

ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS TRANSFORMATION (ASCENT) IN EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA

Eastern and Southern Africa accounts for more than half of the world's unelectrified population and nearly a quarter of the global population without access to clean cooking. Accelerating energy access in the region is crucial not only for unlocking its potential and achieving its development goals, but also for global progress towards SDG7, the Sustainable Development Goal focused on achieving affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access for all.



A UNIQUE COLLABORATION PLATFORM

ASCENT is a multi-year, multi-billion-dollar program aimed at scaling-up energy access in Eastern and Southern Africa. It leverages the strengths of the entire World Bank Group (IDA, IFC, MIGA) and facilitates collaboration with development partners, the private sector, climate and impact financiers, governments, utilities, and energy service providers, as well as beneficiary communities.

KEY FEATURES OF ASCENT

- Will provide access to electricity to **100 million** people and access to clean cooking to **20 million** people.
- **\$5 billion** financing envelope with a goal to mobilize an additional **\$10 billion** from public and private sources.
- **20+ countries** in Eastern & Southern Africa
- **7 year** (FY24-30) timeframe

THE THREE PILLARS OF OUR APPROACH



PILLAR 1

Regional and National Platforms to Accelerate Energy Access

-  **Regional implementation support** for enabling economies of scale
-  **Harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks** by adopting best practices
-  **Digitalization** of planning, processes and MRV and **mobilizing financing at regional scale**

PILLAR 2

Expanding Grid-based Electrification

-  **Grid densification and expansion**, grid strengthening and VRE integration investments
-  **Cross-border electrification** in remote, border areas
-  Utility strengthening, including **digitization and improved climate resilience**

PILLAR 3

Scaling Distributed Renewables and Clean Cooking

-  Expand energy access with **DREs and clean cooking technologies**, including healthcare facilities and schools
-  Developing **financing solutions for scale** and to support home-grown innovation and mobilize private capital



The lack of energy access is one of the most significant challenges to development progress in the region today. The ASCENT program is a game changer in efforts to address universal access to energy and the clean energy transition merging global and local expertise in a flexible approach, enabling countries to achieve their energy access goals and capitalize on regional synergies.

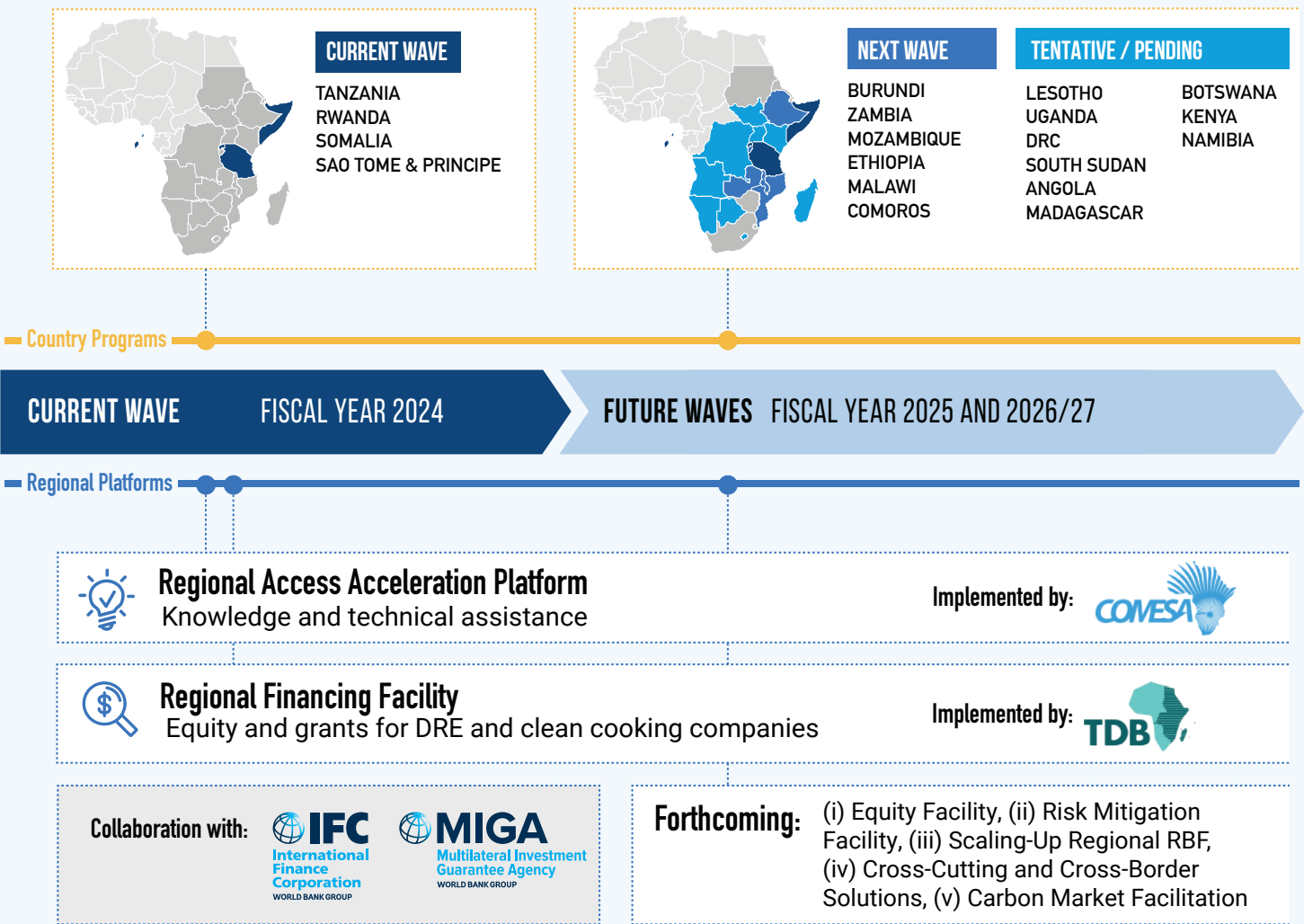
Victoria Kwakwa
World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa



Learn more about Energy Access in Eastern and Southern Africa

WHERE AND HOW WE ARE WORKING

ASCENT is implemented through mutually reinforcing country programs and regional platforms



PLATFORM FOR PARTNERSHIPS

ASCENT seeks partnerships with development partners, philanthropies, financial sector, governments and all interested public and private sector stakeholders.

WHY

Aligning Efforts and Combining Expertise

- Scale requires synergies and crowding in resources
- ASCENT's programmatic approach allows more strategic and predictable resource allocation
- IDA funding is suitable for scaling-up but gaps exist, e.g. innovation, boots on the ground, private sector engagement, etc.

HOW

Collaboration and Crowding-In

- Strategic alignment at the program-level
- Specific co-/parallel financing at regional or at individual country level
- Financing via ESMAP for Bank-executed or Recipient-executed grants
- Aligning existing engagements to broaden beyond ASCENT