

# ASSISTANCE FOCUS: AFRICA



Rice fields in Tanzania. The Clean Energy Solutions Center worked with Tanzania in support of its off-grid electrification goals. *Photo courtesy of Flickr/USAID in Africa*

The Clean Energy Solutions Center, an initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial, helps countries throughout the world create policies and programs that advance the deployment of clean energy technologies. Through the Solutions Center's no-cost Ask an Expert service, a team of international experts has delivered assistance to countries in all regions of the world, including more than 35 countries in Africa.

## FINDING INNOVATIVE POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Solutions Center worked with South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to conduct an overall critical review of the Council's NETFIT (also known as a Net Feed-in Tariff) proposal. The NETFIT concept is based on a framework that stimulates the market for small-scale distributed generation by safeguarding the business case for installing solar photovoltaics (PV). Simultaneously, NETFIT allows the regulator and policymakers to benefit from the low-cost electricity generated from thousands of small installations.

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** The NETFIT policy is structured to create win-win scenarios for utilities and customers, both solar and non-solar, to benefit from the rise of solar PV. The policy provides a direct and transparent way to compensate utilities for the loss of electricity surplus due to the rise of customer-sited PV while creating an optimal tariff structure to offer distributed small-scale renewable energy generators.

## ANALYZING RESULTS-BASED FINANCE INCENTIVES IN TANZANIA

The Clean Energy Solutions Center partnered with Helios Social Enterprise, in support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and Power Africa to provide assistance to the government of Tanzania. The Solutions Center provided an overview of results-based finance initiatives for off-grid electrification that are already underway across sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on Rwanda, Kenya, Mali, Benin and Ghana. The overview is intended to convey results-based finance initiatives best practices for Tanzania to apply to their own initiative development.

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** Results-based finance initiatives can be a powerful mechanism to broaden the base of citizens who are able to afford electrification, while simultaneously enabling a more rapid scale-up in the jurisdictions targeted. The overview of initiatives already underway in countries within the region will allow Tanzania to learn the best approach for implementing similar incentive programs.



The Solutions Center worked with CLUB-ER to help build capacity for rural electrification in countries across Africa. *Photo courtesy of Flickr/Power Africa*

## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

The Clean Energy Solutions Center worked with the African Association for Rural Electrification (CLUB-ER) to provide web-based capacity building training for its members. Topics included strategic planning, renewable energy standards, grid integration, tariff modeling and policy and regulation design for rural electrification. CLUB-ER is composed of 40 African national institutions responsible for rural electrification—agencies, funds, regulators, departments of energy and utilities—from 30 African countries. Four trainings were provided—two in English and two in French.

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** The capacity-building webinars helped train and educate CLUB-ER members from over 40 institutions, representing at least 30 African nations and multiple government ministries and institutions. The training will help the attendees apply best practices, tools and other training information to their countries of focus and advance clean energy and energy access policies and projects.

## CREATING NATIONAL CLEAN COOKING ACTION PLANS IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Clean Energy Solutions Center worked with 12 countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region—Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo—to create national clean cooking action plans that consider environmental, socioeconomic, health, political and institutional factors. The action plans present a timeline and key actions each country could take to achieve their clean cooking objectives.

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** The West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA) helps ECOWAS promote efficiency in cooking. WACCA promotes the use of modern and clean cooking fuels and stoves in order to achieve universal access to safe, clean, affordable, efficient and sustainable cooking options for the entire ECOWAS population by 2030. The clean cooking action plans developed with the Solutions Center's expert assistance will help increase the efficiency and sustainability of biomass-based cooking energy and introduce modern biofuels such as ethanol, biogas and briquettes.



Photo courtesy of ECOWAS



The Solutions Center worked with ECOWAS to develop a policy on gender mainstreaming in energy access. Photo courtesy of ECOWAS

## MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO ENERGY ACCESS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

The Clean Energy Solutions Center, in partnership with Power Africa, worked with the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) to develop a policy on gender mainstreaming in energy access. The goal of the policy is to address existing barriers that may hinder the equal participation of women and men in the expansion of energy access in West Africa, success of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative and success of ECOWAS regional policies on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The policy aims to achieve widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society, ensure that all energy interventions are gender-inclusive and directed toward addressing inequalities and energy poverty, increase women's public-sector participation in energy-related

---

### COMMENT FROM REQUESTOR

“The push for women's participation goes beyond fairness, but it is rather to enhance the effectiveness of interventions as their participation ensures that the decision-making processes that influence energy access is based on a balanced and informed dialogue. Moreover, there is overwhelming evidence that at the community level women's participation in the supply chain increases the adoption rate of clean energy technologies by female users, thus a balanced workforce is ‘smart economics.’”

**Mahama Kappiah**  
Executive Director  
ECREEE

---

technical fields and decision-making positions and ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to enter and succeed in energy-related fields in the private sector.

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** This gender mainstreaming policy will deliver opportunities for women to become a driving force in decisions to secure clean, safe energy for their homes and work lives, improve health and the environment through clean energy solutions and create a trained job force that will bring with it economic development and business opportunities. Integrating the talents and skills of women into the energy sector will be a driving force in bringing clean energy access to remote regions of ECOWAS that have limited or no access to electricity. This policy was adopted December 2016 at the Ministerial level by all 15 ECOWAS member states.

To supplement and strengthen the policy, the Solutions Center is working with ECREEE to develop a ECOWAS Directive on Gender Assessments in Energy Projects. This directive will provide the legal framework to help ensure that gender considerations are incorporated when energy infrastructure projects and investments are planned and executed. Additionally, the Solutions Center is beginning work with the Southern African Development Community Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) stakeholders to replicate defined elements of the ECOWAS policy tailored toward driving entrepreneurship opportunities for women in the clean energy sector.

## CREATING RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARDS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

The Solutions Center assisted ECREEE with development of regional renewable fuels standards (RFS) for the ECOWAS region. This support included an examination of opportunities and challenges for creating a regional fuel market in ECOWAS and identified potential steps toward developing a plan for implementation. The study offered objective and reliable information on greenhouse gas emissions and positioned climate change mitigation actions to be effective in overall emission reduction efforts related to transportation fuels.



Photo courtesy of ECOWAS

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** Strong, robust fuel quality and blending standards that are well developed and stringently enforced can lead to quantifiable reductions in the level of pollutants and emissions arising from the use of transportation fuels. When managed in conjunction with both sustainability and operability standards, fuel quality standards can contribute to improved health and environmental solutions, ensure engine operability, enhance fuel efficiency and facilitate the use of new technologies. These standards have the potential to be replicated in other regions of Africa.

## MAPPING GRID INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN BURUNDI

The Solutions Center, in collaboration with Power Africa, worked with the government of Burundi to develop options for a regulatory strategy and roadmap for grid integration of renewable energy. The options focus on practical, near-term actions that Burundi's regulatory team can take—conducting staff training on priority topics, developing specific regulatory tools and evaluating utility performance.

**IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE.** The roadmap sets out important topics that Burundi's regulator can begin to consider. Burundi can use the steps in the roadmap to develop a national strategy to integrate renewable energy into planning, construction and operation of the national grid in order to increase the amount of renewable energy in Burundi's grid.

To learn more about the Solutions Center and how it can assist you in achieving your policy goals, please visit [cleanenergysolutions.org](http://cleanenergysolutions.org).