



SIGMA: Introduction and main insights

Prof Subhes Bhattacharyya
Principal Investigator,
University of Surrey



Housekeeping

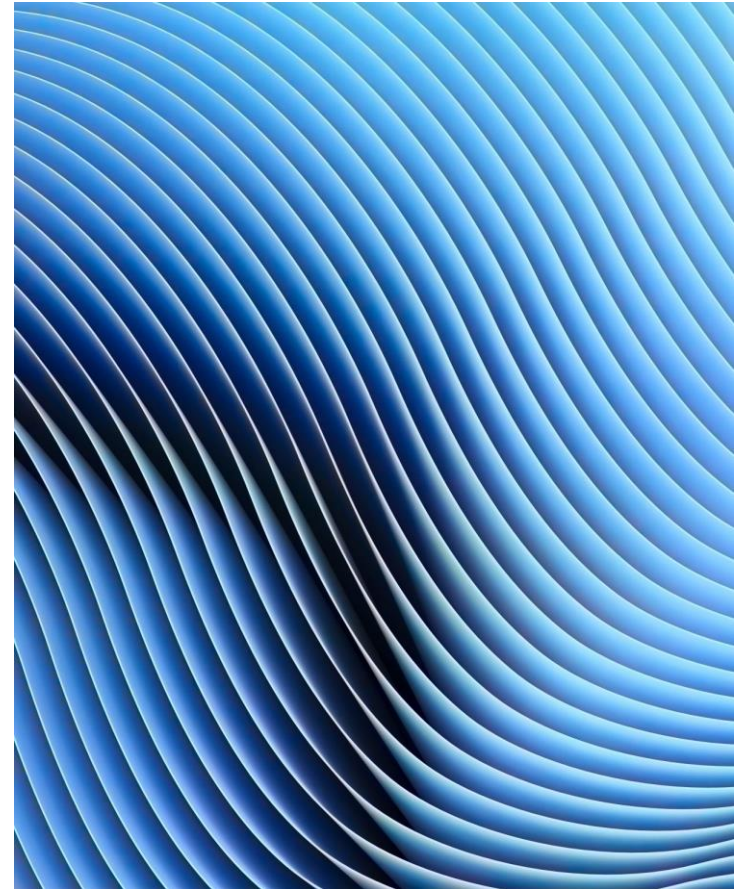


In this presentation

Overview

Main findings

**Reflections on the future of mini-
grids**



Project overview

SIGMA – Sustainability,
Inclusiveness and
Governance of Mini-grids in
Africa

Started from March 2020;
ending on 1st March 2024

Collaborative project

- UK teams – DMU, Surrey, Sussex, IDS, OU and Huddersfield
- International teams – ECREEE, ICEED (Nigeria), CFIA –ISS (Kenya), TaTeDo (Tanzania) and a consultant from Senegal

Advisory Board – led by Dr
Sanusi Ohiare (ex-REA)

Impacted by COVID and
funding cuts

Research focus

Evidence base

- Develop an evidence base of mini-grid performance in Africa

Analytical framework

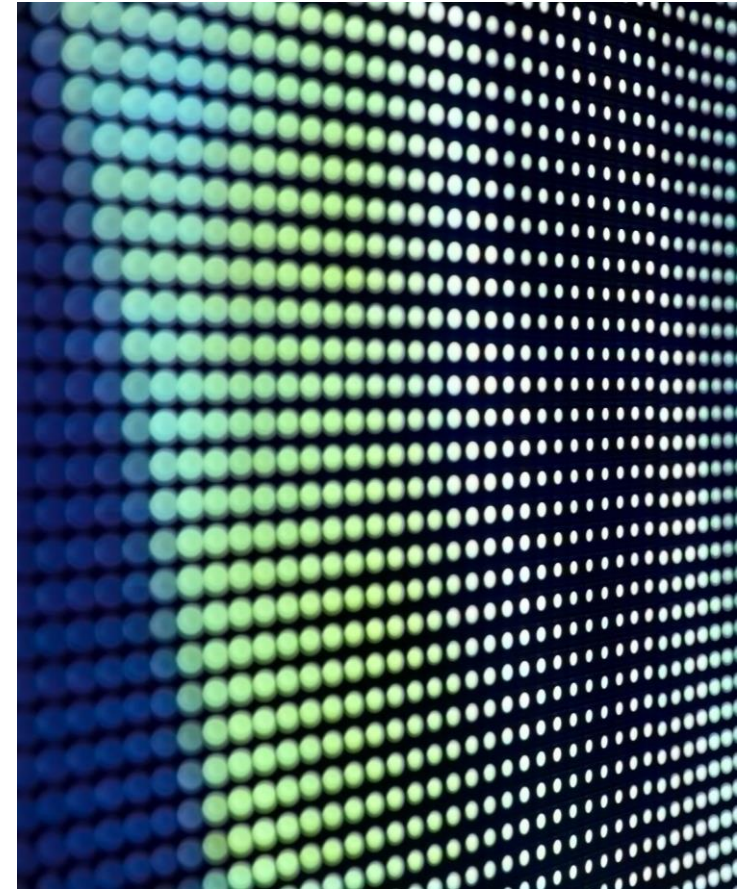
- Develop a framework to analyse political economy of energy access and a sustainability framework of mini-grids

Case studies

- Develop country case studies focusing on sustainability, inclusiveness and governance of mini-grids in four countries

Dissemination

- Develop collaboration, build capacity and disseminate the insights from the project



Activities undertaken

Extensive review of literature
– outcome presented in a webinar on 4th February 2022

Mini-grid database– led by ECREEE, data on mini-grids was compiled from available sources

Framework for mini-grid performance and sustainability analysis –

- DEA framework
- Indicator based framework

Fieldwork in Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and Senegal – stakeholder interviews, visits to mini-grids

Analysis of country cases

Collaboration, networking and capacity building

Dissemination

Insights from the project

Limited technical sustainability – short-term focus;
Long-term perspective missing;

Inclusiveness not well observed;
Wider socio-economic benefits have not reached all equally;

Business viability is hardly demonstrated;

User satisfaction remains questionable.

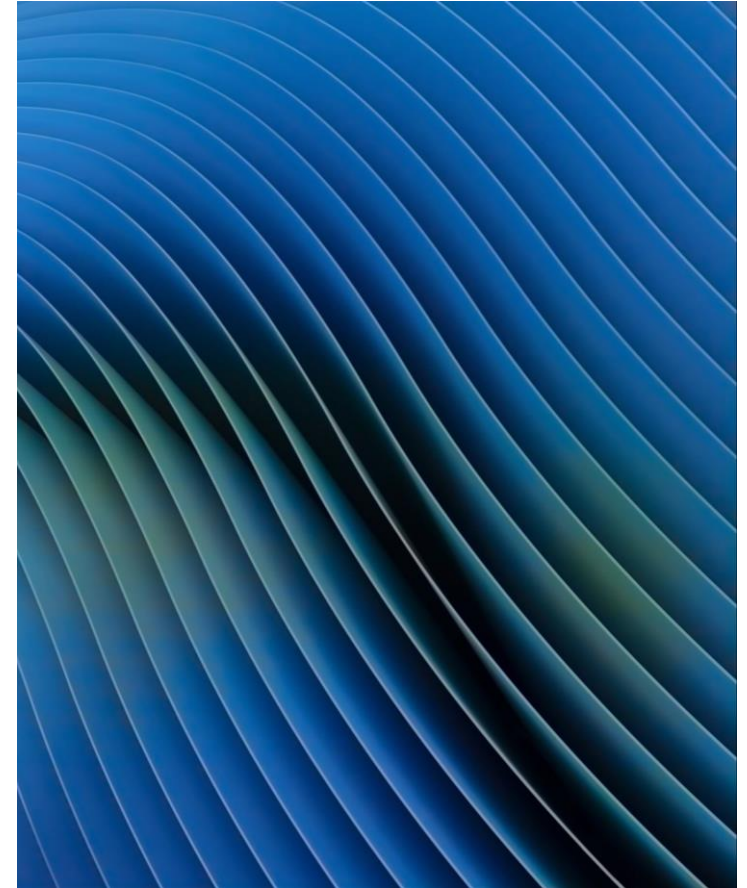
Reflections on future mini-grids development

Sustainable mini-grids are hard to find

- Technical, economic, social and governance dimensions not working in harmony
- Pieces of the jig-saw puzzle are still missing
- A whole system approach is still not visible for mini-grid development

There is a need to continue the conversation on the tension between state vs. market solutions.

**Value chain integration
Expansion to MW scale capacities
Centralised procurement and implementation plan**



Outputs and outcomes

- Paper in Energy policy
- Conference papers
 - 3 papers at 4th International Conference on Solar Technologies & Hybrid Mini Grids to improve energy access - s-@ccess 2023, held in Mallorca, Spain from 26 to 28 April 2023
 - Presentation at the Non-Road Mobile Machinery Electrification and Hybridization Forum - hosted by the Leadvent Group in Berlin
- Working papers
- Presentation at COP27 and presence in COP28
- Poster at the Gender and Inclusion Summit 2022
- Webinars
 - 4th February 2022
 - 17th May 2022
 - 31st March 2023
 - TaTeDo Webinar 2nd February 2023
 - Nigeria High level policy dialogue 26th October 2023
- Collaborations
 - Rural Electrification Agency – Nigeria
 - PeopleSun

Thank you for your attention



Any queries?



Contact:

s.c.bhattacharyya@surrey.ac.uk