District Energy in Cities Initiative  
Efficiency for Access Coalition  
Energy Transitions Commission  
Equal by 30  
GET Invest  
Industrial Energy Accelerator  
Latin America & Caribbean Regional Hub  
Middle East Hub  
Million Cool Roofs Challenge  
National Organizing Committee (NOC)  
Nigeria Off-grid Market Acceleration Program (NoMAP)  
People-Centered Accelerator (PCA)  
REN21  
United for Efficiency (U4E)

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC)

African Development Bank (AfDB)  
Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB)  
International Finance Corporation (IFC)  
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)  
Sterling Bank  
First City Monument Bank (FCMB)  
Stanbic  
Green Climate Fund (GCF)  
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

## GOVERNMENT

Austrian Development Agency  
Agence Française de Développement  
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)  
Carbon Trust  
Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) of the Government of India  
Iceland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
European Commission – DG  
EuropeAid Development & Cooperation (DEVCO)  
Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN)  
G20 Presidency – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
Montreal Protocol Secretariat  
Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP)  
Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (PEEB)  
Rwandan Government: Ministry of Environment (MoE)  
Rwandan Government: Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) and Secretary of Energy  
Rwandan Government: Office of the Prime Minister  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Transforming Energy Access (TEA)  
The Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria (REA)  
UK COP26 Team UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
UK – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)  
UK – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - Manufacture Africa  
United States African Development Foundation (USADF)  
USAID Power Africa

## MULTILATERAL / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION:

Clean Energy Ministerial  
Global Energy Interconnectivity Development Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO)  
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

International Energy Agency (IEA)  
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)  
International Solar Alliance  
Lusophone Renewable Energy Association (ALER)  
Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)  
Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol  
Vienna Energy Club  
World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP)  
World Bank Group (WBG)

## OTHER

Global Fuel Economy Initiative  
Household Solar Energy Funders Group (HSEFG)

## PHILANTHROPY

Acumen  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)  
ClimateWorks Foundation  
Climate Emergency Collaboration Group  
Good Energies Foundation  
IKEA Foundation  
Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP)  
Mott Foundation  
Rockefeller Foundation  
SELCO Foundation  
Shell Foundation  
Shakti Foundation  
Shine Campaign  
Solar Cookers International  
Swedish Postcode Foundation  
Wallace Global Fund

## PRIVATE SECTOR (INDUSTRY, PROJECT DEVELOPER, UTILITIES)

ACOB Lighting Technology  
Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA)  
All On  
Alliance for Rural Electrification  
Alliance to Save Energy  
Danfoss  
Econoler  
Energias de Portugal (EDP)  
Engie PowerCorner  
EM-ONE  
European Partnership for Energy and Environment  
Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Foundation  
Global Food Cold Chain Alliance  
Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)  
Iberdrola  
International Copper Association (ICA)  
Interswitch  
Johnson Controls  
McKinsey & Company  
Odyssey Energy Solutions  
Professional Conference Organizer (PCO): CUBE Communications  
Schneider Electric  
Signify  
WLPGA  
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Climate Action Team  
Cool Coalition (UNEP)  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC)  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
SDG7 Youth Constituency  
UN-Energy  
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Affairs Commission  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations Foundation (UNF)  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)  
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (UN-OHRLLS)  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
United Nations System in Rwanda  
United Nations Women  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

# Advocating for Action



## This is Cool campaign

Over 1 billion people are at high risk due to lack of access to cooling, and a further 2.3 billion lack access to clean and efficient cooling. In a warming world, access to sustainable cooling is not a luxury. It is an issue of equity and a service that must be delivered to everyone.

In just a few years, we have become a thought leader on sustainable cooling thanks to our Chilling Prospects research and Sustainable Cooling for All programme. In 2020, we developed the [This Is Cool](#) campaign to highlight the need for affordable and green cooling solutions to ensure access to nutritious food and safe medicines and provide protection from heat in the transition to affordable and clean energy. The campaign raises broad awareness and profiles easy and affordable cooling solutions. In less than a year it has amassed thousands of online followers.

“

**The Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP) has partnered with SEforALL for the last four years to speed and scale efforts on climate-friendly cooling for all. With the Global Panel on Access to Cooling and a ground-breaking assessment of global cooling needs and risks, SEforALL's Cooling for All programme has helped put climate-friendly cooling for all on the political agenda across the world.**

**Dan Hamza-Goodacre**  
Non-Executive Director, Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program



## Gender and Energy

An energy transition that leaves no one behind must give special attention to ensuring that its benefits are reaped by both women and men. Historically, women in the developing world suffer most from a lack of household energy access, and their needs for electricity and clean cooking can differ. The design of energy access policies and projects needs to take this into account, and we are working to make this a reality.

Our [Women at the Forefront programme](#) is the primary channel for our advocacy on the importance of women's equality in the energy transition. This programme is cross-cutting, providing advice to all other programmes at SEforALL so that they can bring gender considerations to their engagement with countries and partners and to their knowledge outputs.

In 2020 we developed a new research series on [Energy Safety Nets](#) that can support women's livelihoods, and through our Energizing Finance research we specifically highlighted the shortfall in 'gender lens' development assistance—finance that targets energy initiatives with an explicit focus on women's empowerment—helping raise the profile of this important issue.



**The Wallace Global Fund has supported our cross-cutting gender work since 2016. Thanks to their ongoing commitment to this work, in 2020 we developed new research to highlight for governments and the energy sector how stakeholders can better design 'Energy Safety Nets' that close energy affordability gaps with a special focus on the impact this will have on women's livelihoods.**

The energy sector is also behind others in terms of a gender-balanced workforce, with only 32 percent of energy sector employees women. This hampers the development of energy systems that adequately serve the needs of women and excludes women from jobs and economic opportunity in a rapidly expanding sustainable energy field.

Through the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET), we are helping women already in the sector grow their careers through mentorship: 15 mentees graduated from our mentorship programme for Women in Energy Access in 2020, and a new mentorship programme for Women in Clean Cooking launched in collaboration with Clean Cooking Alliance and GWNET.

“

**Iceland has supported SEforALL's work to drive greater gender equality, social inclusion, and women's empowerment in the energy sector globally. SEforALL's main objectives and way of working with governments, the private sector, and NGOs in jointly achieving their goals of increasing the share of and access to renewable energy globally fits perfectly with Iceland's strategic priorities on renewable energy.**

**Martin Eyjólfsson**  
Permanent Secretary of State,  
Government of Iceland



# Leading with Insights and Innovation

*The foundation for our country engagement and diplomacy work is a rich body of data and evidence that we develop alongside and in support of our partners. By providing decision-makers with timely and targeted insights and innovations related to energy access, energy finance, sustainable cooling, climate impacts and other areas, we are empowering them to take action.*

## Data and Evidence

### Chilling Prospects

Since 2018 we have been delivering research and advocacy to help raise awareness of the growing threat of lack of access to sustainable cooling, and to help shape government and private sector thinking on the solutions to this global challenge.

Our annual Chilling Prospects report has garnered greater attention each year since 2018. [Chilling Prospects 2020](#) highlighted that over 1 billion people among the rural and urban poor are now at high risk from a lack of cooling access. And billions of lower-middle income people in need of cooling pose a different kind of risk: their limited purchasing choices mean they are likely to favour cooling devices that are typically inefficient and could cause a dramatic rise in energy demand and associated emissions.

We also adapted the 2020 version to specifically address the COVID-19 pandemic and how a lack of sustainable cooling will compromise an effective pandemic response. As the world tries to recover better from COVID-19, access to sustainable cooling

is critical to ensure nutrition, health and safety of the most vulnerable.

### Energizing Finance

Adequate and appropriate flows of finance are an essential precursor to closing the energy access gap, and shortfalls and inconsistencies in financial flows also serve as a critical indicator of policy and innovation barriers to progress.

Our Energizing Finance research comprises the first and only systematic analysis for tracking finance commitments, disbursements and needs in countries with the largest energy access gaps: high-impact countries (HICs). Its annual release is anticipated by governments, the private sector and the development and donor communities alike, because it clearly marks financing gaps for renewable technologies, clean cooking solutions and electricity access, helping inform their strategies to supporting energy access.

We again released two reports under the series in 2020. The release included an online launch event and a media outreach campaign that resulted in

“

**The benefits of access to cooling are numerous in terms of human wellbeing, safety, health, nutrition, productivity and education. However, the increasing demand for mechanical cooling causes rising greenhouse gas emissions. SEforAll’s Cooling for All programme is a unique opportunity to combat climate change and at the same time promote sustainable, climate friendly cooling solutions, which allow to significantly improve the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people without access to reliable cooling.**

**Ambassador Christian Frutiger**  
Assistant Director General and Head of  
Global Cooperation, Swiss Agency for  
Development and Cooperation

research findings being profiled by CNBC Africa, BBC World Service, and the Financial Times.

[Energizing Finance: Understanding the Landscape 2020](#) found that finance for energy access remains far below the investment needed to achieve SDG7 by 2030: USD 41 billion of annual investment is required to achieve universal residential electrification, but

only one third, or USD 16 billion, was tracked in the HICs in 2018.

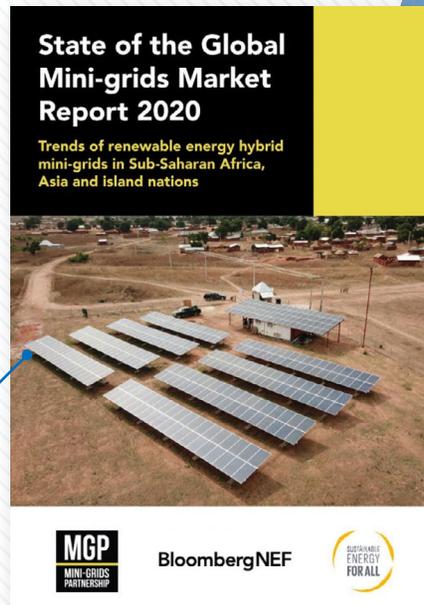
[Energizing Finance: Missing the Mark 2020](#), which is published every two years, highlighted how the current lack of finance commitments is exacerbated by major lags in disbursing what little finance is committed.

Such findings serve as the basis for our calls for greater action and commitment to SDG7.

### State of the Global Mini-grids Market Report

Community-scale power generation and distribution systems, or mini-grids, can play a key role in delivering essential electricity services to households, businesses and public services that are today unserved or underserved by the grid. But the sector is still at a nascent stage and tracking its development is essential to understanding its requirements for growth.

In its role as Secretariat of the Mini-Grids Partnership, SEforALL commissioned the [State of the Global Mini-grids Market Report](#) to raise awareness about mini-grids, mobilize investments in the mini-grid sector and serve as a benchmark to measure progress in the sector for decision-makers. By compiling insights from governments, developers, financiers and other stakeholders, it represents an important cross-institutional collaboration for informing the sector.



## Energy Safety Nets

Energy Safety Nets is a term describing government-led approaches to support the very poor and vulnerable to access essential modern energy services (electricity as well as clean fuels and technologies for cooking). They are designed to close the affordability gap between market prices and what poor consumers can pay for both connections and service delivery.

In 2020, we [published a series](#) of case studies, a policy guide and a detailed report to show governments and their partners how they can better design Energy Safety Nets to make energy affordable for vulnerable populations – giving them a roadmap to ensuring that no one is left behind in their pursuit of SDG7.

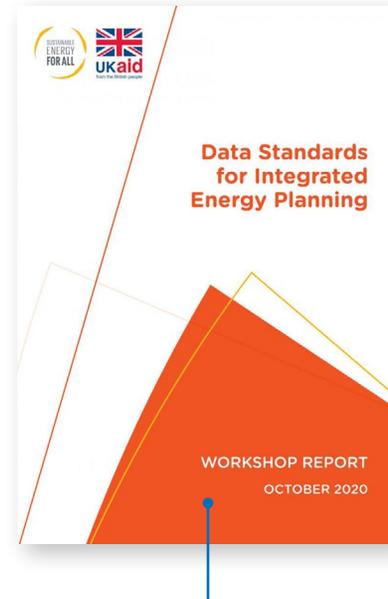
## Innovations

### Mini-grids emissions tool

To begin quantifying the climate impact of the Universal Energy Facility, we created a methodology and tool to calculate the carbon emissions displaced by the renewable energy mini-grids supported by the facility. The methodology and tool were reviewed, strengthened and validated with the help of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, TFE Energy GmbH and the Africa Minigrid Developers Association.

The tool can be used by other sector stakeholders to better quantify the climate benefits of mini-grids, which can help draw new support for projects. The tool lets users model emissions avoided by factoring in:

- Different previous energy sources to calculate the baseline emissions
- Energy consumed by the mini-grid customers
- Different mini-grid generating sources including hybrid mini-grids



### Data Standards for Integrated Energy Planning

There is increasing recognition that integrated energy planning is key to achieving universal access, and that geospatial modelling provides a low-cost, dynamic and data-driven means of energy prioritization and planning. But the increasing use of geospatial least-cost modelling is also highlighting one of its key challenges: data gaps and data quality.

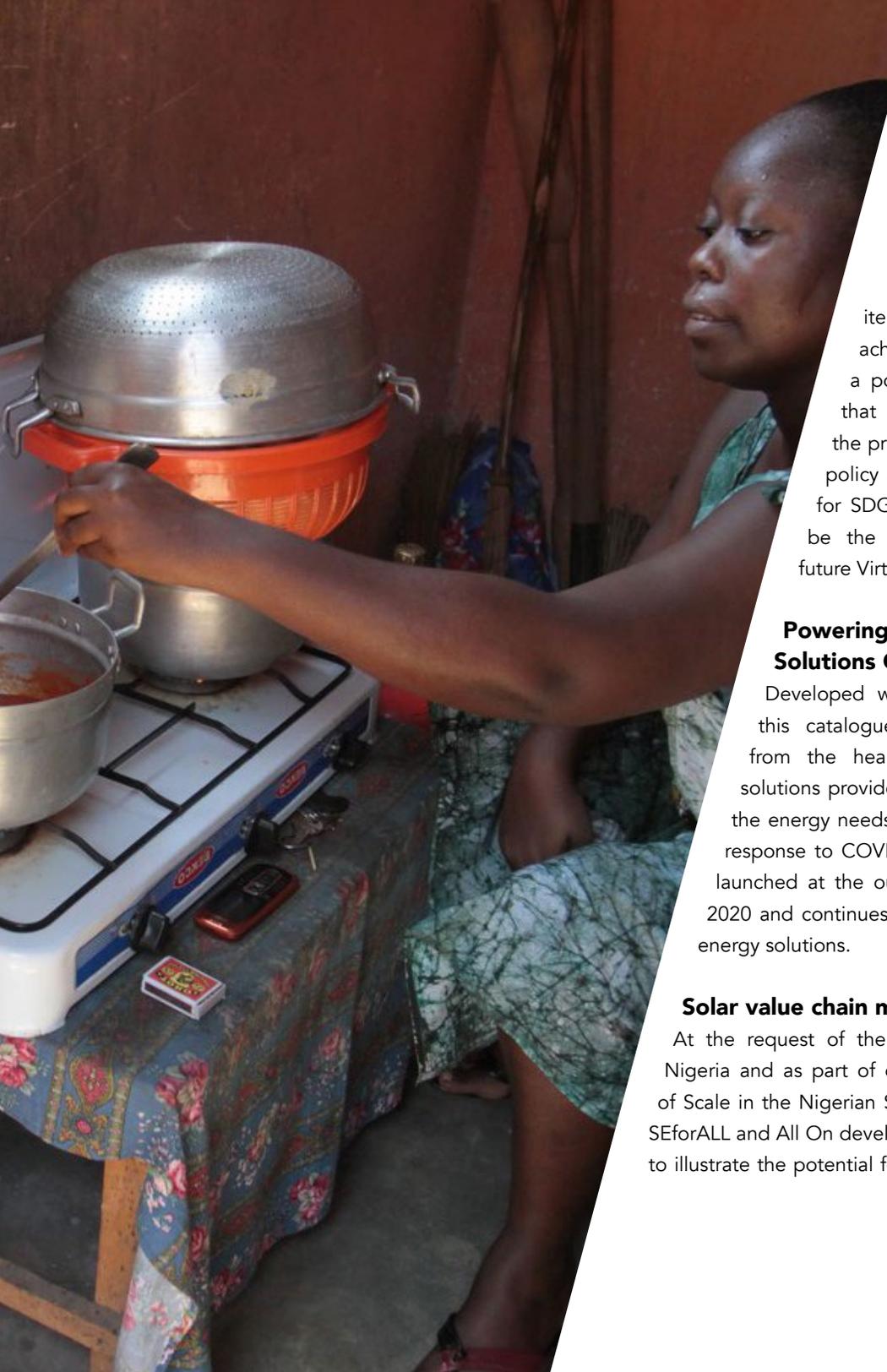
We hosted a specialized workshop on improving and standardizing data used by governments and their partners for integrated energy planning. By capturing insights from participants – including data scientists and energy planners – in a [workshop report](#), we are guiding the development of best-in-class data standards for the sector, which will ultimately make it easier for governments to develop best-in-class integrated energy plans for achieving SDG7.

### Electrifying Economies

Compelling decision-makers to increase finance commitments and adopt policies and regulations that encourage sustainable energy development is an ongoing challenge. To spark greater action, SEforALL, Rocky Mountain Institute and The Rockefeller Foundation launched the Electrifying Economies initiative, an [interactive website](#) that takes users on a journey through the social and economic importance of universal electrification.

Electrifying Economies demonstrates the role distributed energy will play in ending energy poverty and catalysing a green and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. It draws on the latest data and research from around the world to show how distributed renewables can provide sustainable, affordable, and reliable power for all. The project provides information to support policymakers and investors in taking action today to realize this potential.

Our contribution focused on the “Solutions” section of the website that provided clear pathways and action-



items for stakeholders to achieve SDG7. This included a policymaker's decision tree that guides the user through the process of building a robust policy and regulatory framework for SDG7. This decision tree will be the backbone of SEforALL's future Virtual Knowledge Hub.

### **Powering Healthcare Solutions Catalogue**

Developed with World Bank ESMAP, this catalogue connects stakeholders from the health sectors with energy solutions providers who can help address the energy needs of healthcare facilities in response to COVID-19 and beyond. It was launched at the outset of the pandemic in 2020 and continues to be updated with new energy solutions.

### **Solar value chain model**

At the request of the Federal Government of Nigeria and as part of our Achieving Economies of Scale in the Nigerian Solar Value Chain project, SEforALL and All On developed an [economic model](#) to illustrate the potential for localizing the assembly

or manufacturing of solar home systems and mini-grids in Nigeria, contributing to the country's new Economic Sustainability Plan.

Users can simulate the impact of key private and public sector levers on socio-economic indicators, such as product price, jobs created, GHG emissions, etc., thereby helping companies and governments identify opportunities for efficiencies and economies of scale along the solar value chain.

### **Cooling for All needs assessment**

The implications that cooling demand has for energy systems, climate change, clean air, economics, well-being, and workforce development are currently not fully understood. An underestimation of the impact may contribute to a lack of ambition in policy, infrastructure and technology development, and could ultimately have far-reaching social, economic and environmental consequences.

In response to this, the Cooling for All Secretariat at SEforALL and Heriot-Watt University partnered to create the [Cooling for All Needs Assessment](#), a tool recommended for governments, local authorities, development institutions and NGOs to assess the full spectrum of cooling needs and the policy, technology and finance measures to address those needs.



# Our Global Reach

## ENGAGING ONLINE



**140,000**  
USERS

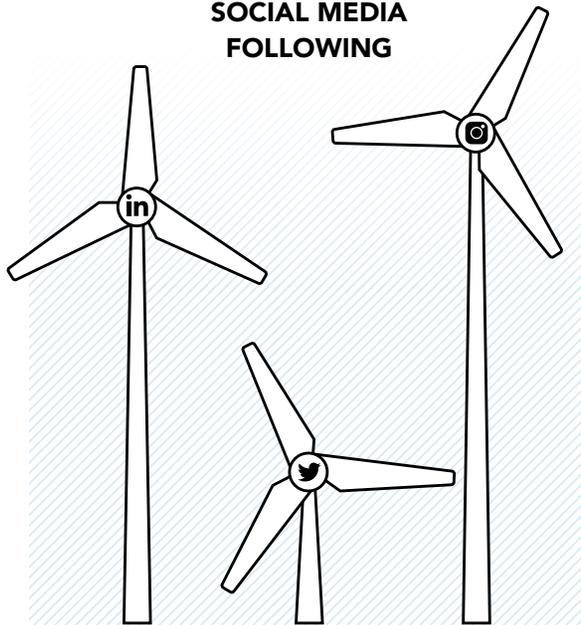
INCREASE OF 30% COMPARED TO 2019

**120+**  
COUNTRIES

Strategic communication underpins all our work to both inform and inspire our audiences. We disseminate tools and resources, both our own and those of others, that will help people better understand and take the steps needed to achieve SDG7 and the Paris Agreement. At the same time, we serve our audiences with inspiration to act through content that highlights the impact energy has in supporting people’s livelihoods and a healthier planet.

We share our messages and content through a variety of channels, creating a global network of SEforALL followers. This network is growing, which means our influence is too.

### SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING



**63% ↑**

LINKEDIN

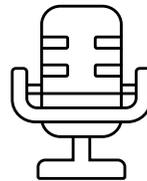
**13% ↑**

TWITTER

**82% ↑**

INSTAGRAM

## EARNED MEDIA REACH



**3,245**

ARTICLES & INTERVIEWS

883 MILLION  
POTENTIAL AUDIENCE

## DEMAND FOR OUR EXPERTISE



**71,000+**

DOWNLOADS OF  
OUR RESEARCH



**25,000+**

VIEWS OF OUR  
COVID-19  
RESOURCES

### SEFORALL FEATURED IN/ON:

- BBC World Service
- CNBC Africa
- Bloomberg
- Financial Times
- Reuters
- Il Messaggero
- Devex
- Economic Times
- AllAfrica

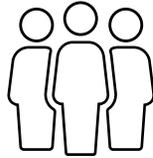


**18 COUNTRIES**

SUPPORTED THROUGH  
OUR ACTIVITIES

**CONVENING POWER** 2020 SEFORALL EVENTS

(WEBINARS,  
ROUNDTABLES, ETC.)



**3,480**  
**ATTENDEES**



**91**  
**SPEAKERS**  
INCLUDING 46 WOMEN

**SEforALL FORUM**

The SEforALL Forum provides a unique opportunity for the global community to come together to advance progress towards the achievement of SDG7.

The Forum was scheduled to take place in May 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the full Forum experience, including networking, forming partnerships and impromptu dialogues, the SEforALL Forum will now take place in spring 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda.

In February 2020, before the onset of the pandemic, our CEO visited Kigali to discuss Forum plans with our 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.

We will continue to work closely with these partners in the lead-up to the event in 2022.

# Business Information

## Who we are

SEforALL is an independent international organization that works in partnership with the UN and leaders in government, the private sector, financial institutions, civil society and philanthropies to drive faster action towards the achievement of SDG7 – access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 – in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

We were started as a UN initiative in 2011 following a resolution that declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. In 2016, we became a Quasi-International Organization under Austrian law, headquartered in Vienna. While this new structure gives us independence from the UN, we keep close ties through multiple channels, including a multi-year relationship agreement.

Today, we are a vibrant, growing organization with a clear vision and increasing demand for collaboration from stakeholders with a shared goal of achieving SDG7.

## Governance

We are a legally independent entity formed under the laws of Austria with offices in Vienna, Austria, New York City and Washington, D.C.

Our governance structure consists of an Administrative Board and a Funders' Council, and is defined by our [bylaws](#) and [statutes](#).



**Our staff of passionate professionals are located in our headquarters in Vienna, Austria and our satellite office in Washington, DC. A small office has also been established in New York City in order to strengthen the relationship with the UN and drive more impactful work through UN- Energy**

**Staff presence is planned in Africa and South Asia**

## Administrative Board



**Francesco Starace** (Chair), CEO and General Manager, Enel SpA



**Elizabeth M. Cousens** (Vice-Chair), President and CEO, United Nations Foundation



**Andrin Fink** (Chair of the Funders' Council), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



**Harish Hande** Co-Founder, SELCO India



**Steve Howard**, Co-Chair, We Mean Business, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Temasek International



**Daniel Klier**  
CEO, Arabesque S-Ray



**Damilola Ogunbiyi** (Ex Officio Member), CEO, SEforALL, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair, UN-Energy



**Gerard Penning**, Senior Executive, ABNAMRO



**Leonardo Beltrán Rodríguez**, former Deputy Secretary for Planning and Energy Transition, Secretariat of Energy (SENER), Mexico



**Zouera Youssoufou**, Managing Director and CEO, Dangote Foundation

## Funders' Council

Austrian Development Agency

ClimateWorks Foundation

Government of Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Iceland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

IKEA Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation

Shell Foundation

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Government of the United Kingdom, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Wallace Global Fund

## Acknowledgements

*Our 2020 success would not have been possible without the gracious support of our funders, who share our dedication to helping the world achieve affordable and clean energy for all.*

### Core Funders

Austrian Development Agency  
Government of Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Government of Iceland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
IKEA Foundation  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

### Programme Funders

All On  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Carbon Trust  
Climate Emergency Collaboration Group  
ClimateWorks Foundation  
EM-ONE  
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GmbH  
Good Energies Foundation

Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors  
Shell Foundation  
Swedish Postcode Foundation  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
Transforming Energy Access  
UK aid  
USAID Power Africa  
Wallace Global Fund

### Funders in-kind

Government of Austria  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GmbH  
McKinsey & Company

## Financials

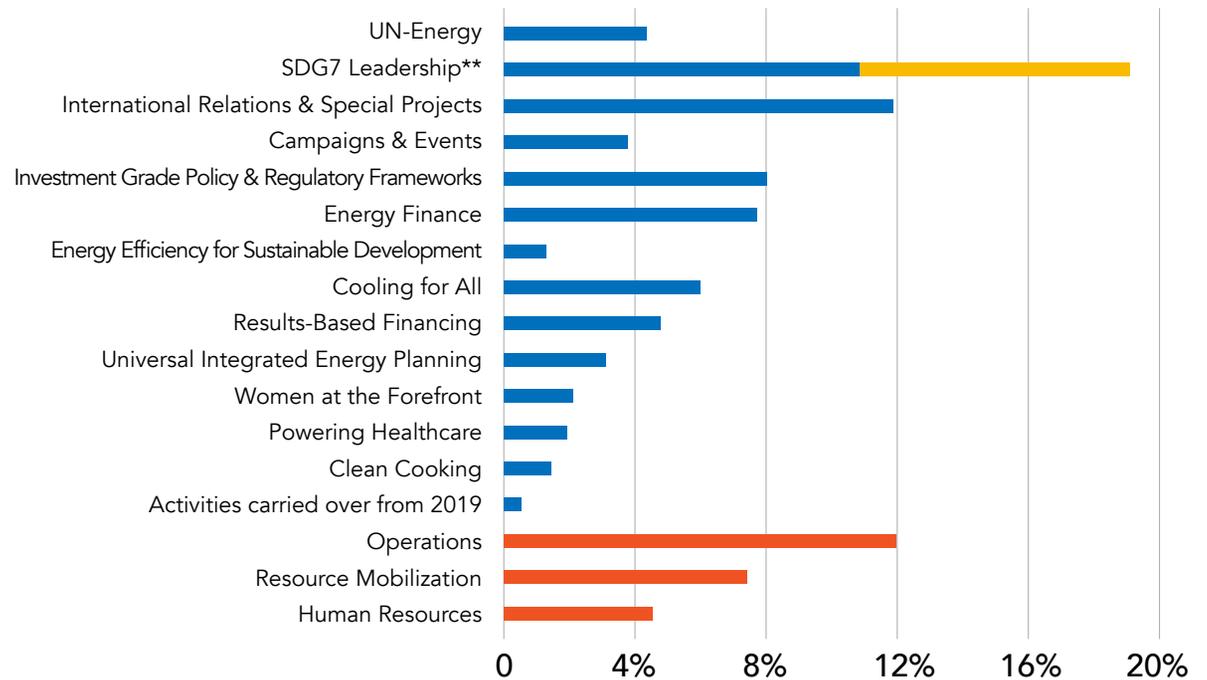
SEforALL's 2020 Financial Statements were subject to a full financial audit, conducted by Mazars. This is the fifth year that SEforALL, as an independent Quasi-International Organization (QIO) established under Austrian law, has undergone an audit. The 2020 Financial Statements and audit report are available on the SEforALL website.

In this report, we provide an overview of the 2020 Financial Statements.

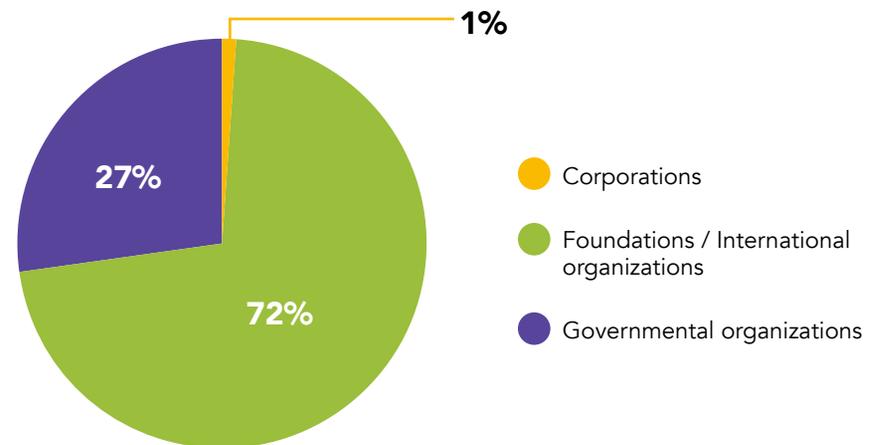
In the financial year to 31 December 2020, new revenue from donors was USD 22.8 million with an additional USD 1.0 million of in-kind contributions. In addition, there was revenue of USD 8.9 million deferred from previous years, giving a total of USD 32.7 million. Of this, USD 10.4 million was utilized for net operating expenditures, with the balance of USD 22.3 million deferred until future periods.

New revenue from donors in 2020 represents new contracts that were signed during 2020. Out of 2020's new revenue of USD 22.8 million, 27 percent was from government, or public, sources, 72 percent from international organizations and foundations, and 1 percent came from corporations.

## Percentage of Total 2020 Expenditures by Programme\*



## New Revenue Sources 2020



\*Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, as well as Communications activities are included in all ongoing external Programme costs (blue) and represent approximately 13% of total expenditures.

\*\*SDG7 Leadership costs include usage of in-kind contributions, indicated in yellow.

## Annual Monitoring Review

*The Annual Monitoring Review provides an in-depth look at the results of our work and lessons learned in 2020. An executive summary of the Annual Monitoring Review is below, with the full version available on our website.*

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) began 2020 with a new CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG), Damilola Ogunbiyi, and developed a new [2021-2023 Business Plan](#) and strategic direction, which the organization sees as a roadmap for its mission to support the world in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) — access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 — in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The world continues to be off track globally to achieve SDG7, largely due to slow overall progress across all targets. With less than 10 years to achieve SDG7, we believe that the world's collective focus should be on driving implementation, and this is reflected in our work over the next three years as we embark on what we are calling 'SEforALL 3.0'.

The business plan includes 12 programmes designed (new), or re-designed (existing), together acting as a value chain of global influence and country support that provides clear pathways to accelerate progress

towards the achievement of SDG7. This support is demand-driven, as our suite of programmes across advocacy, energy access and energy transitions come together to customize solutions addressing the gaps identified through our rigorous assessment and engagement processes. While SDG7 is our north star, recognizing that access to energy underpins all other SDGs, our work also supports the global SDG agenda, encompassing gender, health and climate, specifically.

Alongside the new strategy and business plan, SEforALL has developed a new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, organizational Theory of Change (ToC), and results-based Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), to track progress and adjust course based on data, evidence and learnings along the way. This Annual Monitoring Review (AMR) is the first report against these KPIs, tracking progress and performance under the new strategy, serving as an annual record for future benchmarking, and allowing for transparent tracking and evaluation over time. The AMR is an Annex to the Annual Report, providing executive-level data and evidence in support of the external communications document. All programmatic summaries are underpinned by robust 2020 Annual Programme Progress Reports and Programme KPI Management Tools. The audience of

the AMR is SEforALL, current and future donors, the SEforALL Funders' Council, SEforALL's Administrative Board, our wide range of partners and the global community.

Although the business plan spans 2021–2023, the design and implementation of the new strategy began in 2020, coinciding with the unfolding of the COVID-19 pandemic. Against unprecedented challenges, SEforALL has shown resilience and adaptability to a new way of working both with global partners and as an organization. The pandemic has challenged business-as-usual approaches to global fora, relationship building, and in-country implementation. While governments have been burdened with the social, health and economic shocks of the pandemic, the energy agenda has at times become a lower priority. These setbacks have affected progress globally and led to delays in elements of our programme objectives such as global events and off-grid energy projects being built and connected. In response to these challenges, SEforALL has made innovative adjustments, and has had one of its most productive years as an organization to date – setting our strategy up for a successful start as we embark on the Decade of Action.





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