
POWER FOR ALL FACT SHEET:

Jobs and Decentralized Renewable Energy

POWER FOR ALL

127,000

SOLAR HOME SYSTEM
JOBS ALREADY IN
BANGLADESH

4.5 million

JOBS IN DECENTRALIZED
RENEWABLES BY 2030

9x more

JOBS IN SOLAR LIGHTING
THAN FUEL ALTERNATIVES

Join the conversation:

powerforall.org

twitter.com/power4all2025

facebook.com/pwr4all

The decentralized renewable energy (DRE) industry is a largely untapped engine for job and business creation.

DRE enterprises create jobs

- » Globally, the decentralized renewable energy industry is expected to create at least 4.5 million direct jobs by 2030¹
- » 38 jobs are created in the solar-lighting industry for every 10,000 lights sold; this part of the sector alone could create 2 million jobs²
- » In contrast, the entire fuel-based lighting sector only enables 150,000 jobs³; 9 times fewer
- » Bangladesh's solar home system industry has already created 127,000 direct jobs⁴, while India's employs 72,000 people⁵
- » An additional 50 to 100 percent more jobs are created indirectly for each direct job in the decentralized renewables industry⁶

Clean energy access leads to growth in the wider economy

- » Reliable, affordable and rapidly available power from DRE boosts output for small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs); in Africa SMEs account for 80 percent of employment⁷
- » Mobisol estimates that 15,000 of its customers who use their systems for business create around \$5 million per year in additional income⁸, while solar mills in Zambia are expected to create 3000 jobs⁹
- » In India 70 percent of micro-businesses signed up to mini-grid services reported an increased number of customers, and 80 percent plan to expand their business because of access to reliable energy¹⁰

Share the Message

Electricity is a vital enabler of jobs and businesses. With millions of young people joining the workforce each year, reliable access is ever more urgent. Join Power for All and share these messages:

- » Decentralized renewable energy creates far more jobs than traditional energy
- » Decentralized renewable energy provides a fast and affordable way to power businesses and economic growth
- » To boost employment and enterprise it is vital to fast-track the expansion of decentralized renewable energy solutions

POWER FOR ALL FACT SHEET:

Jobs and Decentralized Renewable Energy

Sources:

1. IRENA, Renewable Energy and Jobs (2013)
2. E.Mills, Job creation and energy savings through a transition to modern off-grid lighting (2016)
3. E. Mills, Job creation and energy savings through a transition to modern off-grid lighting (2016)
4. IRENA, Renewable Energy and Jobs (2016)
5. IRENA, Renewable Energy and Jobs (2016)
6. IRENA, Renewable Energy and Jobs (2013)
7. World Economic Forum, Why SMEs are key to growth in Africa (2015)
8. Mobisol (2016)
9. Energy Matters, Solar Powered Hammer Mills Arrive In Zambia (2015)
10. Rockefeller Foundation, Sankalp Forum (2016)