

The co-benefits of mini-grid-based rural electrification – from concept to practice

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Smart approaches: breaking silos

Cross-sectoral

Multi-level

Multi-stakeholder

Mini-grid co-benefits: Selected case studies

1

**Health and
community
wellbeing**

2

**Gender equity &
empowerment
of women**

3

**Economic
development**

Mini-grid co-benefits: Case studies

1

**Health and
community
wellbeing**

Sierra Leone: Strategic prioritisation of health facilities

1

Health and community
wellbeing

The Rural Renewable Energy Project (RREP)

- Implemented by the Ministry of Energy with support from the United Nations Office for Project Services and funding from UK DFID.
- A **strategic decision** to prioritise health clinics / community centres
- A **phased approach**: stand-alone systems on community health clinics subsequently extended to MGs.
- A **multi-stakeholder partnership**: a formal Inter-Ministerial Cooperation Agreement



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Nigeria: Rapid response to a health crisis

1

Health and community wellbeing

Covid-19 response programme – mini-grids as the technology of choice to power health clinics and isolation centres.

Can emergency measures be integrated in long-term strategies?



© Nigeria Rural Electrification Agency

South Africa: Community benefits

1

Health and community wellbeing

Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP)

Socio-economic development and empowerment of marginalised communities through **tender requirements**

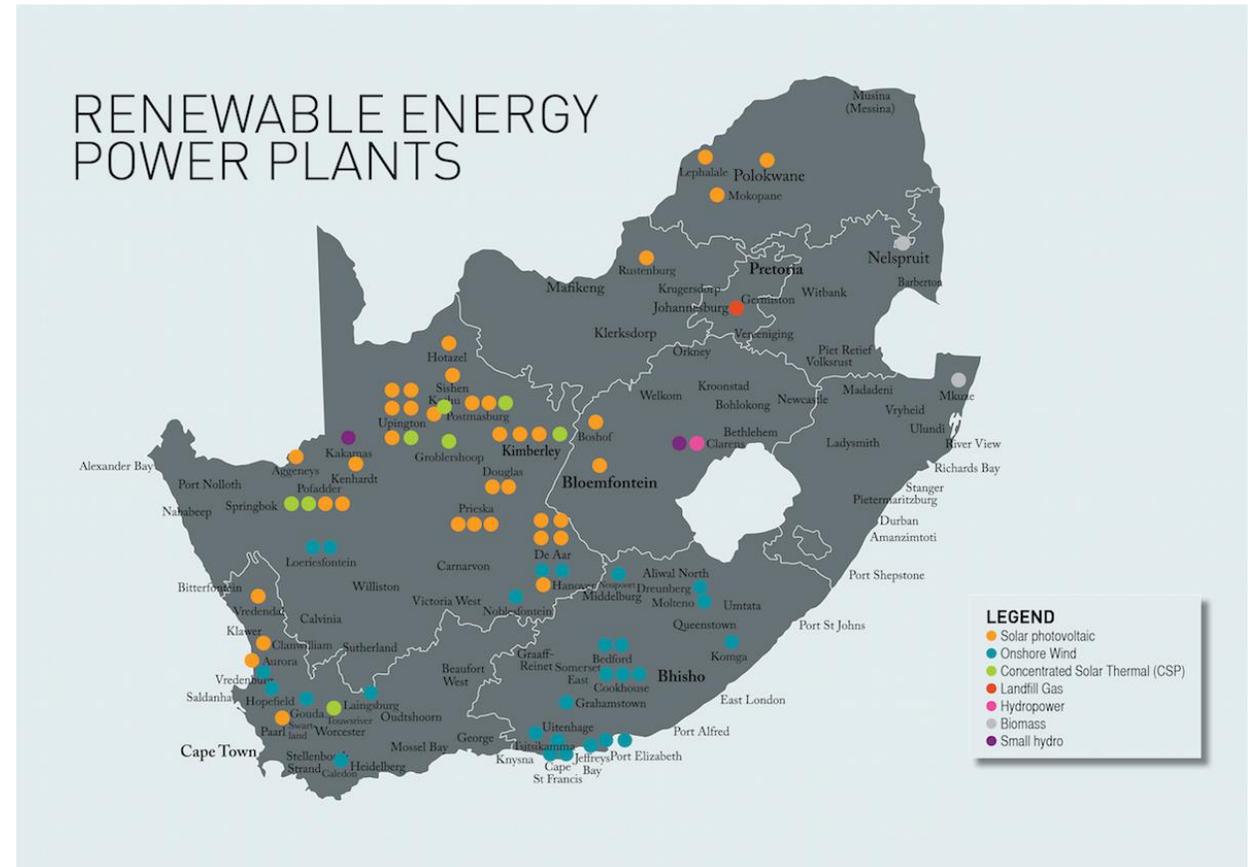
30% of evaluation based on **socio-economic development**:

- job creation
- rural development

Ownership requirements:

- 40% South African
- >12% black South Africans
- 2.5% local communities

Design of **guidelines to developers, effective implementation structures** for community ownership, as well as **monitoring mechanisms at the local level** are crucial to ensure the benefits materialise.



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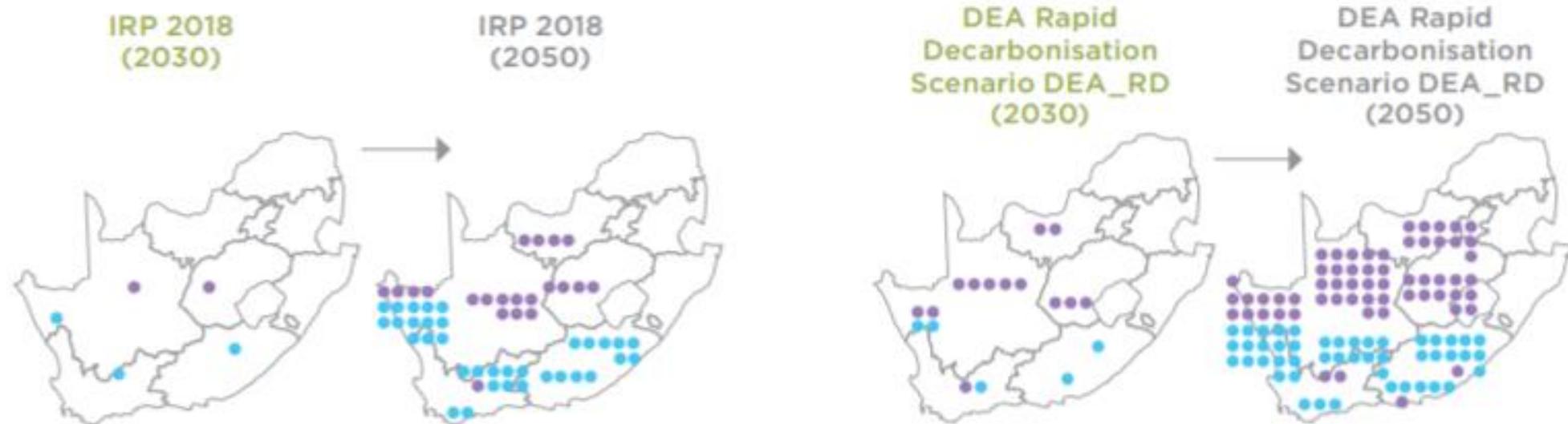
South Africa: Community benefits

1

Health and community wellbeing

Geographical spread of cumulative **jobs created through socio-economic development spending** in marginalised communities

More jobs could be created if the country increased its ambition to decarbonise the energy sector (Akunlola, Jacobs, Ntuli, et al. 2019).



Mini-grid co-benefits: Case studies

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**Health and
community
wellbeing**

2

**Gender equity &
empowerment
of women**

Gender mainstreaming – a holistic approach

2

Gender equity & empowerment of women

Policy / strategy level

Institutional / programme level

Project level

Gender mainstreaming – a holistic approach

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Gender equity & empowerment of women

Policy / strategy level

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Project level

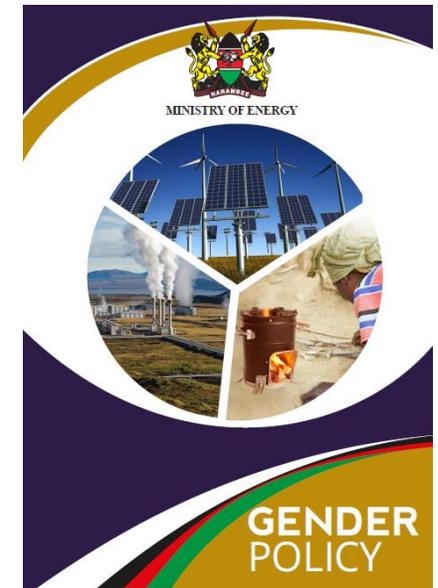
Policies and strategies set the mandate for gender mainstreaming in rural electrification.

Regional action: e.g. ECOWAS

- Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (2016)
- Directive on Gender Assessments in Energy Projects (2017) – mandates member states

National action: e.g. Kenya

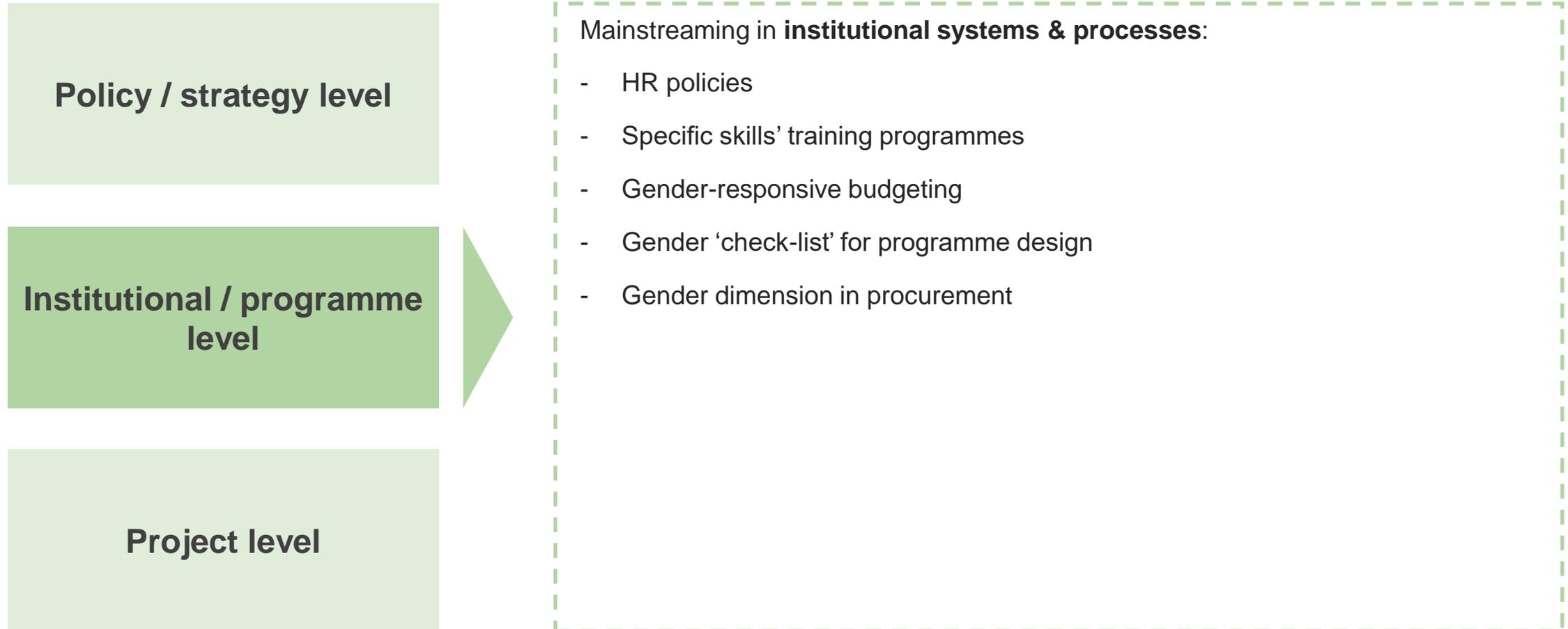
- National Policy on Gender and Development (2000)
- National Gender & Equality Act (2011)
- Gender Policy for the Energy Sector (2019) → → →



Gender mainstreaming – a holistic approach

2

Gender equity & empowerment of women



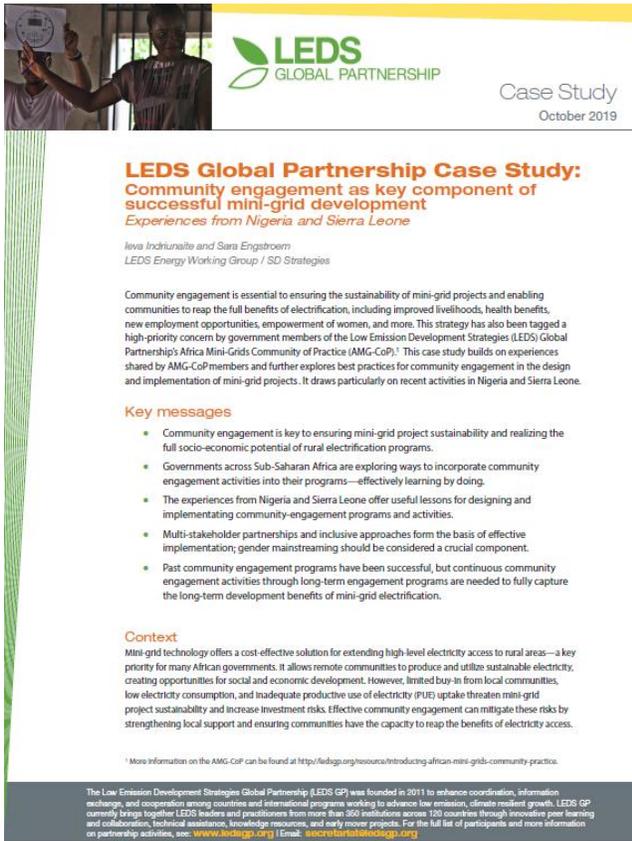
Policy / strategy level

Institutional / programme level

Project level

Mainstreaming gender at the **project level**:

- A **situational assessment** is key – know your baseline & underlying barriers
- Throughout the **project cycle**
- Multiple **entry points**
 - Ownership & business models
 - Community consultation and planning
 - Consumer finance models
 - Customer engagement / productive users
- **Lines of responsibility of public actors and developers** are context specific



Inclusion – a key success factor

Step 1. Identify social and cultural barriers to public participation

Step 2. Address them in the design of community engagement programmes - gender mainstreaming in the design of public outreach, feedback sessions, productive use support activities, and decision-making.

Examples:

- Reserving a section of the Q&A sessions for women only, to encourage their participation in town hall meetings.
- Arranging engagement sessions with women-only participation, where they could receive information and provide feedback in a safe environment.
- Target women entrepreneurs for skills' training programmes.

LEDS GP EWG Case study 2019

[Community engagement as key component of successful mini-grid development](#)

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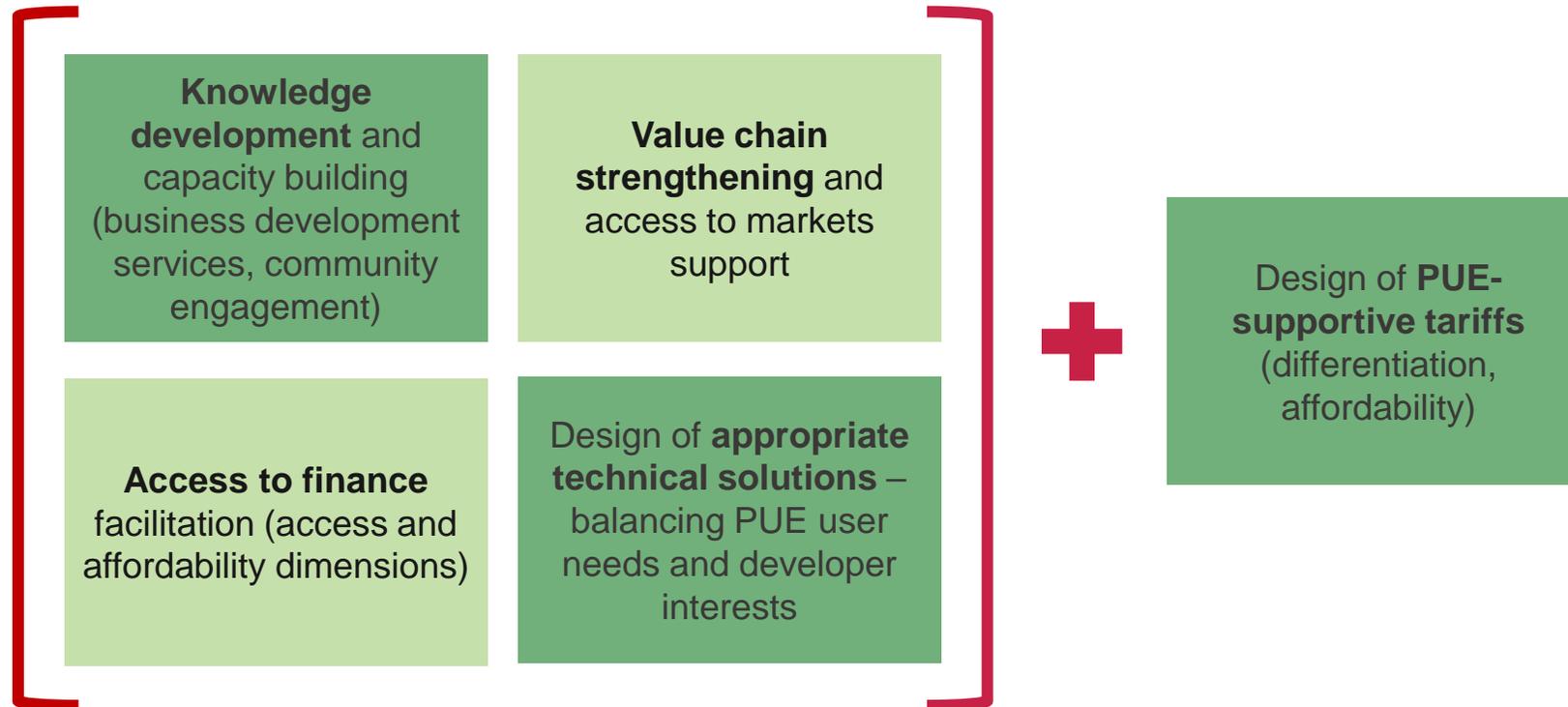
'demand and supply are interlinked, but demand matters more than perceived'

Blimpo & Cosgrove-Davies, 2019

Key PUE support pillars

3

Economic development



Traditional support
(provide support to local entrepreneurs along the key pillars)

- Targeted business development services;
- Grants or microfinance to stimulate investments in income-generating equipment
- Procurement of equipment

Innovative approaches
(business models that are conducive to PUE development)

- A fee-for-service approach
- A 'productive use zone' model.
- A developer owned and operated productive use business

Benefits

- Targeted to local needs
- Innovative models

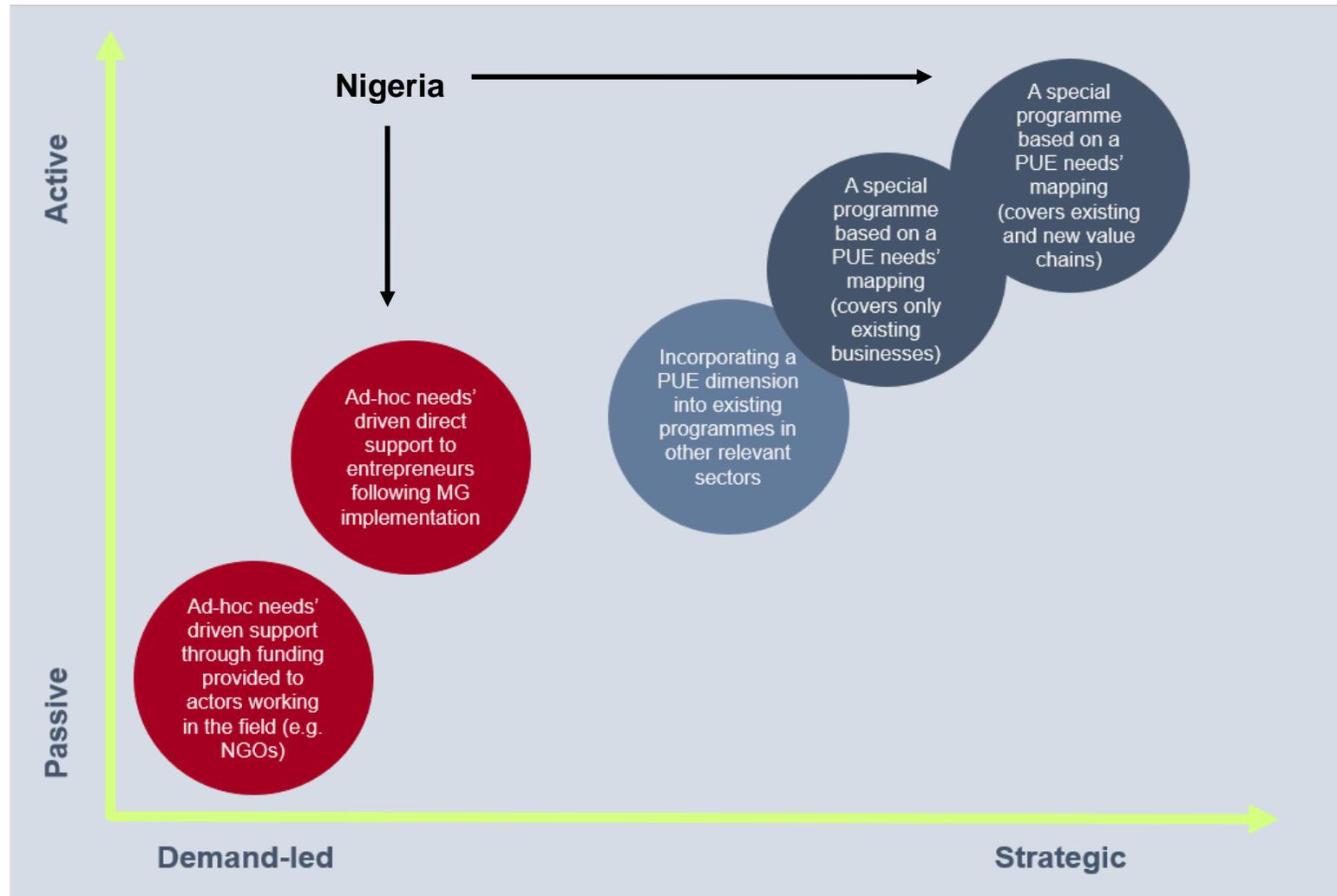
Drawbacks

- Varying support capacities
- Not all pillars addressed equally
- A project-by-project approach

The policy-maker's perspective

3

Economic development



Ad-hoc support (covering all pillars) is one option...

...but an **integrated planning approach** can build on synergies, ensure that the focus is on long-term local economic development.

Realising mini-grid co-benefits: key take-aways

Cross-sectoral

- Mobilising experts across sectors – need to look beyond sectoral policy silos:
 - Decide which side would be in the driving seat
 - Formal vs informal

Multi-level

- Engagement is possible (and useful) at all levels; but more holistic, ‘institutionalised’ approaches have clear benefits
- Applying a strategic approach from the onset will tailor the response to the specific needs of the operating environment (ex-ante vs ex-post)
- Different tools can be applied at each level

Multi-stakeholder

- Consider where the mandates, knowledge and means lie: some aspects can be addressed by developers or NGOs – others may require more support
- Requirements for private actors (e.g. tender conditions or operational guidelines) need to be tailored to the local context and may require additional support
- Advocate for a cross-sectoral approach in your discussions with development partners

Sources

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Thank you!

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