

PRESS RELEASE



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP supports Government's efforts of providing clean energy and safe water to rural communities

22nd December 2019, Singida, The UNDP Tanzania Country Office today in Ikungi, Singida has officially inaugurated the OffGridBox technology, which is installed in three regions of Simiyu, Singida and Mara. With Tanzania's vast potential of renewable energy, the OffGridBox technology is set to improve the lives of the rural population in the three regions tremendously.

Providing people with clean source of energy and safe water will improve their living standards and health remarkably. The burden of water borne diseases especially in the rural areas is great. Diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery and cholera from drinking unsafe water is one of the major causes of death for the under-five.

The OffGridBox technology project aims to improve access to clean, safe and affordable water and energy services to these marginalized communities. It is envisaged that this project will impact close to 4,000 households with an estimated population of 28,000. The box brings more potential to improve horticultural productivity, education, health and livelihood in general.

Ms. Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative commented: "Today as we are inaugurating the new multipurpose OffGridBox solar energy technology, I must say, this is a proud and momentous accomplishment that opens door for progress to deliver clean water using clean and renewable energy." Ms. Musisi further said, "With this technology, we are saving our planet by contributing to the reduction of carbon emission into the atmosphere and reducing the cost of using diesel as a source of energy."

Benefits that come along the OffGridBox technology include; clean and safe water, solar power which will simplify their daily activities and improve their earnings. For example, barber shops, hair salons, ice making business especially in the three islands, milling machine, powering hospital equipment, computers for schools, fishing lights, irrigation among other things. The social impact of this project is even better – reduced waterborne diseases, improved literacy and school completion by lighting, wifi connectivity for villages with smart phones, reduce CO2 emissions.

'We are delighted to be part of UNDP's programme to provide renewable energy and clean water to rural communities in Ikungi, Bunda and Busega districts', says Davide Bonsignore, COO of OffGridBox, Inc. 'The OffGridBox technology will prove to be an effective and replicable method to assist households and small businesses who need power and purified water. We're happy to see that energy can be used for pumping water, milling, cold storage etc. We're eager to collaborate further with UNDP both in Tanzania and elsewhere.'

The installation of the OffGridBox technology took five months from July to November 2019. The installation work was done by OffGrid.

About UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help build better life. UNDP started its operations in Tanzania after signing of Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) with the Government in 30th May 1978. The overall focus for UNDP Tanzania is to support the Government of Tanzania to improve lives of the people through strategic programmatic areas of inclusive democratic governance, inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihoods and environment sustainability, climate change and resilience.

About OffGridBox technology

The OffGridBox system is a compact, all in-one solution that fits entirely inside a 6x6x6 ft shipping container and is equipped with all the hardware needed to produce electricity and water. The box can charge up to 130 powerbanks per day, provide up to 1,000 litres of drinking water and can connect to TVs, Fans, refrigerators etc

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