



ERUEP



ECREEE Rural Electrification Programme

BACKGROUND

Most Rural communities in West Africa do not have access to electricity. To tackle this issue, it was set on the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, the goal to increase the share of the rural population served by decentralized renewable electricity services to 22% by 2020 and 25% by 2030. However, the majority of ECOWAS Member States face huge challenges to achieve such goals.

Isolated mini-grid solutions are required in many ECOWAS countries which have limited national grid access in the rural areas as stepping stones to grid-based access. Worldwide, the IEA's World Energy Outlook has projected that about 60% of households not connected to grid at present would obtain electricity through such systems. The ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy suggests that 128.000 mini-grids will be needed in the region to achieve the regional targets.

Since its establishment, ECREEE has conducted several rural electrification activities and in 2014 defined a rural electrification program document to carry out the ECOWAS Programme on Access to Sustainable Electricity Services (EPASES) 2015-2020.

SUPPORTED BY



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OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the programme is to overcome the constraints to the achievement of the off-grid component of rural electrification by providing support to ECOWAS Member States in the areas of Policy Environment, Capacity Development, Information and Knowledge, and Project and Investment Promotion, that have to date restricted Member States' ability to expand electricity access to the more remote and thinly populated rural areas.

Some specific goals include:

- increase access to electricity in rural and peri-urban areas;
- increase renewable energy off-grid installed capacity;
- improve the living conditions of rural populations by increasing their income;
- creation of enabling framework for rural electrification for private sector, NGO, civil society, public authorities, etc.

Some of the activities carried out by ECREEE include study tour to share experiences among different Members States, mapping of the current on-going initiatives and projects throughout the region, regional training activities and mini-grids projects in the Region.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

ECREEE is coordinating the implementation of several projects on electricity access in the region, such as:

- The ECOWAS Programme on Access to Sustainable Electricity Services (EPASES) 2015 – 2020, which the estimated budget for the programme is €21.184 Billion;
- The ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility (EREF) ECREEE has raised 1 million Euro for the first phase of EREF2 and 6 projects are co-funded by ECREEE. For the second phase ECREEE will co-finance six other projects with the same amount;
- EU Energy Facility Senegal project implementation, where ECREEE is coordinating the implementation of 40 solar PV mini-grids.

ECREEE is also working with others institutions in terms of promoting energy access by using clean mini-grids. Some of the most relevant international initiatives include:

- EU Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI) in the amount of €75 million to support rural electrification investments;
- The DFID-funded Green Mini-Grids initiative has an Africa Regional Facility in cooperation with the African Development Bank and World Bank/ESMAP to provide funding opportunities for rural electrification in the ECOWAS region;
- The Renewable Energy for Poverty Reduction (REPoR), funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which focus on improving access to electricity through off-grid energy solutions;
- IRENA clean mini-grids capacity assessment and building.

IMPACT

- Significant contribution to the achievement of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy goals;
- Creation of an enabling framework for rural electrification in the Region;
- Establishment of policy and regulatory framework, technical support and creation of financial schemes for projects;
- Successful projects demonstrate technical feasibility and economic viability of off-grid solutions for rural electrification;
- Increased locally manufactured and assembled renewable energy equipment component;
- Capacity Building for ECOWAS Experts and Technicians on renewable energy technologies;

PARTNERS



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