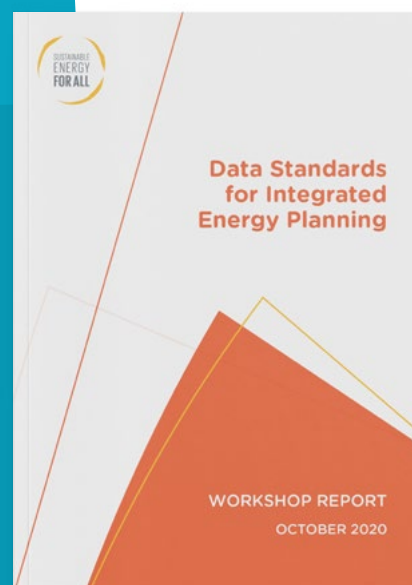
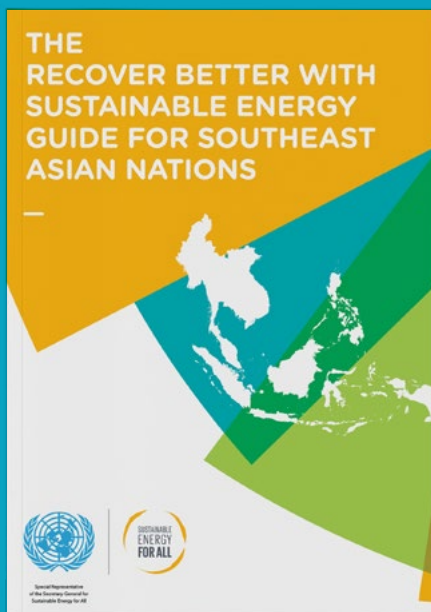


OCTOBER 2020

# SEforALL and the Decade of Action

100  
SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY  
FOR ALL  
DAYS REPORT





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**This report provides an update on Sustainable Energy for All's (SEforALL) activities over the past 100 days, covering the period 19 July to 26 October 2020. It is the third 100 Days Report published by SEforALL, offering an overview of how the organization is progressing in the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

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SEforALL's foreseen contributions and approach to the Decade of Action are detailed in our new 3-Year Business Plan, which we published in August, following extensive consultations with key stakeholders and approval by our Administrative Board. The plan articulates how SEforALL has embarked on a new strategic direction that strengthens global advocacy while expanding activities to support country-level implementation that will accelerate progress on SDG7. This shift in approach was guided by a new Theory of Change established by the organization in parallel to our business planning process.

Global advocacy is a key thematic area under the new business plan. As such, SEforALL is providing support for the High-Level Dialogue on Energy, which will take place during the General Assembly in 2021 and is the first Dialogue on energy in forty years. As the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy (SRSG), SEforALL CEO Damilola Ogunbiyi was named the High-Level Champion of the Dialogue, and as the Co-Chair of UN-Energy along with UNDP's Administrator Achim Steiner, also serves as Dialogue Co-Chair. Extensive planning is already underway for the event, including identifying themes of the Dialogue, briefing member states and developing the Energy Compacts that will elaborate on and create a tracking framework for voluntary commitments on energy from member states, the private sector and other stakeholders towards 2030.

The High-Level Dialogue on Energy in September and COP26 in November 2021 are both landmark events to mobilize action towards SDG7 and Paris Agreement progress, and SEforALL has an integral role in helping set the agendas of these two major international fora. SEforALL has been supporting the UK government in their role as



COP26 host on an Energy Transition Campaign. Our CEO was also recently named a Co-Chair of the Energy Transition Council, along with Alok Sharma, the COP26 President and UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Council brings together leaders in the power sector across politics, finance and technology to speed up the transition from coal to clean renewable energy in developing countries.

SEforALL's recent work with this year's G20 Presidency is another example of our ability to bring sustainable energy access to the forefront of high-level intergovernmental discussions. Following ten months of engagement in the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group, and at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia holding the G20 Presidency, SEforALL helped secure recognition and endorsement of an Initiative on Clean Cooking and Energy Access by the G20 in an official Communique coming out of the Energy Ministerial held 27-28 September. SEforALL led the development of the initiative along with other international organizations.

Meanwhile, SEforALL has work already well underway as part of our new strategic focus on in-country implementation. This includes

work in Nigeria to support the government's deployment of 5 million solar connections as part of the country's Economic Sustainability Plan; identifying opportunities and enabling actions to localize the solar value chain; and updating and expanding the country's current integrated energy plan. Other targeted support is underway in Sierra Leone, where the SEforALL team is analysing current mini-grid regulatory and tariff structures to identify the potential for different subsidy mechanisms and tariff structures to expand access to affordable energy. Building on this work, the Universal Energy Facility, a results-based finance facility managed by SEforALL launched its first wave on 21 October, offering grants to qualifying mini-grid developers with projects in Sierra Leone and Madagascar.

We also continue to develop dedicated resources and initiatives in support of the global response to COVID-19. Two more *Recover Better* guides—for the Caribbean and Southeast Asia region—have been published following the initial guide for African countries. The series has identified region-specific challenges, opportunities and key enablers for countries to 'Recover Better' with investments in sustainable energy as part of their recovery and stimulus plans. SEforALL also co-hosted a virtual donor summit to help highlight the challenges facing energy access enterprises that are significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and the support they need. Under our Powering Healthcare Programme, we have expanded our Solutions Catalogue showcasing solutions for rapid healthcare facility electrification.

Much work over the last 100 days has also been dedicated to the upcoming release of our *Energizing Finance* research series and to new digital platforms highlighting sustainable cooling and the economic significance of electricity access.

# From Planning to Action



## SEforALL 3-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN 2021-2023

On 27 August 2020, SEforALL unveiled its new 3-Year Business Plan for the years 2021 to 2023. The plan formalizes the vision and strategy for SEforALL introduced by CEO Damilola Ogunbiyi, who took over the organization at the beginning of the year. The plan was developed through extensive consultations with funding partners, the wider donor community, partner governments and institutions, and it was approved by SEforALL's Administrative Board.

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**Following these consultations, SEforALL has strategically chosen to focus on strengthening global agenda-setting while expanding its activities to an engagement model that prioritizes data-driven decision-making, partnerships with high-impact countries and implementation on the ground.**

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Specifically, over the next three years our activities will shift towards:

- Securing and tracking new commitments from countries and companies through Energy Compacts to meet SDG7 and energy transitions.
- Accelerating the adoption of best-in-class integrated energy plans and policy and regulatory frameworks to guide efforts and drive investment in the sustainable energy sector.
- Ensuring that scaled-up and appropriate finance is flowing towards sustainable energy and energy access, including continuing to track and report on finance flows annually through the *Energizing Finance* research series.
- Supporting a significant increase in the pace of new energy connections, including implementing a new results-based financing facility in partnership with donors, and supporting sustainable energy for healthcare facilities.
- Mainstreaming inclusive and gender-sensitive action on energy, including supporting more women entering and advancing in the sustainable energy sector.










Speaking on the release of the plan, CEO Damilola Ogunbiyi said:

**“As we embark on the final decade for achieving SDG7, we must expand beyond advocacy to action. We call on other organizations to do the same. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unparalleled economic, political and social challenges. The crisis has also clearly shown that energy access saves lives. We now have an opportunity to not only recover better by investing in sustainable energy to help advance energy access, but also support progress on the other SDGs and the Paris Agreement while building a more resilient, inclusive global economy. This ambitious three-year plan is our commitment to help deliver sustainable energy for all by 2030.”**

Under the new business plan, SEforALL’s work will be organized into four thematic areas – Energy Diplomacy and Advocacy; Energy Access and Closing the Gap; Energy Transitions and Climate Change; and Intersection with Other SDGs – each with its own set of underlying Programmes. This work is interlinked, mutually reinforcing and designed to address important elements in the energy ecosystem to achieve SDG7 and the Paris Agreement.

### SEforALL 3-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

2021-2023

<b>MISSION</b>	 <b>SDG 7 IS ACHIEVED BY 2030</b> Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Sustainable energy for development and energy transitions, in alignment with the Paris Agreement.				
<b>IMPACTS</b>	 Inclusive and gender-sensitive lens applied to solutions	 Global commitments made to implement actions to meet SDG7	 Integrated planning and enabling policies for sustainable energy	 Significant and appropriate finance flows enabled for SDG7 globally	 Significantly increased energy connections and energy transitions to meet SDG7
<b>PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>COMMIT</b> Ensure (political) commitments	<b>CONNECT</b> Function as an interdisciplinary integrator between the public and private sectors	<b>CREATE</b> Drive innovation in execution by offering data-driven and tailored implementation models		
<b>PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>Energy Diplomacy and Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN-Energy</li> <li>International Relations</li> <li>Energy Finance</li> <li>SEforALL Forum</li> </ul>	<b>Energy Access and Closing the Gap</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment Grade Policy and Regulations</li> <li>Results-Based Financing</li> <li>Universal Integrated Energy Planning</li> <li>Clean Cooking</li> </ul>	<b>Energy Transitions and Climate Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooling for All</li> <li>Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Development</li> </ul>	<b>Intersection with Other SDGs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powering Healthcare</li> <li>Women at the Forefront</li> </ul>	
<b>ENABLERS</b>	 Strategic partnership with the United Nations	 Collaboration with governments and long-term partners	 Talent to build capacity and expertise		

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Developed in parallel with our business planning process, SEforALL's Theory of Change (ToC) represents our vision for how the world will move towards the achievement of SDG7 and SEforALL's contribution to achieve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Our Programmes (what SEforALL refers to as Results Offers) are designed to directly contribute to SDG7 indicators and solicit interdependent action through an energy ecosystem approach. Each Programme has a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for developing and monitoring our success in the final decade of the SDGs.

In the short-term, the Programmes are expected to generate outputs that contribute to intermediate outcomes (by 2023-2025). In an ideal world, these outcomes occur in parallel, with each outcome serving as an enabler for others. Having all these intermediate outcomes met will serve as a foundation for further work on long-term outcomes, which we see as the major areas needing transformation to achieve SDG7.

### SEforALL ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY OF CHANGE 2020 TO 2030

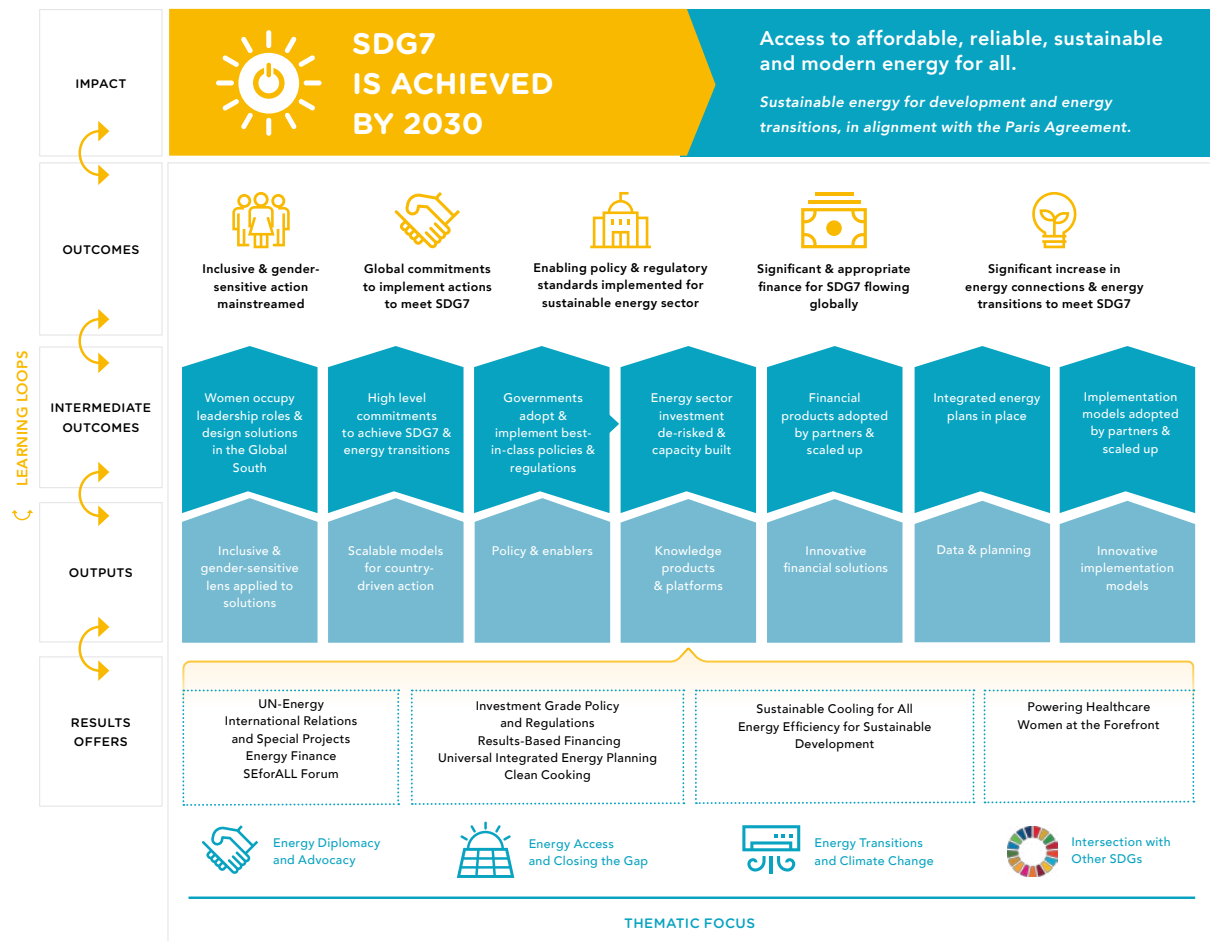




Photo: Enel Group



## NEW CHAIR APPOINTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

On 5 October we announced that Francesco Starace, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Enel S.p.A., has been appointed Chair of the SEforALL Administrative Board.

As Chair, Mr. Starace will help shape strategy and operations for the organization at the highest levels in line with the newly released 3-Year Business Plan. Mr. Starace brings a wealth of energy sector experience to the Administrative Board that will help guide SEforALL in its efforts to strengthen global advocacy while expanding activities that prioritize data-driven decision-making, strategic partnerships and country-specific implementation.

Since May 2014, Mr. Starace has been CEO and General Manager of Enel, one of the largest utilities in Europe. He also currently serves as a member of the UN Global Compact Board of Directors and the Global Commission to End Energy Poverty. He previously served as a member of the former SEforALL Advisory Board

and President of Eurelectric, the European association for the electricity industry.

In describing his goals for his new role, Mr. Starace said: "My main objective as Chair of the SEforALL Administrative Board will be to cooperate with leading actors to accelerate the critical shift to a more sustainable, modern and accessible energy for all. I have great confidence in SEforALL leadership and its unique strengths to tackle the complexity of the energy challenges and to support ensuring the fundamental right to electricity for everyone, globally."

Welcoming his appointment, our CEO said: "With ambitious action we can still achieve SDG7 by 2030, but the next few years are critical to increase energy access – especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. SEforALL's leadership is pivotal to deliver this vision and why I'm delighted to welcome Francesco Starace as our new Chair of the Administrative Board. Francesco brings incredible experience that can help SEforALL deliver an energy transition that is truly inclusive, equitable and leaves no one behind."

# Country Engagement



## NIGERIA

### 5 Million Solar Connections

In June 2020, the Federal Executive Council of Nigeria approved the Economic Sustainability Plan, a medium-term plan to guide the country's recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan included a solar strategy called the 5M Solar Connections Programme, aiming to electrify 5 million households by 2023, which would reduce the current unelectrified deficit of 85 million Nigerians by about 25 million.

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**Following an official request from the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria, SEforALL has been providing implementation support alongside the Rural Electrification Agency and other partners. The scope of SEforALL's support to date includes:**

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- Securing commercial, international and vendor financing for off-grid developers
- Providing geospatial data to identify sites for the 5 million solar connections
- Identifying payment service providers and support for solar home system companies to scale up operations

Separate work on the localization of solar value chains and integrated energy planning is also feeding into this project.

### Solar Value Chains

SEforALL, in collaboration with All On, a non-profit working to grow Nigeria's market for sustainable off-grid energy solutions, set out with the objective to identify an innovative approach to developing a local and sustainable solar industry in Nigeria by identifying opportunities to create efficiencies and economies of scale in the upstream value chain. Our current activities under this project include:

- Analysis of strengths and weaknesses in the existing solar component value chain based on insights gleaned through interviews with stakeholders, such as mini-grid developers, solar home systems distributors, assemblers, manufacturers and the business community who are vested in delivery of key component items like photovoltaic modules, batteries, cables and appliances
- Development of an economic model that details the impact of key private and public sector levers on socio-economic indicators, such as product price, jobs created, GHG emissions, etc.
- A final guide for stakeholders with recommendations and implementation modalities for localization of key impact components in the solar value chain

## Integrated Energy Planning

In partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria, SEforALL has taken the preparatory steps to update and enhance the national Integrated Energy Plan for Nigeria. The plan will incorporate clean cooking in addition to electrification in order to assist the government in determining a least-cost implementation approach in line with the Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan. Further, the new plan will include a model for the national cold chain for vaccines to provide decision-making support to the government. The model will identify critical infrastructure and logistical barriers to help the government determine an appropriate approach to rollout an eventual COVID-19 vaccine in Nigeria.

## SIERRA LEONE Increasing Energy Access

With support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and UNOPS, and in coordination with Sierra Leone's Ministry of Energy and national regulator (EWRC), SEforALL worked with partners to develop and administer detailed surveys to public sector actors, mini-grid developers, end-user communities, and agricultural productive use stakeholders in Sierra Leone. Against the background of current and planned mini-grid regulatory and tariff structures, the research study aims to analyse the potential for different subsidy mechanisms and tariff structures to expand access to affordable energy access. The study is set for completion in early 2021. Early insights from this work have contributed to the planning of the Universal Energy Facility, a new results-based financing facility managed by SEforALL, which launched in October with mini-grid projects in Sierra Leone being supported under the first wave of the facility (See page 24 for more).

## RWANDA Clean Cooking Data for All

As we enter the final SDG Decade of Action and implementation, the Clean Cooking Programme at SEforALL is committed to supporting and working closely with partners to achieve SDG7.1.2 targets. Our Clean Cooking Data for All project, in partnership with Nexleaf Analytics, will bring the cooking sector a first-of-its-kind data and analytics platform that provides data about use of technology solutions that reduce human exposure to indoor air pollution. Disseminating reliable data is foundational to catalysing market players' actions and establishing a shared vision and approach to unlock finance for the clean cooking sector. With the announcement of funding from the Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation, the project will pilot in Rwanda, installing 200 cooking sensors (two per household) in 100 households. SEforALL's Clean Cooking team is also pursuing work to produce a methodology to quantify the many co-benefits of clean cooking access.

## CLIMATE INVESTMENT PLATFORM

The Climate Investment Platform (CIP) was launched at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2019 jointly by UNDP, IRENA, the Green Climate Fund and SEforALL, with initial support from the Government of Denmark. The CIP aims to support countries to achieve ambitious climate targets by accelerating climate investments along four tracks: ambitious climate targets; enabling policies and regulations; financial de-risking support; and project matchmaking.

CIP partners have been hard at work finalizing a project document and identifying opportunities for coordinated support at the country level. One of the latest efforts is support for the Government of Colombia in electrifying 500,000 households in underserved and conflict-ridden rural areas. This includes advising 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. The targeted finance mobilization is USD 5 million. An additional four countries are targeted for support in 2020, and another 10 countries in 2021.



# COVID-19 Response



## DONOR SUMMIT

As COVID-19 continues to challenge recent energy access progress, the enterprises that are so critical for providing energy access solutions are at real risk of collapsing from not being able to access the financial relief they need to survive the pandemic.

To help address this urgent issue, SEforALL, the World Bank's ESMAP programme and Ashden co-hosted a virtual summit to bring together government and philanthropic donors to hear the latest data and insights from energy access enterprises, the challenges they are facing on the ground as a result of this crisis, and the impact this is having on consumers.

Speakers representing enterprises from India, Kenya and Nigeria joined the Summit to underscore the urgent financial needs they face – for example, paying their staff, keeping customers connected, and running basic business operations, while also supporting local healthcare efforts during the pandemic in many cases.

A new EnDev survey of over 600 companies from 44 countries presented during the event showed that 70 percent of small enterprises have experienced significant disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic, with 30 percent of enterprises having to either pause all activity or cease operations entirely. Companies EnDev spoke to said that receiving grant funding without major delays was their highest priority in navigating the pandemic. Close to a third of the companies EnDev surveyed would need only USD 10,000 to help survive the pandemic; USD 2 million could potentially save 200 companies.

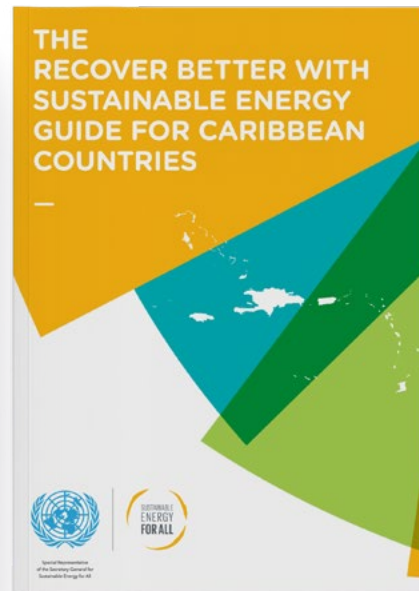
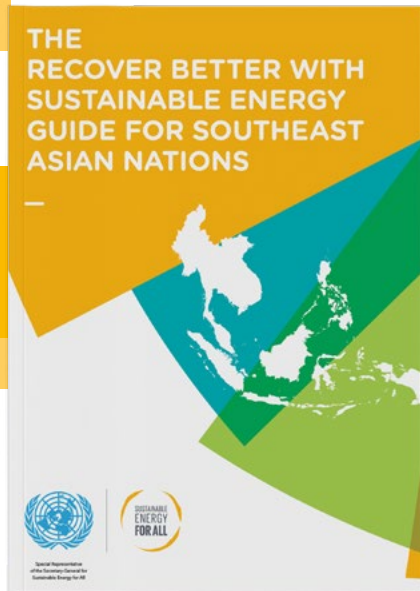
The call for urgent, flexible financial support is recognized by many donors involved in the sector. However, significant gaps remain in the grants and services that small, local enterprises require to sustain their operations through the crisis.



## POWERING HEALTHCARE

As part of our health and energy sector coordination work in response to COVID-19, SEforALL and the World Bank launched the [Powering Healthcare Solutions Catalogue](#), featuring 28 solutions so far to help meet the energy needs of healthcare facilities in response to COVID-19 and beyond. The catalogue serves as a platform for solutions providers to showcase practical solutions that can be rapidly deployed to support un- and under-electrified health facilities in their COVID-19 response.

SEforALL and GOGLA also hosted a virtual roundtable on 14 October under the [Community of Champions](#), focused on health facility electrification. In the meeting, policymakers and private sector actors discussed barriers to the development of large-scale health facility electrification programmes, particularly those related to financing, delivery models, and coordination between energy and health actors.



## RECOVER BETTER

After the successful launch of the [Recover Better with Sustainable Energy Guide for African Countries](#), similar guides were launched for the [Caribbean](#) and [Southeast Asia](#) region. This series outlines the opportunities and enablers for decision-makers to prioritize sustainable energy investments in their recovery plans in order to build more resilient economies and close energy access gaps. The series includes region specific data points to make the business case for sustainable energy investment.

For example, investing in renewable energy in the Caribbean can produce approximately USD 633 million in overall additional GDP impact. Further, an estimated USD 9 billion in fuel costs could be saved annually if all 31 countries in the Caribbean move to 90 percent clean energy by 2030. In Southeast Asia, investments to achieve the target of 23 percent renewable energy share in the region by 2025 can provide an annual additional GDP growth of USD 25 billion.



# Energy Diplomacy and Advocacy

Credit: UN.org



## UNGA AND CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2020

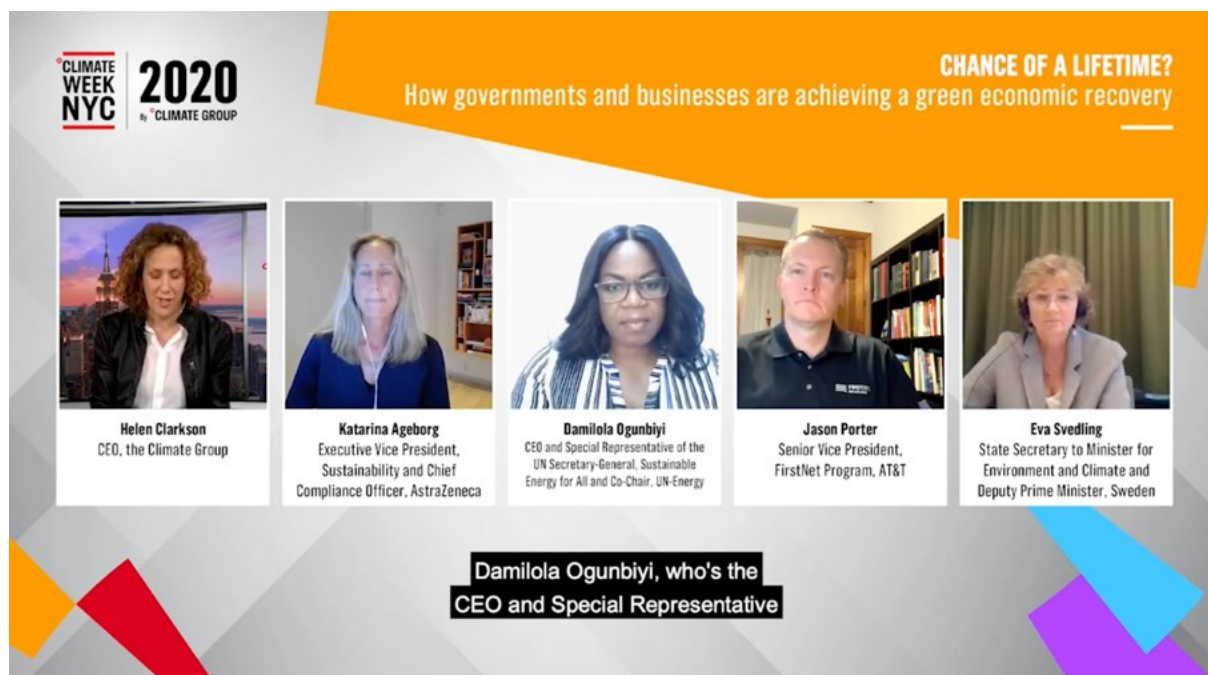
**SEforALL participated in several events during the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and Climate Week NYC from 15-30 September, pushing for faster progress on a sustainable energy transition that leaves no one behind.**

With energy access being essential to fighting COVID-19 and helping countries recover, this year there was an even greater need to reinforce the importance of SDG7 among governments, companies, civil society and other stakeholders participating in the many virtual convenings related to UNGA.

SEforALL's CEO and SRSG encouraged business leaders to advance their commitment to sustainable energy access through partnership

opportunities with the UN system during the UN Global Compact Private Sector Forum on 21 September. The same day, she also spoke during a session called *Chance of a Lifetime? How governments and businesses are achieving a green economic recovery*, as part of Climate Week NYC. The following day, she was a panelist for an event organized by Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy on *Green Recovery from COVID-19: Perspectives From Across the Globe*, for which she focused on the challenges that the post-COVID recovery creates for countries and communities already struggling to gain access to modern energy services.

She also delivered a keynote address during a UN Global Compact SDG Business Forum session on energy. This session provided an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities in catalysing investment and finance for the achievement of SDG7.



## UN HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY

The High-Level Dialogue on Energy, called for by the UN General Assembly to take place in September 2021, will represent the first global summit on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since 1981. Forty years on, it will be a historic opportunity to provide transformational action on energy during a time of urgency for the climate and society in the wake of COVID-19.

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**As the SRSG, SEforALL's CEO has a leadership role as the Dialogue's High-Level Champion, and in her role as UN-Energy Co-Chair, she is also the Dialogue Co-Chair. SEforALL is playing a leading role in the planning and preparations for the Dialogue, along with UN-DESA as the Secretariat.**

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On 21 July the Dialogue leaders held the first Member State briefing with over 140 attendees. This was followed by a moderated retreat on 26 August 2020 for the Secretary-General's Climate Action Team, UNDP and UN-DESA to discuss preparations for the Dialogue. It

was agreed that outcomes for the Dialogue should include breakthrough Energy Compacts for leading countries, companies and sub-national authorities as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships focused on critical areas for progress on energy.

It was also agreed by the Dialogue Co-Chairs that Member States be selected as Global Theme Champions to provide global advocacy and diplomatic support to the Dialogue and preparatory process. In addition, the Co-Chairs will appoint international organizations with energy competence to head Technical Working Groups and provide technical support and coordination for the Dialogue. Three UN-Energy meetings were held in September (2 and 15) and October (1) to consult with members on the Energy Compacts and the role members will play in supporting the Dialogue.

The official [concept note](#) for the Dialogue was published on 14 September 2020 and outlines five broad themes: energy access; energy transition; energy action to advance other Sustainable Development Goals; capacity building and data; and finance and investment.

On 5 October, the chairs of the group of Friends of Sustainable Energy hosted a briefing on the High-Level Dialogue where Achim Steiner, UN-Energy Co-Chair, and our CEO briefed New York Permanent Representatives from the group on the various roles that Member States can take in the Dialogue and discuss the roadmap from the Dialogue to COP26. A second Member State briefing will take place late in 2020 to initiate the Global Theme Champion selection, and a UN-Energy principals' meeting will also take place in 2020.

## COP26

SEforALL continues to support the COP26 Unit's Energy Transition Campaign by helping to develop data-driven business cases for specific countries to transition away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy. The cases include a technical analysis, financing analysis and political economy lens for prioritized countries. Five country case studies have been developed so far (Vietnam, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt), with additional country cases being planned. We have now begun the next phase of the campaign effort, which entails supporting high-level political dialogue with the different countries. As part of this effort, the Energy Transition Council was launched on 21 September. This council brings together leaders from key multilateral development banks, energy agencies and different donor countries to address the specific global support that can be provided to each individual country. The aim of this process will be to identify obstacles in-country and provide support (both financing

and technical assistance) to make the energy transition a reality. Our CEO has been invited by the UK Government to co-chair the Energy Transition Council alongside COP26 President Alok Sharma. This provides SEforALL with another leadership opportunity for accelerating progress towards SDG7 access targets and Paris Agreement goals.



The COP26 Energy Transition Council will play a leading role in supporting countries to move away from fossil fuels and unleash a prosperous, equitable and *clean energy transition* as they recover better from the pandemic.



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2020

### DAMILOLA OGUNBIYI

Co-Chair, COP26 Energy Transition Council  
CEO and Special Representative of the  
UN Secretary-General for  
Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)



## ENERGIZING FINANCE 2020

*Energizing Finance* is SEforALL's flagship research series and the first and only systematic analysis of finance commitments, disbursements and needs in countries with the largest energy access gaps. Through peer-reviewed methodologies and findings, this research leverages proprietary data to identify financing trends, gaps and innovations that will inform the achievement of SDG7.

Each year, SEforALL publishes a series of *Energizing Finance* knowledge products as an update to the series. In November 2020, we will be publishing our annual Understanding the Landscape report, which tracks year-on-year finance commitments for energy access in high-impact countries. The analysis supports assessment of the effectiveness of policies and regulations in catalysing finance flows for energy projects. Coinciding with *Understanding the Landscape*, we will publish a new edition of *Missing the Mark*, which was last published in 2017. This report presents development partners and governments with information on the efficiency with which finance

is disbursed for energy access projects and the barriers that need to be addressed to accelerate disbursements.

Working alongside our partners in these reports, Climate Policy Initiative and South Pole Group, our Energy Finance team has spent the last few months setting the research strategy, compiling data and findings, drafting the reports, and collaborating with our Communications team to develop an outreach strategy for launch on 19 November. Key findings will be presented during a webinar, for which interested stakeholders can register [here](#).

In addition to these two main reports, this year's research includes two Knowledge Briefs, which are concise research pieces on specialized topics related to energy finance. [Changes in Energy Sector Financing During COVID-19: Lessons from the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone](#) was published on 8 October and was developed to highlight how a health crisis like COVID-19 threatens to derail progress in providing energy access to countries that need it most, compromising both an effective response to the pandemic and long-term socio-economic development. The brief tracks international finance commitments and disbursements to Sierra Leone before, during and after the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, while drawing lessons from this analysis to inform current responses to COVID-19.

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**The second *Energizing Finance* Knowledge Brief will be released in December and will focus on current developments in financing sustainable cooling solutions.**

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## G20

SEforALL has been engaged with the G20 since the beginning of this year at the request of this year's G20 Presidency, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in an effort to ensure energy access is prominent on the agenda. This includes playing a key role in the Energy Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) and leading the development of the [G20 Forward-looking Options for Enabling Pathways for Universal Access to Energy](#) report, with other international partners including 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.

The ESWG held its second meeting on 22-23 July to agree on what would be taken forward to the Energy Ministerial Meeting that would take place in September. SEforALL was asked to lead the development of a high-level summary of the options paper as an initiative for possible endorsement by the Energy Ministers. The discussion on universal access to energy among G20 members reflected a broad consensus in support of the importance of supporting access to clean cooking and electrification.

At the G20 Energy Ministerial Meeting, SEforALL was invited to give a short presentation

that would frame the issues that the Energy Ministers would need to consider regarding the G20's support to universal energy access. After significant deliberations, the G20 Energy Ministers agreed to endorse the "G20 Initiative on Clean Cooking and Energy Access". This endorsement represents the highest level of support possible within the G20 framework and most importantly provides significant profile to the importance of achieving universal access to clean cooking.

This year's G20 Presidency established an important precedent for coordinating with international organizations and development partners, particularly through the Energy Sustainability Working Group. SEforALL looks forward to supporting the Italian Presidency in 2021 to continue driving action on energy access through this group of the 20 most important economies.



# Energy Access and Closing the Gap



## Pre-qualification now open for mini-grid projects in *Sierra Leone and Madagascar*

The Universal Energy Facility, a results-based financing facility managed by Sustainable Energy for All, is inviting pre-qualification submissions from companies for mini-grid projects in Sierra Leone and Madagascar.

Learn more and register at [SEforALL.org/UEF](https://SEforALL.org/UEF)



UNIVERSAL  
ENERGY FACILITY

## UNIVERSAL ENERGY FACILITY OPENS

The Universal Energy Facility, a new multi-donor results-based financing facility managed by SEforALL, reached an important milestone in October.

On 21 October, the Universal Energy Facility officially opened following several months of intensive planning and development by SEforALL and its partners in the facility – The Rockefeller Foundation, Shell Foundation, Power Africa, Good Energies, UK Aid, Carbon Trust and Africa Mini-grid Developers Association. The 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. The UEF is designed to deliver connections faster and more efficiently than traditional procurement approaches for energy access projects.

As Programme Manager of the facility, SEforALL spent the last few months finalizing the incentive support for mini-grids under this wave, establishing governance, legal and administrative structures for the facility, securing support from government partners in the facility's Wave 1 countries, and setting up the online platform for managing project applications, connection validations and disbursements. The SEforALL team also undertook extensive analyses in collaboration with

facility partners to create a model for determining potential emissions savings enabled by the facility.

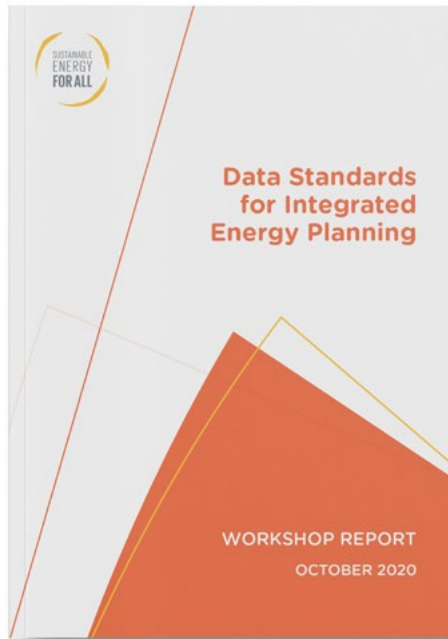
In its initial wave, the facility will disburse USD 3 million in grant payments to deliver over 6,900 electricity connections, based on a results-based incentive of USD 433 per connection offered to pre-qualified mini-grid developers with projects in Sierra Leone and Madagascar.

By tackling mini-grids, one of the most challenging energy technologies, in Wave 1, the UEF will demonstrate the effectiveness of results-based financing for making energy projects viable. Subsequent waves will look to provide results-based financing for solar home systems and clean cooking solutions.

On 18 August, SEforALL hosted a webinar for local, African mini-grid developers to learn how they can participate in the facility and to provide feedback to support its successful launch.

In September, SEforALL also assembled a group of donors and international development stakeholders for a discussion on how to build collective support for results-based financing approaches for energy access projects. On the heels of this discussion, we will establish a Results-Based Financing Leadership Group committed to advocacy work in this area.





## ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL STANDARDS FOR ENERGY DATA

An important first step took place as we operationalize our Universal Integrated Energy Planning Programme. In July 2020, SEforALL hosted a workshop about data and integrated energy planning. The workshop brought together experts in data and energy planning to explore how geospatial-based integrated energy planning can be made more accurate, consistent and practical through better data. Specifically, the workshop focused on identifying the data needs and quality of integrated energy planning, where data/quality gaps exist and how they can be filled. These issues were explored in the context of both electrification and clean cooking planning.

Key themes emerging from the workshop included:

- The importance of reflecting demand-side considerations in geospatial integrated energy planning
- Data inputs are dynamic rather than static

- There is no single, ideal dataset or level of data quality needed for integrated energy planning: data quality needs vary based on the intended use of the planning/modelling exercise
- Geospatial integrated planning/tools can play an important role also for the clean cooking sector
- Adoption of electric cooking and its implications need to be better understood by planners and power suppliers
- Advances in remote sensing and analytics are making it easier to fill data gaps and improve data quality at relatively low cost.

These themes are examined in greater detail in a [Workshop Report](#). The workshop outcomes will feed into a set of best practices developed by SEforALL on how governments, their development partners and the private sector can collaborate on improving energy data standards for integrated energy planning.



## ELECTRIFYING ECONOMIES PLATFORM

**In collaboration with The Rockefeller Foundation and Rocky Mountain Institute, SEforALL contributed to the creation of the Electrifying Economies website, a digital platform that demonstrates the economic significance of electricity access.**

Using a compelling, narrative format, the platform builds the case for distributed renewables through off-grid and mini-grid solutions to advance progress at achieving universal electricity access to all by 2030, particularly targeting governments and donors

to take key necessary steps. The main storyline of the website consists of i) the urgency of energy challenge, ii) impact of energy access on job creation and incomes, iii) opportunities of distributed energy, iv) investment opportunities and impact of distributed energy under COVID-19 recovery, and v) solution and action items.

Through the initiative, SEforALL has provided decision trees on integrated electrification planning and policy and regulatory frameworks as supporting tools to guide target audiences to make tailored policy decisions.

The website is expected to launch in mid-November 2020.

# Energy Transitions and Climate Change



## COOLING FOR ALL SOLUTIONS TOOLKIT

SEforALL is developing a Cooling for All Solutions Assessment toolkit to enable improved decision-making and information sharing on sustainable cooling solutions. It will be a valuable tool for organizations and governments that are developing their National Cooling Action Plans to identify the solutions that can help meet their cooling needs and help sustainable cooling solutions gain a larger market share to achieve global climate and the SDGs.

This toolkit builds on the needs-driven approach developed in the Cooling for All Needs Assessment methodology launched November 2019 and the Sustainable Cooling Solutions chapter of our *Chilling Prospects 2020* report launched in July 2020. The interactive online tool will help identify technology (passive and active), services (and behaviours), policies and financial solutions that together can support a transition to sustainable cooling for all.

Users of the online tool will be proposed optimized solutions based on specific cooling needs, including human comfort (productivity and safety), food (nutrition and agriculture) and health (services and treatments). The optimization process starts with “Protect” with reliable and affordable solutions, a key step for delivering cooling for all and protecting vulnerable populations. The optimization continues with the framework “Reduce”, “Shift” and “Improve” that prioritizes measures that reduce energy use, shift towards more sustainable fuels and refrigerants, and improves energy efficiency. The optimization process finishes with “Leverage,” which works to aggregate solutions to deliver market transformation, lower costs and improved awareness.

The first module of the online interactive tool is expected to be online in November and more modules will be added in early 2021.



# Intersection with Other SDGs





## MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN IN ENERGY

In September, 15 women graduated from the 2020 People-Centered Accelerator Mentoring Programme following nine months of mentorship from women who have built successful careers in the energy sector. The programme was designed by SEforALL and the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNENT) to accelerate the careers of women in junior or middle-management positions in energy access, supporting their pathways to leadership while fostering a global network of mentorship, knowledge-sharing and empowerment.

Mentees from Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia met (virtually) with their mentors each month, getting support in areas such as client communication, plans for continuing higher education and growing businesses. In addition to one-on-one meetings with mentors, the 15 women also participated in a series of webinars on Personal Development and Presentation and Public Speaking Skills as well as knowledge transfer sessions featuring SEforALL's 2019 Energizing Finance report, IEA's Africa Energy Outlook and WRI's Energy Access Explorer.

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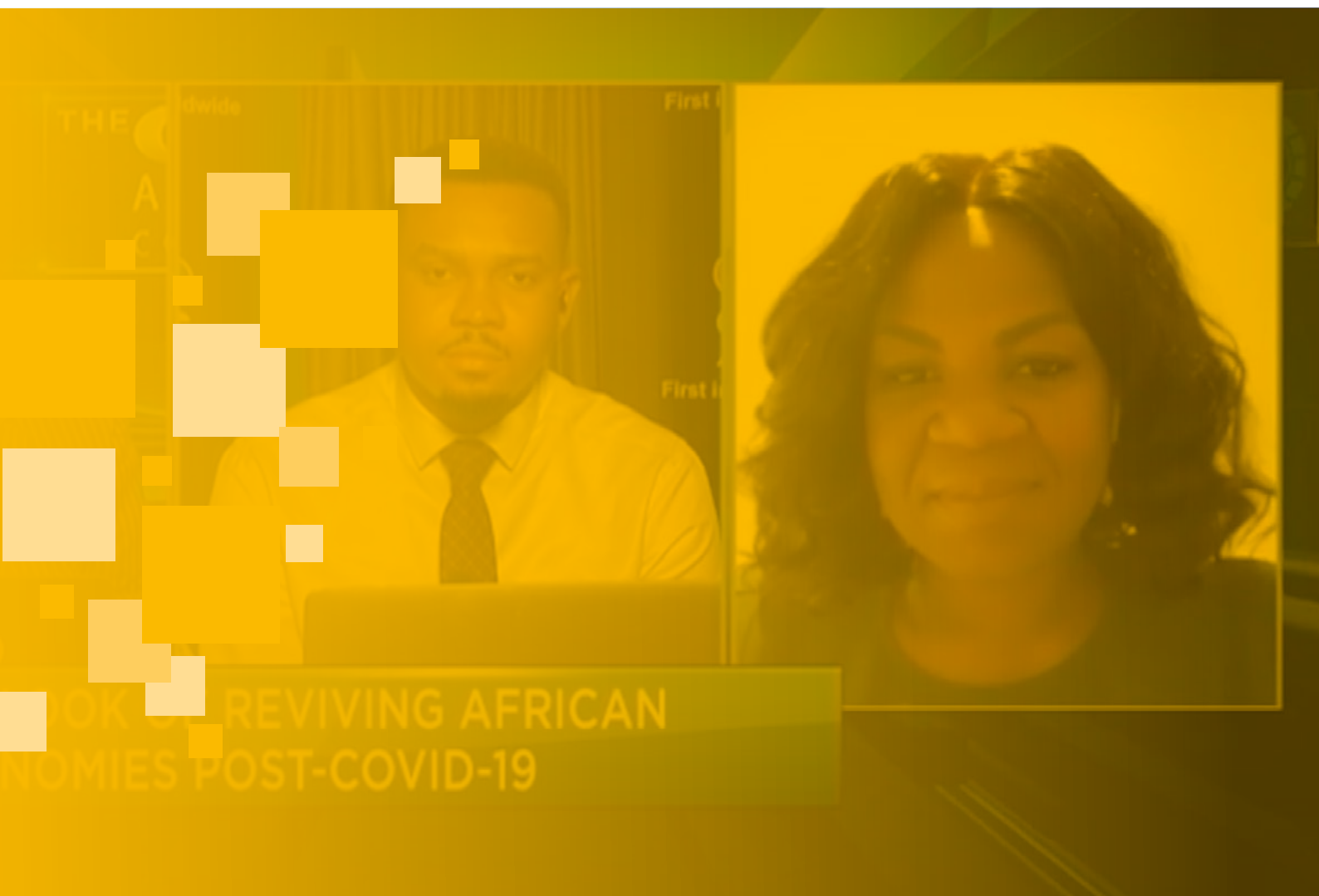
**With COVID-19 bringing new challenges to people's personal and professional lives, the programme also hosted two online networking sessions where mentees had an opportunity to network with their peers and support each other through the early days of quarantine and economic uncertainty.**

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Speaking about her experience in the programme, Mercy Kiio, an electrical engineer from Kenya, said: "As a Mentee in the People-Centered Accelerator Mentoring Programme, this has been a journey of empowerment and exposure both in the energy sector and personal development. Through interaction with my mentor, speakers in various webinars and networking with fellow mentees, I am now a better version of myself ready to make my contribution towards achieving SDG7."

A new cohort of mentees working in the clean cooking sector will enter the Mentorship Programme in late 2020.

# Strategic Communications



## THIS IS COOL

The *This Is Cool* social media campaign and [campaign website](#) were launched in July to coincide with the publication of *Chilling Prospects: Tracking Sustainable Cooling for All 2020*. #ThisIsCool raises the awareness of cooling solutions in the areas of comfort and safety, food and nutrition as well as health and care. Until the end of September, the This Is Cool hashtag was used by nearly 400 contributors over 6 million times on Twitter. It was also promoted on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

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**UNEP, UN-Habitat, The World Bank, the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program, the Cool Coalition, Ashden and the Rocky Mountain Institute among others helped amplify the campaign's message.**

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Over the coming months, #ThisIsCool will continue to increase its reach and the number of contributors, with a focus on high-impact countries.

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Strategic media engagement and coverage over the past 100 days focused on how countries can recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic – specifically on the role of access to electricity and sustainable cooling. To support the release of the *Recover Better with Sustainable Energy Guide for African Countries*, our CEO was interviewed by [CNBC Africa](#) for a feature 30-minute interview to discuss how governments should invest in sustainable energy to close energy access gaps and create economic growth. She also appeared live on a [SABC News](#) (South African Broadcasting Corporation) primetime evening bulletin to discuss what the pandemic means for energy




access progress in Africa and why SDG7 remains a priority in the midst of the pandemic.

As well as top-tier TV interviews, SEforALL experts have authored thought leadership pieces, including a joint op-ed in **Thomson Reuters** on the role of sustainable cooling access to recover better from COVID. The op-ed, [Access to climate-friendly cooling must underpin the COVID-19 response](#), was co-authored with K-CEP and other partners and was widely syndicated on other media outlets – helping reach a broader audience and share SEforALL expertise.



# Key Leadership Engagements





The past 100 days have been filled with virtual events and engagements, which SEforALL's leadership used to advocate for a sustainable energy transition in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. In addition to the engagements listed below, UN General-Assembly and Climate Week NYC saw us involved in several key engagements, as described in a previous section of this report.

## 23 July

### **UN Development Coordination Office's Resident Coordinators Webinar on Green Recovery**

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) has been organizing weekly webinars for UN Resident Coordinators and the UN country teams to support them in gaining more knowledge and expertise on how to ensure the best support to their country through various UN socio-economic response plans. Our CEO, along with several other UN principals, presented her thoughts on what UN country teams could do to ensure a green recovery, one that considers vulnerable populations and that transitions from brown energy to green energy.

## 28 July

### **30' to Power CHANGE / Girl MOVE**

Our CEO had a live session with Mozambiquan women from the Girl MOVE Academy. She discussed the theme of Bringing Women to the Forefront of Africa's Sustainable Energy Journey and the role of women as changemakers in the rising of Africa through sustainable energy. The Girl MOVE Academy is a transformational leadership academy for young women in Mozambique. The academy leads a mentorship programme, where young graduates are mentored by global leaders through virtual mentoring sessions that aim to inspire a new generation of empowered Mozambique women.

## 30 July

### **Podcast recording with The Columbia Energy Exchange**

Our CEO took part in The Columbia Energy Exchange podcast hosted by the Center for Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's Jason Bordoff (Founding Director of the Center for Global Energy Policy at Columbia University). The Podcast focused on the most pressing opportunities and challenges in energy policy, energy technology, geopolitics, climate change, and development.



## 6 August

### **First US Development Finance Corporation Development Advisory Council Meeting**

As a new member of the Advisory Council, our CEO took part in this inaugural introductory meeting, providing insights on enhancing and extending the international reach of the programme to achieve development goals.

## 18 August

### **Guest Speaker at Avalon Daily Event: Defiance: Shaping a Better Future for Young Nigerians**

Our CEO took part in this event by Avalon Daily (an online platform that addressed current affairs in Nigeria), where she focused on equipping young Nigerians with information that will motivate them to take the necessary action towards creating a better future for themselves and their generation.

## 20 August

### **UNFCCC Virtual Regional Technical Expert Meetings on Mitigation 2020**

Sustainable cooling was a key theme at these technical meetings dedicated to increasing ambition and advancing climate action. At an event called "Climate Smart Cooling Solutions for Sustainable Buildings in Latin America and the Caribbean," our Lead of Energy Efficiency and Cooling presented on Access to Sustainable Cooling in Latin America.

## 29 August

### **Guest Speaker at Doing Good Work in Africa Webinar Series**

As a panellist at the DOWA webinar, our CEO discussed how the sustainable energy agenda is shaping energy policy and how having access to affordable and reliable clean energy unlocks economic growth in Africa. The Doing Good Work in Africa (DOWA) initiative connects brilliant and innovative university students to Africa-based companies, public entities and non-profit organizations working to address challenges at the grassroots level, specifically critical physical, technological, social and infrastructure issues in healthcare, transportation, education, electricity/energy, agriculture and ICT.

## 3 September

### **How to Achieve the Energy Transition – From the Climate Action Summit to Green Recovery and Beyond**

Our CEO gave remarks at the high-level launch event of a webinar series about the energy transition initiatives that emerged from last year's Climate Action Summit, hosted by the Ethiopian Minister of Energy and Water, the Danish Minister of Climate and Energy and the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation.

## 8 September

### **Regional Conversation on Building Back Better: Accelerating Action on Air Pollution and Climate Change in Asia-Pacific**

This event marked the first International Day of Clean Air. SEforALL's Director of International Relations and Special Projects spoke at the event about how the Asia Pacific can achieve a clean energy transition across the areas of power generation, transportation, cooking and heating.

## 10 September

### **Debating Africa EU Series – Creating A Mutually Beneficial Partnership for Africa-Europe: Building A Greener Fairer Future**

The event focused on engaging EU partners and the new EU College of Commissioners around their vision and priorities for EU-Africa cooperation. As one of the few non-EU Commissioners participating, our CEO offered an impartial voice to this discussion.

## 16 September

### **World Bank and ESMAP high-level dialogue on the Clean Cooking Fund**

Since the establishment of the Clean Cooking Fund announced at the Climate Action Summit, the initiative has attracted support from donors, the private sector and countries. An initial pipeline of country investment projects has been developed with the first project expected to be approved in September. Our CEO provided remarks at this event, which provided an in-depth analysis of the Clean Cooking Fund in its first year, including its current status, opportunities and challenges in the future.

## 17 September

### **Danish Mission Webinar on Ensuring an Equitable Climate Engagement**

The Consulate General of Denmark in New York, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations, and the Center for Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute partnered to host a virtual event series tackling the future of climate and sustainability. Our CEO participated in a panel event themed “The Decade of Action.”

## 30 September

### **Africa Energy Forum fireside chat**

As Honorary Chairwoman for the 2020 Africa Energy Forum, our CEO took part in a live fireside chat to share her expertise, experience and inspiration for Africa’s energy transition.

## 1 October

### **UK event on £1bn Ayrton Fund for clean energy innovation**

Our CEO provided closing remarks at this event on the UK’s £1bn Ayrton Fund for Clean Energy Innovation. The goal of the event was to generate awareness of, and collect expert feedback on, the Ayrton Fund among key UK and international experts, innovators, policymakers and other stakeholders.

## 6 October

### **OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment**

Our Chief of Staff was the keynote speaker and panellist for the opening plenary session, which was dedicated to the theme “Can green finance objectives be achieved despite the COVID-19 pandemic?”

## 8 October

### **World Bank Annual Meetings event on Harnessing the Energy Transition for Building Back Better**

Our CEO provided keynote remarks exploring how energy sector investments can support greater job creation in some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries to fuel a resilient economic recovery from the COVID crisis while advancing the global decarbonization agenda.



## 14-21 October

### **Vienna Energy Forum Virtual Series**

Guided by the theme "Accelerating Energy Transition," this Series explores the pathways that stimulate demand and promote economic recovery in three end-use sectors: Food Systems, Industry and Products. SEforALL Leadership spoke to the role of data and evidence for informing industrial transitions during the Industry track's framing session on 14 October. We also opened the first session of the Products track on 21 October and again spoke to the importance of data and evidence.

## 19-21 October

### **Siemens Shaping the Energy of Tomorrow**

Shaping the Energy of Tomorrow was a three-day virtual conference from October 19-21 dedicated to addressing issues in meeting the growing demand for electricity while protecting our climate at the same time. Our CEO provided a pre-recorded opening keynote for a session discussing the far-reaching impacts of energy access.

## 22 October

### **Start Up Energy Transition Week**

Our Lead of Energy Efficiency and Cooling participated in the "Innovation Underway: Energy Leaders Roundtable".

# The Next 100 Days





Many of the activities described above will continue to be developed in the 100 days to come, along with new bodies of work across our various Programmes. Our main priorities between 27 October and February 3 include:

- Introducing a new strategy and business plan for UN-Energy and expanding on our efforts to lead the planning for the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy.
- Advising COP26 planning efforts, including through our CEO's role as Co-Chair of the Energy Transition Council, supported by our development of country-specific business cases demonstrating how countries can transition away from fossil fuels toward clean energy.
- Managing Wave 1 of the Universal Energy Facility to drive mini-grid project development, and expanding the facility beyond its current target countries of Sierra Leone and Madagascar.
- Continuing efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including releasing additional *Recover Better with Sustainable Energy* guides and supporting the energy and health sectors on electrifying health centres and cold chains for delivering vaccines.
- Releasing our *Energizing Finance* research on 19 November, with widespread engagement and dissemination of key findings throughout 2021.
- Completing an updated and expanded Integrated Energy Plan for Nigeria and continuing to provide insights and analysis on the country's plans for delivering 5 Million Solar Connections.
- Finalizing our work with Sierra Leone on identifying subsidy mechanisms and tariff structures for expanding access to affordable energy.
- Implementing the pilot for the clean cooking data platform in Rwanda, including identifying households and installing the cooking sensors.
- Developing new analysis on clean energy transitions for small island developing states, building medical cold chains, finance for sustainable cooling and gender considerations related to sustainable cooling.
- Preparing for SEforALL's Youth Summit in February 2021 that will connect youth from across the globe and inspire youth-driven initiatives that will contribute to SDG7.
- Finalizing our 2021 Work Plan, which will complement the new 3-year Business Plan by providing a more granular view of Programme activities in the calendar year.



SEforALL and the  
Decade of Action



DAYS REPORT

[www.SEforALL.org](http://www.SEforALL.org)

