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Unlocking Climate Finance to Accelerate Energy Access in Nigeria

November 2, 2021

Developed in partnership with:

Shell Foundation | 

 The ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

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Research Context

This research is part of a series of reports from Catalyst Off-Grid Advisors and partners

They demonstrate the business opportunity to unlock billions in climate finance and deliver on multiple SDG goals.

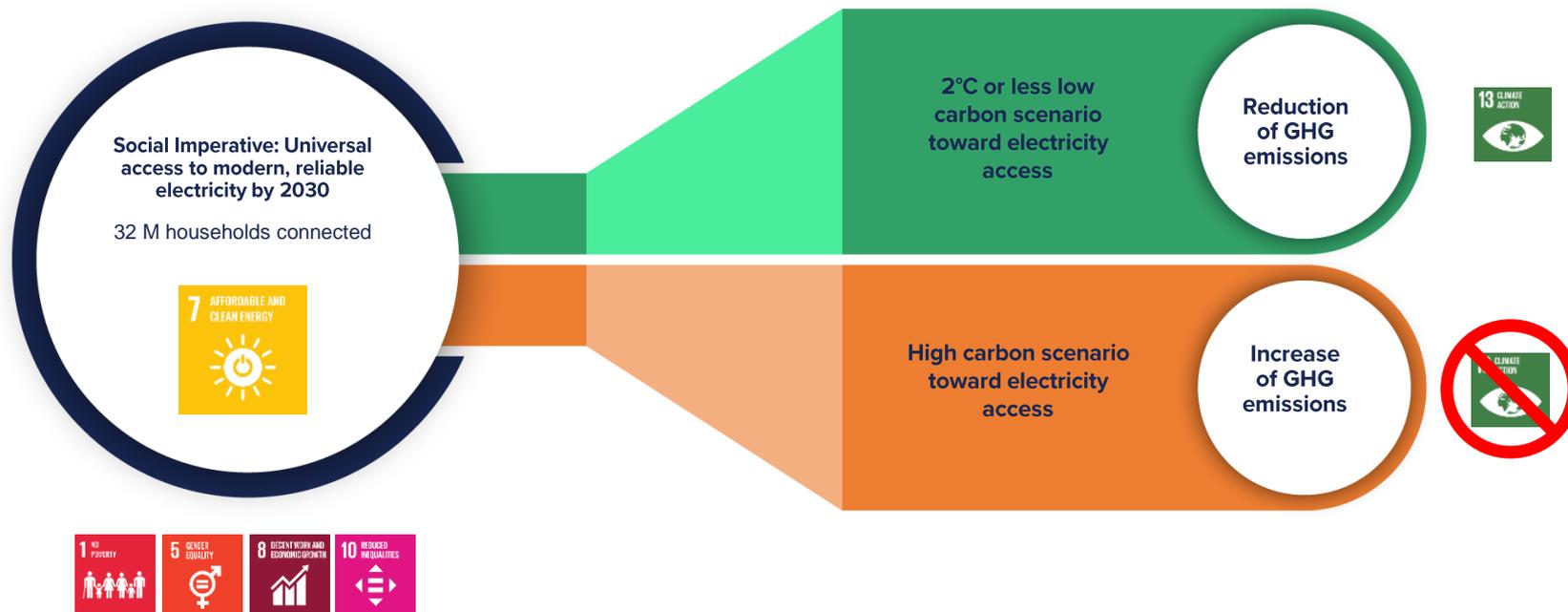
- > Our [2018 research](#) demonstrated the financing opportunity to achieve universal household electrification in Africa (SDG 7) via off-grid solutions.
- > First launched on **Earth Day 2021**, and covering all of Sub-Saharan Africa, this research shows off-grid solar's social dividends, which cut across numerous SDGs1
- > Alongside the **climate dividends** attributable to low-carbon SDG 7 scenarios
- > It forecasts the **climate finance opportunity** associated with these low-carbon SDG 7 scenarios
- > Illustrating the **multi-billion-dollar climate finance opportunity** associated with the low-carbon scenarios



Modeling illustrates Nigeria's low-carbon scenarios and the impact they will have on SDG 13

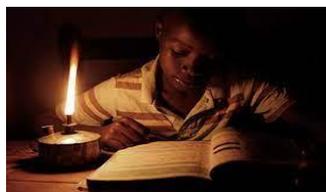
SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Low-carbon scenarios accelerate Nigeria's achievement of SDG 7 and SDG 13 via 3 pillars

Predictive modeling forecasts three scenarios for each thematic pillar: business-as-usual, high-carbon, and low-carbon, shows the avoided emissions between the latter two, and then provides the investment costs associated with the low-carbon scenario.



Electricity Access

Electricity access

Providing first-time electricity access

What will it take to provide first time electricity access in Nigeria via a low-carbon trajectory that avoids millions of tons of CO₂ emissions?



Unreliable grid

Greening back-up generation

Solving the unreliable grid challenge

What's required to get enterprises and households to transition off back-up generators and onto distributed renewable sources of power?



Cleaner cooking

Modern cooking access

Moving households onto modern cooking solutions

What is a credible scenario to move a portion of Nigeria's households onto modern cooking solutions?



Nigeria's Climate Finance Opportunity

Improving access and reducing emissions across the continent

What level of CO₂ emissions are avoided via each pillars' low-carbon scenario? What is the associated climate finance opportunity?



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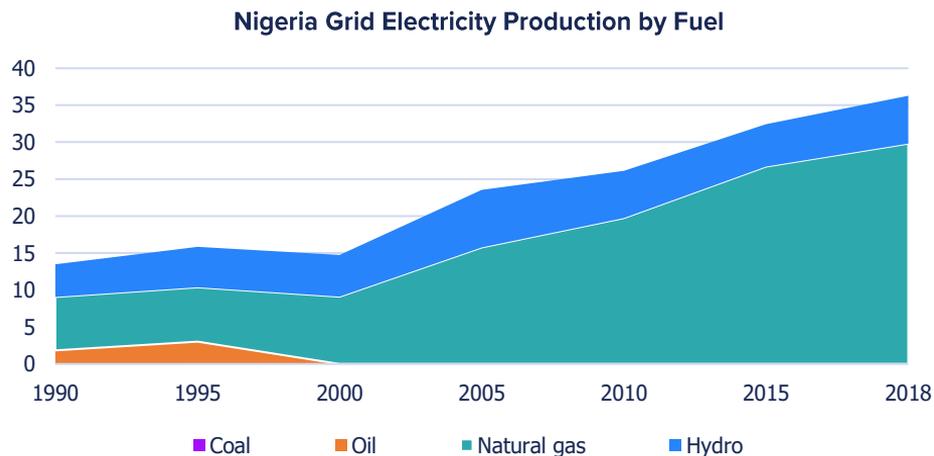
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Setting the Scene

Nigeria's grid generation is dominated by fossil fuels

This reliance on fossil fuel generation presents a significant climate challenge

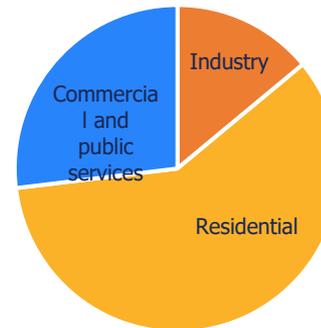
- > **38 percent increase** in total generation since 2010, averaging 4.8% increase per annum
- > **50 percent increase** in natural gas generation since 2010
- > **18 percent** of generation from hydropower in 2018, down from 24 percent in 2010
- > **~511 gCO₂/kWh** grid emissions intensity (including losses), 12th highest in Sub-Saharan Africa



Nigeria's residential sector accounts for the majority of electricity demand

- 
69% of global electricity demand driven by industrial and commercial off-takers
- 
41% of Nigeria's electricity demand driven by industrial and commercial off-takers. Commercial tariffs average \$0.096 / kWh which are low compared to global averages
- 
27% percent of global electricity demand originates from households
- 
59% of Nigeria's electricity demand originates from households
- 
> 818 kWh per year residential demand per customer which is comparatively high. This can be partly explained by the low residential tariffs of **\$0.01 / kWh to \$0.094 / kWh.**

Nigeria Electricity Consumption by Sector (2018)

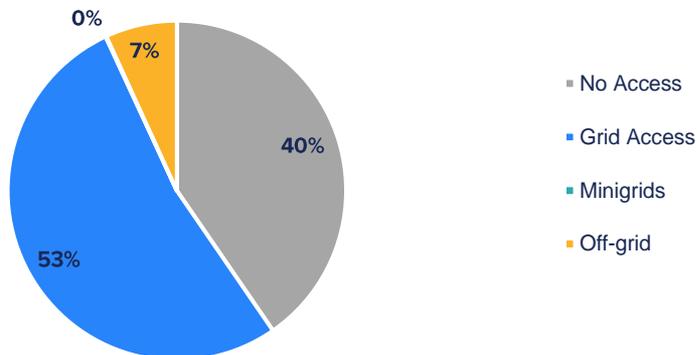


* All "\$" in the report are United States Dollars (USD)

Source: International Energy Agency *World Energy Balances 2020*

Nigeria's grid electrification highlights a significant urban vs. rural divide in energy access

Nigeria Estimates of Energy Access by Type (million HHs)
2019



- > **40%** of households had no source of electrification (About 83 million people)
- > **53%** of households in Nigeria had electricity access from the national grid (About 108 million people)
- > **About 19.4 million households** will still be without access by 2030 under business as usual

Nigeria's electrification strategy leverages the private sector

By mobilizing the private sector, Nigeria can deliver access to more underserved communities

Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan (RESIP)

- > The 2016 Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan (RESIP) and 2017 Regulatory Framework for Mini-Grids underscore the importance the Government of Nigeria places on decentralized renewables as part of the country's energy mix.

Private Sector Mobilization

- > Private sector participation also prioritized, with electricity distribution entrusted to eleven private distribution companies (DISCOs). The RESIP and associated Nigerian Rural Electrification Policy foresee a prominent role for the private sector in enhancing energy access.

Rural Electrification Fund

- > The Rural Electrification Agency's Rural Electrification Fund looks to expand access through a blend of grid, mini-grid and off-grid electrification solutions.



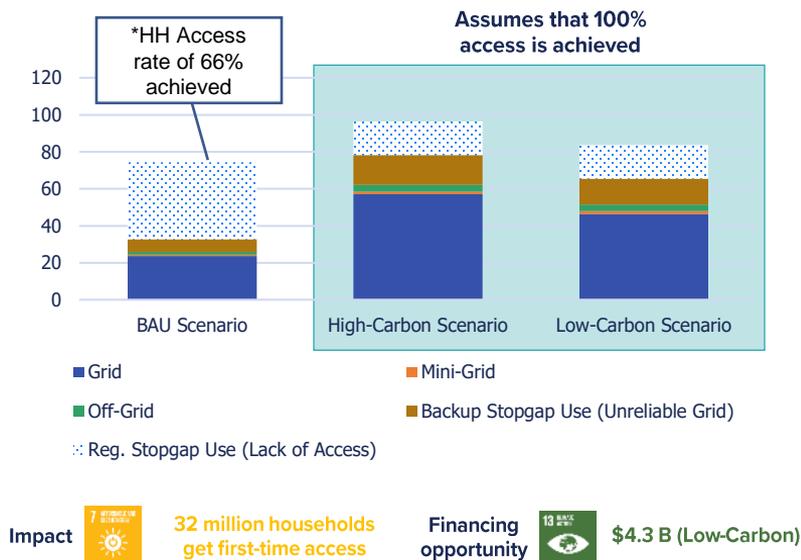
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Electricity Access: Pathways and Gamechangers

Tier 1 Pathway: Nigeria's low-carbon scenario for Tier 1* access avoids 13 million tons CO₂ through scaled up mini-grid and off-grid solutions, and greener grid generation

And grid unreliability contributes significant additional emissions of 13.9 MT CO₂ from backup stopgap usage



Scenario	Connections	Climate Finance Opportunity
BAU	Total Access Rate: 66% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Access: 19.4M HH (34%) Grid: 29M HH (51%) Mini-grid: 0.5M HH (1%) Off-grid: 7.7M HH (14%) 	Total: \$1.4 Billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-grid: 313M Off-grid Solar: 1.1B
High Carbon	Total Access Rate: 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid: 41M HH (72%) Mini-grid: 1M HH (2%) Off-grid: 14.5M HH (26%) 	Total: \$3.1 Billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-grid: 635M Off-grid Solar: 2.46B
Low Carbon ¹	Total Access Rate: 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid: 36M HH (64%) Mini-grid: 2M HH (3%) Off-grid: 18.5M HH (33%) 	Total: \$4.3 Billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-grid: 1.46B Off-grid Solar: 2.87B

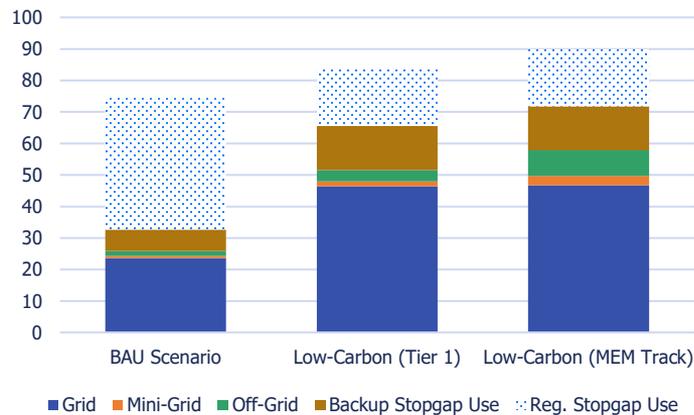
No Access Grid Off-grid Mini-grid

*Tier 1 access is the minimum threshold for these scenarios and is defined as at least 4.3 kWh of electricity consumption per household per year – supporting basic lighting and device charging

¹The low-carbon scenario has lower estimated emissions than the BAU scenario since emissions from electrification activities are more than offset by reductions in stopgap emissions.

Achieving the Modern Energy Minimum (MEM)* generates an additional 7 million tons CO₂, though it unlocks higher levels of household consumption

To achieve the MEM (300 kWh/capita/year) by 2040, per person consumption exceed to 141 kWh by 2030



Scenario	Connections	Climate Finance Opportunity
Low Carbon (Tier 1) 	Average consumption: 76.5 kWh/pp/yr Connection mix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid: 6.8M HH Mini-grid: 0.9M HH Off-grid: 7.0M HH 	Total: \$4.3 Billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-grid: 1.46B Off-grid Solar: 2.87B
MEM 	Average consumption: 141 kWh/pp/yr Change in connections compared to Tier 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid: Same Mini-grid: 2 million additional Off-grid: 2 million fewer 	Total: \$9.05 Billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-grid: 2.99B Off-grid Solar: 6.1B
OGS Mix¹ 	MEM, OGS mix of system sizes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 1: 2.14 million HHs Tier 2: 8.91 million HHs Tier 3: 4.99 million HHs In LC Tier 1 scenario, 62% of HHs had Tier 1, 33% Tier 2, and 5% Tier 3 	OGS financing mix: Tier 1: 115 million Tier 2: 2 billion Tier 3: 3.9 billion

Sources: Catalyst estimates

¹The MEM calls for a higher, more inclusive level of electricity consumption as a better access metric to raise global energy ambitions; Energy for Growth Hub, 2020.



Gamechanger 1: Grid-connected DREs to improve reliability and expand first time access

The Challenge

- > **Extreme grid unreliability:** 33 outages/month = ~50% downtime
- > **82% of generation** comes from emission intensive natural gas
- > Low carbon universal access scenario envisages **14.2 million new grid connections**, spurring 69 TWh of new consumption by 2030
- > If 82% of new demand is met by gas power, this would lead to **39 MT CO₂ of additional emissions**

The Opportunity

- > **Meet 25% of new grid generation demand via grid-connected DREs** (e.g. Konexa) or potentially under-grid microgrids (e.g. Interconnected Mini-Grid Acceleration Scheme, Mokoloki)
- > DRE generation **would reduce emissions** compared to a natural gas counterfactual
- > **DREs improve power reliability and quality**, reducing transmission and distribution congestion, supporting power quality and regulation services, grid flexibility, islanding critical loads, etc.
- > **Support local manufacturing** (e.g. Solar Connection Facility, Nigeria Borno Manufacturing Plant, etc.), via increased demand for DRE components

Gamechanger 1: Impact and key design considerations

Contributing 25% of additional supply needed via DREs requires **\$2.5 billion** in climate finance and avoids nearly **10 million tons of CO₂** emissions

Key Design Considerations

- > Implementation Arrangements: DRE ownership models or franchise models (i.e. Konexa) need to be considered
- > Develop **bankable power purchase agreement (PPA)** framework for GenCos, IPPs, and mini-grid developers to sell to DISCOs or direct to customers
- > **Competitive tendering approach** (or feed-in-tariff) to help ensure competition and value for money for the deployed DREs
- > Joint Planning: **Ensure DREs are built into integrated resource** and service network planning at DISCO levels
- > **Targets and Incentives:** Fiscal incentives and/or generation mix targets would help foster buy-in on both buy and sell side of DRE generation
- > **Climate Finance:** If avoided emissions were monetized, this could unlock nearly **\$300 million in climate finance** at a price of \$30 / ton

Gamechanger 2 Impact

- > **1.7 GW** of new DRE capacity
- > **3.55 million connections** served with DRE power
- > **9.7 MT of avoided CO₂** from new generation
- > Grid-tied DREs and under-grid microgrids can improve grid reliability for end users by reducing outage time and improving power quality



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Unreliable Grid: Pathways and Gamechangers

An unreliable grid and subsidized fuels leads to massive use of fossil fuel-powered gensets in Nigeria

Growing electricity demand will further stress grid reliability, while massive fuel subsidies distort the economic realities of using backup gensets

Unreliable grid connections

- > In developing countries, unreliable grids are the primary driver for genset use:
- > About **75% of sites** using fossil-fuel powered gensets are “grid connected”

In Nigeria alone:

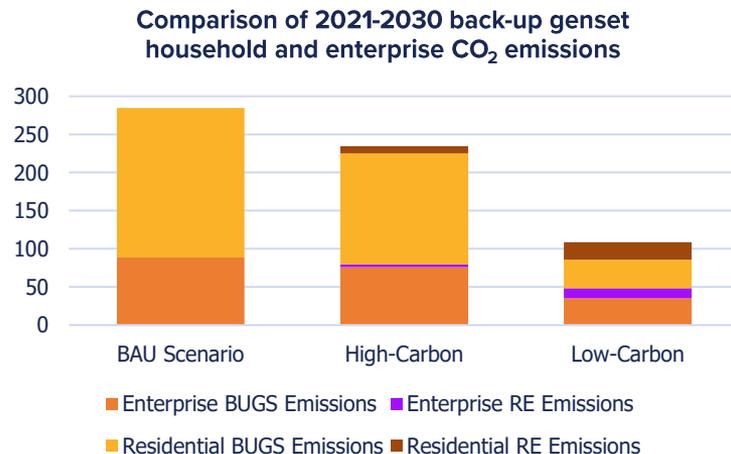
- > **78% of firms experience outages**
- > **33 outages in a typical month** for total downtime of 380 hours (About **51 percent downtime**)
- > Unreliable grid connections result in an **average 15.6 percent** loss in business revenues

Use of backup gensets

- > Backup fossil-fueled generators are used by households and enterprises
- > Powered with fossil fuels, typically diesel or gasoline which is a significant source of air pollutants
- > Off-grid enterprises often resort to using gensets for power, particularly for productive use applications
- > In Nigeria, **173k gensets are deployed** for commercial use (98% are on-grid businesses), while **3.2 million gensets** are deployed for residential use (83% are grid connected residences); Overall 17 GW of capacity
- > Diesel and petrol fuels have historically been subsidized and the current regulatory environment for subsidies is uncertain

¹ An unreliable grid is defined as one in which local enterprises, on average, report 12 or more hours of electrical outages in a typical month; Source: World Bank Enterprise Surveys; IFC *Dirty Footprint of Broken Grid*; SERC estimates; Catalyst estimates

Replacing Nigeria's genset fleet with DREs would reduce emissions by 126 million tons of CO₂



- > Emissions reductions are driven by the growth rate in back-up genset fleets and the rate at which back-up gensets are replaced by renewables; replacement rates are varied across scenarios¹
- > In the low-carbon scenario displacing over **4.8 million assets** with a total generation capacity of **24.5 gigawatts by 2030** would yield a **\$60.2 billion** climate finance opportunity.
- > Generator displacement in later years is forecasted to be considerably cheaper thanks to ongoing reductions in RE technology costs, particularly lithium-ion batteries

¹The modeling assumes that average capacity factors of back-up generators remain fixed over time, in line with historical averages (i.e., assumes no improvement or deterioration in grid reliability).

Sources: IFC *Dirty Footprint of Broken Grid*; SERC estimates; Catalyst estimates

Gamechanger 2: Leverage genset density to aggregate demand for “community solar” schemes

The Challenge

- > **78% of Nigerian enterprises experience outages**, leading to over 15% loss in business revenue
- > **Over 70% of enterprises** have gensets on site
- > **98% of these gensets** are grid-connected and used as back-up.
- > Fuel subsidies, unfavorable policies and regulations, and a nascent commercial solar sector make the economics genset replacement challenging

The Opportunity

- > **Aggregate clusters of demand** from existing grid-tied commercial gensets, bundling into for multi-customer “community solar” clusters
- > **Programmatic approach to identifying and clustering demand centers**, leveraging existing platforms (e.g. REA GIS, Odyssey, Konexa, etc.) for this purpose
- > Develop modality for private sector to build, finance, and operate these assets, via a competitive selection process
- > **Mobilize guarantee and subordinated capital** to help de-risk early transactions and prove out business model

Gamechanger 2: Impact and key design considerations

\$300 million in climate finance would cover investment for costs for community solar and storage systems at 100 aggregated commercial demand sites

Key Design Considerations

- > Surveying, regulatory reporting, or other methods (e.g. satellite imagery) to map existing genset assets in Nigeria
- > **Structure PPAs** and other commercial agreements to make demand aggregation & brokering bankable
- > Ensure community solar **planning is embedded into integrated resources planning** for local service areas.
- > **Clarify regulatory considerations**, e.g. licensing requirements, feed-in-tariffs, net metering, etc.
- > **Leverage economies of scale** on system design as well as climate finance to support uptake and ensure cost competitiveness

Gamechanger 2 Impact

- > **100 community solar installations** supporting aggregated demand sites (average of 1.5 MW per site)
- > **Replacing 2,000 commercial gensets** (1% of the total) with a total capacity of 163 MW
- > Cumulatively reduces emissions by **1.3 MT**
- > Cumulative **reduction in fuel costs by an estimated \$396 million** (fuel use reduced by 596 million liters) by 2030
- > **\$40 million** in climate financing could be mobilized (assuming \$30/ton carbon price)

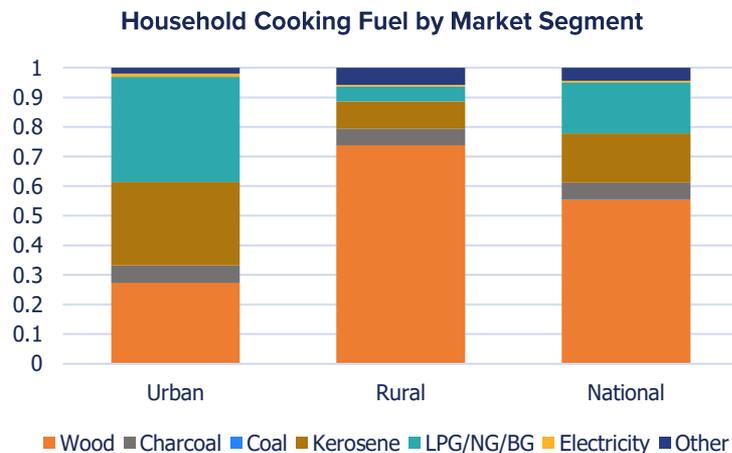


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Cleaner Cooking: Pathways and Gamechangers

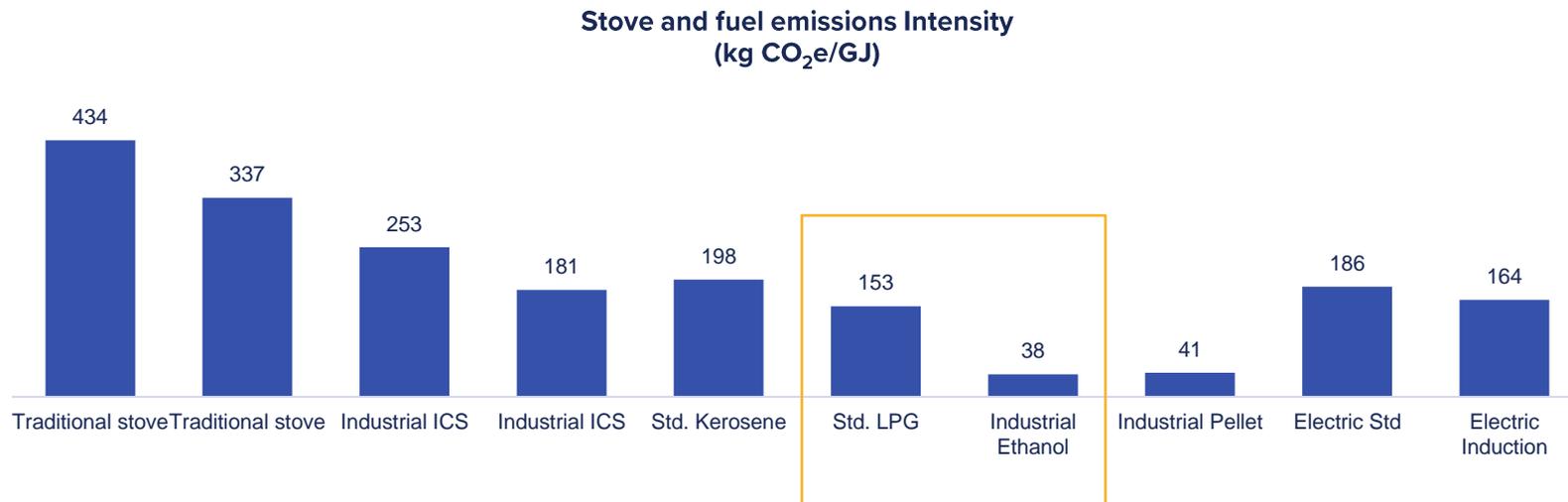
Firewood, charcoal, and kerosene cooking dominate in Nigeria, with notable LPG cooking penetration in urban areas



- > **28.1 million households (78.6% of total)** in Nigeria use firewood, briquettes, kerosene, or charcoal as their main fuel for cooking
- > **218,000 people killed annually** from household air pollution
- > **18 percent of households** (35% in urban areas) cook primarily with LPG stoves
- > **34 percent of households** utilize multiple types of stoves

With high domestic supply, existing penetration, and existing policy targets the most likely modern cooking transition would be via LPG

However, LPG cooking itself is emission intensive, with only 22% lower emissions than cooking with kerosene

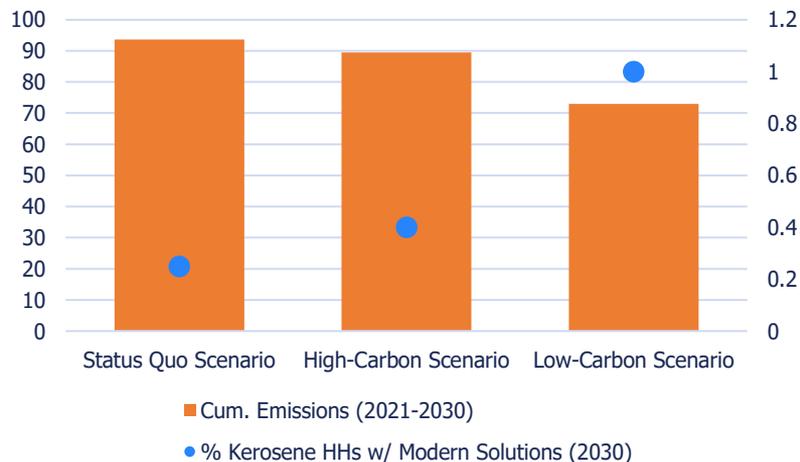


*Each fuel has a GHG emissions intensity factor (kgCO₂e per gigajoule of fuel burned) which illustrates the carbon-intensity of the fuel when burned. When used in a particular stove, only a percentage of the burned fuel is converted into useful energy, resulting in a higher GHG emissions intensity in practice.

Source: Authors' analysis based on multiple sources including Penisse et al, Bailis et al; Clean Cooking Alliance's Clean Cooking Catalog, inter alia.

Moving kerosene households onto LPG cooking can help avoid 17 million tons of CO₂ compared to a high-carbon scenario

In the low-carbon scenario, **6.7 million** kerosene households would cook with modern fuels, primarily LPG



- > Kerosene customers are likely candidates to switch to LPG given similar products, existing customer awareness and marketing, and urban supply chains
- > **\$1.51 billion investment** required to primarily produce and distribute LPG stoves (~4% of costs) as well as to support infrastructure development for LPG (~96% of costs)
- > However, this is **still a comparatively high emissions pathway** given the marginal savings of LPG compared to kerosene

¹In a household, the primary fuel is the one which accounts for the majority of cooking needs
Sources: Catalist estimates

Gamechanger 3: Convert some of customers targeted for LPG to ethanol-based fuels

The Challenge

- > About 6.7 million households cook with kerosene, producing **an estimated 5.5 MTCO₂ in annual emissions**
- > LPG usage levels set to grow dramatically, with National LPG Expansion Plan targeting **90% LPG cooking**, despite marginal emissions savings compared to kerosene
- > Uncertain regulations and currency/market fluctuations, have caused price volatility
 - > **LPG:** Average price for a 5kg LPG cylinder increased 12% to \$5.39 from August 2020 to August 2021
 - > **Kerosene:** Average price per liter increased 15% to \$0.97 in the same period

The Opportunity

- > Tap **ethanol's 75% lower emissions** compared to LPG cooking, to help support Nigeria's low carbon pathway
- > **Support 25% of households** that cook with kerosene to transition to ethanol
- > **Leverage climate finance** to support adoption and cost competitiveness for ethanol fuels



Gamechanger 3: Impact and key design considerations

\$180 million in climate finance to cover investment costs and support 1.7 million households that cook with kerosene to transition to ethanol instead of LPG

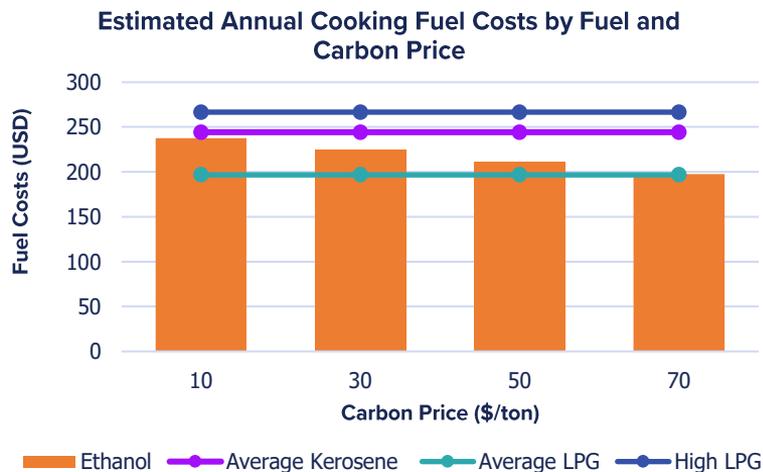
Key Design Considerations

- > **Developing a domestic market for ethanol cooking fuels** including fuel imports as well as building domestic production over time
- > Consumer awareness and behavioral change key barriers for adoption, though ethanol fuels/stoves are similar in operation and appearance to kerosene stoves
- > **Affordability of fuels is a critical factor for consumers switching** cooking fuels (see next page)
- > **Carbon finance** could be used to reduce stove and fuel costs

Gamechanger 4 Impact

- > **Avoid 3.7 MT CO₂** compared to the LPG use
- > **~\$200 million savings** for infrastructure and stoves compared to the full LPG scenario
- > At \$30 / ton, approximately **~\$110 million** could be mobilized

Gamechanger 3: Ethanol is cheaper than kerosene and monetizing avoided CO₂ emissions can boost cost-competitiveness



Average kerosene costs are **\$0.97 / liter** and **LPG are \$0.55 / liter**

Established ethanol cooking markets like Kenya have prices at **\$0.70 / liter**

With stove efficiencies and cooking needs total annual cooking costs are estimated at:

- > **Kerosene:** \$244
- > **LPG:** \$197
- > **Ethanol:** \$244 (assumes \$0.80/liter to account for nascent market)

Monetizing avoided CO₂ emissions could make ethanol cost competitive, though this depends on carbon pricing on voluntary markets

Ethanol costs likely to come down as demand increases, further boosting competitiveness



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Summary

Nigeria's energy sector: setting the scene

Key energy trends and their climate impacts illustrate the scope of the SDG 7 and SDG 13 challenges



Electricity access

- > **40% of Nigerians** lack access to electricity, **16.9 million households**
- > Natural gas accounts for **82%** of electricity generation, a **50% increase** since 2010
- > Nigeria's energy sector reforms emphasize private sector participation
- > Nigeria also sees a prominent role for DREs in meeting their SDG7 ambitions



Unreliable grid

- > Nigeria's grid, where available, is often unreliable, with enterprises experiencing an average of **51% downtime**, and **15.6% revenue losses**
- > Consequently, there is an estimated **3.6 million backup gensets (17 GW)** deployed in the country today.
- > These gensets consume **9.9 billion liters** of fossil fuels each year

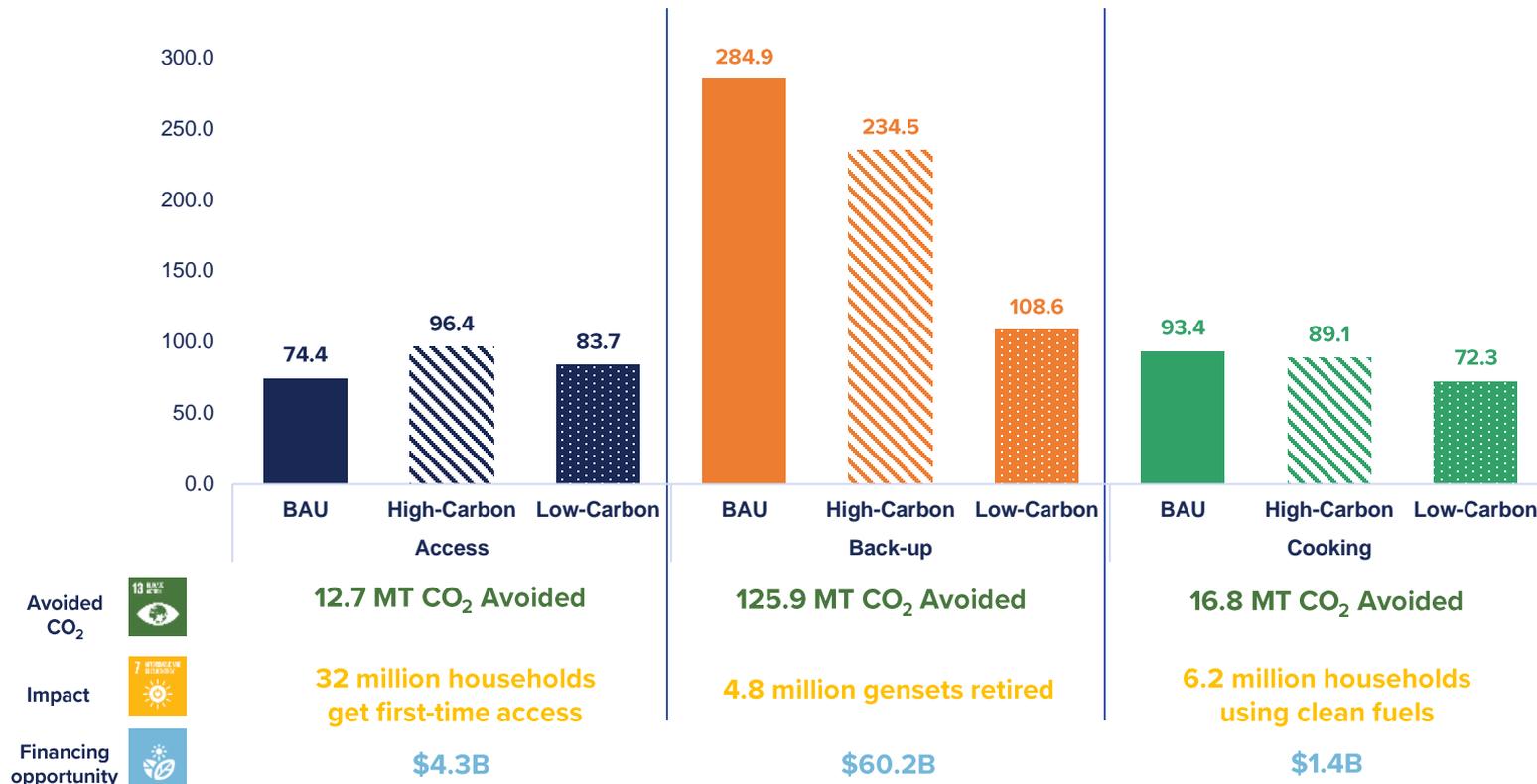


Cleaner cooking

- > **82%** of Nigeria's population use solid fuels for primary cooking needs
- > **218,000 people** in Nigeria die annually from household air pollution
- > **>17% of all households** have already transitioned to LPG cooking, offering a pathway to more modern, clean cooking

The low-carbon scenarios avoid 153 million tons of CO₂, deliver SDG 7 impacts, and unlock a substantial climate finance opportunity

Emissions from Nigeria's low-carbon scenarios are benchmarked against high-carbon counterfactuals; the difference between the two constitutes the avoided emissions



Summing up: Nigeria's low-carbon path

Nigeria's low-carbon universal access path unlocks a **US \$65.9 billion-dollar climate finance** imperative



A low-carbon scenario contributes massively toward universal access



32 million new connections from off-grid technologies delivered

More than **4.8 million gensets** used by enterprises and households replaced

More than 6.2 million households cooking with kerosene now utilizing LPG



A low-carbon scenario benchmarked vs. a high-carbon scenario yields



153 million tons of avoided CO₂ emissions over the next decade



A low-carbon scenario requires substantial volumes of new capital



\$4.3 billion climate finance opportunity for first time access

\$60.2 billion climate finance opportunity to green back-up generation for enterprises and households

\$1.4 billion climate finance opportunity for clean cooking

Potential gamechangers to accelerate energy access and development in Nigeria

Grid-connected DREs

- > Meet 25% of new grid generation via grid-connected DREs or undergrid renewable mini-grids instead of new natural gas power plants, reduce emissions by **9.7 MT**
- > Will also improve power reliability and quality, reducing transmission and distribution congestion, and supporting new energy access

Community Solar to Displace Backup Gensets

- > Aggregate demand clusters from existing grid-tied commercial gensets and bundle them for multi-customer “community solar” clusters
- > Develop 100 community solar installations to replace over **2,000 commercial gensets and avoid 1.3 MT of emissions**

Clean Cooking with Ethanol

- > Develop a small but meaningful domestic market for ethanol cooking; support 25% of kerosene households to convert to ethanol cooking instead of LPG
- > Avoid an additional **3.7 MT CO₂** and **save ~\$200 million** on infrastructure and stoves; carbon finance could play a critical role

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Backup genset research produced in association with



Schatz Energy Research Center

Backup genset research was based on previous work commissioned by



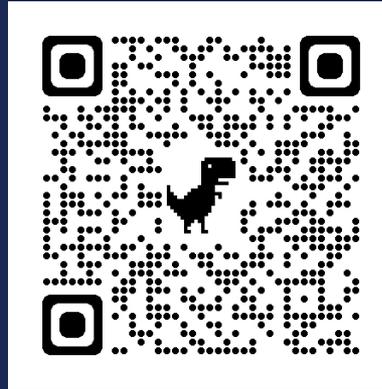
Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities



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