ECREEE
Towards Sustainable Energy

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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ECOWAS CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY
CENTRO PARA AS ENERGIAS RENOVÁVEIS E EFICIÊNCIA ENERGÉTICA DA CEDEAO
CENTRE POUR LES ÉNERGIES RENOUVELABLES ET L'EFFICACITE ENERGETIQUE DE LA CEDEAO

Imprint
ECREEE Annual Report 2024

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Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFREC	Africa Energy Commission
ARE	Alliance for Rural Electrification
ASER	Agence Sénégalaise d'Electrification Rurale (Senegalese Rural Electrification Agency)
CC	Cross-Cutting
CL	Community Levy
CERMI	Center for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance - Cabo Verde
COP29	The 29th Session: Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
DPERSE	Sustainable Development through Renewable Energy in the Southeast of Senegal
DtP	Desert-to-Power
EAIF	Energy Access Investment Forum
ECBSES	ECOWAS Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECREEE	ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
ECSES	ECOWAS Certification for Sustainable Energy Skills
EE	Energy Efficiency
EF	External Funds
ENERGICA	Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Urban and Rural Areas in Africa
EREF	ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility
ERERA	ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority
ESEF	ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum
ESIF	ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund
EU	European Union
EGDC	ECOWAS Gender Development Centre
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German International Development Cooperation Agency)
GN-SEC	Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres
IEA	International Energy Agency
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency

Acronyms

ISO/IEC	International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission
ONEPlanET	Open-source NExus modeling tools for Planning Sustainable Energy Transition in Africa
ProCEM-II	Promoting a Climate-Friendly Energy Market--Phase 2
PV	Photovoltaic
RE	Renewable Energy
ReCCAWA	Regional Program on Clean Cooking in West Africa
ReTAPS	Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel
RVO	Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (Netherlands Enterprise Agency)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOLTRAIN	Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Program
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WAPP	West African Power Pool
WAEMU	West African Monetary Union (also UEMOA)
WAREP	West Africa Regional Energy Program
WASCAL	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WOCEWA	Women and Clean Energy in West Africa

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

In 2024, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) continued its mission to promote Sustainable Energy in West Africa based on its Strategic Plan 2023-2027 which was validated by the ECOWAS-Donors Consultation Committee of ECREEE in November 2022 and adopted by the ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Energy in March 2023. As a reminder, ECREEE's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan is based on three strategic orientations: (i) strengthening institutional, administrative, financial, and digital governance; (ii) improving the implementation of programmes and projects; and (iii) strengthening partnerships and mobilizing resources. At the operational level, the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 is based on three main regional programmes (Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Cross-Cutting) and three regional initiatives (ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Annual Report on Progress in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum).

In 2024, ECREEE carried out its action per the annual work plan approved in 2023 through programs and projects with a high socio-economic impact. This report specifies the activities and results recorded and highlights the challenges to be met. Significant progress in sustainable energy has been made in West Africa since ECREEE was operationalized in 2010. For example, the installed capacity of solar photovoltaic energy connected to the grid has increased from 5 MW in 2010 to nearly 1 GW in 2024, with projections of 5 GW in 2030. However, there are still significant challenges to be met, including the implementation of large-scale programs in the field of Energy Efficiency as well as the acceleration of the construction of sustainable energy infrastructure to support the competitiveness of companies and for the benefit of urban and rural populations, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas.

ECREEE is grateful to all the stakeholders who contributed to the implementation of its activities throughout 2024, with a special mention given to the National Focal Institutions in the various Member States. ECREEE also recognizes the critical support of

Installed capacity of solar photovoltaic energy connected to the grid has increased from 5 MW in 2010 to nearly 1 GW in 2024, with projections of 5 GW in 2030. ECREEE is grateful to all the stakeholders who contributed to the implementation of its activities throughout 2024

partners, namely the support of Spain (through AECID), Germany (through GIZ and WASCAL) and Austria (through ADA); the African Development Bank (through the Desert-to-Power Initiative & African Legal Support Facility); the International Development Research Centre (IDRC); the European Union (EU); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank (ROGEAP) and the Global Green Growth Institution (GGGI).

In 2025, ECREEE will celebrate its 15th anniversary, which will be part of the fiftieth anniversary of ECOWAS. ECREEE will strengthen its action to promote Sustainable Energy with the support of its Partners and will commission a mid-term review of the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027 as part of its continuous improvement system. ECREEE thanks you for your support and commitment to promoting sustainable energy.

Jean Francis Sempore

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This edition of ECREEE's annual report provides an overview of the activities carried out in 2024 and a preview of the Centre's work program for 2025.

By the end of the year, 65% (51 out of 78) of planned programmatic activities had been completed, and 23% (18 out of 78) were in progress. The activities in progress were at various stages of completion - early-stage, mid-stage, advanced stage, or nearly completion. They varied in nature and included infrastructure projects, project preparation studies, capacity building, data and knowledge management, and dialogue and awareness. Numerous entities benefited from ECREEE's activities, ranging from policymakers in ministries responsible for energy in the ECOWAS Member States to renewable energy project developers and productive users of renewable energy in local communities and educational institutions within the sector.

The benefits that accrued included:

a) Provision of opportunities for the development and promotion of renewable energy projects for targeted communities;

b) Creation of access to renewable energy by targeted communities for lighting and productive uses;

c) Improvement of the enabling environment in preparation for renewable energy projects;

d) Knowledge Transfer and skills about renewable energy technologies and potential investment areas; and

e) Development and dissemination of knowledge products related to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Centre's deliberate efforts to optimize its use of funding, time, materials, and human resources resulted in notable accomplishments, some of which are as follows:

a) Eight solar photovoltaic infrastructure projects have been completed in Benin, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, and Togo. These facilities fulfill the energy needs of households, hospitals, educational institutions, and water systems for both irrigation and domestic use consumption.

b) Within the framework of the project titled "Promotion of Small and Medium-sized

Investments in Renewable Energy Technologies in the ECOWAS Member States," ECREEE, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, installed six photovoltaic metal workshops in six cities in Guinea-Bissau.

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c) In April, Energy Directors from the ECOWAS Member States participated in regional training in Praia, Cabo Verde, to i) enhance their knowledge of Green Hydrogen and ammonia technologies across the value chain; ii) improve their understanding of industry challenges and opportunities; and iii) increase their awareness of the Green Hydrogen initiatives of the Member States and the existing gaps. Similarly, private sector actors participated in training in September in Lagos, Nigeria, to deepen their understanding of green hydrogen and green ammonia production and technologies, along with the industry challenges and opportunities, economics, and risks facing the ECOWAS private sector working in hydrogen demand sectors.

d) Two significant activities under the Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program

are in progress: (i) feasibility studies to identify 120 sites suitable for clean mini-grids in Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Niger, and (ii) the development of modules for a regional training of trainers in mini-grid design, installation, and inspection.

e) National stakeholders in Benin, Nigeria, and Senegal deliberated on identified country-specific value chains, comparative advantages, and data collection approaches under the Circular Economy project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID. Similar consultations took place in Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, and The Gambia in the framework of the Clean Cooking project funded by the same partner.

f) ECREEE is implementing a project supported by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) called the "Energy Efficiency for sustainable Livelihoods in Africa (EELA)" project. Funded by the Government of Sweden and endorsed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the project aims to create market and institutional conditions that transform the market environment and encourage the broader adoption of efficient lighting products and appliances across all sectors.

g) ECREEE conducted a regional workshop for National Focal Points responsible for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency data collection from the ECOWAS Member States from June 24 to 28, 2024, in Cotonou, Benin, to present various energy efficiency initiatives and the sustainable energy data process that the Center has undertaken with partner agencies such as the Africa Energy Commission (AFREC), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and the ECOWAS Member States.

h) Key stakeholders in the ECOWAS Certification in Sustainable Energy Skills program evaluated the process of establishing the ECOWAS Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills (ECBSES) and proposed strategies to ensure its sustainability.

i) From October 28 to November 1, 2024, professionals from 12 ECOWAS member states were trained as trainers in PV grid-connected projects' legal and regulatory aspects, including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The workshop took place in Praia, Cabo Verde.

j) ECREEE, in partnership with the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) and the West African Power Pool (WAPP), with support from GIZ, brought together regional stakeholders to validate key documents for the West African Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC). These documents include: i) Country Models of Power Purchase and Concession Agreements, ii) a draft Regional Directive promoting solar PV power projects, and iii) a Draft Catalogue of guarantees and insurances to be provided by States, Financial Institutions, and Project Promoters.

The ECOWAS Commission has approved a total budget of UA 7,167,518.47 for funding. This budget is broken down into UA 1,269,903.64 for activities funded by the Community Levy and UA 5,897,614.83 from partners' contributions.

k) The ECOWAS Energy Ministers reviewed and adopted the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Facility (EREEEF) along with the ECOWAS Guidelines for the Promotion of Grid-Connected Solar Photovoltaic Projects during their meeting on Friday, November 1, 2024, in Abuja, Nigeria. This action was guided by the recommendations from the ECOWAS Energy Experts Meeting, which took place on October 30 and 31, 2024, also in Abuja, Nigeria.

l) Regarding integrating gender in energy access, a scholarship initiative called the "WOCEWA Scholarship and Green Jobs Program" has been launched, aimed at young women pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at higher education institutions. This program will support six (6) young women from West Africa in completing their Master's degrees. Additionally, these women will be sponsored to intern in the ECOWAS energy sector for six (6) months, improving their chances of securing employment in the energy sector. The "Women and Energy in West Africa (WOCEWA)" project is financed by Canada's International Development Research Centre. Furthermore, ECREEE has aided Côte d'Ivoire in formulating its National Gender Action Plan.

m) The 9th edition of ESEF, themed "Towards a Just Energy Transition in the ECOWAS Region," occurred from November 28 to 29, 2024, as part of the 1st International Exhibition of Extractive and Energy Resources (SIREXE) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The main challenge confronting the Centre is inadequate funding for general administration.

Ninety-seven (97) activities are scheduled for implementation across four thematic areas in 2025: the Renewable Energy Program, the Energy Efficiency Program, the Cross-Cutting Program, and the Special Regional Initiatives. The ECOWAS Commission has approved a total budget of UA 7,167,518.47 for funding. This budget is broken down into UA 1,269,903.64 for activities funded by the Community Levy and UA 5,897,614.83 from partners' contributions.

INTRODUCTION

In 2024, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) engaged in numerous activities aligned with its vision to be the foremost facilitator of universal access to reliable and affordable modern energy across the ECOWAS Member States. To achieve its vision, ECREEE continued to pursue its mission of promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ECOWAS region through programs that create significant socio-economic impact.

ECREEE was established in response to the recommendations of the ECOWAS/UEMOA White Paper on access to energy services in rural and peri-urban areas issued in 2006. In November 2008, during its 61st Session, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopted Regulation C/REG.23/11/08, which provided the Agency with a legal foundation. The agency's objectives, as per its "implementing regulation PC/REX.5/06/2020 on organization and functioning," remain relevant:

- Coordinate projects and programs relating to the promotion and development of renewable energy resources, the increase of energy efficiency to improve access to modern energy services, and energy security in Member States;
- Provide sensitization and capacity building in the region on renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Promote policy harmonization and quality assurance of renewable energy and energy efficiency services;
- Undertake energy research and facilitate technology transfer; and
- Develop Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency programs and mobilize resources for these.

Through unwavering commitment to focus on this vision, mission, and objectives, ECREEE has become a center of excellence for these fields within the ECOWAS region and a reference point for other economic blocs in Africa seeking to establish similar agencies. The Center is part of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), an innovative south-south multi-stakeholder partnership created by UNIDO to accelerate energy and climate transformation in developing countries.

The Centre's accomplishments in 2024 contribute to the attainment of broader objectives elaborated in its 2023-2023 strategic plan, the ECOWAS Vision 2050, and the 2022-2026 strategic objectives of the current management of the ECOWAS Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS & ACHIEVEMENTS

1.1. OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

As has been the practice in previous years, ECREEE reflected on how it fared in 2024 and learned from its approach to implementing interventions. By the end of December 2024, the Centre achieved an overall implementation rate of 78% for its planned activities. Table 1 summarizes the implementation status.

Program Area	Completed	In Progress	Not Started	Postponed	Cancelled	Total	%	% of Program-specific Activities completed
Renewable Energy	15	10	-	3	2	**30**	**38%**	**50% (15/30)**
Energy Efficiency	7	2	-	-	3	**12**	**15%**	**58% (7/12)**
Cross-Cutting	26	5	-	-	1	**32**	**41%**	**81% (26/32)**
Special Regional Initiatives	3	1	-	-	-	**4**	**5%**	**75% (3/4)**
Total	**51**	**18**	**-**	**3**	**6**	**78**	**100%**	
%	**65%**	**23%**	**0%**	**4%**	**8%**	**100%**		

Table 1: Summary of Implementation Status

The 18 activities in progress were at the various stages and are described in Table 2:

Program Area	In progress, near completion (>80 to 99% complete)	In progress, advanced stage (>50 to 80% complete)	In progress, mid-stage (50% complete)	In progress, early stage (<50% complete)	Total
Renewable Energy	0	1	2	7	**10**
Energy Efficiency	0	0	0	2	**2**
Cross-Cutting	0	3	2	0	**5**
Special Regional Initiatives	1	0	0	0	**1**
Total	**1**	**4**	**4**	**9**	**18**

Table 2: Distribution of the 18 Activities whose implementation is in progress

Three activities were postponed to 2025 because their commencement depended on specific activities that still needed to be completed. The canceled activities primarily involved missions to attend international conferences or study tours. These cancellations were either due to unfavorable timing of the events or insufficient funding.

1.2 BENEFICIARIES OF ACTIVITIES

The activities of ECREEE programs are in eight categories as follows:

(i) Infrastructural Project Development,
(ii) Project Preparation Studies,
(iii) Regional/National-level Strategies, Action Plans, and Regulations,
(iv) Capacity Building,
(v) Data and Knowledge Management,
(vi) Dialogue and Awareness,
(vii) ECREEE Resource Mobilization, and
(viii) Project Management.

The direct beneficiaries of the interventions varied based on the types of activities. From policymakers in ministries responsible for energy in the ECOWAS Member States to renewable energy project developers, productive users of renewable energy, and educational institutions, numerous entities have benefited from ECREEE's activities. The following are the main kinds of benefits:

a. Creation of access to renewable energy by targeted communities for lighting and productive uses;
b. Provision of opportunities for the development of renewable energy projects for targeted communities;
c. Improvement of the enabling environment in preparation for renewable energy projects;
d. The transfer of knowledge and skills about renewable energy technologies and potential investment areas; and
e. Development and dissemination of knowledge products about renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 illustrate examples of entities to which the benefits of activities accrued in 2024.

Project/Sub-Program	Activity	Beneficiaries
ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund projects	Installation of solar photovoltaic infrastructure facilities for lighting and/or productive uses in Benin, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo	Communities, Hospitals, Educational institutions
Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas in Africa	Provision of technical advisory and communication support in the framework of the implementation of renewable energy technology project in Sierra Leone	A hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, using a prototype anaerobic digestion system for organic waste transformation
Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances funded by UNIDO	Commissioning of GEF-UNIDO funded Energy Efficiency testing laboratory in The Gambia	The Gambia Standards Bureau

Table 3: Examples of Beneficiaries: "Infrastructural Project Development" Type of Activities

Project/Sub-Program	Activity	Beneficiaries
Promoting a Climate-friendly Energy Market in West Africa (ProCEM II)	Development of RE projects, including gender mainstreaming (e.g., pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, guidelines for considering gender aspects)	Ministries responsible for energy of the ECOWAS Member States
	Impact Assessment Study of Mechanisms for Electric Vehicles in the Electricity Grid of Cabo Verde	Ministry in charge of energy and industry, Cabo Verde
Energy Efficiency in Industry	Market study and intervention strategy on the use of energy efficiency in the ECOWAS region	Ministries in charge of energy in the ECOWAS Member States
DtP WAREP (Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program) -Phase 1	Feasibility studies to identify sites suitable for clean mini-grids in Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Niger	Ministries in charge of energy in Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Niger
Circular Economy Project - Transition to a Clean Energy Circular Economy through the Optimization of High Energy Intensity Value Chains in High Impact Sectors funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)	Baseline Studies and selection of value chains in selected communities for project implementation in Benin, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal	Ministries in charge of energy in Benin, Nigeria, and Senegal
Clean Cooking and Solar Technology Project - Water and Energy Project for the Increase of Food Security and Socioeconomic Development funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)	Baseline Studies and selection of the project's beneficiary communities in Cabo Verde, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau	Ministries in charge of energy in Cabo Verde, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau

Table 4: Examples of Beneficiaries: "Project Preparation Studies" Type of Activities

Project/Sub-Program	Activity	Beneficiaries
Green Hydrogen Project	Capacity Building Workshops for ECOWAS Energy Directors and/or National Focal Points involved in implementing the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy	Ministries in charge of energy in the ECOWAS Member States
Green Hydrogen Project	Capacity Building Workshop for ECOWAS Private Sector on Green Hydrogen	Private sector organizations/entities. Examples: • ECOWAS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, • Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, • Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, • Private sector actors in the ECOWAS region working in oil and gas, fertilizers, cement, and steel in Nigeria and the ECOWAS region and • Green Hydrogen production companies in the ECOWAS region.
West Africa Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) Initiative	Training of Trainers from the energy sector of ECOWAS Member States on the legal and regulatory aspects of PV grid-connected projects, including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	15 selected experts from universities, national regulatory agencies, energy directorates, national utilities, and other agencies
Support for rural electrification via renewable energy systems in the Liptako-Gourma region - pilot phase (Liptako-Gourma Project) funded by UNDP	Training and support to national energy experts in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger by an international consultant recruited by UNDP to implement the national action plans on the de-risking of investments in solar solutions in rural and peri-urban areas.	Ministries in charge of Energy and renewable energy project developers in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger
Promoting a Climate-friendly Energy Market in West Africa (ProCEM II) Project	Examination for Installers of Solar Home Systems in Cabo Verde and Sierra Leone with the view to providing regional certificates	Selected technicians from Cabo Verde and Sierra Leone

Table 5: Examples of Beneficiaries: "Capacity Building" Type of Activities

Project/Sub-Program	Activity	Beneficiaries
ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Observatory (ECOWREX)	Collection of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Data from 11 ECOWAS Member States	Energy sector decision-makers in the ECOWAS Member States, researchers, and students
ECOWREX	Regional Workshop with Directors of Energy and /or National Focal Institutions (NFIs): Technical support to selected Member States as part of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Data collection process	Institutions responsible for data collection in the ECOWAS Member States
ECOWREX	Finalization and publication of the Regional Progress Reports for 2021 and 2022 and dissemination	Energy sector decision-makers in the ECOWAS Member States, researchers, and students.

Table 6: Examples of Beneficiaries: "Data and Knowledge Management" Type of Activities

Project/Sub-Program	Activity	Beneficiaries
Special Regional Initiatives	2024 edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) and related activities	Energy sector stakeholders, including ministers, representatives of financial institutions, and civil society organizations
Promoting Water-Energy-for-Food (WE4F) nexus through Capacity Building in ECOWAS Communities	Needs assessment, selection of Beneficiaries, and Stakeholder engagement in Benin, Guinea Bissau, and Togo	Ministries in Charge of Energy, Targeted training institutions, and targeted community groups in Benin, Guinea Bissau, and Togo
Promoting a Climate-friendly Energy Market in West Africa (ProCEM II) Project	Annual Regional Certification Skills' Stakeholders' Workshop	Stakeholders of the Regional Sustainable Energy Skills Certification Scheme

Table 7: Examples of Beneficiaries: "Dialogue and Awareness" Type of Activities

Jobs created

While delivering its services, the Centre also took note of direct jobs[1], which were created through contracts awarded to individual consultants, consulting firms, and service providers for stakeholder engagements. A total of 527 direct jobs were created, of which 185, representing 35 percent, were for women.

> *A total of 527 direct jobs were created, of which 185, representing 35 percent, were for women.*

[1] According to the International Labour Organization, a **job** is a piece of work or position of employment that provides regular payment. **Work** is any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use. **Persons in employment** are defined as all those of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit.

1.3 KEY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

1.3.1 Renewable Energy Program

1.3.1.1 ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund for Renewable Energy Projects

The ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF) was established in 2022 to enhance energy access and promote sustainable development within the ECOWAS region. ECREEE's share of the resources from the fund was aimed at the deployment and utilization of reliable and affordable renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and services, especially in rural and peri-urban areas. The following eight projects have been carried out in seven Member States:

a) Electrification of 57 households in Chã das Caldeiras community in the Municipality of Santa Catarina in Fogo, Cabo Verde;

b) Rehabilitation of the Hybrid Energy Production System in Ribeira Alta, Ribeira Grande, Santo Antao in Cabo Verde;

c) Installation of a solar irrigation system for educational purposes at the Agricultural Technical High School of Adja-Ouèrè, Benin;

d) Installation of the solar photovoltaic energy systems at four selected hospitals in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana;

e) Installation of an off-grid solar facility at the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria;

f) Installation of 77 Solar Home Systems for the Mamud Fana South community in the Keliman Society in The Gambia;

g) Installation of solar photovoltaic systems for productive use in income-generating activities of rural micro-enterprises in ten communities (with over 2,200 inhabitants) in the Kédougou region, South-East of Senegal and

h) Solar-powered water pumping for 10 rural Peripheral Care Units in Togo to ensure sustainable access to water.

The facilities have been completed and commissioned as shown in Boxes 1 to 7 below:

Off-grid solar facility for domestic uses in Fogo Island, Cabo Verde

With a battery energy storage capacity of 150 kWh, a 50 kVA generator, and 5 kilometers of underground electricity distribution network, the solar photovoltaic facility provides power to a community of 800 residents. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, Dr. Ulisses Correia e Silva; the Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Francis Sempore; the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Cabo Verde, Mrs. Margaret McElligott; the Mayor of Santa Catarina, Dr. Alberto Nunes; the representative of AgroCoopCha; and other government and municipal representatives from Santa Catarina.

Rehabilitation of the Hybrid Energy Production System in Ribeira Alta, Ribeira Grande in Santo Antão Island, Cabo Verde

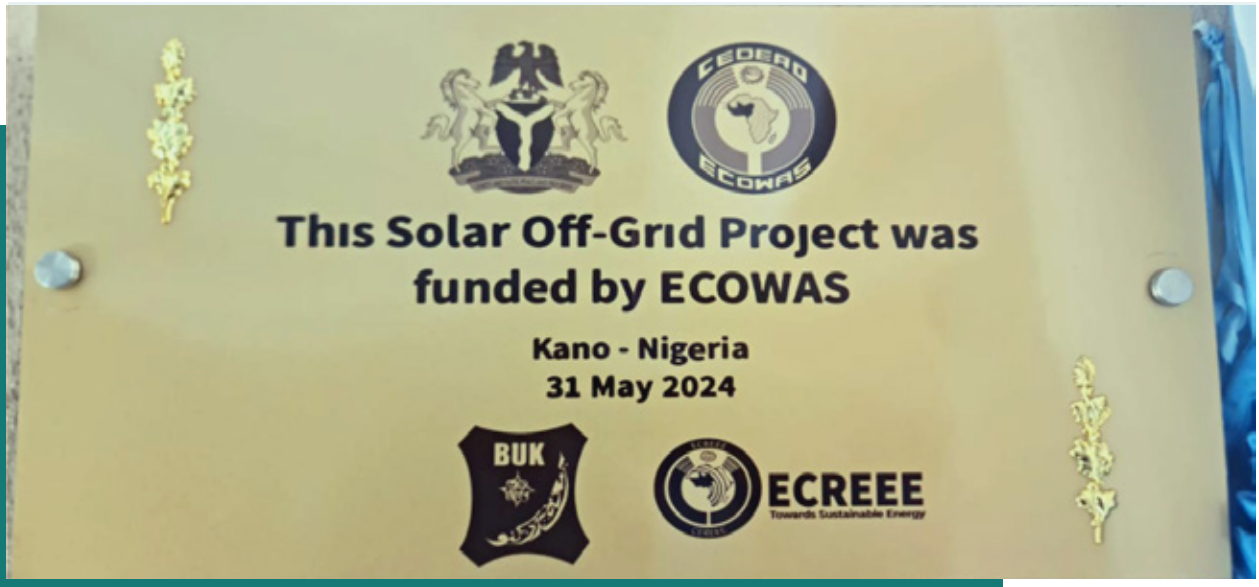
The 40 kWp facility was inaugurated on September 19, 2024. The ceremony featured prominent figures, including representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy, local government officials, project promoters, community leaders, and ECREEE representatives. Like the others, the facility highlights ECOWAS's commitment to addressing energy access challenges and promoting sustainable development in underserved areas.

Solar off-grid lighting in Mamud Fana South community, The Gambia

A total of 77 Solar Home Systems have been installed. Each system includes a solar panel, a charge controller, a battery, and a specific number of lamps and sockets, depending on the household size. This facility serves over 1,000 residents in the Mamud Fana South community. This new energy source enables them to power their homes, use appliances, and potentially develop small businesses. The installations were commissioned on Saturday, June 15, 2024, by Mr. Emmanuel Correa, Representative of The Gambia's Ministry of Petroleum and Energy; Mr. Njaga Ceesay, Business Development Manager at Unique Energy; and Mr. Francis Sempore, ECREEE's Executive Director.

Solarization of 10 Rural Peripheral Healthcare Units in Togo

ESCO-Togo implemented the "Sustainable Access to Ten Rural Peripheral Healthcare Units" project in Togo. Beneficiary localities include four in the Centrale region (Koffitti, Agbamassomou, Affossalakopé, and Sada 2), three in the Plateaux area (Kpakpo, Atchinédji, and Ona), and three in the Maritime region (Atahonou, Zouvi, and Afiadégnigba).



Solarization of the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at Bayero University in Kano State, Nigeria

The facility has a total capacity of 79 kWp for solar PV, a 58 kW inverter, and 60 kWh battery storage. It provides the Department and the University community with stable, clean, affordable, and sustainable electricity. It was jointly inaugurated on Friday, May 31, 2024, by Sediko Douka, the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Infrastructure, Energy, and Digitalization; Professor Nazifi Abdullahi Darma, the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Internal Affairs; Professor Mohamed Sani Gumel, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, represented the Vice Chancellor; and Engr. Samuel Bem Ayangeaor, Assistant Director of the Renewable and Rural Power Access Department, represented Nigeria's Honourable Minister of Power.

Inauguration of three solar-powered hospitals in the Greater Accra Region, Ghana

Finney Hospital, Baanor Hospital, and Mother Love Hospital are beneficiary hospitals. Three facilities were established with Tradeworks Limited, a local solar energy company. Solar systems provide a reliable power supply to hospitals, significantly enhancing excellent healthcare services in their communities. The inauguration ceremony at Finney Hospital was attended by several notable figures, including the Director for Renewable Energy, Mr. Seth Mahu, who represented the Honourable Minister of Energy of Ghana; the Director for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the Energy Commission of Ghana, Mr. Kofi Agyarko, who represented the Executive Secretary; the Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Jean Francis Sempore; the Chief Medical Director of Finney Hospital, Dr. Allen Steele-Dadzie; and the Chief Executive Officer of Tradeworks Limited, Mr. Randy Sey.

Productive use of solar applications in income-generating activities of rural micro-enterprises in the Kedougou region, South-East Senegal

ECREEE and its local partner, NGO SEM Fund Senegal, installed facilities in ten communities—Andiel, Bandafassi, Bantata, Bembou, Damboucoye, Diakhaba, Diakha Madina, Faraba 1, Faraba 2, and Ibel—to enhance agricultural productivity and improve farmers' livelihoods. With these solar installations, farmers can now irrigate their crops more efficiently and sustainably, bolstering their resilience to climate change. The facilities in Bembouwasan Damboucoye were inaugurated on October 1 and 2, 2024, respectively. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Senegalese Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, the Senegalese Rural Electrification Agency (ASER) represented by Energie Rurale Africaine (ERA), ECREEE, NGO SEM Fund Senegal, and the beneficiaries communities.

Productive use of solar applications in income-generating activities of rural micro-enterprises in the Kedougou region, South-East Senegal

ECREEE and its local partner, NGO SEM Fund Senegal, installed facilities in ten communities—Andiel, Bandafassi, Bantata, Bembou, Damboucoye, Diakhaba, Diakha Madina, Faraba 1, Faraba 2, and Ibel—to enhance agricultural productivity and improve farmers' livelihoods. With these solar installations, farmers can now irrigate their crops more efficiently and sustainably, bolstering their resilience to climate change. The facilities in Bembouwasan Damboucoye were inaugurated on October 1 and 2, 2024, respectively. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Senegalese Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, the Senegalese Rural Electrification Agency (ASER) represented by Energie Rurale Africaine (ERA), ECREEE, NGO SEM Fund Senegal, and the beneficiaries communities.

1.3.1.2 ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Project

> *Between 2022 and 2023, ECREEE, in collaboration with WASCAL, developed the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework, along with the Green Hydrogen Regional Strategy and Action Plans for 2023-2030 and 2031-2050*

Green hydrogen is recognized as an energy source capable of decarbonizing the industrial, transportation, agricultural, and power sectors. Between 2022 and 2023, ECREEE, in collaboration with the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), developed the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and Strategy Framework, along with the Green Hydrogen Regional Strategy and Action Plans for 2023-2030 and 2031-2050, to position the ECOWAS region as one of the most competitive producers and suppliers of green hydrogen and its derivatives.

On April 24 and 25, 2024, Energy Directors from ECOWAS Member States participated in a regional training in Praia, Cabo Verde, to i) strengthen their knowledge of green hydrogen and ammonia technologies across the value chain, ii) improve their understanding of industry challenges and opportunities, and iii) raise their awareness of the green hydrogen initiatives of the Member States and the existing gaps.

Following this, ECREEE organized a Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Green Hydrogen for private sector stakeholders on September 19 and 20, 2024, in Lagos, Nigeria. Participants gained a deeper understanding of green hydrogen and green ammonia production, related technologies, industry challenges and opportunities, economics, and risks affecting the ECOWAS private sector involved in hydrogen demand sectors. Represented private sector organizations and entities include the following:

- ECOWAS Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
- Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
- Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
- Private sector actors in the ECOWAS region working in oil and gas, fertilizers, cement, and steel in Nigeria and the ECOWAS region and
- Green Hydrogen production companies in the ECOWAS region.


ECREEE
WASCAL
PROMOTING
GREEN HYDROGEN
TECHNOLOGIES
IN WEST AFRICA
CERTIFICATE

1.3.1.3. Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program-Phase 1

The African Development Bank's Desert-to-Power (DtP) Initiative aims to harness the abundant solar energy in the Sahel to generate an additional 10 GW of capacity, providing clean electricity to 250 million people. Phase 1 of the initiative is the West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP). ECREEE is implementing two key activities: (i) feasibility studies to identify 120 sites suitable for clean mini-grids in Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Niger, and (ii) the development of modules for a regional training program for trainers in mini-grid design, installation, and inspection. These are expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2025.

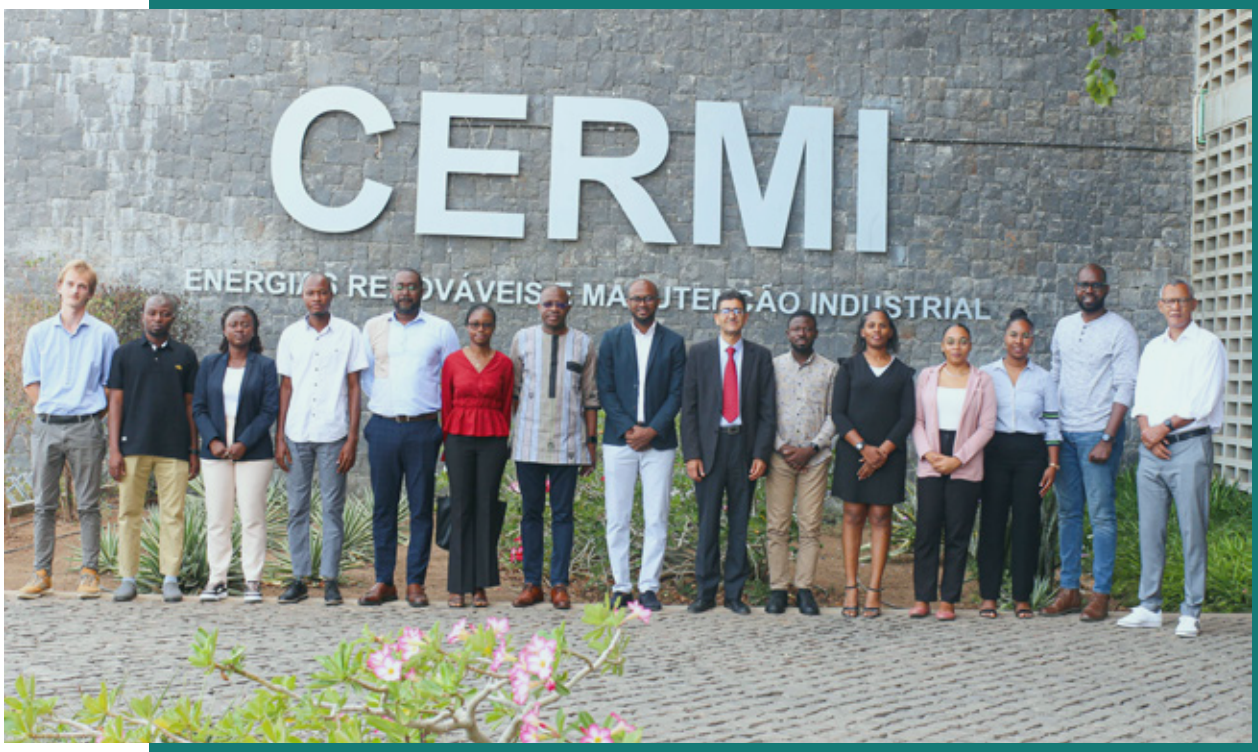
1.3.1.4. Solar Thermal Capacity Building and Demonstration Program

Across West Africa, there is a significant demand for water heating for various purposes. Heated water is primarily used by social institutions such as hospitals, clinics, orphanages, schools, laundries, hotels, and buildings in middle- and upper-income residential areas. Another central area of demand for heating is industry, particularly in the food and beverage sector, where heated water is applied. Solar thermal systems can provide low-temperature heat in food processing industries. Additionally, solar thermal energy applications are needed in agriculture, with examples including the drying of fruits, tea, coffee, herbs, fish, and meat. Despite these opportunities, West Africa lacks awareness, technical expertise, and the necessary policy direction to develop and promote solar thermal solutions.

ECREEE's Solar Thermal Energy Training and Demonstration Program aims to facilitate the shift from a fossil fuel-based energy supply system to a sustainable energy supply system through solar thermal energy.

ECREEE partnered with the International Network of Solar Technology and Application Resource Centres (STAR-C) and the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) to conduct online training on the "harmonization and development of solar thermal curricula and training frameworks for the ECOWAS region" for relevant educational centers, vocational training institutions, and universities. Following this, an in-person training workshop was held for 15 professionals in the field of solar thermal energy from West Africa in Praia, Cabo Verde, on June 5 and 6, 2024, to gather essential information needed to facilitate the certification process for technicians in the solar thermal market.

> *ECREEE partnered STAR-C and ARE to conduct online training on the "harmonization and development of solar thermal curricula and training frameworks for the ECOWAS region"*


CERMI

1.3.1.5. Regional Pilot Project on Circular Economy - Transition to a Clean Energy Circular Economy through the Optimization of Energy-Intensive Value-Chains in the High-Impact Sectors"

> *The project aims to enhance livelihoods by improving economic sources in rural communities through energy efficiency*

During the first quarter, national stakeholders in Benin, Nigeria, and Senegal discussed country-specific value chains, comparative advantages, and data collection methods as part of the Circular Economy project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Interventions will be carried out in communities to build resilience and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change in the beneficiary Member States. The project aims to enhance livelihoods by improving economic sources in rural communities through energy efficiency in energy-intensive agribusiness sectors and by adopting technological innovations within the value chains of a circular economy, where women and youth are well-represented for job creation.

1.3.1.6. Water and Energy for Increased Food Security and Socio-Economic Development - Promoting Clean Cooking Solutions and Solar Technologies

> *80% of the project beneficiaries will be women and youth in local communities*

As in the case of the Circular Economy project, national stakeholders in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and The Gambia, under the second AECID-funded project on Clean Cooking, discussed the country-specific value chains and the data collection methodology during the second quarter.

Initiated in February 2023, the project seeks to encourage the adoption of solar photovoltaic technologies to generate clean energy for the agricultural sector and to promote clean cooking solutions in schools and health facilities, as well as efficient fish smoking, for comprehensive community development within the ECOWAS Member States. It will empower people's participation in the socio-economic development of local communities by fostering productive activities supported by sustainable energy solutions. Eighty percent (80%) of the project beneficiaries will be women and youth in local communities.

1.3.1.7. Commissioning of Solar Photovoltaic Metal Workshops in Guinea Bissau

Through its Rural Electrification and Mini-Grids Program, ECREEE aims to enhance rural energy access by encouraging the deployment of off-grid solutions. This will help achieve the rural renewable energy targets of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP), set at 25% by 2030.

With funding from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), metal workshops have been set up in six villages in Guinea-Bissau to help small and medium enterprises access clean and reliable electricity. The total capacity of the six facilities is 120 kWp.

1.3.2 Energy Efficiency Program

1.3.2.1 Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) Intervention Strategy for ECOWAS

ECREEE is involved in a project supported by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) called the "Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA)" project. Funded by the Government of Sweden and backed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the project aims to establish market and institutional conditions that transform the market environment and encourage the widespread adoption of efficient lighting products and appliances across all sectors. While the project initially focused on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC), ECREEE aimed to become and successfully became an implementing partner.

A regional workshop occurred before ESEF 2024 as part of the stakeholders' consultation process. National Focal Institutions of Member States evaluated and approved the Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) intervention strategy for ECOWAS.

1.3.2.2 Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling

The Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling sub-program of ECREEE aims to assist Member States in generating energy savings by implementing measures that tackle inefficiencies in the use of electrical appliances. As part of efforts to set up an energy-efficiency testing laboratory for clean cooking, energy-efficient lighting, and appliances for The Gambia Standards Bureau, testing equipment has been acquired, and stakeholders have received training on its use. The laboratory is scheduled to be commissioned on May 31, 2024.

1.3.3 Cross-Cutting Program

1.3.3.1 Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills

> *65 professionals participated in Level 1 examinations in Cabo and Sierra Leone. Successful candidates have received regional certificates*

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) has created a Regional Certification System (RCS) for skills in sustainable energy, with support from partners such as GIZ through the ProCEM II project. The RCS is designed to enhance professional competency and tackle quality assurance gaps in the renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) sectors. Currently focused on technicians working with off-grid solar PV systems ("Level 1"), the certification process evaluates candidates' competencies through examinations. Successful candidates are awarded certificates and professional ID cards from the Regional Certification Body (RCB), and there are plans to extend the scheme to include other renewable energy and energy efficiency professionals in the future.

From July 29 to August 2, 2024, in Dakar, Senegal, major stakeholders of the ECOWAS Certification in Sustainable Energy Skills program reviewed the processes leading to the establishment of the ECOWAS Certification Body for Sustainable Energy Skills (ECBSES) and recommended strategies to ensure its sustainability. Three key engagements took place during that week: (i) the inaugural meeting of National Focal Points for the certification program, (ii) the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee, and (iii) the third meeting of the tripartite consultation committee for the ECOWAS sustainable energy certification system. This activity was conducted in collaboration with GIZ as part of the Annual Workshop on Regional Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills.

Furthermore, from September 30 to October 3, 2024, a consultant trained selected ECREEE staff to configure, operate, and manage courses related to the RCS online platform.

Additionally, 65 professionals participated in Level 1 examinations in Cabo and Sierra Leone. Successful candidates have received regional certificates. Examinations for approximately 50 technicians in Senegal and Benin have been postponed until 2025.


Capacity Building

1.3.3.2 Capacity Building Assistance in the Energy Sector under the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) Program

The African Legal Support Facility of the African Development Bank is assisting ECOWAS in implementing capacity-building initiatives for Member States and the energy institutions of the ECOWAS Commission, specifically the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the West African Power Pool (WAPP), and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA). This support helps advance the objectives of the West African Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) Program. The primary aim of WACEC is to harness renewable energy potential to satisfy the region's electricity demands while facilitating the transition to a climate-friendly electricity market. Specific renewable energy targets include 10 GW from solar photovoltaic systems, 2 GW from small hydro, and 1 GW from wind energy.

From October 28 to November 1, 2024, over a dozen energy sector professionals from the ECOWAS Member States were trained as trainers on the legal and regulatory aspects of PV grid-connected projects, including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The workshop took place in Praia, Cabo Verde.

1.3.3.3 Promoting a Climate-friendly Energy Market (ProCEM II) Project

ECREEE, in partnership with the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) and the West African Power Pool (WAPP), along with support from GIZ, brought together regional stakeholders to validate key documents for the West African Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC).

These documents include:

i) Country Models of Power Purchase and Concession Agreements,
ii) a draft Regional Directive promoting solar PV power projects, and
iii) a Draft Catalogue of guarantees and insurances provided by states, financial institutions, and project promoters.

Stakeholders included representatives from the ECOWAS Commission, energy ministries, and national regulators. This event occurred in Banjul, The Gambia, from June 12 to 14, 2024.

Additional ProCEM II achievements include the following:

- Stakeholders in the region validated regional technical and regulatory documents concerning BESS. The documents include a) the Least Cost Investment Plan for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), b) a Regulatory and Institutional Framework, and c) an Environmental and Social Framework.
- Enhanced leadership skills of female staff at ERERA, ECREEE, and WAPP.
- Validation of key documents for the ECOWAS Regional Certification Program included: (i) a strategy for implementing and operationalizing certification for Level 3 - Solar PV connected to the grid; (ii) an indicative training and examination agenda for 2025; (iii) an updated online certification platform; (iv) a multi-year Regional Certification Program Implementation Plan; and (v) the establishment of the Board of Consultative Committee.
- In Mali, the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Water (MMEE) is receiving support to implement self-consumption through a solar photovoltaic program. The activities include creating a Single Window, improving the regulatory framework, and boosting stakeholder capacities.
- In Togo, the Regulatory Authority of the Electricity Sector (ARSE) is receiving assistance to develop tariff models for renewable solar energy.
- In Benin, the Electricity Regulatory Authority is being assisted to establish access conditions for self-producers. In July, the Beninese Party submitted Terms of Reference (TOR) for Grid Code revision instead of the initially requested self-consumption guidelines.
- In Cabo Verde, the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Energy (MICE) is benefiting from a study that assesses the impact of electric vehicle (EV) charging on the grid.

1.3.3.4 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in Energy Access

The need for a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan for ECREEE is a priority action highlighted in its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Through ProCEM II, GIZ has supported ECREEE not only in developing a gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan for the strategy period but also funded training for ECREEE staff on using Gender Transformative Change tools to plan approaches for addressing gender inequity, inequality, and imbalance in sustainable energy projects. ECREEE collaborated with the ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development (CDCG) to ensure that the actions taken are aligned with the Community's gender frameworks and plans.

Additionally, after receiving funding of CAD 1.5 million from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, ECREEE is implementing a project titled "Women and Clean Energy in West Africa (WOCEWA)." WOCEWA aligns with the goals of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, which seeks to remove barriers to equal participation of women and men in expanding energy access in West Africa. As part of this project, a scholarship initiative known as the "WOCEWA Scholarship and Green Jobs Program" has been launched, targeting young women pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at tertiary institutions. This initiative will sponsor six young women from West Africa to complete their master's programs. These young women will also receive sponsorship to work as interns in the ECOWAS energy sector for six months, enhancing their employment prospects.

ECREEE aims to address women's low participation in the energy sector by combining scholarships with an automatic internship placement in ECOWAS energy institutions and agencies.

ECREEE has facilitated the validation of the National Gender Action Plan for Cote d'Ivoire by stakeholders there on October 17, 2024. Similarly, regional stakeholders validated the Gender Evaluation Framework in the Energy sector during ESEF 2024.

1.3.4 Special Regional Initiatives

1.3.4.1 ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF)

> *ESEF is a critical platform for fostering investments in renewable energy, promoting stakeholder collaboration, and enhancing policy frameworks*

Since 2016, the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) has been dedicated to advancing sustainable energy investments and policies within the region. ESEF represents a pivotal initiative under ECREEE's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and aligns with the ECOWAS Vision 2050. The 9th edition of ESEF, themed "Towards a Just Energy Transition in the ECOWAS Region," is scheduled to take place from November 28-29, 2024, as part of the 1st International Exhibition of Extractive and Energy Resources (SIREXE) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

ESEF is a critical platform for fostering investments in renewable energy, promoting stakeholder collaboration, and enhancing policy frameworks. This forum has established itself as a significant annual gathering for over 500 energy sector participants, including ministers, representatives of financial institutions, and civil society organizations, all working to achieve sustainable energy objectives in West Africa. Key areas of focus include the promotion of investment opportunities, the strengthening of partnerships for the deployment of clean energy solutions, and the exploration of themes such as energy efficiency and gender considerations in energy access.

> *This forum has established itself as a significant annual gathering for over 500 energy sector participants, including ministers, representatives of financial institutions, and civil society organizations, all working to achieve sustainable energy objectives in West Africa.*


2024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1.3.4.2 ECOWREX: Energy Efficiency Data Collection and Reporting

ECREEE conducted a regional workshop for National Focal Points responsible for the collection of renewable energy and energy efficiency data from the ECOWAS Member States between June 24 and 28, 2024, in Cotonou, Benin, to present the various energy efficiency initiatives that the Centre has undertaken with partnership agencies such as the Africa Energy Commission and the Member States. In addition, the participants deliberated on the data development and validation process for preparing the 2023 Annual Report on progress towards attaining targets as per the renewable energy and energy efficiency policies.

1.3.4.3 Regional Progress Report on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Access In ECOWAS Region, 2021

The regional progress report is developed to provide a quantified overview of the efforts made by the governments of ECOWAS countries in establishing policies that support renewable energy and energy efficiency and the construction of sustainable energy infrastructures. It also reports on the results obtained through the actions of other actors and technical and financial partners. This report is shared with all stakeholders: the public sector, the private sector, industry, civil society, academic and scientific, and non-governmental organizations.

The report furnishes relevant information on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the energy access sector. Despite the challenge of inadequate data, the initiative to assess ourselves as a region is crucial to the 2030 agenda. With increased efforts to improve data availability, future editions of this report are expected to be even more informative and provide a more comprehensive and accurate depiction of where the region stands on its path toward attaining sustainable energy for all.

The regional progress report is developed to provide a quantified overview of the efforts made by the governments of ECOWAS countries in establishing policies that support renewable energy and energy efficiency and the construction of sustainable energy infrastructures.

1.3.5 Participation in Sector Events

1.3.5.1 The 29th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

> *The objective of the Centre's presence at the forum was to demonstrate how it contributes to addressing climate change. It was also an opportunity to share information about the Centre's funding needs*

ECREEE participated in the 29th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The objective of the Centre's presence at the forum was to demonstrate how it contributes to addressing climate change. It was also an opportunity to share information about the Centre's funding needs to support the ECOWAS Member States better. Furthermore, new funding opportunities for the Centre's projects in climate change adaptation were sought.

A key recommendation and opportunity for fund mobilization moving forward would be for ECREEE to position itself as innovative in climate change adaptation in the energy sector.

1.3.5.2 First Global Clean Cooking Summit in Africa

The world is falling short of its commitment to providing affordable, dependable, sustainable, and modern energy. One sector of concern that is lagging on progress is access to clean cooking technologies, with four in five African people still cooking their meals over open three-stone fire traditional cooking methods using polluting solid biomass fuels (firewood and charcoal). The International Energy Agency (IEA) has been monitoring this issue for over two decades, providing data and analysis, including being one of the custodian agencies of Sustainable Development Goal 7. The lack of access to clean cooking has dire consequences for health, the climate, and gender equality, contributing to approximately 600,000 premature deaths of women and children annually in Africa alone, according to IEA. The IEA estimated that the cost of achieving clean cooking access in Africa by 2030 would amount to USD 4 billion in annual capital investments.

The First Global Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in

Paris, France. This brought together over 1000 delegates, including 55 government delegations, and convened four heads of government in Paris, with 23 ministers in attendance. The Summit aimed at achieving objectives, namely:

- Elevate Clean Cooking on the Global Agenda and mobilize a broader coalition of support for this critical issue.
- Mobilise Financial Commitments for clean cooking from governments, development agencies, development banks, climate funds, the private sector, philanthropies, and non-governmental organizations.
- Develop a Roadmap of Concrete, Action-Oriented Strategies around financing, carbon markets, policies, and partnerships to help better mobilize additional support to scale successful clean cooking efforts.

The financial pledges to finance and advance clean cooking in Africa amount to an overall aggregate of US$2.2 billion, with defined supporting targets and goals.

1.3.5.3 Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF) 2024

> *The 2024 edition saw significant announcements from governments, renewable energy investors, and developers and acted as a catalyst to increase investments in advancing renewable electrification across Africa and Nigeria.*

The Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) held the 2024 edition of its Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF) from 21 to 23 May 2024 in Lagos, Nigeria.

The Energy Access Investment Forum 2024 (EAIF) is a significant annual event for the renewable electrification sector. It fosters business and investor partnerships to achieve sustainable electricity access, decarbonization, economic growth, and climate change mitigation.

The 2024 edition saw significant announcements from governments, renewable energy investors, and developers and acted as a catalyst to increase investments in advancing renewable electrification across Africa and Nigeria. EAIF 2024 attracted more than 650 in-person participants and more than 2,200 total registrations, setting a record in participation for the EAIF series. Delegates included private and public financiers, government officials, and private sector companies. The EU announced new commitments of EUR 4 million for the upcoming GET.invest country window for renewable energy investment pipeline development.

1.3.5.4 Fifth International Fair of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

> *ECREEE's Executive Director, Mr. Francis Sempore, presented the organization's regional projects to ministers and high-level participants, focusing on Cabo Verde*

ECREEE participated in the fifth International Fair of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (FIEREE) held from June 6 – 8, 2024, at the International Fair of Commerce (FIC) premises in Praia, Cabo Verde. With an exhibition stand dedicated to raising awareness about the Centre´s initiatives, ECREEE aimed to highlight its commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

Cabo Verde's Minister of Energy, Engº Alexandre Monteiro, emphasized the country's dedication to energy transition as a top priority. Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Olavo Correia, underscored the importance of such initiatives in highlighting ongoing efforts and future possibilities to accelerate energy access, with the ambitious goal of achieving 100% energy access by 2026. ECREEE's Executive Director, Mr. Francis Sempore, presented the organization's regional projects to ministers and high-level participants, focusing on Cabo Verde. The 3-day fair featured a thematic Forum on Energy Transition, matchmaking, and side events to foster collaboration and innovation in the energy sector.

> *Cabo Verde's Minister of Energy, Engº Alexandre Monteiro, emphasized the country's dedication to energy transition as a top priority. Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Olavo Correia, underscored the importance of such initiatives in highlighting ongoing efforts and future possibilities to accelerate energy access,with the ambitious goal of achieving 100% energy access by 2026.*

ECREEE participation in the Fifth International Fair of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Cabo Verde

ECREEE participation in the Fifth International Fair of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Cabo Verde

1.3.5.5 ECOWAS Energy Ministers Meeting to Adopt Facility and Guidelines on Promoting Sustainable Energy

> *The ECOWAS energy ministers commended the establishment of EREEEF, which aims to create a new mixed financing mechanism with an initial amount of 75 million dollars.*

The ECOWAS Energy Ministers' meeting held on Friday, November 1, 2024, in Abuja, Nigeria, reviewed and adopted the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Facility (EREEEF) and the ECOWAS Guidelines on the Promotion of Grid-Connected Solar Photovoltaic Projects. This follows the recommendations of the ECOWAS Energy Experts Meeting, held on October 30 and 31, 2024, in Abuja, Nigeria.

The ECOWAS energy ministers commended the establishment of EREEEF, which aims to create a new mixed financing mechanism with an initial amount of 75 million dollars. EREEEF addresses the urgent need for additional investment in renewable energy and the environment in West Africa. It will provide grants, loans, and guarantees through regular demand-driven competitive calls for proposals providing clean energy solutions for the ECOWAS region.

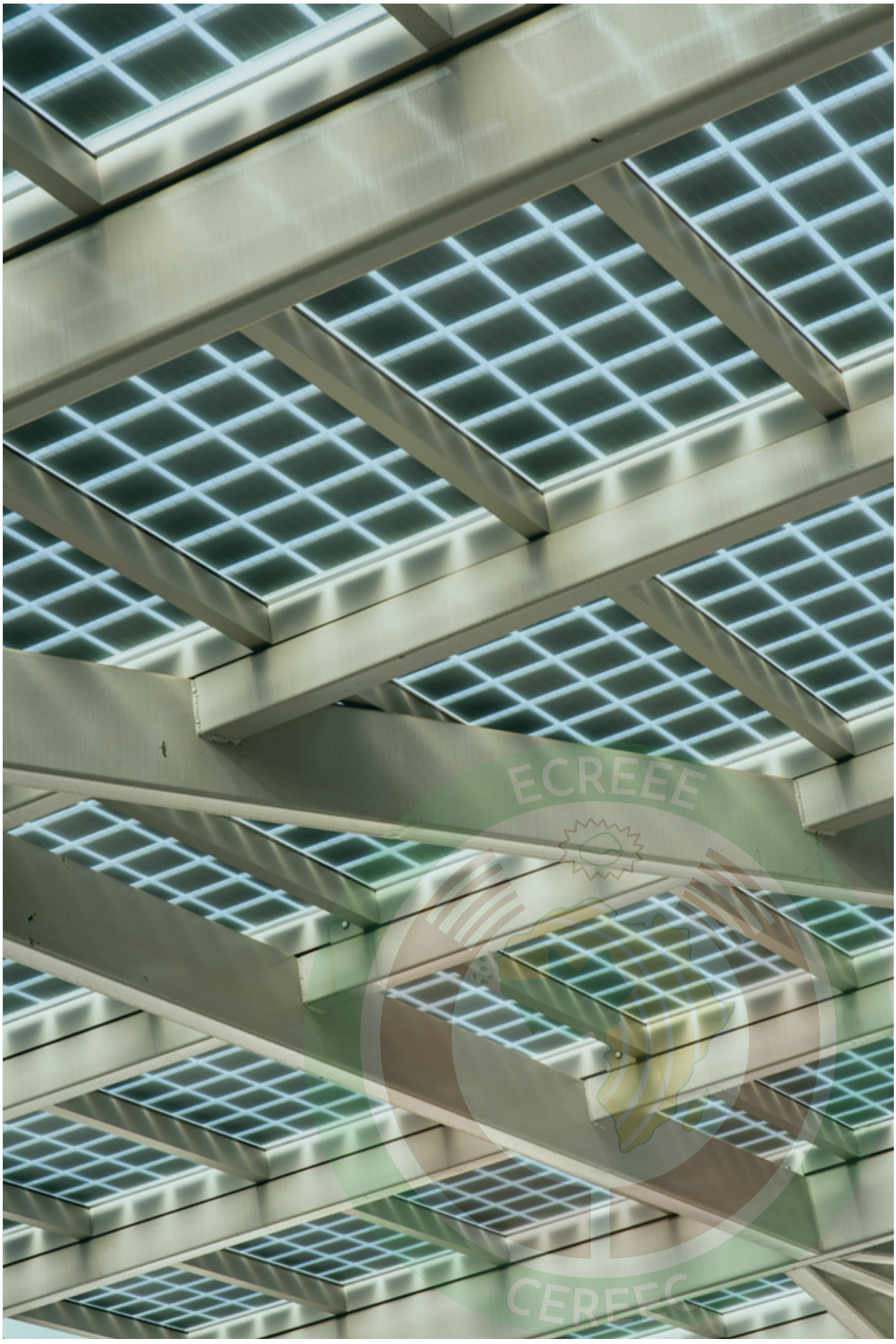
The Facility is implemented by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in collaboration with the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and with technical assistance from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

The ECOWAS energy ministers also welcomed the development of an ECOWAS guideline on the promotion of grid-connected solar photovoltaic projects, model Electricity Purchase Agreements (PPAs), Concession Agreements (CAs) for solar photovoltaic projects including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), aimed at strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework to increase investment in the region's renewable energy sector. The guidelines will contribute to achieving the objectives of the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor (WACEC) initiative, adopted by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government in June 2017, which aims to support the development of large-scale renewable energy projects. The WACEC initiative, funded by GIZ-ProCEM and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), was launched by ECREEE in collaboration with the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA).

These regional initiatives, which aim to contribute to the ECOWAS region's sustainable energy objectives, were recommended to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers for adoption.

ECOWAS Energy Ministers Meeting to Adopt Facility and Guidelines on Promoting Sustainable Energy

EREEEF addresses the urgent need for additional investment in renewable energy and the environment in West Africa. It will provide grants, loans, and guarantees through regular demand-driven competitive calls for proposals providing clean energy solutions for the ECOWAS region. The Facility is implemented by ECREEE in collaboration with EBID and with technical assistance from GGGI.



1.3.6 Strengthening of Partnerships

1.3.6.1 AECID General Coordinator to ECOWAS and Nigeria Visits ECREEE

Mr. Santiago Ormeño, the General Coordinator of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) for ECOWAS and Nigeria, was on a mission to the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) to strengthen the existing collaboration. The introductory meeting of this mission took place on May 22, 2024, in the presence of Mr. Francis SEMPORE, Executive Director of ECREEE, and his entire staff, with respective presentations of the actions conducted by ECREEE and AECID in the areas of intervention of Spanish cooperation with the ECOWAS Commission. ECREEE is currently running two (2) significant projects supported by Spanish Cooperation in Clean Cooking and Circular Economy in seven (7) ECOWAS member states. The mission continued with working sessions on the state of implementation of ongoing projects and the preparation of new ones.

> *ECREEE is currently running 2 significant projects supported by Spanish Cooperation in Clean Cooking and Circular Economy in 7 ECOWAS member states*

1.3.6.2 Strengthening Partnerships among ECOWAS Specialized Agencies

Between September 24 and 26, 2024, ECREEE held a high-level workshop at its headquarters in Praia, Cabo Verde, bringing together key ECOWAS specialized agencies. The event aimed to foster partnerships that address the region's pressing challenges in energy, water, agriculture, and gender mainstreaming.

Representatives from the ECOWAS Gender Development Center (EGDC), the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (ARAF), the Project Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), and the Water Resources Management Centre (WRMC) participated in this landmark initiative. Key speakers included Mrs. Monka Sandra Oulaté Fattah (Director EGDC), Mr. Alexis Kouassi (Director WRMC), Mr. Kebba Fye (Ag. Director PPDU), and Mr. Kanfitin Konlani (Representative of the Executive Director of ARAA). The discussions centered on enhancing collaboration to address the Energy-Water-Food Nexus, gender integration in energy projects, and building stronger ties for regional development.

Mr. Jean Francis Sempore, Executive Director of ECREEE, emphasized the importance of inter-agency collaboration, stating, "Despite progress in the ECOWAS region, challenges such as access to sustainable energy and water resources remain. This workshop provides a critical platform for building synergy to enhance regional initiatives' impact."

Mrs. Monka Sandra Oulaté Fattoh commended ECREEE's efforts to develop a gender roadmap and expressed her commitment to collaborating with other agencies for more effective joint actions. Mr. Alexis Kouassi highlighted the crucial role of infrastructure development in water resource management, while Mr. Kebba Fye underscored the PPDU's interest in strengthening partnerships to catalyze positive change. Mr. Kanfitin Konlani echoed these sentiments, calling for more precise roadmaps to maximize the potential of joint efforts.

The workshop concluded with presentations and in-depth discussions on integrating sustainable energy, human development, and disaster risk reduction into future regional strategies while fostering inter-agency constructive collaboration on ECOWAS' strategic objectives. Participants emphasized the need for continuous collaboration to ensure that ECOWAS' specialized agencies work effectively towards common goals, empowering communities and improving livelihoods across West Africa.

The event aimed to foster partnerships that address the region's pressing challenges in energy, water, agriculture, and gender mainstreaming. Representatives from EGDC, ARAF, PPDU, and WRMC participated in this landmark initiative.

1.3.6.3 Interaction with Stakeholders in Cabo Verde as part of ECREEE's 14th Anniversary

ECREEE organized a meeting with sustainable energy stakeholders in Cabo Verde as part of the process of strengthening partnerships. This activity is part of commemorating the 14th year of ECREEE´s establishment. Mr. Rito Évora, Cabo Verde's National Director of Industry, Commerce, and Energy, congratulated ECREEE on the progress and reaffirmed Cabo Verde's commitment to supporting the Center's initiatives. Other partners represented were Cabo Verde's ECOWAS National Office and the United Nations Development Program in Cabo Verde.

> *Mr. Rito Évora, Cabo Verde's National Director of Industry, Commerce, and Energy, congratulated ECREEE on the progress and reaffirmed Cabo Verde's commitment to supporting the Center's initiatives.*

1.3.6.4 Current Partner-funded Interventions, 2024

Table 8 includes the projects ECREEE implemented with external funding at the end of 2024.

Partner	Project	Goal
African Development Bank (AfDB)	a) Desert-to-Power West African Regional Energy Program (DtP WAREP)-Phase 1 b) Desert-to-Power Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel (DtP ReTAPS)	Accelerated regional-scale development of solar generation, transmission, and decentralized energy projects across the Sahel Region. To provide technical assistance to create an enabling environment for solar power projects in the Sahel while unlocking private sector investments in both the on-grid and mini-grid space
African Legal Support Facility (of AfDB)	Capacity Building selected technical staff of ECREEE, WAPP, ERERA, and ECOWAS Energy Directorate on the technical, financial, legal, and environmental aspects of RE projects	Sustainable and systematic capacity development of key actors for effectively developing the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor Program.
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	Piloting of Circular Economy through the Water-Energy and Food Nexus in West Africa" Phase 1	Scoping Exercise to establish the Baseline and to identify value chains for interventions in the Water-Energy and Food Nexus in West Africa.
European Union (Horizon Europe)	a) Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Urban and Rural Areas in Africa (ENERGICA) b) Open-source NExus modeling tools for Planning Sustainable Energy Transition in Africa (ONEPlanET)	Improved access to modern energy services and energy security through promoting and developing renewable energy resources. A common Nexus modeling framework was developed to simulate and evaluate pathways to defining a more sustainable future in Africa by deploying renewable energy infrastructure. This will stimulate a green energy transition on the continent and decarbonize existing energy plants.

Partner	Project	Goal
 European Union (Horizon Europe)	c) Advancing sustainable AGRIculture through off-grid energy and COOLing solutions in Africa (AGRICOOL)." d) Energy System Modelling for Green Development of Africa (EMERGE) Project	The research project focused on reducing food loss and waste and reducing the use of fossil-fuel-powered generators to improve the quality of life for African communities and industries. Increased production of clean energy and sustainable use of resources while bridging cultural and socioeconomic divides
Spanish Cooperation Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)	a) Transition to a Clean Energy Circular Economy through the Optimization of High Energy Intensity Value Chains in High Impact Sectors. b) Water and Energy Project for the Increase of Food Security and Socio-economic Development c) Technical Assistance to ECREEE	Improved livelihoods for women and young people (below age 36) who actively use energy for productive purposes across the agricultural, commercial, and industrial value chains. Increased income for the base-of-the-pyramid women and men involved in food production in participating Member States' rural and urban areas. AECID-second Technical Adviser to ECREEE
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH German International Development Cooperation (GIZ)	Promoting a Climate-Friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region and Energy Storage (ProCEM-II)	Improved supportive framework conditions for grid-connected renewable energies (REs) and battery energy storage systems (BESS) at regional or national levels. The project's Capacity Development (CD) strategy involves further developing skills and capacities at the three CD levels: individual, organization, and society.

Partner	Project	Goal
German International Development Cooperation (GIZ)	Promoting a Climate-Friendly Electricity Market in the ECOWAS Region and Energy Storage (ProCEM-II)	At the individual level, the technical and managerial skills of political decision-makers, as well as those of experts and managers of the implementation partners, regional training institutions, selected public agencies at the national level, energy utilities, and the private sector, are being strengthened to assist them in carrying out their mandate and/or work. New learning content will be developed and systematically mainstreamed within the existing training system. This includes digital learning platforms, which have proven effective during the coronavirus pandemic. At the organizational development level, the TC module addresses improving service delivery processes, developing new service offers (e.g., business models for BESS), and establishing interdisciplinary communication structures and processes to connect decision-makers and step up experience sharing. At the societal level, the module strengthens the dialogue between public, private-sector, and civil society stakeholders at regional conferences to step up regional and international experience-sharing on topics such as RE and BESS.
German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMFM) via the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)	ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Project	Green hydrogen potential was harnessed, and the ECOWAS region was positioned as one of the most competitive producers and suppliers of green hydrogen and its derivatives while addressing all member states' socio-economic growth and sustainable development.
International Development Research Centre, Canada	Women and Clean Energy in West Africa (WOCEWA)"	Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in West Africa's energy sector, transforming them into vehicles that empower women and address gender barriers through their business operations.

Partner	Project	Goal
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	a) Industrial Energy Efficiency and Resource Efficient Cleaner Production in Nigeria (IEE RECP) b) RE & EE Data Management Services c) Technical assistance to ECREEE in support of ESEF d) Promoting small and medium-scale investment in renewable energies in Guinea Bissau.	Improved industrial energy efficiency and resource-efficient cleaner production in the ECOWAS Member States Support to the ECOWREX with RE & EE Data Management Services.
World Bank	Technical support in quality assurance to the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEAP)	To increase access to electricity for households, businesses, and public institutions using modern and autonomous solar technology through a harmonized regional approach.
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Rural Electrification through Renewable Energy Systems in the Liptako-Gourma Region	To support the efforts of the governments of the Liptako-Gourma region (the contiguous areas of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger) toward providing sustainable energy services to the most vulnerable populations.
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	Technical assistance is needed to establish the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Facility (EREEEF).	Establishment and operationalization of the proposed blended finance mechanism with an initial amount of $75 million in collaboration with the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).

Table 8: Projects Financed by Partners

1.3.6.5 Newly Signed Project Agreements

a) Desert-to-Power Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel

Following the signing of a UA 4.8 million (approximately USD6.3 million) agreement between ECOWAS and the African Development Bank, ECREEE began implementing another DtP project – the Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel (ReTAPS) in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal in May 2024. The project aims to provide technical assistance to create an enabling environment for solar power projects in the Sahel while unlocking private sector investments in both the on-grid and mini-grid space. Specific activities to be completed by December 2028 include the following:

- Support for preparation studies and technical assistance for decentralized solar projects;
- Mainstreaming Independent Power Producer Procurement support and matchmaking events for Senegal;
- Country support for the development of national mini-grid strategies and
- Demand-driven support for implementing key regulatory activities emerging from the national strategies.

b) Promoting Water-Energy-for-Food (WE4F) nexus through Capacity Building in ECOWAS Communities

Under the ECOWAS-GIZ Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development in Fragile Regions (FRSD), ECREEE has been implementing a one-year project called “Promoting Water-Energy-for-Food (WE4F) nexus through Capacity Building in ECOWAS Communities” since September 9, 2024. The project’s goal is to address the abovementioned challenges by contributing to attaining the objectives of FRSD.

Key activities, whose implementation commences in Quarter 4, include the following:

- Vocational training with professional immersion for youth and women,
- Training in solar energy installation and maintenance,
- ECOWAS Certification in Sustainable Energy Skills (ECSES) of 75 beneficiaries

ECREEE engaged stakeholders, conducted a needs assessment, and selected beneficiaries in Benin, Guinea Bissau, and Togo.

1.3.7 Operational Activities

1.3.7.1 Human Resources and Administration

> *ECREEE staff and consultants were sensitized to some procedures to ensure efficient service delivery, decision-making, and team coordination.*
> *ECREEE managed and completed 16 individual and firm consultancy contracts*

Key achievements related to Human Resource Management and Administration include the following:

1. Sensitization of ECREEE staff on administrative and procurement procedures: During the first quarter of the year, ECREEE staff and consultants were sensitized to some procedures to ensure efficient service delivery, decision-making, and team coordination.

2. Procurement: Managed and completed 16 individual and firm consultancy contracts, while five are ongoing. These were delivered in compliance with the ECOWAS procurement code, donor procurement guidelines, and best international practices.

3. Integration of newly recruited ECOWAS staff: The ECOWAS Commission recruited three staff members to fill permanent positions. They were provided with the necessary administrative support. The positions filled were Principal Program Officer - Administration and Finance, Principal Program Officer - Energy Efficiency, and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

4. Individual consultants were hired and contracted: They include (i) a Sustainable Energy Expert, ENERGICA; (ii) a Project Coordinator, WOCEWA; (iii) a Project Assistant, WOCEWA; (iv) Technical Assistant, Circular Economy and Clean Cooking projects, AECID, (v) a Project Accounting Assistant, AECID; (vi) a Renewable Energy Junior Expert, GIZ-ProCEM II and (vii) an Energy Efficiency Junior Expert, GIZ-ProCEM II.

5. Pooling Services support to the Office of the Resident Representative of Cabo Verde: The Directorate of Administration, Finance and ICT of ECREEE provided adequate pooling services support to the Office of the Resident Representative of the ECOWAS Commission's President in Cabo Verde.

Mrs. Ela Gnazale Goore Bi
PO, Administration & Finance

Dr. Mawufemo MODJINOU
PPO, Energy Efficiency

Mr. Collins Osae
Monitoring and Evaluation Expert

The ECOWAS Commission recruited three staff members to fill permanent positions.

1.3.7.2 Financial Management

ECREEE achieved effective financial management and reporting in line with ECOWAS financial regulations, reporting requirements of ECOWAS funding partners, and relevant international standards:

1. Preparation of financial reports: ECREEE completed the preparation of the following reports such as (i) 2023 Financial Statements, (ii) half-year 2024 Management Financial Report, (iii) External Partners' periodic Financial Reports in line with provisions of grants agreements, (iv) financial report on Donors' support to the ECOWAS Commission, and (v) budget and expenditure information on ECREEE programs and projects to the Office of the General, ECOWAS Commission.

2. Update of the Risk Registers: The Finance Risk Register for 2024 was duly updated, and risk-mitigating measures were implemented.

3. Monthly and quarterly budget execution reports: Comparative analyses of budget and expenditure were undertaken, and causative factors were identified.

4. Cooperation with auditors to ensure successful audits: We prepared and provided adequate records to enable the auditors to conduct the following audits:

- Operational Audit of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) covering functional areas such as Finance, Human Resource Management, Procurement, Travels, Missions and Advances,
- First Financial Audit of the Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program (DtP WAREP) – Phase 1,
- Financial Audit of the GIZ ProCEM II project,
- Special audit concerning the EU-funded Sustainable Development through Renewable Energy in the Southeast of Senegal (DPERSE) Project by a team from the ECOWAS Commission.
- Financial Review of Regional Off-Grid Electricity Access Project (ROGEAP)by an ECOWAS External Funds / Grants Division team.

5. Coordination of the preparation and synthesis of the 2025-2027 budgets: A consolidated and validated budget for2025-2027 was submitted to the ECOWAS Commission for arbitration on time.

1.3.7.3 Information and Communication Technology & General Communications

In performing its ICT and General Communications function, the following outputs were achieved:

1. Improved Information Security Audit Opinion: Following an audit conducted in April 2024, ECREEE became the first institution to advance from Limited Assurance to Reasonable Assurance, reflecting noticeable improvements in the management's response to previously identified significant risks and controls within Information System matters.

2. Information Technology strategy and master plan completed and enforced: ECREEE successfully finalized and began implementing its comprehensive Information Technology (IT) Strategy and Master Plan, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and technological advancements.

3. Updated IT Policy and Procedure: The organization revised its IT Policy and Procedure to reflect current best practices and enhance operational efficiency and security.

4. Communication Strategy and Action Plan: ECREEE developed a robust Communication Strategy and Plan to strengthen stakeholder engagement and improve the dissemination of key initiatives.

5. Provision of technical advisory support to consultants tasked to develop an IT platform for the data storage, management, and continuous monitoring of clean mini-grid projects. This task is in Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Niger in the framework for the AfDB-funded Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Program - Phase 1,

6. Production and dissemination of communication materials such as the ECREEE 2023 annual report, regional renewable energy and energy efficiency progress report, and project factsheets. In addition, videos of solar-powered facilities installed through ESIF funding and ESF 2024 have been published on the new website and social media platforms.

7. Launch of the new website: ECREEE unveiled its redesigned website, offering an enhanced user experience and improved access to information and resources.

1.4 FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

A total of UA10,370,672.84 was budgeted, which included UA994,004.30 of the regular Community Levy, UA 500,000.00 of the ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF), and UA 8,876,668.54 of External Funds. By the end of the year, total receipts accounted for only 25% of the overall budget. Due to the varying timing of these receipts, the Centre's total expenditure was 82% (UA 2,111,752.16) of the available funds. Figure 1 illustrates a comparison of the budgets, receipts, and expenditures as per the funding sources.

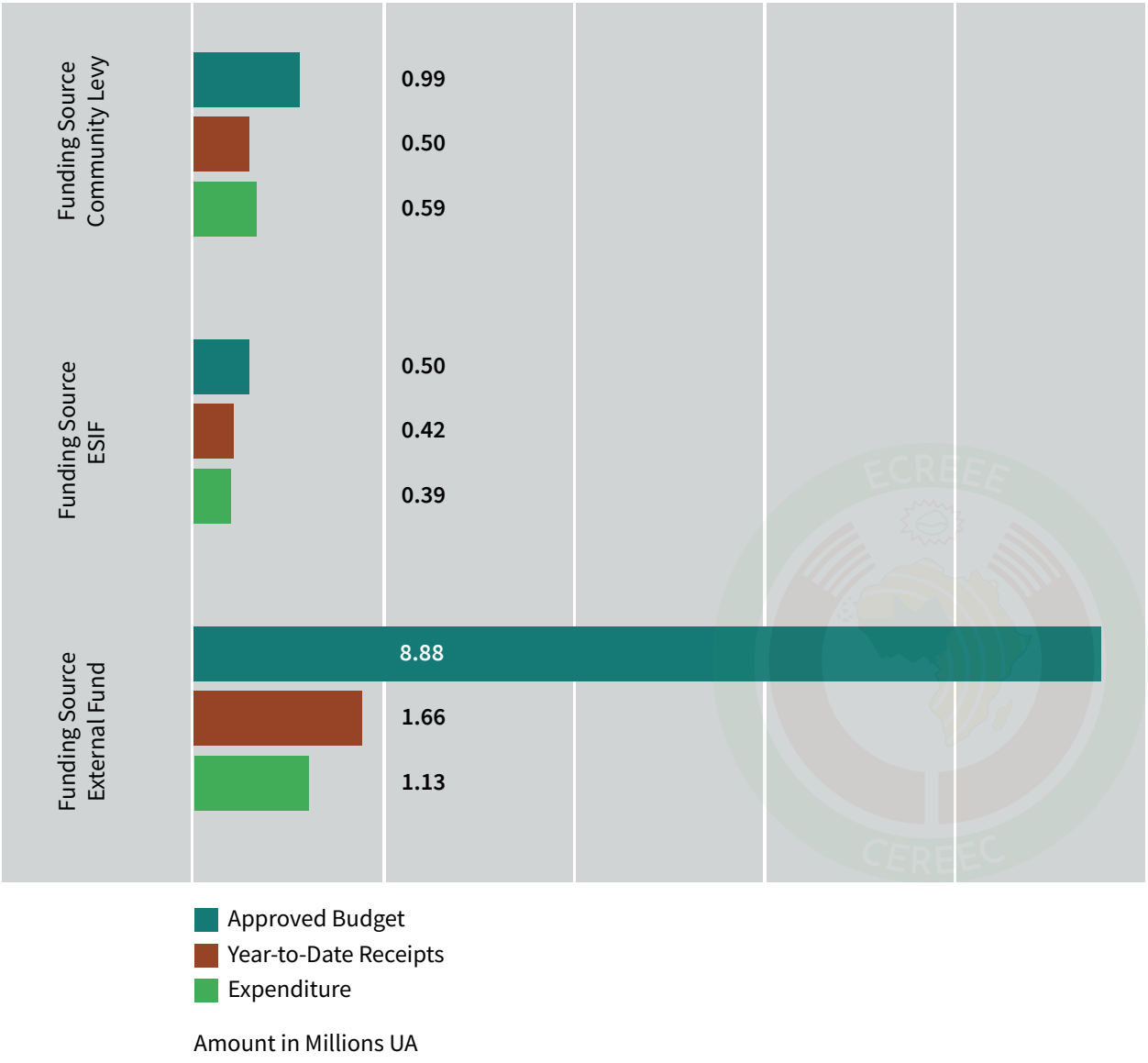


Figure 1: ECREEE Budget, Receipts and Expenditure, January – December 2024

The amount of regular community levy spent (UA594,042.74) was approximately 19 percent more than the amount received (UA 499,234.37). The higher level of implementation over receipts was because of commitments already incurred in anticipation of Community Levy (CL) receipts, which eventually did not happen due to insufficient CL receipts in the Commission. ECREEE received only 33% of the approved CL budget for 2024.

Not all External Funds receipts (UA 1,655,545.71) were exhausted - only 68.26% was consumed -because some funds were earmarked for multi-year (beyond 2024) funding of project activities.

OUTLOOK 2025

2.1 NUMBER AND TYPES OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Ninety-seven (97) activities have been scheduled for 2025, the majority (51%) of which are within the Renewable Energy portfolio. Figure 2 shows the distribution as per the four Thematic areas.

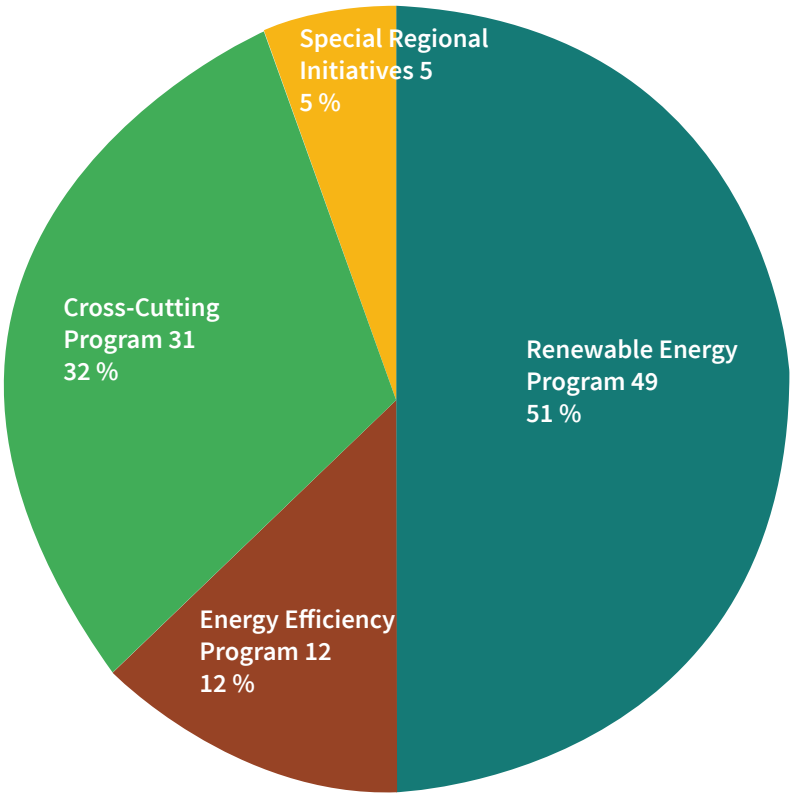


Figure 2: Number and Percentage of Activities by Thematic Area

2.2 NEW PROJECTS PREPARED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2025

This section presents overviews of six projects expected to be implemented in 2025. The list of ECREEE's current partners and the projects they fund is included in the annex of this report.

2.2.1 Integration of Electric Mobility with Renewable Energy in Peri-Urban and Rural Areas Around Cities in Côte d'Ivoire Project

The project is in its pre-implementation and fund mobilization phases. The total project is US$1,607,535.00, of which ECREEE is expected to implement a US$250,000.00 budget component. The process of completing the documentation required from ECREEE by UNIDO to receive the funding for the project is underway. Completing the Terms of Reference (ToR), signing the service contract, and launching the project were done in the last quarter of 2024.

2.2.2 Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa

ECREEE is scheduled to be an implementing partner of a project named "Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa," coordinated by UNIDO. Other partners of the €4,000,000 project are the Southern African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) and the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE). UNIDO has recruited a consultant to assist ECREEE with the initial development of the Market Assessment and Project Intervention Strategy Report, which will identify the needs of ECOWAS countries where the project can be implemented. Stakeholders reviewed the report in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in November 2024, before the 9th edition of the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum.

2.2.3 Regional Program on Clean Cooking in West Africa

ECREEE will sign an agreement as an implementing partner in the Regional Program on Clean Cooking in West Africa (ReCCAWA). The European Union and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency will fund the initiative. A pre-ESEF2024 workshop was held during which stakeholders deliberated on the following:

- Updates from ECOWAS Member States representatives on the status of the clean cooking sector.
- Priority actions concerning upcoming clean cooking interventions.
- Design elements, activities, and approaches to the implementation of ReCCAWA and
- Key elements of a regional clean cooking Community of Practice.

RVO and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) have presented the program's proposed approach and implementation modalities, governance scheme and structure, and next steps.

2.2.4 ECREEE-WAPP-ERERA Project

The financing agreement titled “Support Program for ECOWAS Specialized Organizations Active in the Energy Sector for the Development of the Regional Electricity Market, the Operationalization of Its Interconnected Network, and Increasing the Share of Renewable Energy in the Energy Mix” aims to advance energy initiatives throughout the West African region. The beneficiary institutions include ECOWAS (located in Nigeria), WAPP (located in Benin), ERERA (located in Ghana), and ECREEE (located in Cape Verde), with specific funding of EUR 3,500,000 designated to support ECREEE’s activities.

The program contributes to developing an efficient, sustainable, and resilient African energy sector. Key expected results include increasing the share of renewable energy in primary energy production and supporting electricity market integration while promoting a decarbonized energy sector. To achieve these objectives, the program will enhance the technical capacities of public and private stakeholders, facilitating the development of strategic frameworks and bankable renewable energy projects.

The program will enhance the technical capacities of public and private stakeholders, facilitating the development of strategic frameworks and bankable renewable energy projects.

2.2.5 Second Phase of the Regional Circular Economy Project

The second phase of the AECID-funded Regional Circular Economy Project will involve implementing renewable energy projects to fill in the energy needs of two agriculture/fishery value chains in selected communities in Benin, Guinea, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. Key activities to be carried out are:

- Installation of solar-PV for processing systems in selected communities in the participating countries
- Provision of clean and efficient fish preservation stoves to selected communities.
- Provision of ice-cube-making machines to fishermen in selected communities for transported fresh fish preservation.

2.3 BUDGET

2.3.1 Budget Summary 2025

The total budget approved by ECOWAS for implementation is UA7,592,518.47. Figure 3 depicts the proportions expected from the primary funding sources.

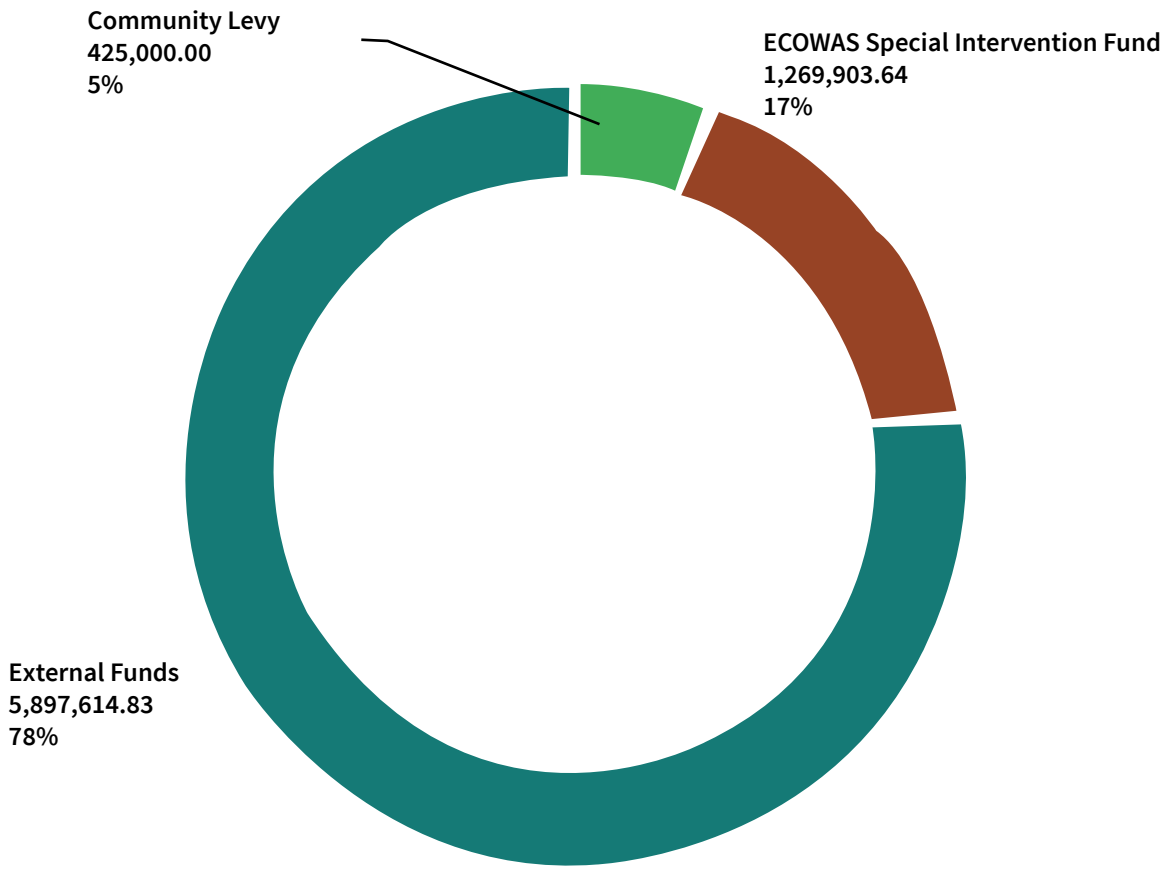


Figure 3: 2025 Budget as per the Primary Funding Sources

The top three thematic areas with the most significant shares of the 2025 budget (55.4 percent) are the Renewable Energy portfolio, followed by Special Regional Initiatives (18.6 percent), and the Cross-cutting thematic areas (12.1 percent). Figure 4 shows the complete comparison of the activities and budgets across all the thematic areas.

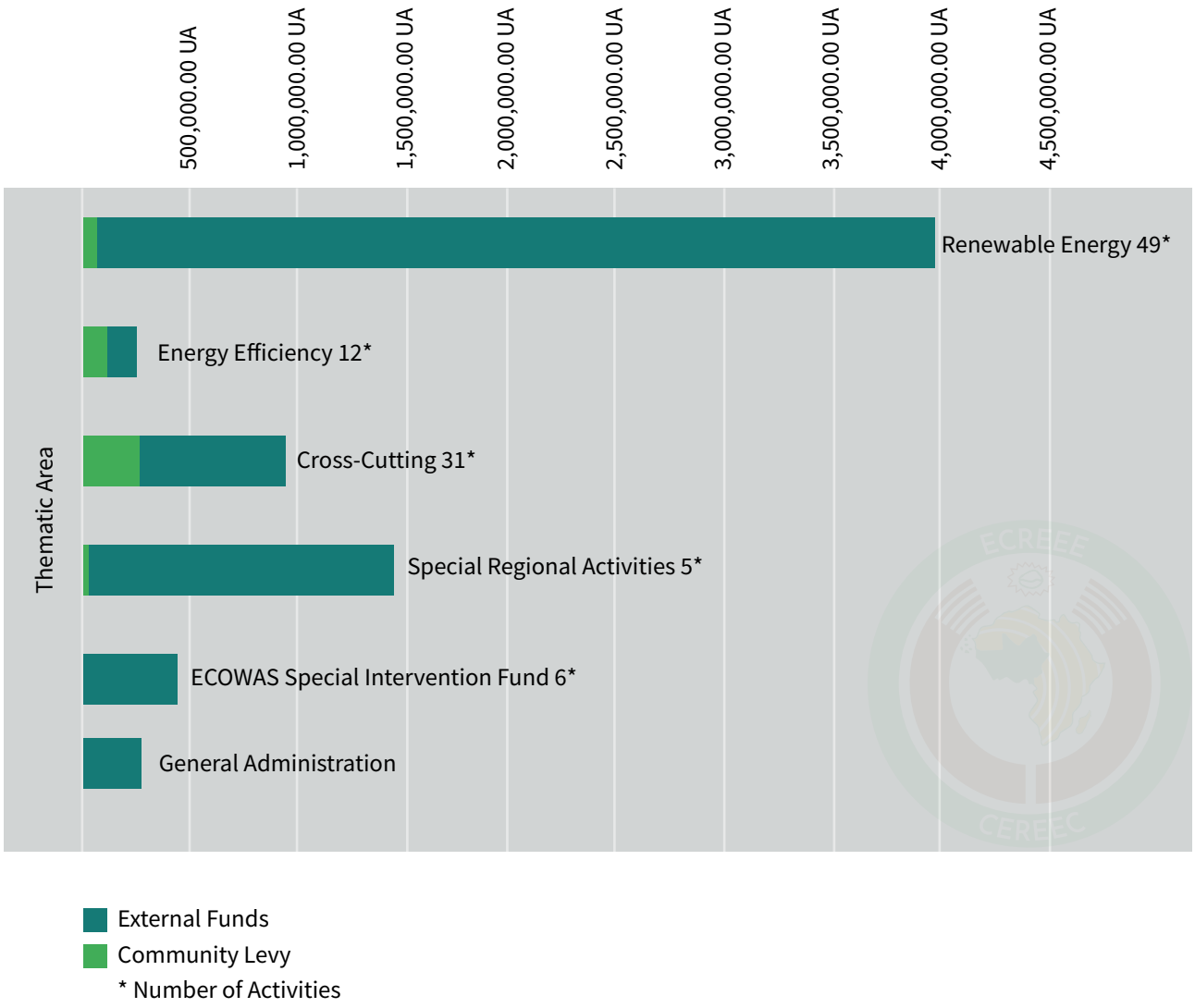


Figure 4: Number of Activities by Thematic Area and Budgets, 2025

When arranged according to types, the distribution of budgets per the activities varies. As was the case in 2024, there are eight types of activities to be implemented in 2025, namely:

i) Infrastructural Project Development;
ii) Project Preparation Studies;
iii) Regional/National-level Strategies, Action Plans, and Regulations;
iv) Capacity Building v) Data and Knowledge Management;
vi) Dialogue and Awareness;
vii) ECREEE Resource Mobilization and
viii) Project Management (Figure 5).

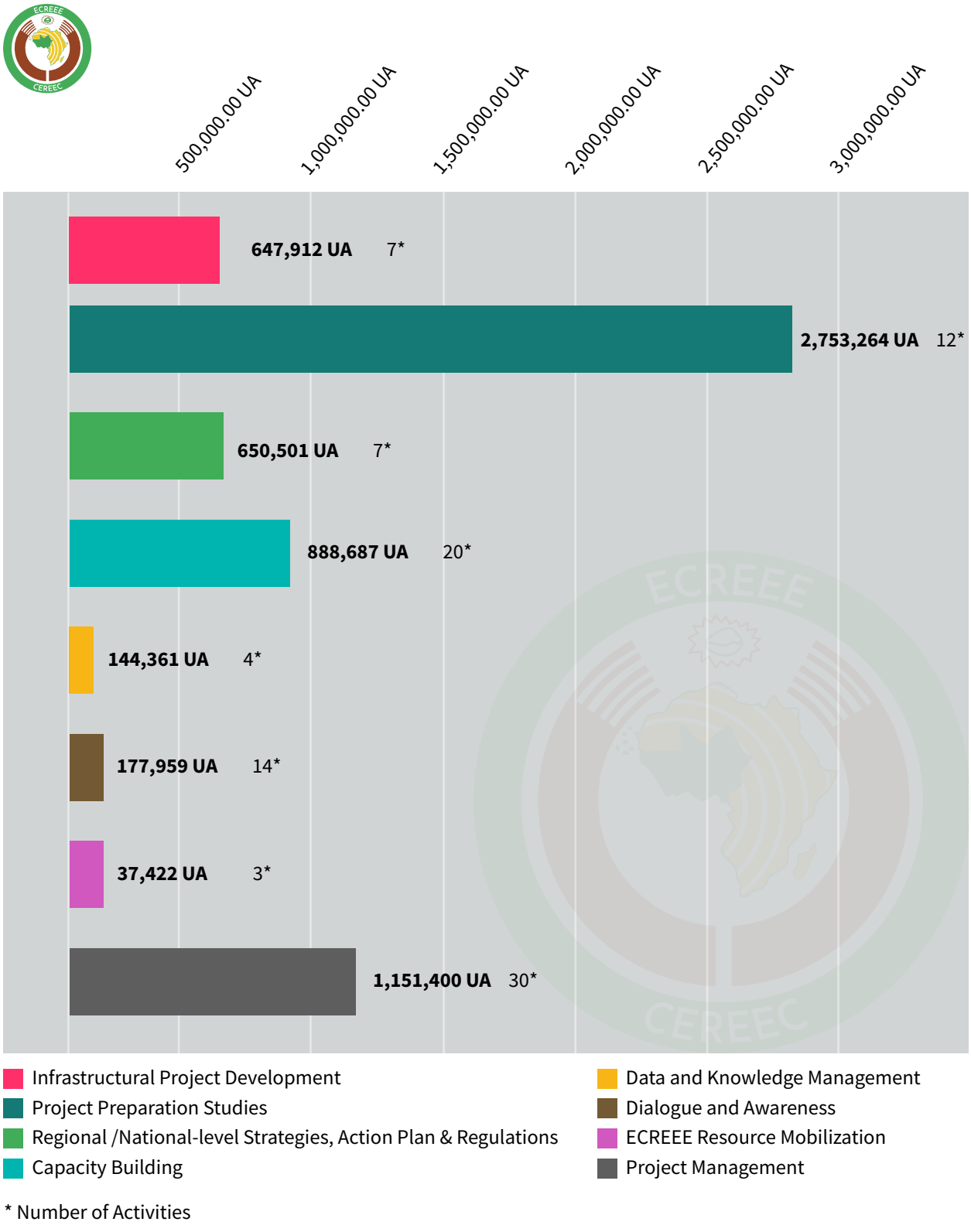


Figure 5: Types of Activities: Comparison of Numbers and Budgets (in UA)

Figure 5 shows that the number of activities in a category does not necessarily correspond to the size of the budget allotted to that category/type. For example, the budget for Project Preparation Studies was the highest (UA2,753,264), although the number of activities was the fifth highest (12).

2.3.2 External Funding Sources

The African Development Bank-funded projects are expected to contribute the largest share (40%) of the resources from funding partners, followed by AECID, EU, IDRC, ADA, GIZ, and UNIDO (Figure 6).

Table 9 illustrates the projects to be funded by partners in 2025 and their respective shares of the total amount expected from the partners.

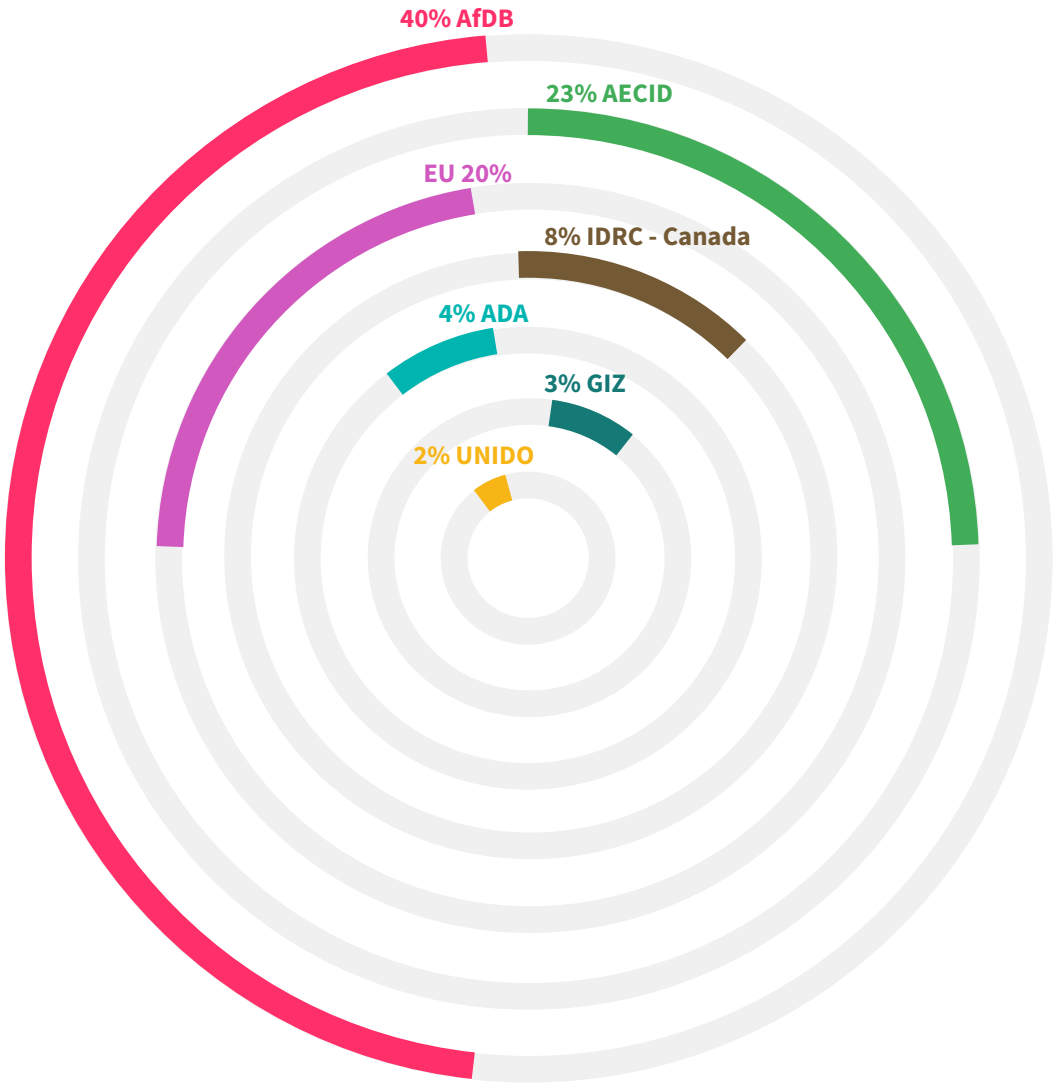


Figure 6: Partners' Shares of Expected External Funds, 2025

Partner	Project	US$	UA	%
ADA	1. Regional Pilot Programme for Circular Economy	315,886.10	238,173.80	4%
AECID	2. Regional Pilot Program for Circular Economy (Phase 1)	412,556.13	311,061.68	5%
	3. Regional Pilot Program for Circular Economy (Phase 2)	411,242.13	310,070.94	5%
	4. Water & Energy for Increased Food Security and Socio-Economic Development	411,283.12	310,101.85	5%
	5. Regional Clean Cooking Action West Africa project*	543,133.76	409,515.43	7%
AfDB	6.Desert-to-Power West Africa Regional Energy Programme (DtP WAREP) - Phase 1	824,702.86	621,814.68	11%
	7. Desert-to-Power Regional Technical Assistance Project for the Sahel (DtP ReTAPS)	2,327,057.38	1,754,569.44	30%
EU	8. Energy Access and Green Transition Collaboratively Demonstrated in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas in Africa (ENERGICA)	158,146.00	119,239.92	2%
	9. Open-source Nexus Modelling Tools for Planning Sustainable Energy Transition in Africa Project (ONEPlanET)	139,628.00	105,277.60	2%
	10. Advancing Sustainable Agriculture Through Off-grid Energy and Cooling Solutions in Africa (AGRICOOL)	54,369.92	40,994.18	1%
	11. Energy System Modelling for Green Development of Africa Project (EMERGE)	131,254.63	98,964.20	2%
	12. ECREEE-ERERA-WAPP RE Project*	1,082,220.01	815,979.09	14%
GIZ	13. Promoting a Climate-friendly Energy Market Project (ProCEM II)	231,411.11	174,480.81	3%
IDRC - Canada	14. Women and Clean Energy of West Africa Project (WOCEWA)	605,641.00	456,645.03	8%
UNIDO	15. Integration of Electric Mobility with Renewable Energy in Peri-urban and Rural Areas Around Cities in Côte d'Ivoire*	100,000.03	75,398.66	1%
	16. GEF Guinea Bissau Projects	73,380.00	55,327.52	1%
Total		**7,821,912.18**	**5,897,614.83**	**100%**

Table 9: External Funding Sources & Projects, 2025

* New infrastructure project

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERED SOLUTIONS

3.1. FUNDING

The budget for the ECREEE administration has proven to be inadequate. The overall ratio of administration to program expenditures in ECREEE is approximately 6% to 94%. This ongoing challenge tends to impact the program and project deliverables negatively. Therefore, the management of the ECOWAS Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to improving the situation.

3.2. HUMAN RESOURCE

Although three of the vacant positions on the organogram and some project-related positions were filled in 2024, there is still room for bolstering the staff to ensure it is commensurate with the workload. The Information Technology and Communication Units remain understaffed, presenting challenges to effectively meeting the agency's growing demands.

Positions on the organogram that are yet to be filled include the following:

i. Director, RE&EE, Project Development & Funds Mobilisation
ii. Principal Program Officer, Renewable Energy
iii. Principal Program Officer, Project Development & Funds Mobilisation
iv. Principal Program Officer, Information, Communication & Technology
v. Program Officer, Energy Efficiency
vi. Communication Officer and
vii. Accounting Assistant.

There is, however, an effort to hire consultants to fill up positions in the Implementation Units of specific projects, including the following:

i. Coordinator, Desert-to-Power (DtP) Projects funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB)
ii. Procurement Specialist, DtP Projects,
iii. Financial Management Specialist, DtP Projects,
iv. Technical Expert, Circular Economy, and Clean Cooking projects funded by AECID
v. Administrative Assistant, Advancing sustainable Agriculture through off-grid energy and Cooling solutions in Africa (AGRI-COOL) Project, funded by the EU.

ECREEE
Towards Sustainable Energy

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