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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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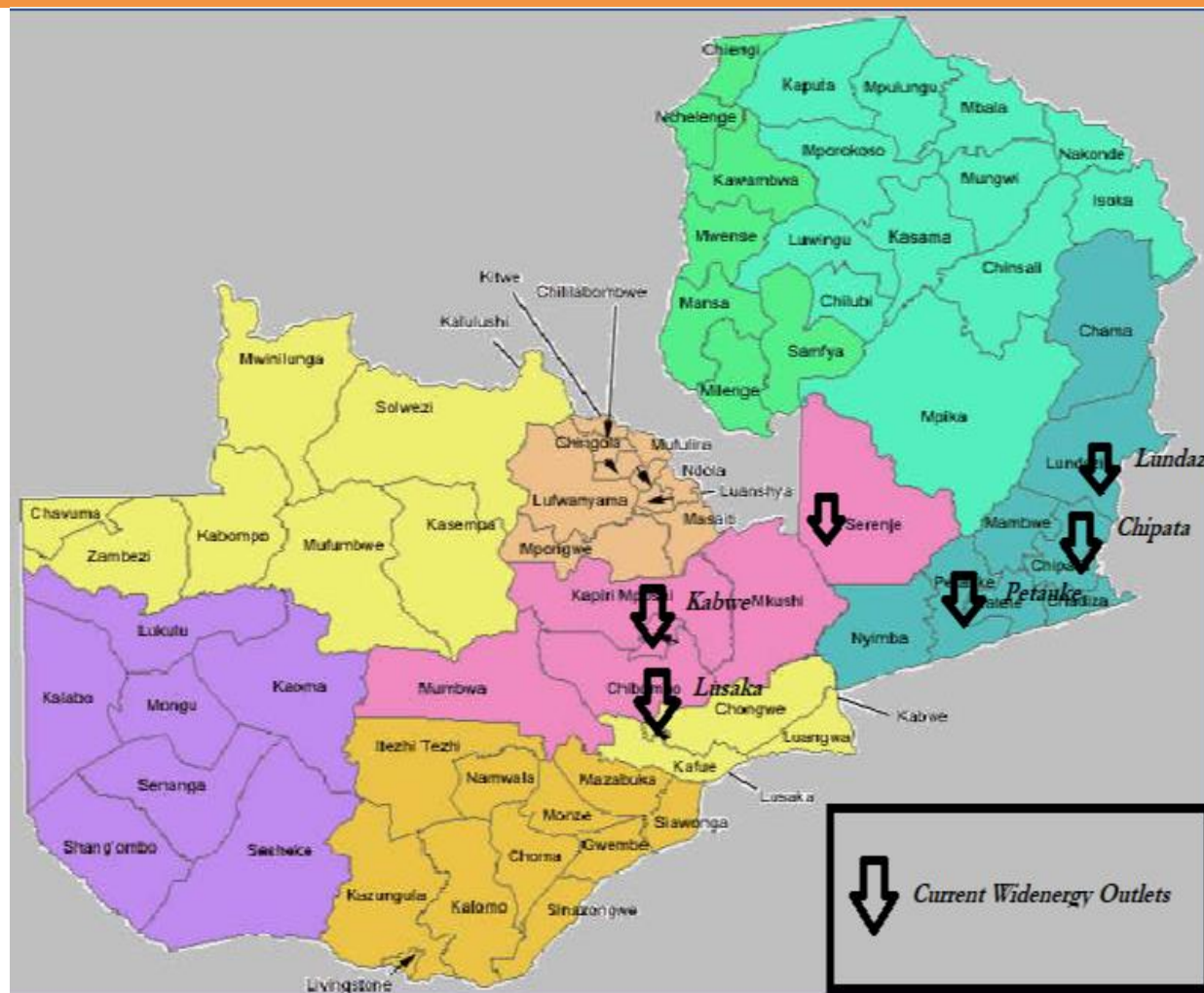


Presented by:

**Liliane Munezero Ndabaneze**

Chief Executive Officer,  
WidEnergy Africa Ltd  
Zambia





## PROBLEM: Lack of access to electricity in Zambia

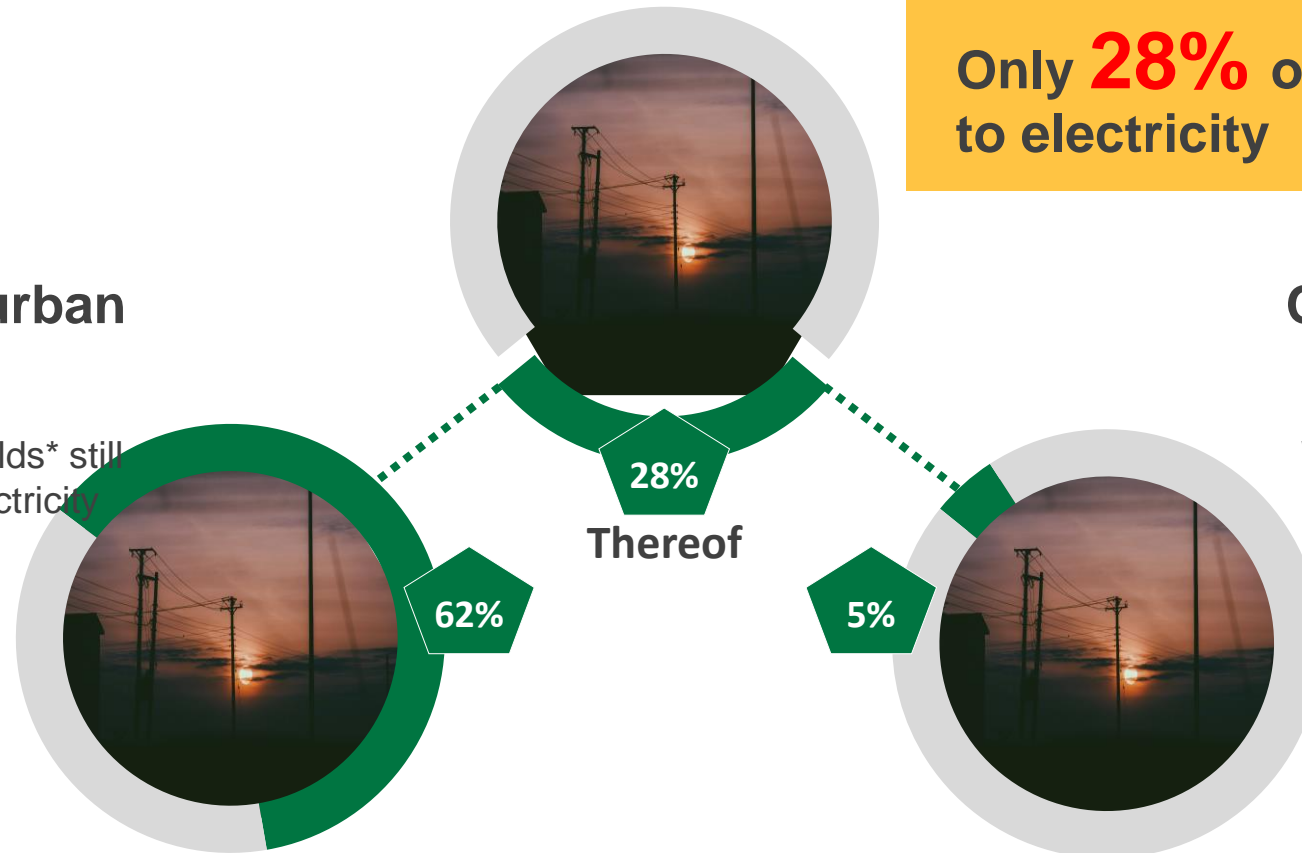
Only **28%** of Zambia has access to electricity

**62%** of it in urban areas

With 420,000 households\* still lacking access to electricity

Only **5%** of it in rural areas

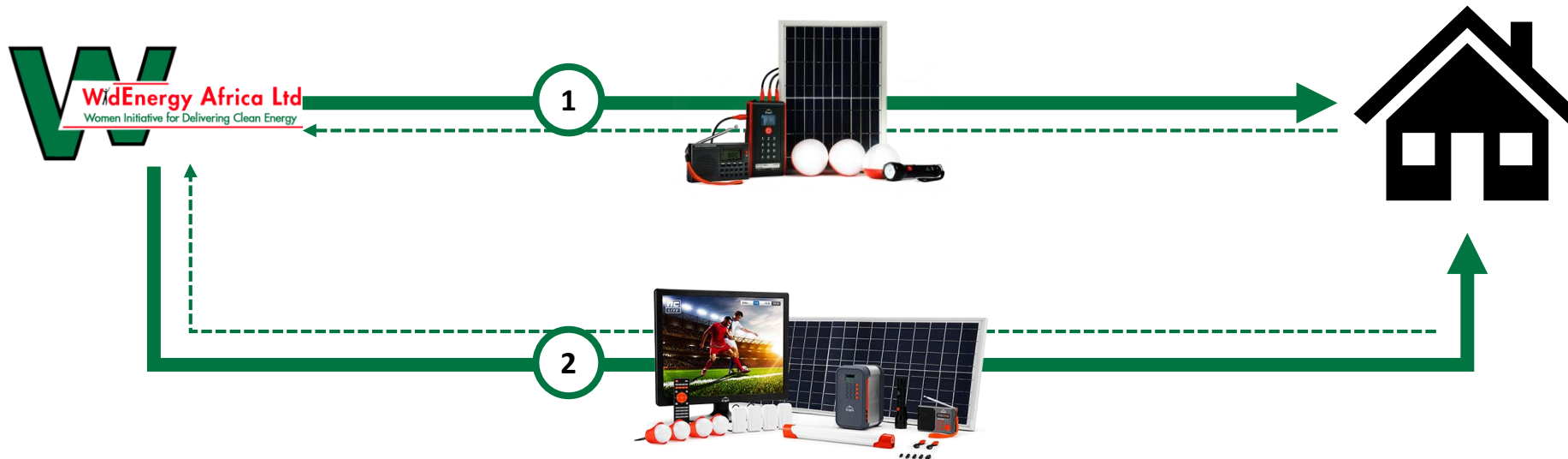
With 1.7 million households\* still lacking access to electricity



\*based on an average household size of 5.2, in total 11m people that have no access to electricity

## BUSINESS MODEL : Focus on lending portfolio

Customer is offered a 10W Solar Home System package bundled with a mobile phone . A down payment of 10% is needed, and balance is paid in installments (weekly payments made by mobile money ) repayment over an 18 month repayment period

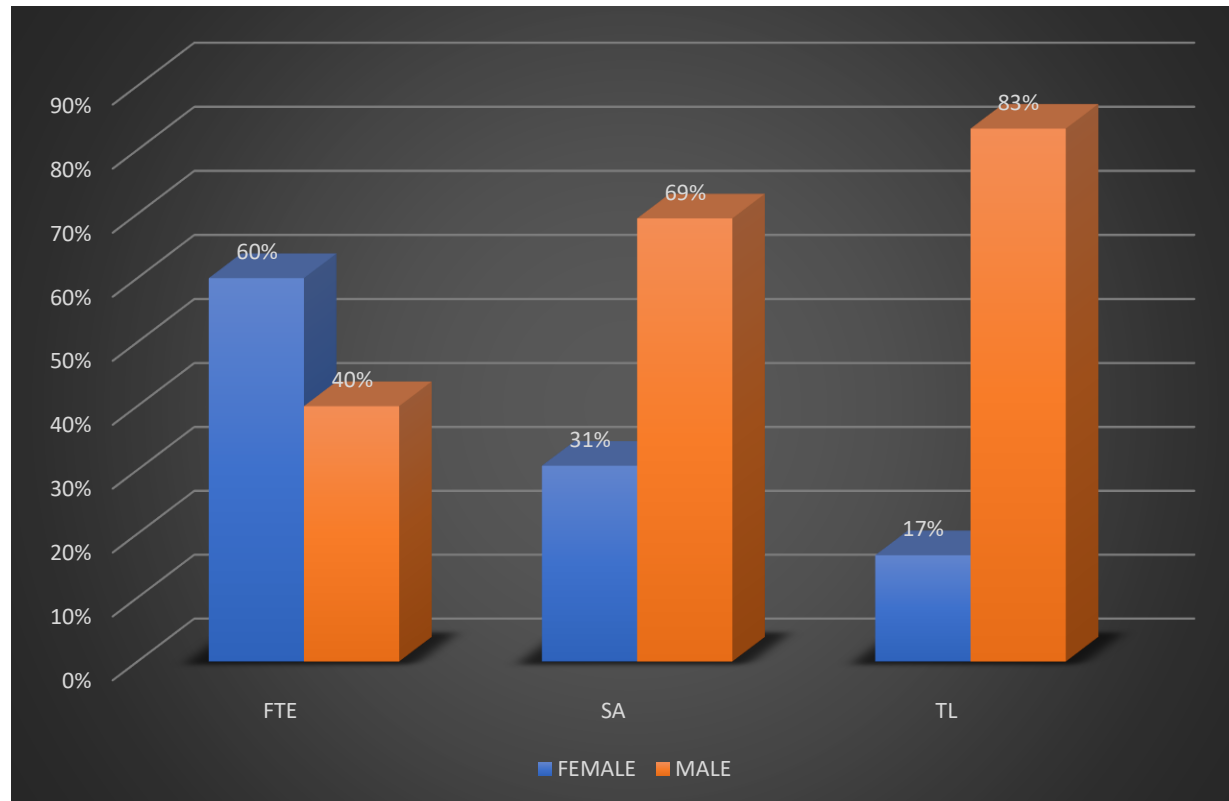


Through strategic partnerships, WidEnergy will soon upsells the advanced X850 package to customers with a credible payment history.



## Current Employment Status

- Our current employment status of female employees as seen in the graph below is at 60%, our commissioned sales agents is at 31 % and for our team leaders it is at 17%





## Current Gender and Societal Conditions Mostly in rural areas

- Women do not have the same opportunities as men
- No or little participation of women in House Hold decision making
- Energy poverty generally affects a higher numbers of women than men
- And this brings an increase in adverse climate impacts (health, nutrition, children's education...)

## WidEnergy gives a wider focus in gender equality of sustainable energy in both delivery and to our beneficiaries

- We provide affordable and quality access to renewable energy
- Increases the time of home study therefore the chances of success in school. This will in the long term allow them to have a more important role in their societies.
- Access to mobile phones (bundled up in our SHS Kits)—That opens up more opportunities (e.g use of Mobile money, Mobile financing)
- Increase in women's (small) business activities
- Contributes to closing the energy gaps in last-mile remote rural areas that would otherwise not be reached
- Gives an improved living conditions



## How COVID-19 control measures have affected the off grid population in terms of access to electricity or their livelihoods

- Access to clean energy solutions has not been affected (SCs still open and running)
- Token generation – our call center is still operational 7 days a week.
- Mobile Money payments – Customers are able to make payments in the comfort of their home via mobile money.
- Mobile phone and radio charging services remain available—Allowing the customers access to reliable and crucial information on COVID-19 updates by government.
- Important to note that if Covid-19 crisis last longer however, the country might plunge in a worse economic situation and that might affect the Exchange rate, farmer's economic situation, business scalability...
- Last but not least foreign exchange fluctuation due to COVID 19 will affect pricing because we buy in USD and sell in ZMK—This might make the product expensive.





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## How COVID-19 control measures have affected the off grid population in terms of access to electricity or their livelihoods







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**Thank You!**

