**SOMALIA’S OFF-GRID SECTOR**

**Total Population:** 15 million (World Bank, 2017)

**Off-grid Population:** 9 million

**Narrative:**

Somalia does not have a national grid. Most of the infrastructure was destroyed during the civil war that started in 1991. Power is mainly supplied by private diesel-powered mini grids. The market for stand-alone solar is estimated at between 140,000-180,000 units per year. Somalia has a dynamic and highly networked business community that is providing, to the best of its ability, a range of basic services typically delivered by government. Mobile money usage is very high, and in the absence of formal avenues for lending and distribution, other credit structures (including cooperatives, self-help groups, traditional savings groups, diaspora remittances and credit unions) and informal (clan-based) sales networks are robust. In this context, the decentralised, modular nature of stand-alone solar solutions seems an apt solution.

**Increased access to reliable energy for poor and vulnerable people.**