



Photo: Jason Mulikita



CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE OFF-GRID ENERGY ACCESS IN AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

The Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa (BGFA) is a multi-donor programme bringing clean and affordable energy access to underserved people in rural and peri-urban areas in Sub-Saharan African countries, with the aim of enabling the establishment of up to 1.35 million energy connections and benefit more than 6 million people

by 2028. The programme supports energy service providers, through Call for Proposals-based funding rounds, to provide sustainable and high-quality energy services and solutions in: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

The BGFA aims to establish up to

1.35m

energy connections by 2028, benefiting more than 6 million people

MARKET CONTEXT

Just under 1 billion people worldwide still lack access to electricity, one of the main preconditions for economic growth and improving livelihoods.

Despite increasingly ambitious efforts under the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve universal electrification by 2030, it is estimated that by that time nearly 600,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa alone will not yet have access to electricity, and many more will still lack

access to clean cooking. Many of these people live in rural and peri-urban areas that have not been reached by the central electricity grid and where, due to the geography and/or widely dispersed populations, expansion of the grid would be too costly and technically difficult.



Photo: Jason Mulikita

Zambian woman preparing food for her family and able to charge her mobile at the same time.

I have been helped a lot because I can save money for other basic needs, which has allowed me to provide for my family fully. Now they are able to eat at times three meals a day because I no longer spend on batteries and candles."

– Female, 89 in Zambia

THE BGFA PROGRAMME

The BGFA programme supports the expanded use of clean, modern renewable energy services and solutions with the focus on electricity-generating technologies.

BGFA uses public sector funding to overcome early structural challenges in the market to incentivise early-stage start-up and scale-up of Energy Service Providers, i.e. private companies and entities, and create conditions for commercial investments and long-term sustainability for energy access.

Selected companies will receive payments against achieved milestones. During the implementation phase, the companies will be eligible to receive technical assistance and business support, including advice related to, for example, monitoring, evaluation and mobilisation of additional funds.

The BGFA programme also recognises the environmental challenges facing energy companies when dealing with





end-of-life off-grid solar products, especially as regards ensuring proper collection and recycling of waste. Effective policies, regulation and the physical infrastructure to manage e-waste are lacking in many countries. To support the development of e-waste management in the project countries, the selected companies must meet certain e-waste policy requirements and develop a recycling partnership plan within one year of the contract signing.

The BGFA programme is working with a range of stakeholders in each of the target countries to improve local market conditions through a combination of capacity building and technical assistance to local energy authorities, general stakeholders, outreach and market intelligence development.

FUNDING ROUNDS AND TARGETS

		TARGETS			
					
		CONNECTIONS	BENEFICIARIES	TOTAL FINANCING	CONTRACT AIM
FUNDING ROUNDS	BGFA 1: BURKINA FASO LIBERIA ZAMBIA	700k	3.5m	€30m Provided by Germany and Sweden	15 by spring 2022
	BGFA 2: MOZAMBIQUE	42k	210k	€6.7m Provided by Sweden	4 during 2022
	BGFA 3: UGANDA	600k	3.5m	€20.7m Provided by Denmark and Sweden	10 during 2022

PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS

 TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: €108m	 Sweden Sverige	 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK <i>Danida</i>	KfW	 POWER AFRICA
	SWEDEN	DENMARK	GERMANY (KfW)	POWER AFRICA
	€80m	€15.8m	€7.5m to support development of mini-grids in Zambia	€4m in kind contribution for technical assistance

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The BGFA programme supports, in particular, the objective of Sustainable Development Goal 7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern energy for all by 2030, Goal 13 to combat climate change and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and host country priorities and Goal 5 to support the development of gender equality in the project countries.





BACKGROUND TO BGFA

The Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa (BGFA) is a multi-donor EUR 108 million facility established and managed by Nefco, on Sweden's initiative in 2019. The programme is implemented in partnership with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). It builds on early positive results under the pilot programme Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia (BGFZ).

In autumn 2020, the first Call for Proposals was launched in Burkina Faso, Liberia and Zambia, followed by a separate Call for Proposals for Mozambique and Uganda in spring 2021. The first contracts with energy service providers were announced in January 2022. A new programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is being launched in 2022.

FACILITY MANAGER:

NEFCO
The Nordic Green Bank

IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER:

REEEP

FUNDERS:



MORE INFORMATION

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