

## **EmpowerEnergy: Enhancing Energy Access Financing**

### **The Problem:**

- 1) Rural electrification developers face steep barriers in accessing funding for high impact projects.
- 2) Financiers face challenges in assessing the risk and reliability of a project proposal, as success is far from guaranteed. As a result, the due-diligence required for project proposals can be slow and resource-intensive.

The energy access space faces a funding gap – funds are available but difficult to distribute to the right projects and developers.

### **Our Solution:**

EmpowerEnergy intends to develop an AI-informed scoring tool to pre-screen rural electrification proposals using historical data and financing best practices. In its final stage, we envision the tool providing the following:

- 1) A predicted success score based on defined funder criteria.
- 2) Actionable feedback for developers to strengthen proposals.
- 3) An exportable summary report to support funder due diligence.
- 4) Real-time data insights as to how a project is performing compared to original projections.

This tool is not a replacement for human review - it is an enabler that reduces time, increases objectivity, and improves transparency in the project vetting process.

### **Minimum Viable Product (Summer 2025):**

We are developing a working MVP that does the following:

- Accepts rural electrification proposals through a simple web interface.
- Scores them against co-developed funder criteria.
- Returns structured feedback meant for the developer.
- Generates a one-page report with project insights for funders to review.

The MVP will use rules-based logic derived from partner input. It will allow us to demonstrate value to both developers and funders - and gather real data for future AI training.

### **Where we Need Support (*for financiers*):**

We are actively seeking co-design partners to help us improve energy access financing. This currently involves:

- 1) Defining the core criteria that the MVP will use to evaluate proposals.
- 2) Accessing a small sample of anonymized project proposals to test the MVP against.
- 3) Test users (financiers) to refine the MVP to serve our users as best we can.

**Where we Need Support (*for Coalitions*):**

We are actively seeking co-design partners to help us improve energy access financing. This currently involves:

- 1) Connecting us to member developers or funders
- 2) Sharing guidance on standardization efforts, KPIs, and regional nuances
- 3) Supporting dissemination and sector awareness post-MVP