**BRIEF ON ENERGY ACCESS INVESTMENT FORUM,**

**DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, 28TH – 30TH JUNE 2022**

***By Estomih Sawe and Maneno Katyega.***

After the two years of COVID restrictions, the Alliance for Rural Electrification’s (ARE) global flagship event Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF) was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for three days, (May 28 to 30th 2022) with exhibitions and matchmaking opportunities which drew more than 1,200 stakeholders.

The EAIF was held in-person on 28-30 June 2022. Moreover, virtual participation to the Forum, including GET.invest Virtual Matchmaking sessions was held on 14-15 June 2022 and was open for everyone. For more information, please visit the [website](https://eaif2022.get-invest-matchmaking.eu/).

The EAIF is a top annual business and finance event for the renewable electrification sector, enabling and fostering business and investor partnerships for the purpose of sustainable electricity access, clean cooking, decarbonisation, economic growth and fighting against climate change. The Forum convened private and public investors, international funding partners, government officials and private sector companies and key stakeholders in the energy access, renewable energy, climate and infrastructure fields.

As the first of its kind, the 2022 EAIF was supported directly by the European Union, as well as GET.invest. ARE was also delighted to confirm a plethora of new sponsors including the African Development Bank, Schneider Electric, ENGIE Energy Access, TCX, BMU, D-REC Initiative, NRECA International, REPP and Okra Solar. Additionally, the show enjoyed many key strategic partnerships including ADEME, SE4ALL, TAREA and UNIDO.

**The Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania**noted among others that, the EU was proud to be supporting the event in line with their continuous efforts to promote investment in renewable energy. The Forum brought financing institutions and industry players together including representatives from the public and private sector and discussed innovative energy solutions for Tanzania and globally. The interest of the EU is in particular on clean energy creating green jobs and sustainable economic development.”

**The Team Leader of GET.invest** mentioned that GET.invest, was pleased to support EAIF because they believe in such events to be great occasions to bring people together and stimulate the flow of ideas as well as new cooperation. He noted that the ARE events have a strong track record

The Dar EAIF 2022, featured interactive high-level panels, thematic and country sessions, pitches from the private sector and investors, country delegations from Mozambique and Burundi, as well as GET.invest Matchmaking sessions and networking receptions. The event also included a dedicated Tanzania Energy Access Day which raised awareness on the potential of renewable energy technologies, particularly for rural electrification and clean cooking in Tanzania.

The Tanzanian Minister of Energy; **Honorable January Makamba** officiated the opening ceremony with a strong and much appreciated speech that called for among others; for more efforts and resources from both the public and private sectors to be made to ensure increased access to electricity and clean cooking for both urban and rural populations, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Based on its 15-years track record and EAIF’s role as the decentralised renewable energy (DRE) sector’s flagship event, ARE more than 1,200 stakeholders participated in the Forum. Furthermore, a number of renewable Energy products and services were exhibitted. Exhibitors had the opportunity to get visibility, new contacts and business opportunities throughout the Forum.

In conclusion, the noted deployment of the renewable energy technologies was imperative to emerging and innovative technological options towards achieving universal clean energy access while effectively addressing climate change. Organizers were delighted to host the landmark EAIF in Tanzania which boosted renewable energy financing in Africa and globally and more than 1,000 stakeholders participated, insightful panels including that on clean cooking in which TaTEDO participated as a panelist and other sessions were successfully held.

Main Takeaways from the Forum

* Tanzania is back in the mini-grid space. After virtually four years disappearance of the sector due to the political decision to apply pan territorial uniform tariffs in the national grid and mini-grids. Cost reflective tariffs to be applied to rekindle interest for private sector participation.
* Tanzania’s government’s efforts on policy and regulatory framework for isolated mini-grids, once considered one of the most conducive in the continent, does not reflect the evolution of the sector towards competitive processes. The EU and other development partners are well positioned and willing to provide support.
* The improvement of the enabling environment and the policy and regulatory framework remains of critical importance in many mini-grids’ markets, while lack of harmonisation among different countries hinder scaling up the investment.
* Lack of pre-arranged financing in auctions for mini-grids is delaying the processes and increasing the costs, often as financial closure is reached after several years.
* Productive uses of electricity propelled by innovative technologies and approaches to scale up investments remain an absolute priority for the sector. Emerging good practices include how to address the gaps in the productive use technologies supply chain, stimulate demand, low interest flexible financing and repayment, crowding in local investors.
* Digitalisation can play a key role in scaling and de-risking decentralised renewable energy (DRE) investments, although some barriers needs to be overcome (e.g. internet access, online data costs).
* The forum targeted specific sessions to following countries Benin, Uganda, DRC, Mozambique, Nigeria, Burundi and Tanzania whereby very useful lessons and experiences were shared.