Rural Energy Access through Social Enterprise and Decentralization (EASE) Project

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OUTLINE

- Methodology used for Local solar technician selection
- Training approaches
- Impacts on technicians and communities
- Challenges
- Successes
- Proposed solutions/recommendations.

TRAINING OF LOCAL SOLAR TECHNICIANS

- Trained 20 local technicians to provide technical support under DEO oversight
- Training covered design, installation and maintenance of solar PV systems and Safety protocols

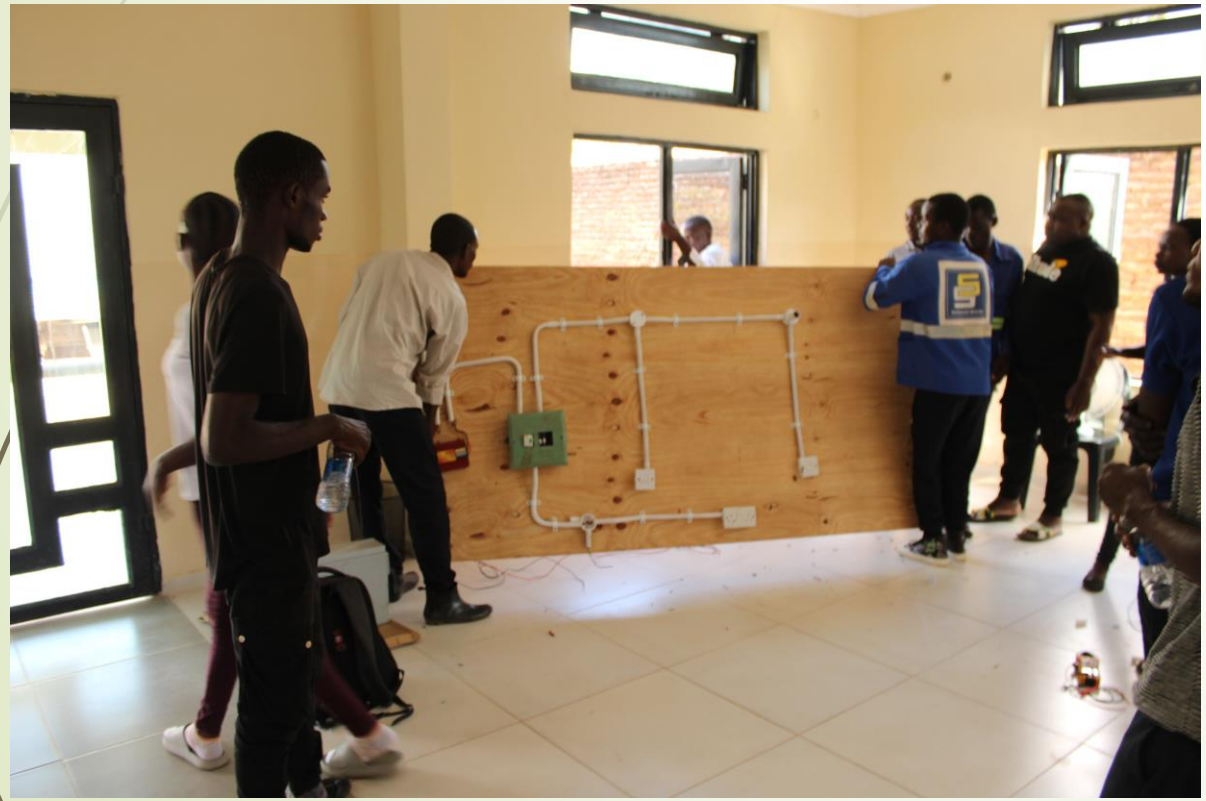
Methodology used for Local solar technician selection

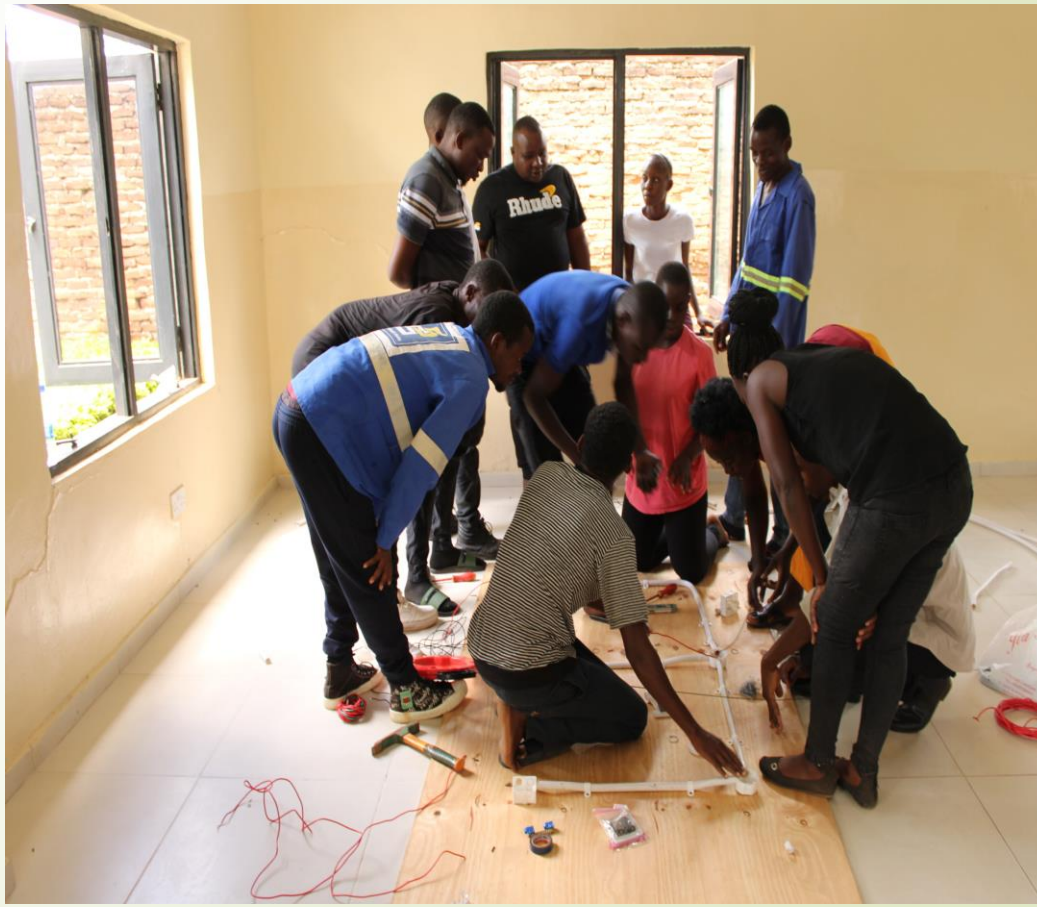
- Community Engagement: Engaged with local communities to identify individuals through Traditional Authorities.
- Skills Assessment: Conducted assessments to identify candidates with basic technical aptitude and interest in renewable energy.
- Qualification: MSCE

Training approaches

- **Practical Workshops:** Conducted hands-on workshops covering solar panel installation, maintenance, and repair.
- **Theoretical Sessions:** Provided classroom sessions on solar technology principles, safety, and troubleshooting.
- **Field Assignments:** Offered field assignments to reinforce learning and practical skills development.

PRACTICAL SESSIONS





IMPACTS

- Technicians:

- Skill Development: Enhanced technical skills in solar technology.
- Employment Opportunities: Improved job prospects in the renewable energy sector.
- Empowerment: Increased self-reliance and confidence in technical abilities.

- Communities:

- Access to Energy: Improved access to clean and reliable solar energy solutions.
- Economic Development: Generated local employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Sustainability: Contributed to environmental sustainability through adoption of solar power.

Challenges

- Fake products on the local markets
- Limited Resources: Insufficient training equipment and resources.
- Logistical Constraints: Challenges in transportation and accessibility to training sites.
- Technical Knowledge Gaps: Addressing varying levels of technical understanding among trainees.

Successes

- Employment Opportunities: Many trained technicians are now self-employed and 1 has secured job in solar Company
- Community Impact: Increased adoption of solar power solutions in rural areas more especially on productive use of RE.
- Skill Transfer: Trained technicians sharing knowledge within their communities.

Proposed solutions/recommendations.

- **Capacity Building:** Provide ongoing advanced training and certification opportunities. TEVATA or SHORT courses from university
- Work with MBS to eliminate fake products on local market.
- **Community Partnerships:** Strengthen collaborations with local stakeholders for sustained impact.
- **Resource Allocation:** Secure additional resources for enhanced training facilities

CONCLUSION

- our experience in training solar local technicians in Dedza and Balaka districts has been impactful, providing sustainable solutions for energy access and local economic development. Despite challenges, the successes achieved highlight the potential of empowering local communities through renewable energy initiatives.

- END OF PRESENTATION
- THANK YOU!