

MOYAMBA



Location

Kambia, Moyamba and Port Loko districts of Sierra Leone

PROJECT SUMMARY

A USD 1.25m term loan from REPP is being used to support the construction and operation of 9 new solar-powered mini-grids in Sierra Leone, and the operation of a further 23 existing sites.

The 1.3MW Moyamba portfolio is being developed by Energicity (SL) Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Energicity Corporation, a woman-led business. Energicity (SL) Ltd won a concession to develop and operate the 32 mini-grid sites through a competitive bid issued by Sierra Leone's Ministry of Energy's Rural Renewable Electrification Project.

The electrification project was conceived in the wake of the 2014 Ebola crisis to support Sierra Leone's health care system, and a significant part of the Moyamba project is targeted towards strengthening the system's resilience via direct connection to hospitals and clinics. As part of the bidding agreement, Energicity – through Energicity (SL) Limited – is required to provide a minimum of 6.6kWh/day of electricity to community health centres free of charge.

As well as supporting health care, the mini-grids provide electricity to surrounding communities and are suitable for productive uses of energy, such as milling and grinding, thus providing income-generating opportunities for local businesses and direct job opportunities for communities. Energicity is also developing "behind the meter" relationships with customers, providing electric wiring of homes and value-added services such as leasing freezers and electric motors.

Energicity provides operational services to the existing and new mini-grids, which are all located in western Sierra Leone. This includes technical O&M, customer connection, metering technology supply, electricity sales, revenue collection, monitoring and evaluation and other responsibilities.

As of March 2022, 27 of the 32 mini-grids were operational and generating revenue, following partial funding from the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (formerly Department for International Development). The remaining five mini-grids require meters and additional labour to bring them into commercial operation. Construction of the remaining mini-grids is expected to be completed by Q1 2022.

By having 60% female representation in senior management, the Moyamba project meets the 2X Challenge criteria for gender lens investment.



Country policy alignment

Project supports Sierra Leone's Updated NDC (2021) conditional targets of reducing GHG emissions by 10% by 2030 and increasing energy access to 95% by 2030 by promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. It also supports the country's development targets to connect 20 villages and 8 towns in each district to electricity, including through off-grid standalone schemes, as well as increasing the share of renewables to 65% by 2023 (Medium-term National Development Plan 2019-2023).

AT A GLANCE

Technology:

Solar PV mini-grids



Project type:

Off-grid

Offtaker:

Households and commercial customers

KPIs



Greenhouse gas emissions avoided: 2,847 tCO₂e per year / **Achieved: 416 tCO₂e (cumulative)**



People with first-time energy access: 79,108 / **Achieved: 17,518**



Planned capacity: 1.3MW / **Achieved: 0.8MW**

FUNDING STRUCTURE

Signed: 1 April 2021

Type: Senior term loan

REPP funding: USD 1.25m

SDGs



"Energicity is pleased to partner with the Renewable Energy Performance Platform to develop our concession in Sierra Leone. With the USD 1.25 million in funding, Energicity's subsidiary is working to provide electricity to nearly 80,000 people, providing affordable, reliable and scalable electricity so that families and communities can thrive."

Nicole Poindexter, CEO and Founder, Energicity Corp