

Burkina faso community microgrids

This report explains the main barriers to scaling up green mini-grids in Sub Saharan Africa and how developers are overcoming these barriers. It also makes recommendations on how the African Development Bank can support the mini-grid sector.

Description: This paper, part of the Green Mini-Grid Market Development Programme (GMG MDP) document series, assesses the green mini-grid market in Burkina Faso. Green-mini grids include mini-grids powered by renewable energy resources - solar radiation, wind, hydropower or biomass - either exclusively, or in combination with diesel generation.

The collaborators on the project include, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the ministry of energy, mines and quarries (MEMC) of Burkina Faso, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The UNDP-led program will run in the country till January 2027 for a total cost of 1,086,476,580 CFA francs (USD1.75 million). The AMP national project in Burkina Faso aims to increase access to clean energy by promoting large-scale commercial investment in solar photovoltaic mini-grids in the West African nation.

The program supports Burkina Faso's COVID-19 recovery efforts and strengthens the resilience of underserved communities. ABER will implement the mini-grids program through several components. This includes policy and regulation, innovation and private sector business models, large-scale financing, use of digital tools & solutions, knowledge management, and evaluation of the projects.

The model of the program is developed such that it will enable removing the political and institutional obstacles that may hinder investments in renewable energy mini-grids. The mechanism facilitates access to low-cost commercial capital including equity and debt in local currency. This will reduce mini-grid costs and ensure the long-term commercial viability of the mini-grid market.

Although the overall electrification rate has already increased in Burkina Faso over recent years, the rate has remained low due to the costly electrification method. The rise of digital technologies and the adoption of the private-sector business model have made solar-battery mini-grids to become a competitive option to provide electricity to off-grid areas in the country.

The project will be active in seven municipalities across several regions including the Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Center, Center-Nord, Center-Est, Nord, and Plateau-Central. The mini-grid program is expected to significantly contribute to the country's rural electrification efforts.

The UNDP-led program will run in the country till January 2027 for a total cost of 1,086,476,580 CFA francs (USD1.75 million). UNDP estimates that mini-grids are the least-cost option to provide electricity to nearly



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265 million people in 21 countries where the AMP project is implemented, for a total investment opportunity of \$USD 65 billion.

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