1 Project Background
Motivated by the fact that 174.5 million ECOWAS citizens have no access to electricity (and 77 percent of them live in rural areas) and due to the strategic importance of energy in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction in the ECOWAS region, ECREEE has designed a regional renewable energy off-grid project called the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP) whose objective is to increase access to sustainable electricity services in the 15 ECOWAS and 4 Sahel region countries namely Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania and Central African Republic by household, productive uses of energy businesses and in some instances public health and education facilities in a pilot programme. The project is funded by the World Bank and framed in the ECOWAS Program on Access to Sustainable Electricity Services (EPASES), directly contributing to the goals of the ECOWAS Regional Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) with a target to provide universal access to electricity to the region by 2030.

The project has two main components with subs:

Component 1: Develop a Regional Market - Technical Assistance activities to develop a regional market. ECREEE will implement this component in partnership with national governments of 19 project countries. ECREEE will follow a consultative process with its focal persons in the Ministry of Energy of all project countries and other ROGEP stakeholders to implement this component. ECREEE will undertake project launch workshops in all the 19 countries, during the preparatory and implementation phase to ensure participation of national, regional and international stakeholders in each project country. This will also involve providing grants to the private sector to support their growth and entry into new markets in the sub region.

Component 2: Access to Finance - This component will facilitate access to debt financing in support of the stand-alone solar systems market. This component will support (a) solar equipment distributors supplying stand-alone solar products to households and productive end users, (b) households and productive end users of solar equipment, and (c) energy service companies electrifying public institutions, such as schools and health centers. This will be implemented by a Regional Development Bank. Women entrepreneurs will have an equal level of access to financing. The key constraint for implementation of such programs has been identified as access to finance; consequently, this component will establish a line of credit facility for eligible private sector solar enterprises access and use to develop the market for off-grid electricity products and services in the project countries. The line of credit facility takes into account the existing challenges in the market related to access to finance such as lack of liquidity, lack of access to foreign exchange, and lender requirements such as collateral.

The 19 project countries are organized in 3 areas:
Area 1: Senegal, Côte D’Ivoire, Cabo Verde,, Mauritania, Guinee, Mali and Burkina Faso
Area 2: Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Gambia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Guinea Bissau.
Area 3: Niger, Benin, Togo, Chad, Central Africa Republic and Cameroon

The first implemented phase has started in April 2019 and continue for a period of 5 years.

A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has been set up and hosted at ECREEE in Praia, Cabo Verde.

This assignment is FULL TIME and is located at the ROGEP Office in Accra, Ghana. The Technical Specialist Area-2 will report to the Technical Coordinator of the PIU in accordance with the Project Operation Manual (POM).

2 Objectives
This assignment is FULL TIME and is located at the ROGEP Office in Accra, Ghana. The Technical Specialist Area-2 will report to the Technical Coordinator of the PIU in accordance with the Project Operation Manual (POM).

3 The Role of the Technical Specialist Area 2
The Technical Specialist Area 2 shall support the Coordinator of the PIU in all aspects of project preparation and, eventually later on, implementation, with a particular focus, but not limited to, on Area 2 countries.

The specific tasks of the Technical Specialist Area 2 are, with a particular focus, but not limited to, on Area 2 countries, as identified below:

i. Liaise and setup networking with countries’ stakeholders from private and public sectors for the promotion and implementation of the project;
ii. Plan and follow up the project activities, in coordination with the PIU, assuring timely and economically effective implementation;
iii. Follow up and actively participate in the implementation of hired consultancy services such as assessment of trade conditions for renewable energy equipment in West Africa, etc.;
iv. Support the organization of regional events and be responsible for the organization of national activities;
v. Analyse solar products quality specifications in each country, supporting and implementing the project goals in this area;
vi. Analyse entry barriers (policy, customs and tax) in each country, supporting and implementing the project goals in this area;
vii. Identify needs, design and deliver Technical Assistance, provide capacity building trainings as needed;
viii. Promote, accompany and participate in the activities of the ECOWAS entrepreneurship facility;
ix. Participate in the elaboration of procurement documents as well as technical evaluations;
x. Provide inputs and support the PIU to prepare and submit scheduled and periodic reports including:
a. Monthly Report  
b. Quarterly interim report  
c. Annual reports

xi. Participate in other related activities as may be assigned by the project and Technical Coordinators

Work implies frequent interaction with the following:  
Representatives and officials in national and local governments, international organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, technical and scientific organizations, civil society, partners, private sector, commercial finance institutions.

4 Deliverables

The consultant will provide the following deliverables:  
- Draft work plan and inception report for the entire duration of the assignment;  
- Monthly report of tasks performed and deliverables achieved, including Monthly budget and work plans for the forthcoming month, to be submitted on the 7th of each month;  
- Quarterly interim reports;  
- Annual report;  
- Monitoring and project progress reports, where required;  
- Technical reports on workshops and technical assistance activities, where required;  
- Mission Back-to-office reports, where required;  
- Other relevant documents;

5 Qualifications and experience

(a) The Technical Specialist shall have at least a Master degree in engineering, energy or similar areas with a strong focus on renewables  
(b) At least 8 years post qualification experience in Energy/Renewable Energy; ideally with experience in off-grid standalone renewable energy projects in at least one country of the focus Area (experience in multiple countries would be an advantage)
(c) A track record of providing technical assistance and capacity building to public and private stakeholders, and in improving policy and regulatory framework and business promotion;  
(d) Proven experience in participating in similar donor funded projects (proven experience in working in World Bank projects would be an advantage);  
(e) Other required skills and competencies include:  
   i. Strong planning, organization and time management skills and ability to manage multiple tasks;  
   ii. Capacity to be a member of a multi-disciplinary team, to provide advice and recommend actions;
iii. Proficiency in preparing and presenting professional reports and analytical papers;
iv. Proficient communication in oral and written English and French. Knowledge in Portuguese will be an advantage;
v. Very good interpersonal and communication skills, ability to manage relations with development partners, to work under pressure and handle politically and culturally sensitive issues.
vi. Citizens of an ECOWAS member state are particularly encouraged to apply for this consultancy.

6 Resources and Facilities

The Technical Specialist will work closely with all PIU staff in performing the foregoing tasks on the basis of resources provided for under the budgeting system and of Procurement Guidelines accordingly agreed upon. In this respect, strong communication skill equipped with a high degree of public/client relation skills will be required.

7 Duration of services

- The consultant will be initially engaged for two (2) years.
- At the expiration of this, based on her/his performance and the she/he may be engaged for up for more years based on availability of funding. Extension of the duration of services shall be subject to mutual agreement between the parties.
- Travels inside and outside the country will be required and ECREEE shall be responsible for providing the Consultant with return air tickets and per diem for any field mission undertaken during her/his assignment in line with ECREEE’s travel policy.