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# GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE OFF-GRID SECTOR

*What measures should we take to support vulnerable population segments that are affected by lack of electricity access in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic?*





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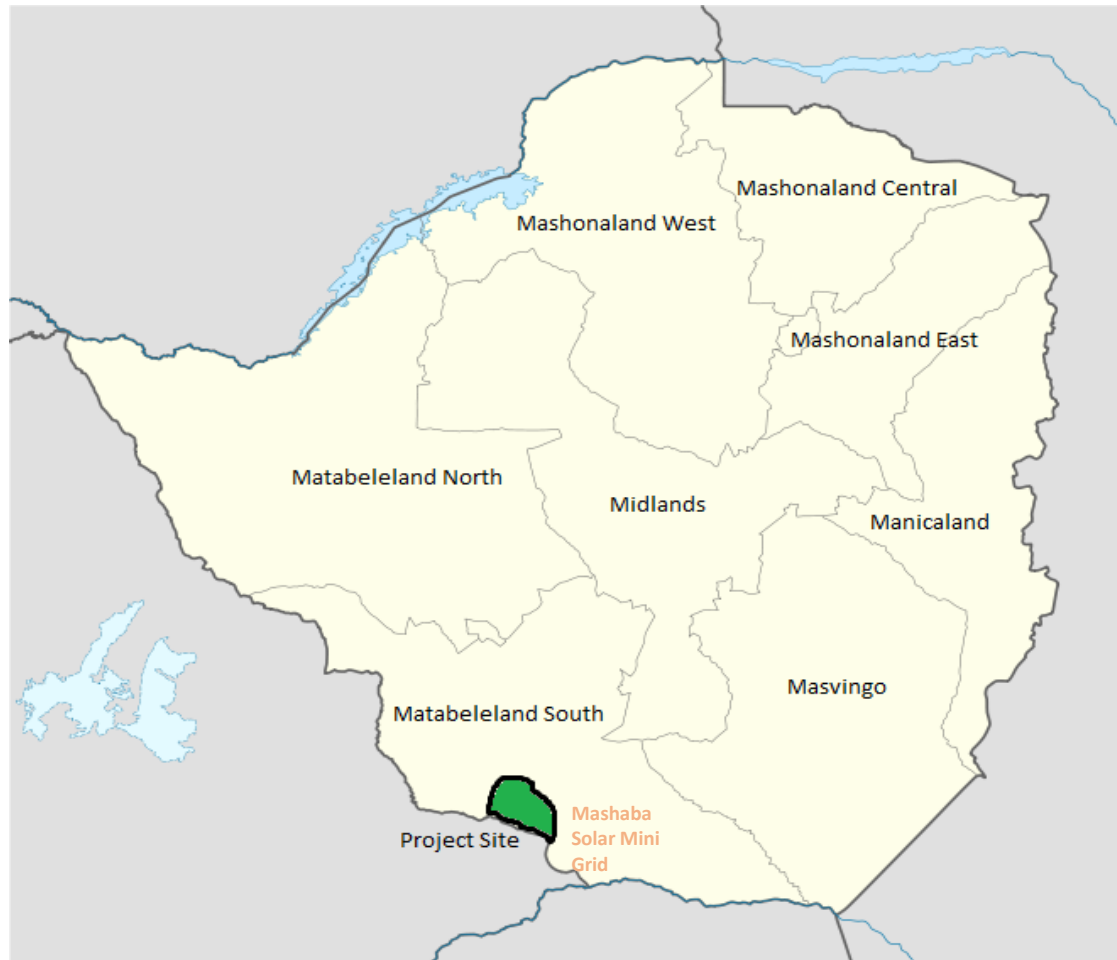
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## Mashaba Solar Mini Grid, Gwanda District, Zimbabwe



## Solafin2Go, Jamataka, Botswana







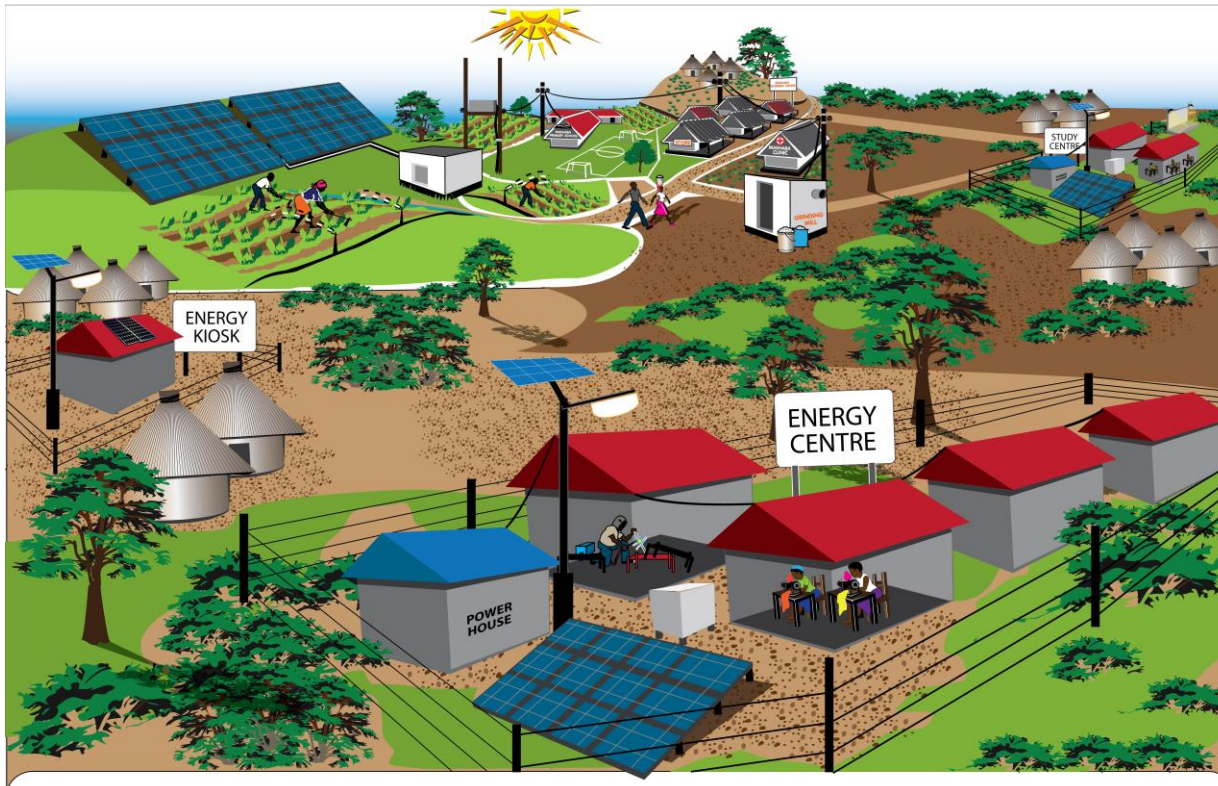
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## Energy Access delivery models for rural communities



**Mashaba Solar Mini-Grid**

SUSTAINABLE ELECTRICITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

FUNDING PARTNERS



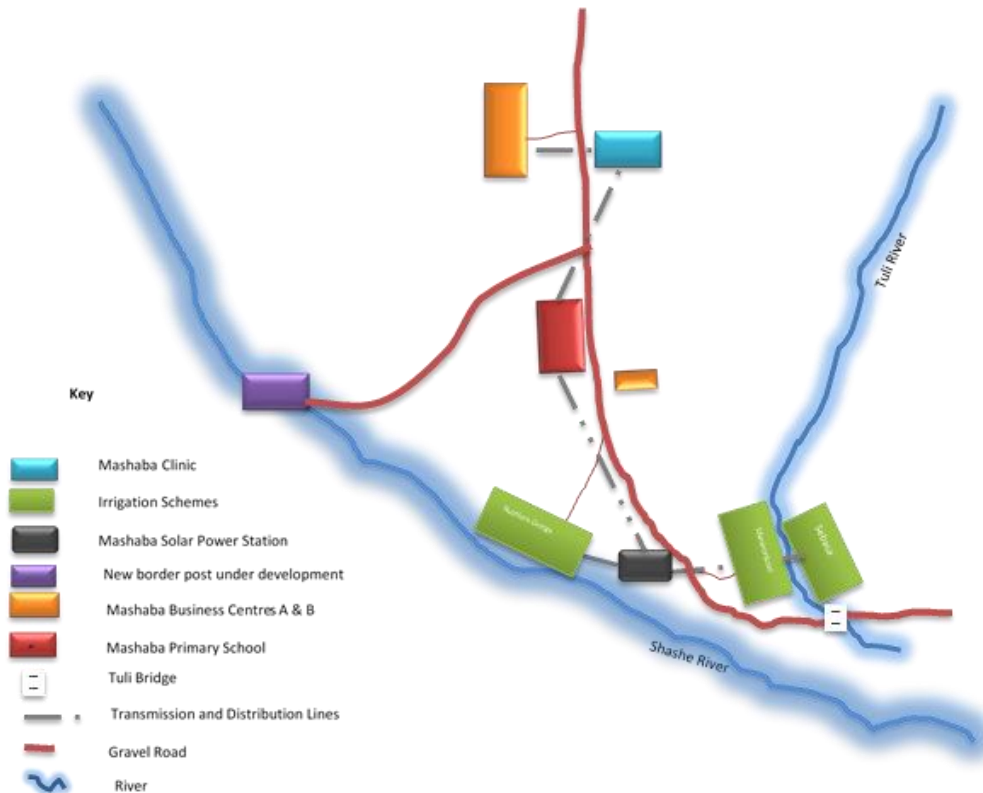
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



- Access to household electricity – **Energy kiosks**
- Access to electricity for off-line E-Learning at the Study Centre. Small study groups – **Mini grid and Energy Kiosks**
- Water for productive use at irrigation schemes for food security and enhanced incomes – **Mini Grid and Energy kiosks**
- Piped water to communities in Mashaba ward – **Mini Grid and Energy Kiosks**
- Electricity for [Women's and youths'] businesses – **Mini Grid**
- Women and Youths as energy entrepreneurs

## Energy Customers and Rural Energy Entrepreneurs

Mashaba Solar Mini Grid, Gwanda, Zimbabwe



Women energy kiosk and Energy Centre owners



## How access to electricity has positive impacts during COVID-19 measures

- Access to electricity on mini grid has not been affected. Ownership and management structures in place to locally operate the plant.
- **Revenue collection method** – prepaid meters. Option to pay through mobile money is available.
- **Mobile payments** – for Mashaba Solar Mini Grid allow for payment for electricity during COVID19 lockdown; mobile based PAYG payments for electricity on D-light SHS allows for access to electricity during lockdown. Feature was always there since the communities are marginalized and far from urban areas to make payments in person. Feature is helping during lockdown.
- **Entrepreneurship** – women energy kiosks owners in Gwanda Rural. Able to continue generating income from PAYG payments for gadgets already sold. Products supply though will be affected since products were imported – closing of borders affects supply. Energy kiosks allow for reach of marginalized communities that would be left out by business-as-usual approaches.
- **Mobile phone charging services** are available for access to information on COVID-19 measures by government.
- **Information is also passed through radios and televisions, which communities now have.** Project introduced solar powered off grid systems like SHS, and solar lighting systems.





## Effects of COVID-19 measures on Mashaba community's access to electricity and livelihoods

- Restocking challenges for energy kiosks – no local production of solar products in Zimbabwe. Supplies are mostly imports from neighbouring countries and China.
- Border communities – rely on remittances from family members in South Africa and Botswana – lockdown affects remittance incomes and grocery supplies. Some are cross border traders – closing of the borders affects incomes.
- Access to access to portable water – Rehabilitation of water reticulation system had not been completed so water is from communal water points.
- Schools are closed – some schools in urban areas have introduced online learning.
- Rural schools do not have infrastructure for online learning. E-learning – there are no services in rural schools to do this.
- Requires specific infrastructure such as smart phone, laptop at household and child level, requires internet connection for virtual learning. Requires money for connection to internet.
- Online learning is not affordable for most parents especially rural ones.
- Leave no-one behind?



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**Thank You!**