

AFRICA RENEWABLE ENERGY & ACCESS PROGRAM



Africa Renewable Energy Access Program (AFREA)

Since 2008, the [Africa Renewable Energy Access program](#) (AFREA) has helped Sub-Saharan African countries expand access to reliable and affordable modern energy services, stimulated greater use of renewable energy, and developed scalable, innovative solutions to close the region's energy gap.

Funded through the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and implemented by the Africa Energy Unit, AFREA has financed both World Bank- and client-executed activities that have enhanced the capacity of key institutions such as government ministries, power utilities, regulators, and power pool operators and generated new knowledge to solve problems encountered on-the-ground.

Having successfully completed its first five-year period, the program is now in its second phase—AFREA II. While AFREA I piloted innovation using small grants, AFREA II focuses more on mainstreaming successful innovations through leveraging IDA and other investment resources. The AFREA II framework supports the scale-up of energy access and clean energy through a strategy incorporating four pillars and two cross-cutting themes (see figure).

CORE INITIATIVES CONTINUING IN PHASE II

Clean, Healthy Cooking

The [Africa Clean Cooking Energy Solutions Initiative](#) (ACCES) continues to promote clean cooking solutions through transforming cook-stove markets in selected African countries. By increasing access to efficient and clean cooking technologies, the initiative is working to alleviate the adverse health, environment, and socio-economic impacts of traditional cooking practices in Sub-Saharan Africa.



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Lighting Africa

The [Lighting Africa](#) initiative seeks to create markets and stimulate consumer behavior to switch from kerosene and candles to clean, photovoltaic (PV)-powered, stand-alone lanterns and solar home systems for use in homes and businesses. The market for off-grid PV-powered lanterns and solar home systems has already provided affordable, modern off-grid lighting to nearly 12 million people, and is projected to reach 250 million people by 2030.

Energy and Gender

AFREA's [Gender and Energy Program](#) improves the participation of women in key energy sector activities to promote a more equitable sharing of the benefits from expanded access to modern energy. In Benin, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, and Tanzania, the program has moved the gender discussion into African rural communities, providing greater gender empowerment in the provision of energy.



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The Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) is a global knowledge and technical assistance program administered by the World Bank. It provides analytical and advisory services to low- and middle-income countries to increase their know-how and institutional capacity to achieve environmentally sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction and economic growth. ESMAP is funded by Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as the World Bank.

AFREA II | Supporting the Scale Up of Energy Access & Clean Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa

PILLARS	Supporting Investments	Improving Policy & Building Institutions	Leveraging Markets	Knowledge & Capacity
THEMES	1 Enhancing Impact – Gender and Productive Uses 2 Supporting Post-Conflict and Fragile States			

Africa Electrification Initiative

The [Africa Electrification Initiative](#) (AEI) supports the largest network of energy practitioners committed to designing and implementing both on and off-grid electrification programs across Africa. It emphasizes the role of South-South knowledge exchange in helping participants learn from the experiences of their African neighbors and other developing countries. The program’s knowledge exchange and capacity building initiative have established it as the leading network for sharing best practice in electrification between and within countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

AFREA II INNOVATIONS

New AFREA II activities are being prepared in keeping with the following approaches.

Regional Initiatives

One of the new region-wide initiatives is *Accelerating On-Grid Access Team (AGAT)*, which has assembled a team providing just-in-time support to project teams seeking to increase the effectiveness of urban electrification and densification projects across the continent.

Regional Strategic Studies

These studies address strategic challenges faced across the region. For example, *The Role of Subsidies: Financing Electricity Supply & Providing Affordable Access in Sub-Saharan Africa* is assessing the current subsidy policies and the need for pricing reform in the power sector. It began with an analysis of the political economy of power subsidies and is now assessing the distributional impacts of tariff policies in a range of country-specific case studies.

Country-Focused Activities

AFREA II supports a number of country-focused activities. The *Nigeria Electrification Access Program Development Project* assists the government of Nigeria to plan for the national-level scaling up of electrification using a geographic information system (GIS)-based tool as a key to comprehensive planning, building upon the Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAp) pilot supported during AFREA I in Rwanda and Kenya. *The South Sudan Energy Sector Technical Assistance Project* is laying the groundwork for energy sector interventions in this newly independent country by helping to build the government’s capacity. Another country-focused activity is the *Uganda Clean Cooking Sector Support*, which is using the tools developed under ACCES to transform the cookstove market in Uganda.