

## Plug In, Power Up! Connecting to Grid Electricity in Africa A Mathematica Forum: November 29, 2017

### Moderator



#### **Candace Miller, Mathematica Policy Research**

Candace Miller has extensive experience leading complex evaluations across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. At Mathematica, Miller currently leads the evaluation of the MCC Liberia Energy Project, which aims to increase Liberia's power generation, reduce tariffs, and improve electricity reliability and quality. Miller is also leading the performance and implementation evaluations for the six activities within the Ghana Power Compact II—MCC's \$498 million investment aimed at providing more affordable and reliable power—and previously led qualitative studies for MCC's Energy Compact in Tanzania. Beyond the energy sector, Miller is also involved with two innovative initiatives with the U.S. Agency for Development (USAID): First, she is working with colleagues on the Global Development Lab's rapid feedback monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning project, intended to improve rapid learning and adaptive management in USAID projects. Second, she is working with partner organizations within USAID's Expanding the Reach of Impact Evaluation (ERIE) project which aims to use existing data to investigate long-term project results. Over the past 15 years, Miller has conducted rigorous research and evaluation studies in sectors including agriculture, health, education, and social protection. Miller is an adjunct professor at the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University where she teaches monitoring and evaluation to inform health and social policy and was previously on faculty at Boston University School of Public Health. She has published numerous book chapters and in many peer-reviewed journals.

### Presenters

#### **Kathleen Auth, Power Africa, USAID**



Kathleen Auth is the deputy energy office director for Power Africa, a U.S. government-led initiative to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. In this role, she works across the U.S. government and with Power Africa's 140 public and private partners to accelerate connection to electricity grids and strengthen national power utilities. Before joining Power Africa, Kathleen was a senior energy analyst at the Worldwatch Institute, advancing electricity access and energy investment in the Caribbean and West Africa. She holds a master of science degree in natural resource management from the University of

Akureyri and a B.A. from Bowdoin College.

### **Duncan Chaplin, Mathematica Policy Research**



Duncan Chaplin has 25 years of research and evaluation experience. He is currently serving as principal investigator on Mathematica's evaluation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) energy projects in Ghana, and he recently completed a similar evaluation of MCC's energy projects in Tanzania. Before joining Mathematica in 2005, he held research positions at the Urban Institute and was an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Public Policy Program. His work has been cited in the national press, and he is widely published in peer-reviewed journals. He served on the board of the Foundation for Sustainable

Development and is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Education Finance Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

### **Professor Dr. Jörg Peters, RWI**



Jörg Peters is a specialist in access to modern energy in developing countries and the evaluation of development interventions. At RWI, Jörg heads the research group, "Climate Change in Developing Countries." He is a professor at the University of Passau and a visiting associate professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. His research focus is on the economics of poverty and the effectiveness of development policy. In this context, Jörg leads several research projects in different African countries to study rural markets for improved technologies such as off-grid solar and firewood-saving cookstoves. He also

led an international consortium that was appointed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to evaluate development activities in the energy sector in four countries spanning Africa and Asia. Jörg studied economics and statistics in Cologne and Paris and holds a Ph.D. from Ruhr-University Bochum.

## **Discussant**

### **Shreena Patel, Millennium Challenge Corporation**



Shreena Patel currently serves as a director of evaluation at the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She manages MCC's portfolio of energy sector evaluations in Tanzania, El Salvador, Indonesia, Malawi, Ghana, Benin, and Liberia, and has worked directly on energy investments in Tanzania and Nepal. Before joining MCC, she was an evaluation coordinator with Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) at the World Bank. Shreena holds a master's degree in international relations and economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and bachelor's degrees in economics and international relations from the

University of Pennsylvania.