

The Off Grid Electricity Fund invests a further USD\$465,200 in Alina Eneji to increase access to reliable and affordable energy in rural Haiti

- **OGEF makes a further USD\$465,200 investment to triple the size of Alina Eneji's mesh grids to serve 1,000 households in rural Haiti using Okra Solar's platform and equipment**
- **This investment builds on the success of the first 325 households connected, with the aim to have a 1,000 household mesh grid in place by the end of 2022**
- **Alina Eneji's grid is delivering electricity 99% of the time**

Port-au-Prince, 20 September 2022 – The Off Grid Electricity Fund ('OGEF' or 'the Fund'), the renewable energy access fund for Haiti supported by the World Bank, announces it has provided a further USD\$465,200 investment in form of debt financing and catalytic grants to enable Alina Eneji to further expand its mesh grid to the Marchand Dessalines area.

Mesh grids, where generation and consumption of electricity are co-located, are an alternative solution for rural areas in Haiti where conventional grids with centralised generation are not cost effective and could enable a rapid electrification of those rural areas. Alina Eneji believes there is potential for the company to grow rapidly to serve 100,000 households, making a significant impact on the lives of many Haitians currently suffering from inadequate access. Mesh grids can complement the Electricité d'Haïti (EDH) grid, accelerating the electrification of those areas, which currently cannot be reached by EDH over the next ten years.

The previous deployment of the mesh grid to 325 households has proved encouraging. Installation was done in two months from the equipment arriving in Haiti. The grid is meeting the electrical needs of the customers, both the majority of the customers that are consuming on average 3kWh/month of DC power and the high users consuming up to 100 kWh/month of AC power. The grid is delivering electricity 99% of the time. Alina Eneji is actively stimulating increased demand by giving a free high efficiency DC fan to every new customer and offering a lease to buy scheme for productive use equipment. The initial installation cost is around 40% lower than a conventional centralised mini-grid, thanks to the capex light distribution architecture of mesh-grids.

The equipment is being supplied by Okra Solar, an Australian company focused on providing decentralized solutions for electrification. It is designed specifically for remote rural areas using plug & play mesh-grid technology that uses IoT to enable remote monitoring and operation. The decentralised nature of mesh-grids not only reduces costs but also adds resiliency for areas prone to tropical storms and earthquakes. It is 100% based on solar with battery backup, hence eliminating the cost and the difficulties in getting diesel, a major problem in Haiti.

Alina Eneji has committed to have no connection fee for new customers, which helps low-income customers benefit from electricity, resulting in almost 100% of potential customers seeking a connection in the areas covered.

Alina Eneji is working with the Haitian regulator ANARSE, who has encouraged Alina Eneji to expand and test the approach at larger scale. The plan is to further expand the grid in the Marchand Dessalines area to at least 4,000 households in early 2023 so that almost everyone in that area can benefit from reliable affordable electricity.

Driko Ducasse, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Alina, commented: "I am pleased, as a Haitian myself, that Alina Eneji is able to expand and serve the many Haitian households currently without access to electricity. I am continually impressed when I see the impact on people's lives from getting access to light, phone charging and a fan, and then moving to larger equipment. My goal is to supply 100,000 households in the poorer parts of Haiti with electricity, to help bring people out of poverty. I am



pleased with the local support with people pushing for faster expansion, from ANARSE who is encouraging me to expand, and from my local team who managed the installation in two months. We are excited to be targeting 1,000 households connected by the end of 2022 and are working on accelerating that growth in 2023.

Christian Schattenmann, Fund Manager at Bamboo Capital Partners, commented: “Alina Enèji has impressed us with the progress it has made during 2022, and I am delighted that OGEF is increasing its commitment to the company to allow it to expand further. As a Haitian run company, committed to help solve Haiti’s energy poverty I am pleased to help Alina Eneji’s growth. Solving Haiti’s energy poverty is best done using the innovation and enterprise of Haitians.

Jean-Francois Pean, Senior investment Manager at Bamboo Capital Partners, added: “OGEF is delighted to be working with Alina Enèji, as it represents one of the best opportunities to electrify rural Haitian households in a time- and cost-effective way. We are pleased with the approach taken by Alina Eneji with the focus on making this a sustainable business in the long term. There are too many examples of solutions that proved unsustainable resulting in grids falling into disuse. Alina Eneji’s approach is to build a business that can supply electricity for decades and will grow and adapt to people needs”.

Afnan Hannan, Co-Founder and CEO of Okra Solar, commented: “We’re just happy that more households are getting connected to energy. That’s the beauty of mesh-grids, you can deploy them rapidly and evidently under any circumstance. 1,500 people enjoying 24/7 clean energy, that’s unlocking opportunities during an economic and political crisis. That’s something to celebrate. Great work Alina Eneji!”

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

About OGEF:

OGEF was launched in 2019 with the aim to electrify 200,000 households in Haiti within 10 years. The fund invests debt and equity in companies that provide renewable off grid energy access solutions to people in Haiti, ranging from mini grids to pay-as-you-go solar products. Established by the Haitian Government, OGEF is supported by World Bank and funded by the Clean Technology Fund and the Scaling up Renewable Energy Program in low-income countries (‘SREP’), which accelerate climate action by empowering transformations in clean technology, energy access, climate resilience, and sustainable forests in developing and middle-income countries. OGEF is jointly managed by Bamboo Capital Partners as the international fund manager together with the Haitian Development Finance Institution: Fonds de Développement Industriel (FDI). For more information, please visit www.ogefhaiti.com. For further information please contact OGEF at: +509 2811-0623 / +509 2811-0624 / +509 3367-1494 / +509 3367-1496 / contact@ogefhaiti.com

About Alina Enèji:

Founded in 2021, Alina Enèji is the leading solar electricity mesh-grid developer active in Haiti. Alina Enèji provides electricity to poorer domestic customers with limited needs and to SME’s that help the local economy develop and bring jobs to rural areas. Alina Enèji’s aim is to provide electricity and create jobs by offering financing solutions for the productive use equipment that will develop the local economy. For further information please contact Alina Enèji at: dd@alinaeneji.com.

About Okra Solar

Okra's mission is to enable sustainable last mile energy-access around the globe. Okra's mesh-grid technology has been used by developers in Cambodia, the Philippines, Haiti and Nigeria, to deploy clean and reliable power in remote communities using plug & play solar kits that can be interconnected into scalable networks. Okra's SaaS platform also equips energy companies with remote monitoring, maintenance insights and mobile payments, so that operators can manage portfolios of last mile energy assets. Okra's work has been recognised by Forbes, TechCrunch, and the Cleantech Forum for its potential to create lasting impact, and its investors include Schneider Electric and TepCo Power. For further information contact Okra at: +855 16 897 438 / callum@okrasolar.com

About Bamboo Capital Partners:

Bamboo Capital Partners ("Bamboo") is an impact investing platform which provides innovative financing solutions to catalyse lasting impact. Bamboo bridges the gap between seed and growth stage funding through a full suite of finance options – from debt to equity – which it activates unilaterally or through strategic partnerships. Founded in 2007 by Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Bamboo aims to improve the lives of the world's most marginalized communities while delivering risk-adjusted financial returns. Since its inception, Bamboo has raised over \$450m and invested in 80 companies in over 30 developing countries. Bamboo's investee companies have positively impacted the lives of 238 million people cumulatively and supported 53,000 jobs, including 18,000 jobs for women. The Bamboo team comprises of 30 professionals active across Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. Bamboo also acts as the Asset Management arm of global impact firm Palladium, which operates in over 90 countries, following a strategic partnership in 2020. For more information, please visit www.bamboocp.com or follow @bamboocp.

Photo image of installations below.





