

Energy Access Institutions Facility (formerly Market Institutions Facility)

Accelerating the path to SDG7: Supporting Market Institutions to scale up the Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) sector



[Shell Foundation](#), the UK charity, together with the [UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office \(FCDO\)](#), and [Open Capital](#) Advisors, are proud to have conceptualised, designed, and set-up the new [Energy Access Institutions Facility](#) (EAIF; formerly known as the Market Institution Facility). The EAIF is a five-year, \$25m, multi-donor initiative aimed at deploying core funding and technical assistance to Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) sector Market Institutions (MIs).

The EAIF exemplifies the kind of innovative mechanisms needed in creating and stabilising critical sectors in emerging markets. The Facility aims to enable MIs to scale up the DRE sector, deepen impact at a faster pace, and deliver transformational ecosystem-level change needed to achieve universal access to affordable, clean, reliable, and inclusive energy.

“Since 2010, Shell Foundation, with co-funding from the FCDO, has provided establishment and core funding support to DRE MIs, which have proven instrumental in offering market-level support needed to develop and scale DRE solutions,” says Richard Gomes, Chief Programme Officer at Shell Foundation.

“It has become evident that the sustained success and expansion of the DRE sector relies heavily on the ongoing crucial ecosystem activities of these MIs. MIs play a pivotal role in promoting, communicating, and safeguarding the sector’s interests and advancements.”

Recognizing the critical need to continue providing long-term core funding and technical support to MIs through partnerships, Shell Foundation, FCDO, and Open Capital, in close consultation with the MIs supported by the Transforming Energy Access platform, conceptualised the EAIF.

With \$5.5m of anchor funding and close support from FCDO and Shell Foundation, Open Capital designed, incubated, and managed the Facility over two years and successfully proved this concept with an initial portfolio of five market institutions serving different sectors and markets:

- Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA),
- Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA),
- Uganda Off-Grid Market Accelerator (UOMA),
- Nigeria Off-Grid Market Accelerator Programme (NOMAP),
- Ethiopia Energy Market Accelerator (EMA).

These institutions have already achieved great strides in the DRE sector, including supporting members to provide over 2.2m solar home systems ([GOGLA](#)) and 78,000 mini-grids ([AMDA](#)) across multiple African markets. The MIs together have also facilitated \$1.75bn into their sectors and markets.

The in-depth design and development work by Open Capital in the initial phase of the facility resulted in additional ~\$4.7m (SEK 50m) in funding from the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#) (SIDA) and the identification of [CLASP](#) as the long-term host and manager of the Facility moving forward.

The EAIF has garnered interest from key sector stakeholders demonstrating that through the right mechanisms and pilot approach, coordinated support to multiple MIs can be unlocked more efficiently and effectively. This capability enables the Facility to deepen impact at the global, regional, and national levels by identifying and promoting untapped synergies of its diverse portfolio, facilitating the exchange of best practices, and enhancing strategic coordination among MIs.

“The establishment of the Energy Access Institutions Facility marks a significant milestone on the path to universal energy access,” says Reza Fazel, Associate Partner at Open Capital. “This work aligns closely with our goal to advance the industry and reach millions more unserved populations. Under the helm of CLASP, we are excited to see the substantial impact the EAIF achieves, and we will continue sharing our learnings and insights wherever possible to enable this growth.”