



## A word from the Director

The world stands on the cusp of a historic tipping point, a clean energy revolution that will radically reshape our economies and societies. The energy revolution has already begun, but how fast and how fairly it happens is the greatest challenge of our time. The energy transition cannot be done at the expense of lower income countries. It must include achieving clean energy access for all, which will enable the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Increasing energy access will spur catalytic investments, power the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit we see across the continent and bring renewed prosperity to communities.

In this edition of the RBA Digest, we highlight a series of shifts to accelerate the energy transition in Africa. In DR Congo and Zimbabwe, UNDP is rehabilitating and equipping health centers with electricity, and raising ambitions for increased life-saving energy health solutions. In Uganda and Ghana, we are funding businesses to adopt clean fuels and energy - efficient improvement practices.

As countries are defining their pathway out of the COVID-19 crisis, African leaders now have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make bold decisions to secure a just energy transition – towards a greener, more sustainable future.

**Ahunna Eziakonwa**



## Spotlight - UNDP and SEforALL team up towards affordable energy for all in the Sahel

More than 53% of Sub-Saharan Africans – about 570 million people – do not have access to electricity, as highlighted by the World Bank. In the Sahel alone, over 51% of the Sahelian population – some 175 million people - do not yet have access to electricity. Given the urgent need for action, SEforALL and UNDP are working together to support policy and regulatory frameworks and strengthen institutional capacity to unlock public and private sector investment for off-grid rural electrification, amongst other initiatives. [Read More](#)



## Development through sustainable energy – an update from Country Offices

### UNDP co-funds the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA) Scholarship Scheme

Intended for unemployed engineering graduates and technicians, the initiative builds local capacity to ensure an integrated approach to sustainably achieve the long-term national renewable energy targets.

The Sao Tome and Principe island's commitment to increase climate action for the transition to clean energy and replace fossil fuels paves way for advancement for people and planet. UNDP is a proud partner.

Under the steam boiler programme, selected small and medium manufacturing companies in the food and beverage industries in **Ghana** are working to adopt clean fuels and energy - efficient practices to achieve higher boiler performance. [Read More](#)

### Strengthening health centres in DR Congo's Ikengo and Ngombe villages

UNDP funded Oxfam to rehabilitate and equip two health centers with electricity on the banks of the Congo River.

### UNDP and CORE Support Refugee and Host Community Resilience

UNDP is empowering refugees and host communities in Uganda through cash-for-work activities, including the construction 1,196 energy - saving stoves.