



# Microgrid benefits liberia

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Ageto commissions minigrid to bring clean and reliable power to this Liberian community through the Totota Electric Co-op--the nation's first micro-utility. For many of us, access to reliable and affordable energy is a foundation to so much of our lives.

UNDP Liberia funded the installation of solar power at 12 health facilities in 7 counties. Launched today at the United Nations Climate Conference COP27, the Africa Minigrids Program (AMP) is a country-led technical assistance program that supports countries to rapidly and cost-effectively provide electricity and new development opportunities ...

Low access to affordable energy and heavy reliance on traditional biomass fuels have significant social and economic implications for Liberia. The combustion of these fuels in poorly ventilated spaces can lead to indoor air pollution, which poses significant health risks [14].

The financed project will help to improve the affordability of off-grid energy products in Liberia and in the long term support higher standards of education, increase gender equality and create new employment opportunities in the country through productive use of electricity.

A not-for-profit utility cooperative from Texas has been awarded a contract to electrify a community in Liberia with a solar-plus-storage microgrid, to benefit around 400 homes and businesses.

Launched today at the United Nations Climate Conference COP27, the Africa Minigrids Program (AMP) is a country-led technical assistance program that supports countries to rapidly and cost-effectively provide electricity and new development opportunities to some of Africa's poorest communities.

The Africa Minigrids Program, a multi-partner initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will enable scaled-up private investment in renewable energy minigrids.

With funding led by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and implemented by UNDP in partnership with national governments, RMI (founded as Rocky Mountain Institute) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the AMP's market transformation approach aims to help countries crowd in private investment to scale up and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy minigrids.

"We know that innovative policies, technologies, and business models to scale up existing solutions are needed to achieve SDG 7 on universal access to affordable and reliable energy - business-as-usual won't do," said Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator. "The AMP is UNDP's most ambitious electricity access program to date. Its market transformation approach aims to deliver impact at the pace and scale needed to effectively help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no-one behind."

"Improving access to clean energy in remote areas has so many benefits -- it directly improves quality of life, creates job opportunities particularly for women, and also reduces carbon emissions," added Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF. "This is why the GEF is investing in energy access as part of our mission to invest in the planet. I am thrilled to see the Africa Minigrids Program advance and look forward to sharing the lessons from its rollout across our partnership and in all the countries and communities we are supporting in the clean energy transition."

With a focus on various cost-reduction levers, AMP aims to support scale-up investment by improving the financial viability of minigrids. The program will work with countries to put in place the policies and regulations that enable large-scale private investment, durably creating the conditions for renewable energy minigrids to be deployed at scale.

"We cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without sustainable energy for all. It is urgent to drastically scale-up solutions that close the energy access gap. We must address this blatant inequality," said Ahunna Eziakonwa, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Africa at UNDP. "The AMP has the potential to be a game changer for millions of people in Africa."

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