

OPPORTUNITIES AND TRENDS BRIEF

February 2021

Ghana: Government support for stand-alone solar has improved

5m

Unelectrified Population¹

30.4m



Total Population²

130



People per km²
Population Density

72
out of
100



Framework for Stand-Alone Systems Score

118
out of
190



Ease of doing business rank⁴

6



Donor Programmes supporting Stand-Alone Solar (SAS).

2025



Government target for universal electrification.



Opportunity exists for stand-alone solar to electrify about **391,000-500,000 households** mostly in the Lake Volta region and within the islands.

There is **Market support** for productive use through **government** and interventions by development partners such as the **Cocoa Life Programme**.



Government promoting SAS through:

Renewable Energy Master Plan, 2019.



73,000 stand-alone solar units were sold between January -June 2020, **500%** more than those sold over the same period in 2019.

Government has made strides in supporting Stand-Alone Solar (SAS) through:

Inclusion of SAS in the Renewable Energy Master Plan 2019 – 2030 as shown in the table below.

Solar Technology	Target by 2030
Solar lanterns	1,000,000 units
Irrigation pumps	for 46,150 hectares of land
Crop dryers	700 units
Water heaters	135,000 units
Traffic controls/signals	60% of all existing signals

» Removal of import tariffs for solar products.

» Kerosene subsidies shifted to solar lanterns. The Kerosene Lantern Replacement Programme gives up to a 70 percent subsidy for eligible consumers⁵.

The industry association has had success in advocating for the sector...



Membership at the Association of Ghana Solar Industries (AGSI) has grown to 46.

With support from the development partners, the Association was instrumental in the removal of import tariffs and shifting of kerosene subsidies.

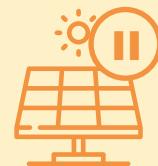
The barriers affecting SAS include:



22 million Ghanaians were affected by reduced household income due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Inconsistent application of custom tariffs and licensing procedures for solar companies thus increasing the price of SAS products.



The 2018 National Rooftop Solar Programme designed to reduce electricity bills for government institutions was paused due to lack of funding.

In conclusion

The Government has made strides in improving the enabling environment for SAS through the SAS targets and the lantern subsidy programme. Availability of reliable market data could potentially expand the market for productive use equipment.

References

¹IEA (2019) Africa Energy Outlook

²World Bank (2019) Population data

³ESMAP (2020) Regulatory Index for Sustainable Energy (RISE)

⁴World Bank (2020) Doing Business

⁵Ministry of Energy (2019) Medium-term expenditure framework for 2020-2023