

Maputo off-grid systems

Maputo, 15 September 2021 - The Government of Mozambique approved yesterday, in the Council of Ministers, by Decree, the Regulation for Off-Grid Energy Access. This regulation results from a Government effort recognizing the importance of the sector to catalyze rural socio-economic development, leveraging private sector investment and improving the conditions of millions of people.

Mozambique joins the other neighbouring countries, putting in place a regulatory framework that will provide greater clarity to all actors in the off-grid energy sector and ensures the necessary conditions for the private sector to develop its activities and protect its investments in a diverse set of technologies applicable to the off-grid context, such as solar home systems, mini-grids, and improved cooking solutions.

This Regulation is the result of the visionary and committed work of the Government of Mozambique, with special reference to all the institutions involved, namely the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME), the Energy Regulatory Authority (ARENE), and the National Energy Fund (FUNAE).

The BRILHO Programme, funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and implemented by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, expresses its gratitude for the trust placed through this partnership by the Government of Mozambique. BRILHO is grateful for having been an integral part of the process to develop this new Regulation, from its initial conception to operationalization.

The BRILHO Programme is mandated to catalyse the energy access through Solar Home Systems, Green Mini-Grids and Improved Cooking Solutions, with the aim to benefit 1.5 million Mozambicans and 15,000 small businesses until 2024.

The approval of this Regulation represents a big step for the sector, and is reflected in several positive reactions, demonstrating high expectations from the different key stakeholders in the sector.

"The regulation for off-grid energy is the leverage for the entry of strategic partners, the private sector, as it clarifies the rules of the game in the development of this unequivocal path for the achievement of universal access in 2030. The Government's vision and actions to create an enabling environment for the private sector investments, demonstrate the commitment to transformation and social inclusion, and that consequently promotes economic inclusion in remote areas."

According to Vivian Vendeirinho, President of AMDA (Africa Mini-Grid Developers Association) and CEO of RVE.SOL: "The new regulation allows for Decentralized Renewable Energy providers to build minigrid systems that will provide reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity to underserved rural communities in Mozambique. This will anchor their socio-economic development opportunities, so they are not left behind as

the economy of the country evolves and grows. The end-result will be empowerment of rural communities, more jobs and trading opportunities for Mozambique".

The Decree will be accompanied by specific regulations that will provide Mozambique with a complete regulatory framework, which will act as an anchor for the growth and sustainable development of the off-grid energy sector.

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