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# Unlocking Climate Finance to Accelerate Energy Access in Nigeria

November 2, 2021

Developed in partnership with:



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



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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.

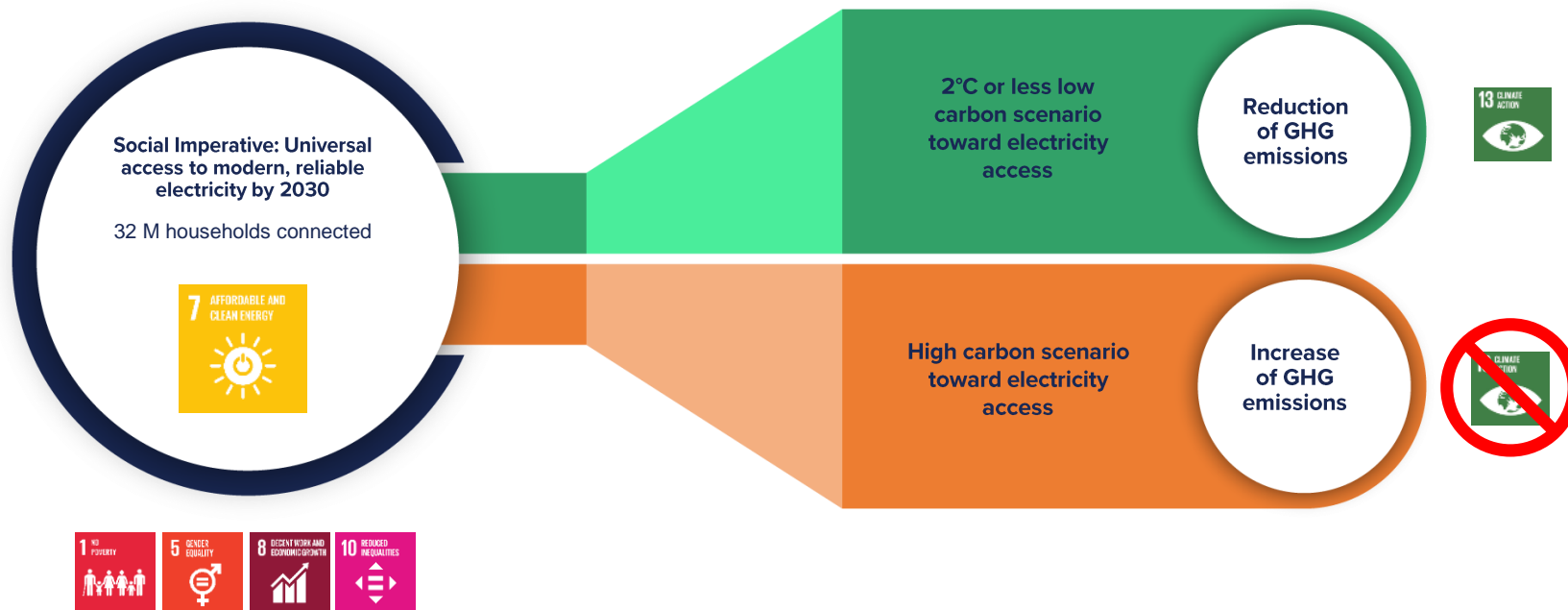
- > Our [2018 research](#) demonstrated the financing opportunity to achieve universal household electrification in Africa (SDG 7) via off-grid solutions.
- > First launched on **Earth Day 2021**, and covering all of Sub-Saharan Africa, this research shows off-grid solar's social dividends, which cut 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

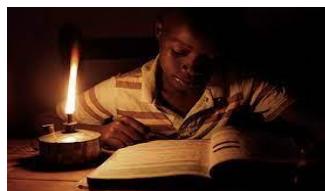
**SDG 7** – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

**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**



**Unreliable grid**



**Cleaner cooking**



**Nigeria's Climate Finance Opportunity**

**Improving access and reducing emissions across the continent**

What level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are avoided via each pillars' low-carbon scenario? What is the associated climate finance opportunity?

### 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

### 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?

### 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?



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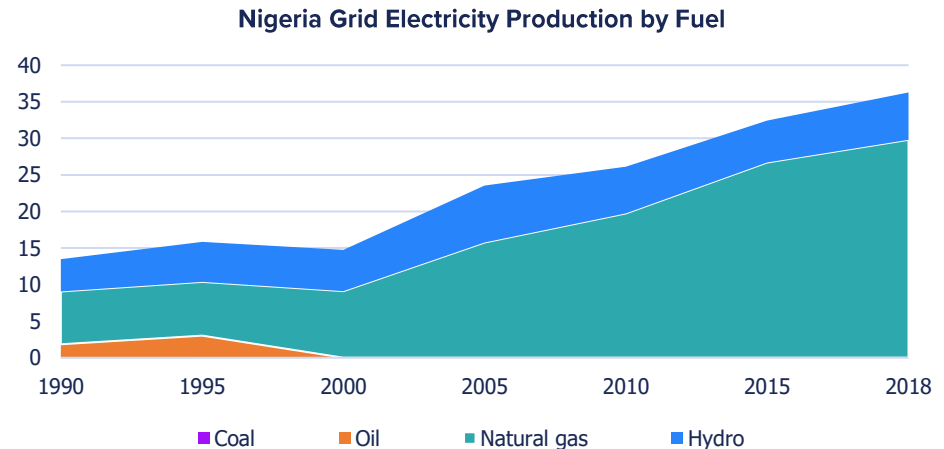
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# Setting the Scene






## Nigeria's grid generation is dominated by fossil fuels

This reliance on fossil fuel generation presents a significant climate challenge

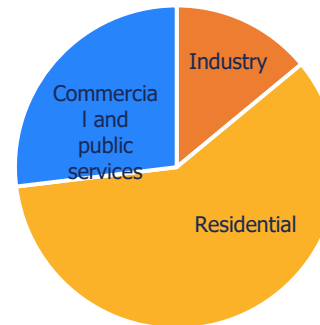
- > **38 percent increase** in total generation since 2010, averaging 4.8% increase per annum
- > **50 percent increase** in natural gas generation since 2010
- > **18 percent** of generation from hydropower in 2018, down from 24 percent in 2010
- > **~511 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh** grid emissions intensity (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)



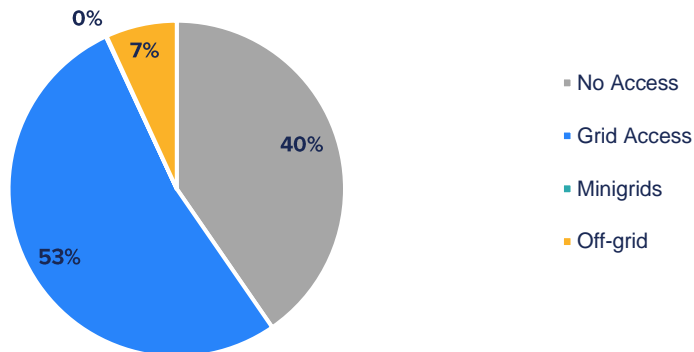
\* All "\$" in the report are United States Dollars (USD)

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.



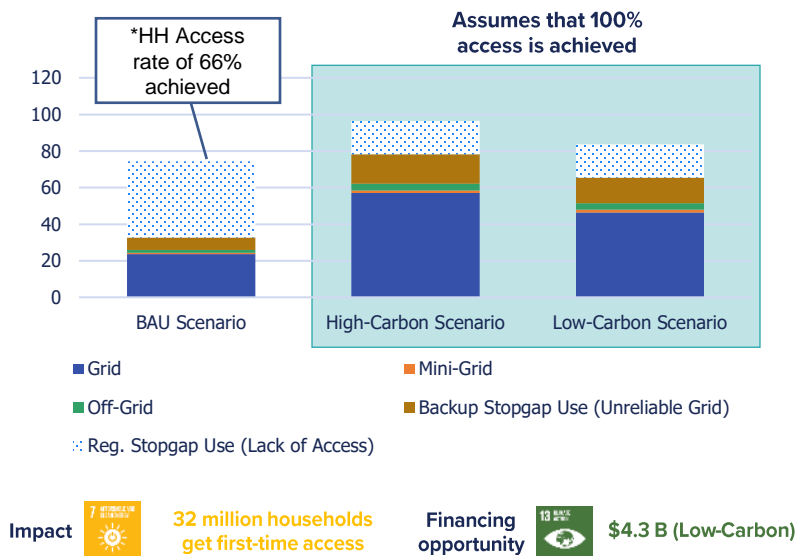
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# Electricity Access: Pathways and Gamechangers

## Tier 1 Pathway: Nigeria's low-carbon scenario for Tier 1\* access avoids 13 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> through scaled up mini-grid and off-grid solutions, and greener grid generation

And grid unreliability contributes significant additional emissions of 13.9 MT CO<sub>2</sub> from backup stopgap usage



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

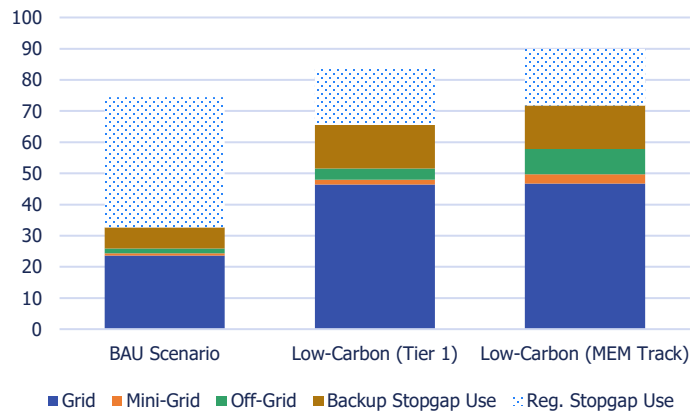
No Access Grid Off-grid Mini-grid

\*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

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



Sources: Catalyst estimates

<sup>1</sup>The 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>** 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 CO<sub>2</sub>** 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:

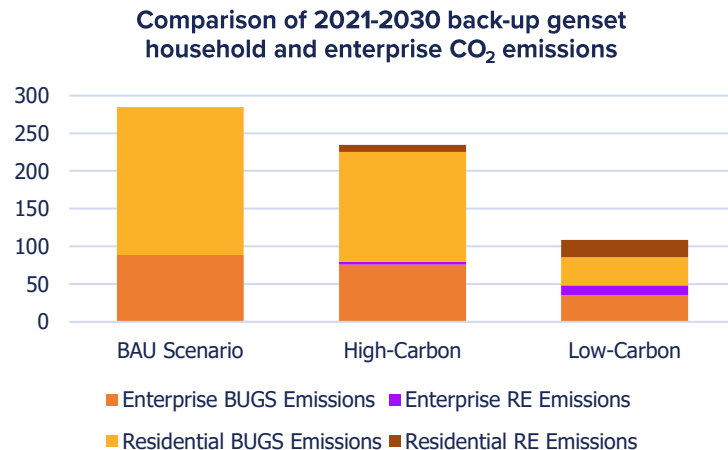
- > **78% of firms experience outages**
- > **33 outages in a typical month** for total downtime of 380 hours (About **51 percent downtime**)
- > Unreliable grid connections result in an **average 15.6 percent** loss in business revenues

### 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

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>



- > 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 scenarios<sup>1</sup>
- > 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

<sup>1</sup>The 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)

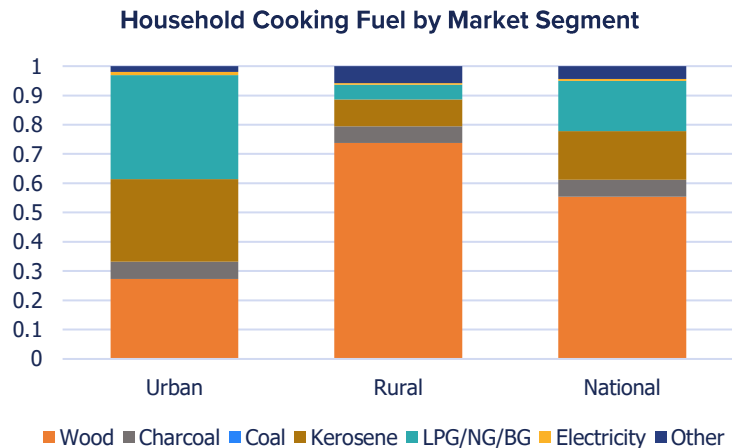


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# Cleaner Cooking: Pathways and Gamechangers

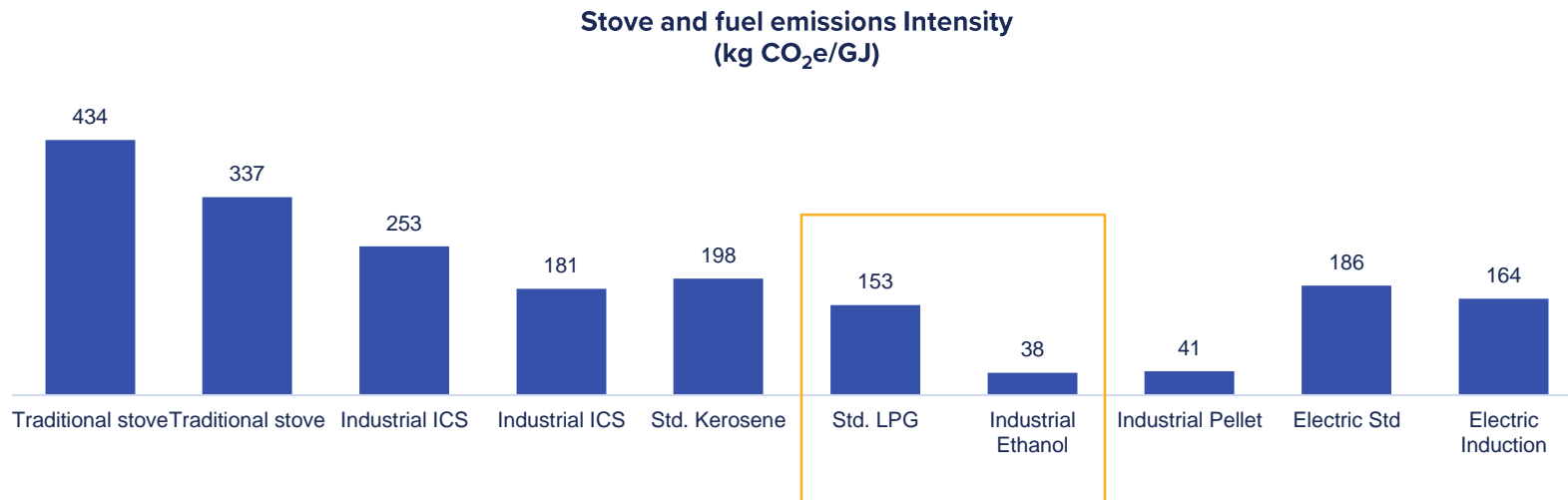
## Firewood, charcoal, and kerosene cooking dominate in Nigeria, with notable LPG cooking penetration in urban areas



- > **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

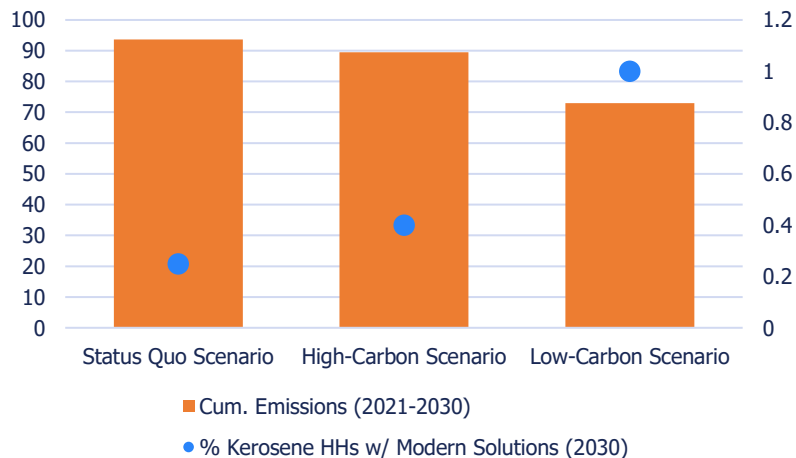


\*Each fuel has a GHG emissions intensity factor (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per gigajoule of fuel burned) which illustrates the carbon-intensity of the fuel when burned. When used in a particular stove, only a percentage of the burned fuel is converted into useful energy, resulting in a higher GHG emissions 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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

<sup>1</sup>In 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 MTCO<sub>2</sub> 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

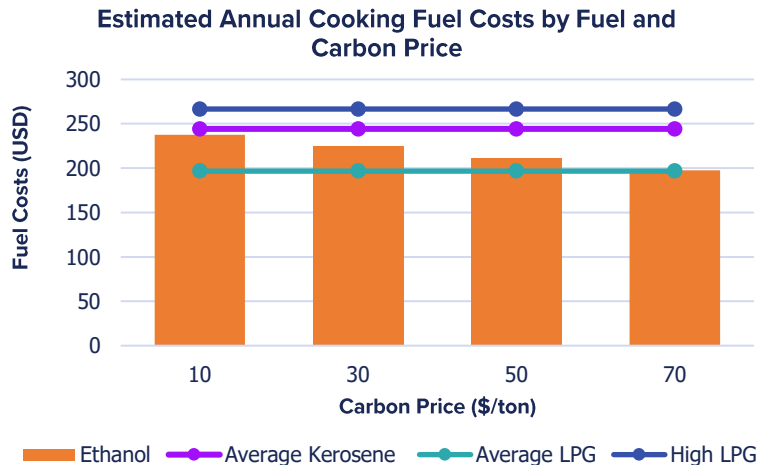
### Key Design Considerations

- > **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 CO<sub>2</sub>** 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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

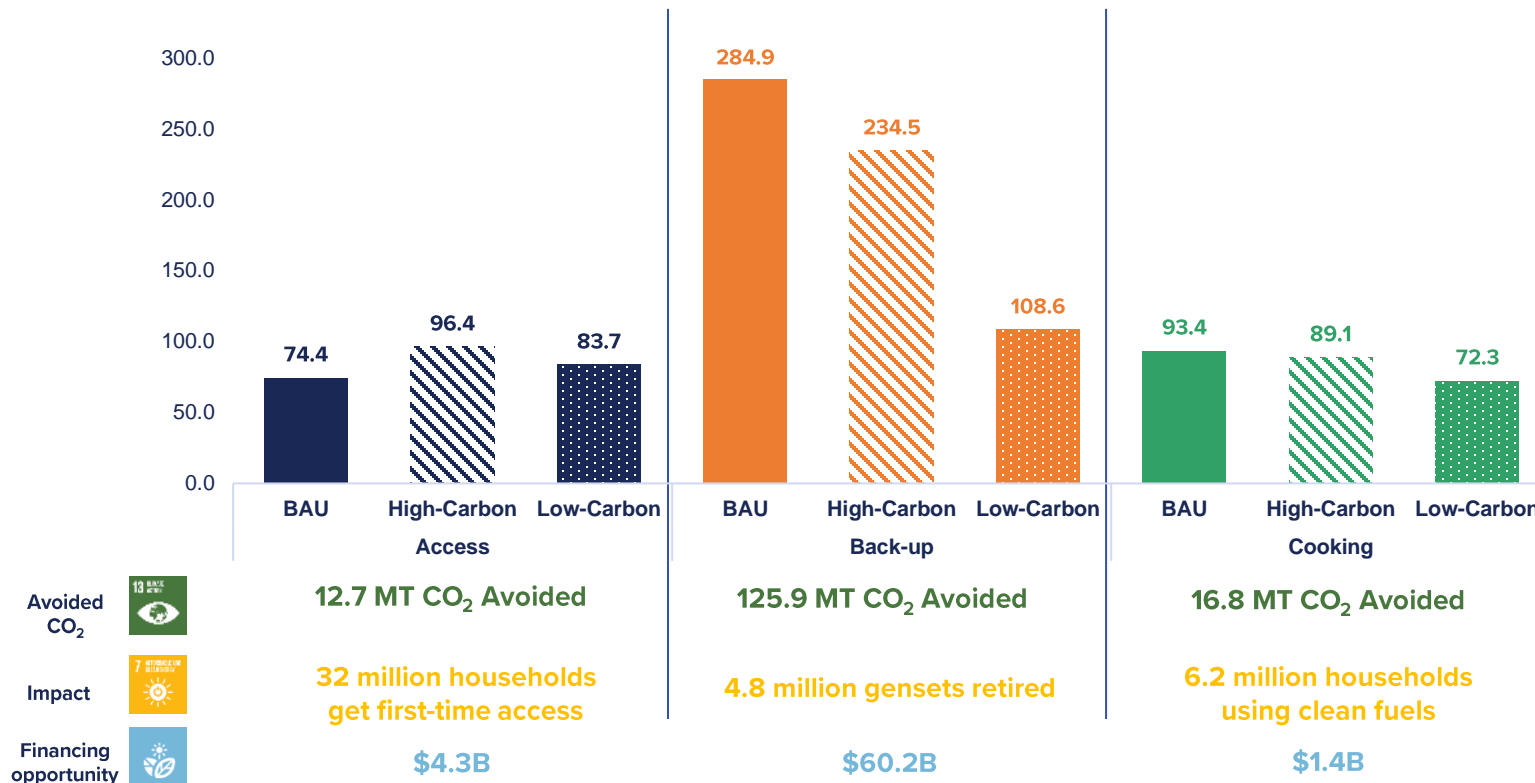


### Cleaner cooking

- > **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 CO<sub>2</sub>, 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>** 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



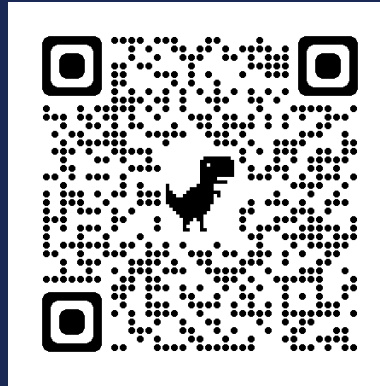
*Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities*



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