

PRESS RELEASE

JUMEME to provide free electricity to 10 healthcare centers in Tanzania's Lake Victoria Islands during the COVID-19 crisis

April 22nd, 2020, Mwanza, Tanzania – [JUMEME](#), a mini-grid operator in Tanzania co-funded by the European Commission, has launched a “COVID-19 Relief Program” to support the Tanzanian government and local populations in their effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. With this program, JUMEME will use its local solar-hybrid mini-grids to provide 10 healthcare facilities in the Lake Victoria Islands with free electricity services for the coming three months.

As free and reliable electricity supply will help keep operations run smoothly, it will also free up much needed financial resources to better prepare the local healthcare facilities to fight COVID-19.

In addition to its 12 solar-hybrid mini-grids already in operation in the Lake Victoria area, JUMEME is also finalizing the implementation of 11 mini-grids on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, in the Northwest of Tanzania, which will connect 10 more health centers once operating. JUMEME intends to extend its relief program to this area to support their local health centers as soon as the new project is completed.

Dr. Kole, Chief Physician at the Bwisya Hospital said: *"We are grateful to JUMEME for the (electrification) services they offer to Bwisya Hospital for 24 hours a day without failure. We also appreciate that the availability of electricity enables us to conduct clinical procedures, surgery, and other essential health services to the people of Ukara island."*

Health centers are common in Tanzania's remote rural areas. Patients rely on these facilities to receive first aid and treatments for common infections, before being referred to larger, better equipped facilities if needed. In JUMEME's project areas, which were selected for their remote, off-grid location, only one healthcare facility can be deemed a hospital, which is located in Bwisya on the island Ukara. These smaller facilities are especially vulnerable, as they receive less funding than larger hospitals.



NOTE TO EDITORS

About JUMEME

JUMEME is a joint venture co-funded by the European Commission. JUMEME was founded in 2014 to develop, build, and operate mini-grids in rural Tanzania. The company is a partnership between: St. Augustine University of Tanzania, an independent higher learning institution based in Mwanza, Tanzania; INENSUS, a leading German company specializing in the development, technology and consultancy services of rural mini-grids; TerraProjects, an Austrian specialist in renewable energy project development; and the majority shareholder RP Global, an Austrian developer, investor and operator of renewable energy projects.

JUMEME aims at setting up a total of 300 mini-grid systems and to serve over 1,000,000 people by the year 2023 across rural Tanzania, in line with the government of Tanzania's agenda of electrifying its rural areas.

For more information on the project visit the following websites:

JUMEME: <http://www.jumeme.com>
RP Global: <http://www.rp-global.com>
INENSUS: <http://inensus.com>
TerraProjects: <http://www.terraprojects.at>
SAUT: <http://www.saut.ac.tz>

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