Objectives
- To enable rural entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers in 6 newly electrified villages in Rwanda,
- To initiate income generating businesses with the aim to increase the impact of rural electrification through the promotion of productive use of electricity.

Areas involved
6 Districts
Muhanga, Nyaruguru, Nyamasheke, Kirehe, Gatsibo and Nyagatare

Beneficiaries
60 Businesses

Budget
198,355.50 €

Activities
- Conduct a Socio-economic assessment of existing businesses and potential viable and feasible opportunities
- Organize business idea competition
- Train entrepreneurs in business and financial skills
- Promote the development and delivery of financial energy products
- Develop a matching grant scheme to support purchase of electric appliances and equipment
- Increase the awareness on the safe and efficient use of electricity

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) aims to achieve universal access to electricity by 2024. The Energy Sector Strategy Plan (ESSP) for 2017 – 2024 set out that 52 % of the population should be serviced by the grid, while 48 % will receive off-grid electricity access. Off-grid electrification is not yet advanced at the desired pace due to some barriers including a lack of productive use and hence demand in off-grid areas.

Thanks to the promotion of productive use of electricity by local entrepreneurs and the increased access to electrical appliances by the local population, the action will generate in the community both the demand for electricity and the ability to pay for it. This will also create the conditions for a profitable investment by the mini-grid developer by reducing the investment risk due to the uncertainty of the demand for electricity, therefore creating a situation where both the investor and the community win.