

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ECOWAS Programme on Access to Sustainable Electricity Services (EPASES) is a component of the ECREEE Access to Improved Energy Services (EAIES) initiative. The Overall Objective of the EPASES programme is to contribute to the achievement of the targets of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, consistent with the goals of Sustainable Energy for All initiative, of achieving universal access to electricity across the region by 2030.

With only 8% of the rural population of the ECOWAS region having access to electricity, it is a great challenge to provide this service universally by 2030. This is particularly so in the context of rapid population growth and in many countries with thinly populated rural areas with low average income levels. Strenuous efforts are being made to extend the grid to rural areas, and yet, it is more cost effective to use off-grid electrification in the remote areas. "Off-grid" in this context means either mini-grids systems for small and medium towns and villages or stand-alone systems for scattered settlements in remote areas.

The ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy has set a target of promoting 60,000 mini-grids and 2.6 million stand-alone systems across the region by 2020, at a total cost of €13.6 billion to serve 71.4 million people. Mini-grids will be powered mostly by one or a combination of the following sources solar PV, hydro, wind, biomass, biofuels. Diesel generators could be used as support in a hybrid system. Stand-alone systems will include a combination of solar home systems and pico-solar. A clear focus is given to productive uses of electricity (PUEs) as fundamental services to be enabled in order to make rural electrification financially viable and economically beneficial to rural population. Combined with an ambitious grid-extension programme it is intended that this will put ECOWAS in line to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030. This programme aims to facilitate the achievement of these goals, particularly for the off-grid component of access to electricity in the region, thus focusing mainly on clean energy mini-grids, stand-alone systems and productive uses

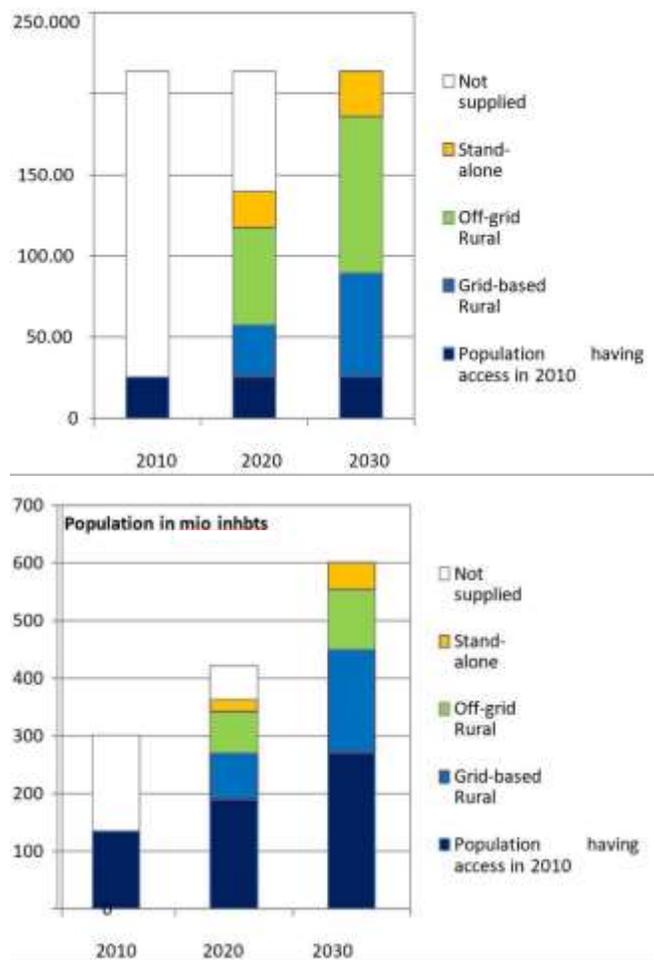


Figure 1: Data from EREP Baseline Study. The chart on the left shows the number of communities (or settlements) to benefit by different energy solutions, while the chart on the right shows the total population in millions

of electricity introducing an innovative approach at regional level.

A number of key barriers to the rapid scaling up of off-grid electrification have been identified in consultation with regional experts. The programme has been designed to overcome those barriers whether in Policy Environment, Capacity Building, Information and Knowledge Management or Project Preparation and Financing with the aim of achieving the following outcomes:

1. Supportive policies and policy measures, incorporating gender considerations, in place, published, adopted, operational and widely known.
2. Regional monitoring framework for projects implementation and targets achievements in place and operational.
3. Best practices and lessons learnt in RE off-grid technology and project design and implementation, available and integrated in key regional and Member States training institutions curricula.
4. Investment ready projects are developed and access adequate capital finance (including innovative mechanisms in climate finance).
5. Successful pilot projects demonstrate technical feasibility and economic viability of off-grid solutions for rural electrification.
6. Increased locally-manufactured and assembled component

The EPASES will be closely coordinated with national actions and it will mainly provide the following services; technical assistance on policy, finance and technical issues, review of international and regional best practices, production of guidelines and training material, support to project preparatory activities, fund mobilization and development of appropriate finance schemes, development of regional platforms for knowledge sharing, facilitation of conferences, establishment of a regional monitoring system for progress on electricity access, support to encourage local manufacture, prizes and scholarships, funds for implementation of demonstration projects.

ECREEE has demonstrated that it can provide added value to ECOWAS Member States' national efforts, through providing learning and knowledge, sharing opportunities at regional level to address the challenges faced by all Member States. The proposed activities of EPASES will be carefully coordinated with other programmers in the region, to take advantages of synergies, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

	2015-17	2018-20	TOTAL
Activities	€ 10,516	€ 9,944	€ 20,460
Monitoring and Evaluation	€ 20	€ 140	€ 160
HR Cost	€ 282	€ 282	€ 564
Total Programme Budget	€ 10,818	€ 10,366	€ 21,184

Programme Budget (€,000)