
NEW
ENERGIES
HUMAN STORIES BEYOND DATA

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY

NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

THE WORLD BANK

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From 2018 - 2024, the Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP) was a catalyst for change, illuminating the lives of many Nigerians in unserved and underserved communities.

Through the personal stories of everyday Nigerians, whose lives have been profoundly impacted by access to clean, safe, and reliable electricity, this photobook captures the transformative power of electricity to light up communities, create opportunities, and accelerate Nigeria's development.

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NEW ENERGIES

HUMAN STORIES BEYOND DATA

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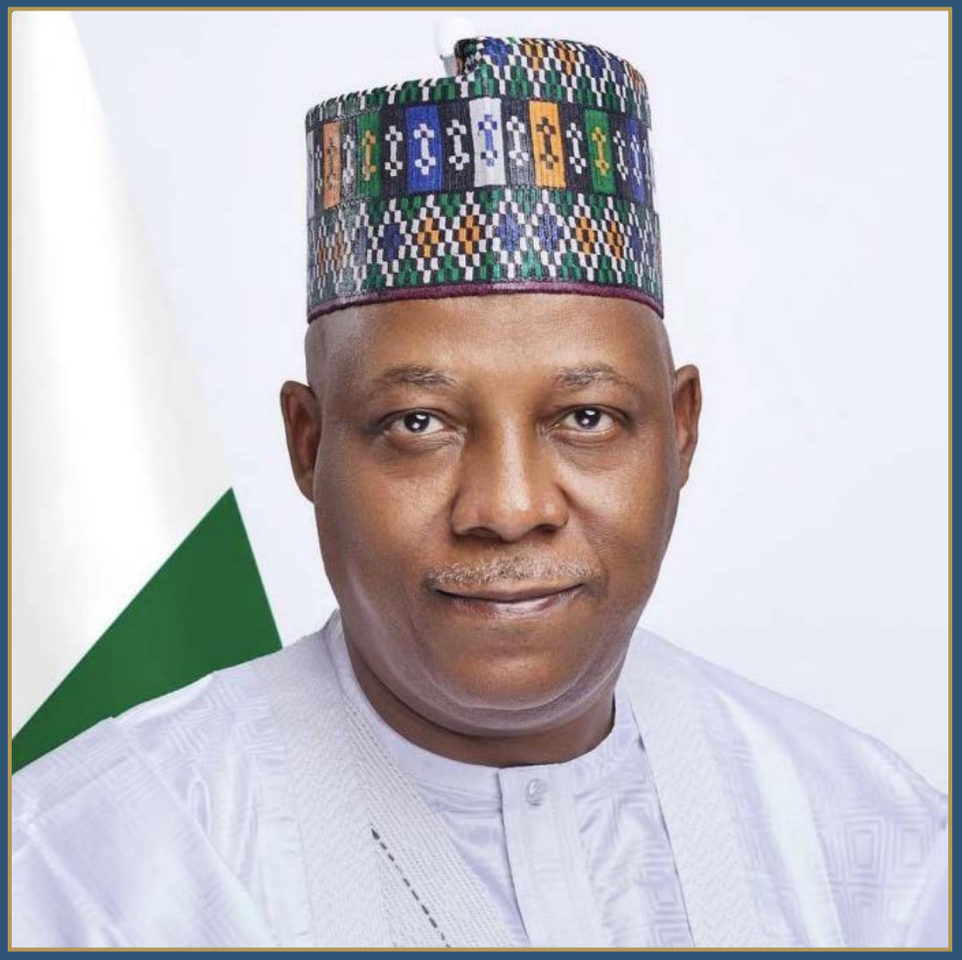
HIS EXCELLENCY, BOLA AHMED TINUBU GCFR
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Nigeria's plans for a greener and cleaner economy can serve as an inspirational narrative for nations worldwide. Our comprehensive approach, rooted in visionary leadership and pragmatic action supported by our technical partners, is poised to become a blueprint for countries aspiring to also develop and catalyze their markets for sustainable growth.

-Bola Ahmed Tinubu
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces



KASHIM SHETTIMA GCON
VICE PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

There have been successful collaborations with multilateral development banks on electrification. The Nigeria Electrification Programme, supported by the World Bank and the African Development Bank connected over 7.5 million Nigerians to electricity through mini-grids and solar home systems. The successor programme, the $750 million Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up, targeting an additional 17.5 million Nigerians is already underway.

-Kashim Shettima
Vice President
Fedral Republic of Nigeria

Play Audio

CHIEF ADEBAYO O. ADELABU FCA, FCIB, OFR
HONOURABLE MINISTER
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

Nigeria is blessed with abundant energy resources and we are harnessing this to drive our energy transition target. Our power sector has undergone profound reforms aimed at ensuring reliable, affordable, functional, and sustainable energy for all Nigerians.

-Chief Adebayo Adelabu
Minister of Power,
Federal Republic of Nigeria


Play Audio

ABBA ABUBAKAR ALIYU

MD/CEO, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY

At the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), we believe that the true measure of our success lies not just in the numbers, but in the lives we touch and the communities we uplift. These efforts have not only brought light to homes but have also illuminated the paths to better education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Our commitment to inclusivity is unwavering. By designing frameworks that actively involve and benefit youth and women, we ensure that everyone has a stake in our nation's progress. The high-impact solar captive power plant projects at the university level are shining examples of how we are empowering the next generation of leaders and innovators.

On an operational level, our focus extends beyond electrification to safeguarding the environment. By structuring our projects around decarbonization, we are making significant strides in social inclusion, gender equality, and the reduction of gender-based violence. The socio-economic development within communities is a testament to the transformative power of our initiatives.

At REA, we go beyond counting the mini-grids we deploy. We measure the job opportunities created, the government revenue generated, and the contribution to the gross domestic product. These metrics reflect (GDP) how our work catalyses and enhances economic activities, bringing tangible benefits to the communities we serve.

Electricity is the foundation for enhancing the quality of life.

When we deploy mini-grids to rural communities, our focus is on how this changes lives socially and economically. I recall overseeing the handover of a 50-kilowatt containerized solar hybrid mini-grid at the Federal Teaching Hospital in Port-Harcourt. The Chief Nurse managing the incubation center shared

how the mini-grid significantly reduced mortality rates, easing her work and improving conditions for the delicate babies. Her story, after over 20 years of service at the hospital, is a powerful reminder of the impact of our work.

Another memorable project is the Nasarawa Toto interconnected mini-grid. Initially, the community's demand was around 300 kilowatts, but we supplied 360 kilowatts. Within eight months, their demand surged to over 1 megawatt, leading to the establishment of new businesses, such as a Yoghurt factory and various shops. This growth underscores the profound impact of reliable electricity on local economies.

While we measure many impactful parameters, it is crucial to go beyond the data and realize the relationship between our work and the improvement of living conditions for Nigerians. Seeing the joy in communities where mini-grids are deployed is always a highlight. The gratitude towards the Federal Government for these interventions is deeply moving.

I often say that in urban areas, we take certain things for granted, but small changes can have a profound impact on rural communities.

Energy poverty isn't just an inconvenience; it is a barrier to progress. Yet, it is this stark reality that drives the present government, through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), to push forward with one clear mission: To bring hope to the farthest corners of Nigeria.

-Abba Abubakar Aliyu
MD, CEO Rural Electrification Agency


Play Audio

OLUFEMI AKINYELURE

HEAD, NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

Over 5 years ago, the idea that renewable energy could revolutionize Nigeria's electrification seemed improbable. Skepticism surrounded both developers and government institutions, casting doubt on the feasibility and impact of such solutions. However, after over 180 mini-grids and more than 1million solar home systems deployed nationwide, the Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP) has proven that renewable energy is not only a viable solution but also a transformative force, expanding electricity access in unserved and underserved communities and driving significant economic development across the country.

The NEP was initiated with a dual focus: improving electricity access and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. The cornerstone of the NEP is its result-based financing model of implementation which is a first in the power sector, attracting private-sector funding and ensuring timely project completion. This model has made it possible to successfully create the much-required link between the public sector(government), the private sector, financiers, and the off-takers (the public across all sectors).

The success story of NEP goes far beyond all the various data sets that are used to evaluate project targets. At inception, apart from the government policies, finance and the enabling environment required, there was a huge question around the availability of the right private sector entities that possessed the right technical and financial capacity to execute the projects. But as the project commenced, a new eco system was created that attracted foreign businesses and investments, and also led to the emergence of new business entities that helped to build local capacities. These private sector entities, with the right technical and financial capacities, became known as Developers. Over the years, we have seen these developers set up assembly plants for critical components such as batteries and solar panels.

As a major driver of economic development, the NEP has had a significant impact across various sectors. In education, 37 federal universities are being energized to provide better learning and conducive environments that encourage research and innovation. With healthcare, centres can now offer round-the-clock services to patients. In the MSMEs sector, businesses now benefit from reliable and sustainable electricity, and are expanding their operations, thereby improving the livelihoods of many. For communities that were once in perpetual darkness, the NEP has provided illumination, boosting their economic potential and overall standard of living.

One of the standout achievements of the NEP is its commitment to gender inclusion, both in businesses and educational institutions. Women across all beneficiary groups have leveraged increased opportunities through a range of integrated activities including the collection of gender-disaggregated data, gender-targeted marketing, and training programs that have been delivered at various levels to encourage and facilitate women to participate in the project. This emphasis on gender inclusion is also evident in the Energizing Education Progamme (EEP) under the EEP STEM Internship Programme, where 140 female Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) students (20 students in each beneficiary institution) received hands-on practical training and experience in the design and construction of power systems from the soil-testing to the commissioning stage of the EEP projects as well as continued capacity building after the Programme.

The Nigeria Electrification Programme has laid a strong foundation for Nigeria's energy future by empowering millions, fostering economic growth, and positioning the country to meet its electrification and climate goals. This is a crucial step towards a more sustainable and equitable energy landscape.

The NEP's success will ultimately be measured by the lasting improvements in citizens' lives.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

NEP: The Journey So Far

The Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP), originally launched as the Nigeria Electrification Project, was introduced by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2018 to address the country's critical electrification challenges through sustainable and renewable energy solutions. This initiative, spearheaded by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), aims to drive economic development by providing reliable electricity to underserved and unserved communities, particularly in rural areas. With an estimated population of 200 million, over 86 million Nigerians lack access to electricity, positioning Nigeria low on the global electrification index. The NEP is part of the nation's broader efforts to meet its climate commitments and ensure sustainable energy for all.

Funded by the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEP leverages private-sector partnerships to implement its goals, recognizing that financial investment is crucial for transitioning to cleaner energy sources.

KEY COMPONENTS OF NEP

The NEP is categorized into five key components, each designed to target different aspects of the energy challenge:

1. Solar Hybrid Mini-Grids for Rural Development Component: aims to support the development of private sector isolated and interconnected mini grid across Nigeria. The objective of this component is to provide clean and reliable electricity to unserved and underserved communities with high economic growth potential. So far, about 180 mini-grids have been deployed across Nigeria, with more in the pipeline.

2. Standalone Solar Home Systems (SHS) Component: Through the SHS component, the NEP aims to provide millions of households and MSMEs in rural & peri-urban underserved areas with access to affordable, cleaner and quality energy services. The cross-cutting objective is to scale up the private sector market for SHS in Nigeria and support the affordability of these systems to the end users.

3. Energizing Education Programme (EEP) Phase II & III: This component focuses on improving the quality of education and healthcare by providing uninterrupted power supply to 15 federal universities and 3 affiliated teaching hospitals across the country. The goal is to create better learning environments, foster innovation, and ensure that these affiliated healthcare facilities can offer round-the-clock services through different phases.

4. Productive Use Appliances and Equipment: Introduced later in the project, this component addresses the needs of agro-based communities with low energy utilization capacity. The goal is to increase access to efficient electric productive equipment, electrifying 24,500 MSMEs and 1,050,000 people with improved energy services.

5. Technical Assistance: To ensure sustainability, NEP provides technical support to a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders involved in the off-grid sector.

In addition to these components, the NEP targeted the electrification of 100 healthcare centres, initially designated for treatment and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. These centres now have the capacity to provide continuous services for other critical health needs.

NEP Impact

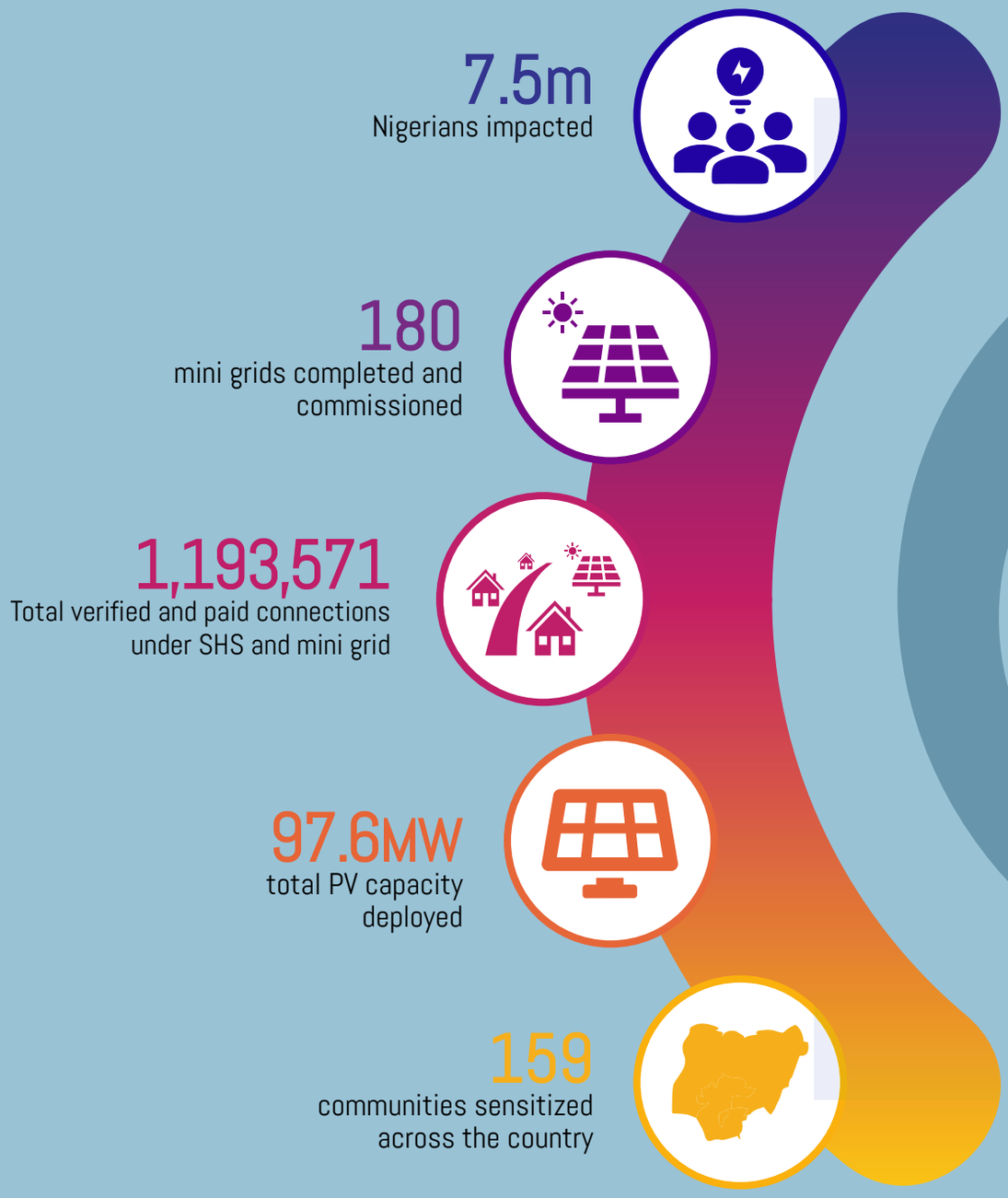
At its inception, the NEP projected providing access to electricity for 3,325,000 Nigerians. This goal has been surpassed, with access now extended to over 7.5 million people. The project initially targeted 70,500 households, but to date, it has provided electricity to over 600,000 households. In addition, 13,376 MSMEs, 7 Federal Universities and 2 University teaching hospitals have been powered.

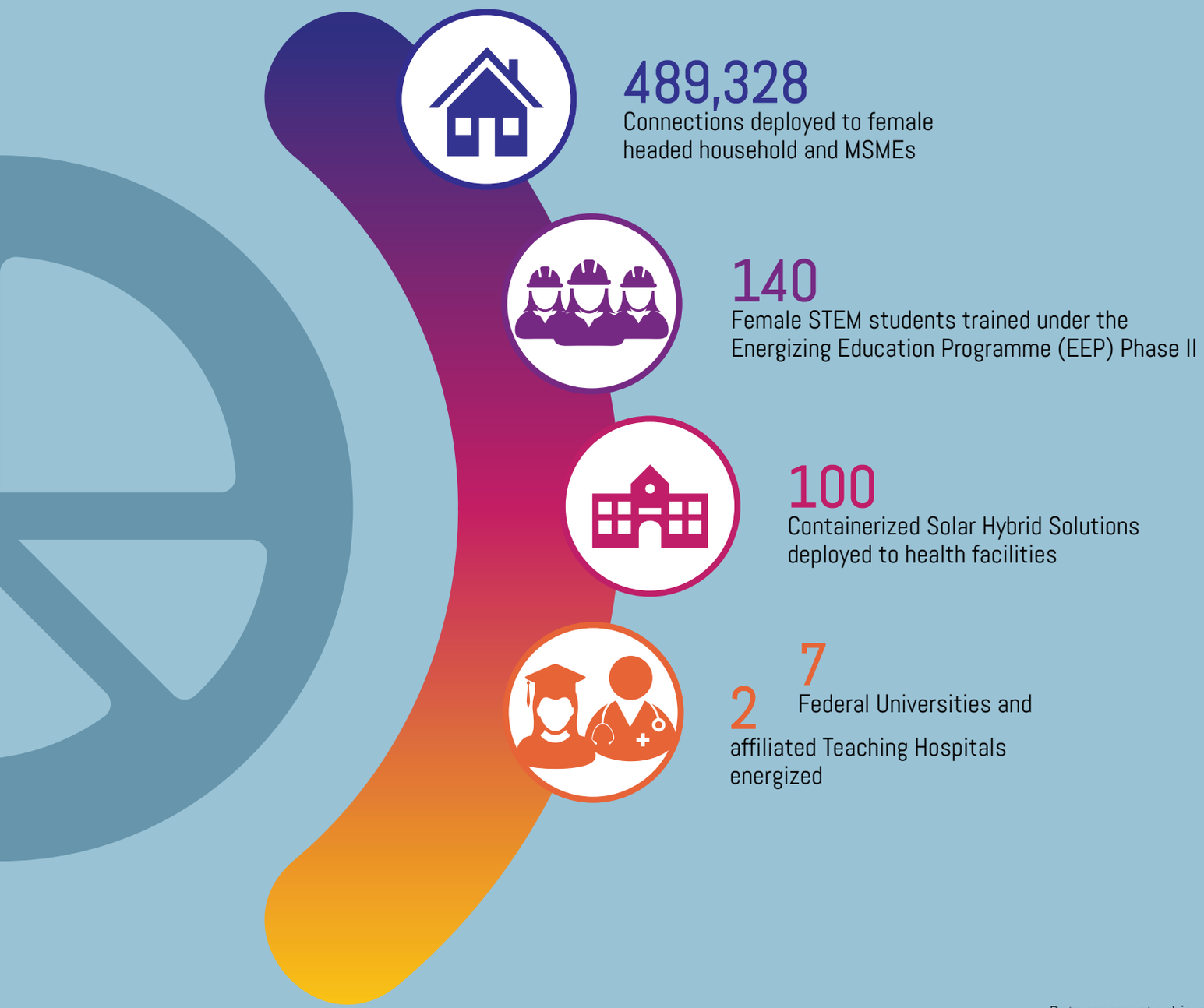
The NEP has opened up significant opportunities in Nigeria's renewable energy sector. Increased market confidence has attracted more private sector financiers, and the private-sector-driven nature of the NEP offers companies opportunities to enhance corporate governance and financial readiness.

The Nigeria Electrification Programme has laid a strong foundation for Nigeria's energy future. By empowering millions, fostering economic growth, and positioning the country to meet its electrification and climate goals, the NEP is a crucial step towards a more sustainable and equitable energy landscape.

NEP ACHIEVEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31ST, 2024





489,328
Connections deployed to female headed household and MSMEs

140
Female STEM students trained under the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) Phase II

100
Containerized Solar Hybrid Solutions deployed to health facilities

2 **7**
Federal Universities and affiliated Teaching Hospitals energized

Data represent achievements under the NEP-WB as of 31st December 2024; and are expected to increase with Nigeria Electrification Programme's ongoing expansion efforts to further enhance energy access and connectivity for communities across Nigeria.

Installed electricity capacity in Africa needs to be increased at least five-fold, and most of this increase can come from the continent's abundant clean energy resources.

-Aminat J. Mohammed
Deputy Secretary General of the UN


BEYOND


DATA

EDUCATION

Launched in 2018 by the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) is reshaping the country's educational and healthcare landscape by providing sustainable, clean power to 37 federal universities and 7 university teaching hospitals. This groundbreaking initiative integrates independent power plants, upgraded infrastructure, street lighting for enhanced campus security, and world-class renewable energy training centers. By fostering innovation, and enabling uninterrupted learning, the Energizing Education Programme is laying the foundation for a future-ready education system that drives innovation.

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THE ENERGIZING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

ENGR. JORO SALLAU
ENERGIZING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PHASE II COMPONENT LEAD

Recognizing the critical role of energy in driving progress, the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) was initiated to transform the educational landscape by providing sustainable power solutions, through solar hybrid power plants. 37 federal universities and 7 affiliated teaching hospitals across the country will benefit from this initiative, and under Phase II of the EEP, 7 federal universities and 2 teaching hospitals were selected as beneficiaries.

These solar power plants are standalone systems designed to operate 24/7 and the immediate impact of reliable energy is evident in the transformation of learning environments. Students who once relied on torchlights, candles, and fossil-powered lamps now study in well-lit libraries and laboratories. I recall how dependable power supply from a 1MW (megawatt) installation led to a significant increase in student numbers at Alex Ekwueme Federal University. We also achieved a ground-breaking milestone at the University of Maiduguri, where a 12 MW solar plant was installed to power both the university and the teaching hospital, showcasing remarkable innovation. In partnership with the Borno State Government, we introduced electric vehicles to the university, a pioneering achievement in the region.

The true measure of the EEP's success lies in the sustainability of these energy solutions, and we are committed to putting in place long-term sustainability measures that will guarantee its positive impact endures for a long time.

Beyond powering these institutions, the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) is elevating the quality of education and promoting gender inclusion in STEM fields. Through the EEP, 20 female students from each beneficiary university are selected for hands-on training in solar PV installation and renewable energy, and an additional 100 students receive training regardless of gender or course major.

This initiative has opened doors for alternative thinking and inspired many to pursue careers in renewable energy. The solar hybrid power plants serve as research hubs, fuelling innovation and advancing their understanding of renewable energy, with female STEM students now prepared to enter the traditionally male-dominated power sector with confidence.

By revolutionizing educational environments, promoting gender inclusion, and inspiring interest in renewable energy, the EEP is illuminating a path towards a brighter, more sustainable future.


PCS2


PLAY

KAFAYAT OLAFUNKE ADEYEMI

PROFESSOR OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

GWAGWALADA, ABUJA

Growing up as a kid, I recall that our household was often plunged into darkness. My father would turn on his very noisy fuel 2.5 KVA generator. The incessant noise of the generator became a source of frustration for me, and I would complain to my father who, ever practical, would tell me to look for a solution to the problem, if I disliked the noise. “Solve it, don’t complain,” he insisted. His challenge sparked a determination in me to address the energy issue that had troubled us for so long.

My real passion was in Math, Physics, and Chemistry, which led me to consider engineering. The idea of solving problems through engineering fascinated me. So, I pursued a degree in Mechanical Engineering, followed by a Master’s in Energy Studies, and a PhD in Energy Engineering, where I investigated the implications of energy use on the environment. Throughout my academic career, I faced a male-dominated field, often being the only female in my classes for both my Master’s and PhD. Despite the challenges, I persevered, driven by the vision of solving energy problems and contributing to meaningful research.

Today, I spend my time teaching, mentoring and researching at the University of Abuja.

My hope is to play a role in inspiring the next generation of engineers to think of ways through which we can address Nigeria’s energy challenges.

UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA, FCT

POPULATION
55,364

STAFF STRENGTH
3,362

CAPACITY
3.0MW

With the provision of street lighting at the University of Abuja there is a sense of increased security, and students and faculty can move around more freely at night.

Scan to watch

AISHA ABBAGANA

COMPUTER ENGENEERING STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI

MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE

My name Aisha Abbagana, and I recently graduated from the Computer Engineering department in the University of Maiduguri. You know, they say engineering is mostly a course for guys, but I have always wanted to prefix “engineer” before my name, so I decided to do something that opposes what people say, not in the in the negative way, but in a positive way. Besides, I believe the future is digital.

Prior to this STEM program, I had no idea what I was going to do after school, but then we heard that students were going to be trained on renewable energy. 50 female students were shortlisted from our university and interviewed, but only 20 got to be in the program. I was one of the 20 selected STEM students, and being part of this training program, has opened my eyes to what I can do, not just for myself but for my family and my community. My participation in the program has made me look at things differently and it has changed my decision and outlook in life. I am now very passionate about investing and being part of the new energy sector, to give back to my community, my country, and the world at large.

Being the first female engineer in my family has made me very proud. It has made my mom happy and made me achieve my dream of making my father very proud. Even though he is not here anymore, I want to keep his name alive, through my accomplishments.

My dreams for the future are bright. I plan on giving back to my community by establishing mini grids in the underserved and unrecognized areas, and making a positive impact in the field of renewable energy.

Women are underrepresented in the STEM field, and I believe more women need to challenge gender stereotypes by pursuing careers in STEM, and make it believable that other women can actually achieve in the STEM field.

-Aisha Abbagana
STEM Student
University of Maiduguri.

UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI & TEACHING HOSPITAL, BORNO STATE

POPULATION
75,000

STAFF STRENGTH
5,106

CAPACITY
12.0MW

The Honorable Minister for Power Chief Adebayo O. Adelabu FCA, FCIB, OFR on a pre-commissioning site visit to the University of Abuja mini grid .

Arsh Sharma, Task Team Lead, World Bank and Ashish Khanna, former Practice Manager for West Africa, World Bank, during a site inspection visit to solar hybrid power plant at the University of Maiduguri.

UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR & TEACHING HOSPITAL, CROSS RIVER STATE

POPULATION
40,645

CAPACITY
7.0MW

MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE, ABIA STATE

POPULATION
30,078

CAPACITY
3.0MW

NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY, KADUNA STATE

POPULATION

3,002

COMBATANT CADETS
(INCLUDING 12 ALLIED CADETS)

CAPACITY

2.5MW


PROGRAMME (EEP)
Female STEM Internship

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE

POPULATION
17,500

STAFF STRENGTH
2,500

CAPACITY
3.0MW

The timing is right - the world needs to triple its renewable energy investments to address energy access for 600 million people, largely in Africa. This is crucial for the energy security of all countries and to combat climate change, which has severe impacts such as floods and droughts.

-Ashish Khanna
Director General, International Solar Alliance (ISA).

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, GASHUA, YOBE STATE

POPULATION
2,205

STAFF STRENGTH
8,000

CAPACITY
1.5MW


HASSIBURG SÜD

DR. RAHMON ADETUNJI LATEEF

PROPRIETOR, SOCRATES GROUP OF SCHOOLS

ILORIN, KWARA STATE

I grew up in a humble background without a mentor, but I was driven by a passion for education, so I pursued my studies diligently from primary school through to a PhD. From an early age, I dreamt of establishing a school to support my community, a goal I am grateful to have achieved. Our school aims to provide affordable and quality education, addressing the needs of our society.

The toughest part of my job is human relations, especially in a boarding school. Parents expect their children to return home unharmed, so we take great care and have matrons and patrons on-site to monitor the students.

We constantly strive to innovate and remain competitive, but implementing new ideas is difficult without adequate resources. This drive for innovation directed our focus on skill development. In Nigeria today, having a certificate without skills is hardly beneficial. We've initiated Socrates Football Academy to identify talented footballers while offering vocational training in ICT, graphic design, printing, and tailoring. While students pursue their academic programs, we want to provide opportunities for them to develop practical skills, ensuring they have a means to survive after graduation.

Electricity is almost non-existent here. We can't rely on more than three hours of electricity a day. Sometimes we get power for five hours, then nothing for five days. We have nearly 300 computers that students could use if we had consistent electricity. Running these systems on our 80KV generator is expensive. One hour costs nearly forty thousand naira. Using it for a few hours daily for a month is financially unsustainable. We

primarily use generators, but due to cost, we've turned to Sun King solar systems to bridge electricity supply gaps. Running a hostel without reliable power is problematic. Students need light at night for various reasons. Since procuring Sun King, the students enjoy 24-hour power supply in their hostel. This has been a tremendous improvement, and we are grateful for it.

Without power, we struggle to fulfil our potential.

Service to humanity is my greatest achievement. While it is often said that a teacher's reward is in heaven, we are now witnessing our rewards here on earth. Many of our former students have excelled in their careers and made us proud. For example, Awoniyi Taiwo, now an international footballer, recently made a generous donation to our school's development. This fills us with pride and gratitude knowing we did all we could to impact him.

As I often say, those who fail to evolve will face decline. Our aim is to keep planning, executing, and looking forward to a bright future.

EYONG EYONG UTAM

COMPUTER INSTRUCTOR

ABARIBARA, CROSS RIVER STATE

I live in Abaribara, Biase Local Government, in Cross River State.

Life in this community is tough, we lack good roads and electricity. Access to education is also quite challenging as children have to travel to nearby villages for schooling. Having lived outside the village myself, I felt it was my responsibility to lead and advise on activities that could improve our community. I have always aimed to uplift the youth, showing them how to interact with the outside world. I now teach people about computers, and many are coming to browse. Previously, our students did not know how to use computers, but now they can type and identify computer parts.

Before, there was only one computer in the community, and I struggled with fuel and generator issues. The lack of electricity meant few customers and my business struggled. I wasn't here when solar first arrived, but I moved back when a mini grid was installed in the community.

With the arrival of stable power, interest in learning has increased. Now, people from other communities come to use the café, and I also go out to advertise, attracting customers from nearby villages. Many who previously travelled for computer lessons now come to our centre. We have also established a small secondary school within our community, allowing our children to learn locally. Job opportunities have also improved, with our youth becoming educated and finding employment. I tell everyone they are welcome to learn computers, regardless of age.

Life has improved greatly for us all.

Aerial view of University of Abuja.

What we need to create is an ecosystem where Nigerian developers are developing these solutions with the right amount of capital for the people of Nigeria.

-Damilola Ogunbiyi
CEO of Sustainable Energy for All

HEALTH

Reliable and affordable electricity is the backbone of resilient healthcare. Through uninterrupted power supply, medical facilities are empowered to function at full capacity: preserving lives, enhancing service delivery, and enabling swift, life-saving interventions. This transformation reduces mortality rates and also strengthens public health systems, laying the foundation for a healthier, more productive society.

Scan to watch


PLAY

MOHAMMED GARBA BUWA

GYNAECOLOGIST, GOMBE STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

GOMBE STATE

As a gynecologist at the State Specialist Hospital in Gombe, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of unreliable electricity on patient care. Before we had access to solar technology, frequent power outages, and malfunctioning generators left us grappling with life-threatening situations. Critical surgeries and deliveries often had to be performed under inadequate lighting, and the lack of power meant we could not operate at full capacity.

Between January and June 2018, 38 women lost their lives during pregnancy or shortly after delivery–an average of at least six deaths per month due to pregnancy or labor complications.

During the same period, over 300 newborns died, averaging at least 50 deaths per month. Emergency cases were regularly referred to other hospitals, which many low-income patients could not afford, leading to further preventable deaths.

Solar lighting has provided consistent and reliable illumination, significantly improving the obstetrics and gynecological theater where critical procedures take place. Since the installation of the solar panels, maternal and infant mortality rates have dropped dramatically. In 2023, for example, maternal deaths fell to 10 for the entire year, and infant mortality was reduced to a maximum of 17 per month.

Our hospital has transitioned from being a facility that referred patients out to one that now receives referrals including from neighboring states.

With a more conducive environment for both patients and staff, we can now perform at our best.

The solar-powered transformation of our hospital has laid a strong foundation for us to continue improving maternal health outcomes and delivering compassionate care to those in need.

-Mohammed Garba Buwa
Gynaecologist, Gombe State Specialist Hospital


Heart 2 Heart, Never A
KMP

DR. CHIDI NNABUCHI

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, ASOKORO DISTRICT HOSPITAL

ASOKORO, ABUJA

Asokoro District Hospital is one of the 14 hospitals managed by the FCTA under the Hospital Management Board. It is the largest of these hospitals, seeing approximately 12,000 to 14,000 patients each month. The hospital also serves as a major training centre for medical students, nursing students, and medical residents in their fellowships. We are a teaching hospital for Nile University of Nigeria, and we have graduated two sets of medical doctors. Nursing students from Bingham University, FCT Nursing School, and the Open University Nursing Department also complete their training here.

Our internal medicine department includes specialists such as cardiologists, endocrinologists, gastroenterologists (myself), nephrologists, and neurologists. The surgery department features general surgeons, a paediatric surgeon, a urologist, and orthopaedic surgeons. Our paediatric department provides neonatal services, regular paediatric care, and emergency paediatric services.

Our radiology unit includes a 64-slice CT scan machine, a mammography machine, ultrasound machines, and digital x-ray services. The ophthalmology department provides both surgical and clinical ophthalmology services, and we have an optometry section. The hospital also features an oxygen plant that supplies medical oxygen to our patients and some sister hospitals.

Due to the wide range of services that we offer, and the unreliable power supply from the national grid, reliable alternative power supply is crucial to our operations as a medical facility. We use two generators: a 500kVA and a 350kVA. However, diesel consumption is costly and strains our budget, so solar power offers

a promising alternative. During surgeries, power outages can be problematic, causing delays as generators take time to start. We previously used inverters, but they have become unreliable over time.

Through the support of the Nigeria Electrification Programme, a 50-kilowatt containerised solar power inverter system was installed in our facility to power a few critical areas of the hospital: the operating theatre, postnatal ward, labour ward, ICU, and corridor lighting on the first floor.

Since the solar system's installation, surgical interruptions have been greatly reduced. Surgeons are pleased with the continuous power supply, which ensures smoother operations and shorter anaesthesia times. The labour ward and postnatal ward benefit from uninterrupted light, enhancing patient care. Overall, the solar power system has improved our clients' perception of our services, reducing anxiety and discomfort related to power outages.

We are thankful to the Rural Electrification Agency for this impactful project. We hope for an expanded solar project to cover more of the facility, reducing diesel costs and further improving our power reliability.

Official handover of 50KW Containerized Solar Hybrid Systems at Asokoro, Karu and Zuba General Hospitals in Abuja, under Lot 3 of the COVID-19 & Beyond Intervention Programme. Through this initiative 100 Containerized Solar Hybrid Systems (50KW each) have been deployed to healthcare centres across Nigeria.

The solar system has provided us with stable and uninterrupted power supply, meaning that our operating lamps remain lit throughout every procedure. This consistency is crucial for the smooth running of our surgeries.

-Adedayo Ponle
Head of Theatre, Asokoro District

BRIDGET CHINASA

NURSE, OTODO HEALTH CARE

OTODO, ABIA STATE

My dream has always been to care for people, regardless of their age or condition. Ever since I was a little girl, I admired the nurses I saw in their white uniforms and longed to be like them. I would often wonder what it took to wear that uniform and embody the grace and dedication I admired.

I vividly remember my early days in training when some of my peers struggled with the sight of blood, but I felt an unexpected strength and resolve. A doctor even remarked, “You possess the requisite qualities,” which affirmed my commitment to this profession.

Having access to solar energy has been transformative for the work I do in my community. The reliable lighting has not only brightened our environment but also improved our work efficiency at the health centre. Before solar power, we relied on lanterns that were prone to producing smoke and were insufficient for our needs. With solar energy, we now perform our tasks more effectively, monitor new-borns more accurately, and ensure a safer environment for both patients and staff.

Residents now come to the health centre for a range of needs, from charging their phones to seeking medical advice. They appreciate the constant light and the ability to engage in activities after dark, which has become a significant benefit. Many people in the community have expressed a desire to have access to solar power for their own homes. They are keen to experience the same benefits and convenience that we enjoy here at the health centre.

The greatest satisfaction I derive from my work comes from interacting with people and improving their conditions, even in challenging circumstances. In a lot of ways, D'light solar has contributed immensely to this sense of satisfaction. With this solar innovation, I wish to see our health centre expand and make a broader impact on other centres.

DR. ADEYEYE TOPE FRANCIS

MEDICAL REGISTRAR, TEACHING HOSPITAL

ADO-EKITI, EKITI STATE

Growing up, I had dreams of becoming a pilot, but by the time I was in secondary school, I realized that flying wasn't in my future, so I shifted my focus to medicine. Now, I find great fulfilment in my medical career. For me, saving lives is both a personal and professional commitment. It's my top priority, and while financial gain is important, it doesn't overshadow the goal of preserving lives.

Many people here can't afford premium medical services, so we often provide free treatment to ensure they get the care they need.

Previously, we faced significant challenges powering essential medical equipment like scanning machines and refrigerators for vaccines because relying on generators was costly. When a solar company introduced me to solar power, it transformed our operations. I'm delighted with this positive change and have recommended it to others who have also seen positive results.

Power outages, which once threatened our ability to perform surgeries smoothly, is a thing of the past. Stable power is vital for successful surgeries, as any interruption can lead to complications. Solar power ensures that our hospital remains powered even when the grid electricity supply fails.

The most rewarding part of my job is witnessing patients recover and leave our facility healthy and happy.


Vaccine

NAOMI BULUS

MEDICAL LAB ASSISTANT, PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRE

GORA, PLATEAU STATE

I have lived in this community for years and I like it here. Members of the community here are generally positive individuals. We benefit from essential amenities such as water, well-maintained roads, and other necessary facilities. Our road networks are particularly impressive, facilitating the smooth movement of people and goods. Our thriving markets and medical facilities attract individuals from neighbouring villages, enhancing our community's role as a regional hub.

In contrast, other communities often lack these amenities. People from nearby areas frequently visit our community for healthcare services, including maternity care, highlighting the importance of our facilities.

The introduction of stable electricity has been a significant benefit. It has greatly improved our ability to perform our duties with greater effectiveness and efficiency. Reliable power supports our mobile phones, enabling us to stay in touch. The presence of light alone positively impacts patients' morale, which can aid in their recovery.

In many ways, electricity has become a vital part of our healthcare process.

It ensures that essential functions, such as child delivery and the proper storage of medicines and vaccines, are carried out without interruptions.

FATIMA AUDU

HEALTH WORKER, GBANGBA PHC

GBANGBA, NIGER STATE

As the head of Primary Health Center Gbangba, I've been here for many years, overseeing the daily operations of our clinic. Our clinic started back in 2007. We offer various services, such as antenatal and postnatal care on Thursdays, and immunisations on Mondays, among other treatments during the week. We also handle family planning and treat illnesses like malaria, typhoid, and diarrhea.

The switch to solar power has been helpful in our daily operations. We've set up a lab that allows us to conduct tests right here, instead of sending patients to Lemu. This new capability has improved our ability to diagnose and treat patients more effectively. We're now seeing 15 to 20 patients daily, compared to just 8 to 10 before. This increase is largely due to the better services we're able to provide.

Improved service also comes with its challenges. We have only 3 bed spaces in the clinic, which can be a challenge, especially during the rainy season when malaria cases rise, so we end up converting benches into beds, but it's never enough. Additionally, our limited equipment sometimes means we can't perform all the necessary tests. My hope is that we can get the support we need to expand our capacity to continue to provide care.

DR. PAUL JOHN

CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR,
GOD'S SPLENDOUR MISSIONARY HOSPITAL

PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

In medicine, we often encounter the harsh reality that some lives cannot be saved, and this can be disheartening. A remarkable turning point for me was the death of a close cousin during university. She passed away due to complications in childbirth because the hospital insisted on payment before treatment. This tragedy helped me realize the importance of prioritizing life over financial concerns, and shaped the current policy that I maintain at my hospital – treatment can begin without an initial deposit, to ensure we save lives first.

Our goal is to treat patients with urgency, recognising that each person is someone's loved one.

Power is crucial for everything we do, from maintaining the efficacy of refrigerated drugs to ensuring continuous operations in our hospital. Without reliable power, our capacity to deliver essential services is compromised. To address this, we rely on various power sources, including diesel and fuel generators. However, these are not always sufficient, especially in prolonged outages. That's where our solar system comes into play. With solar, we now have consistent power, which supports our electronic database, Wi-Fi, and patient tracking systems. This ensures that our operations run smoothly and that we can offer 24-hour service, improving both staff efficiency and patient care.


ASK
ME

DR. OLUWATOYIN OJO

PHARMACIST

IKEJA, LAGOS STATE

As a public health pharmacist, one of the biggest challenges that I am confronted with is the complexity of managing cold chain products, particularly vaccines.

Ensuring that medications and vaccines are stored at the correct temperatures is critical, but unreliable power supply can make this task very difficult.

Improper storage can lead to denaturation and reduced effectiveness, even before the expiry date. Therefore, a reliable power supply is essential for ensuring that medications remain potent and effective.

I first learned about the solar products we now use when seeking solutions to our electricity issues. With rising fuel costs for generators, solar-powered freezers offer a sustainable and cost-effective alternative. The feedback from users in rural areas was encouraging, and I decided to explore this option for our needs. The solar-powered solution has alleviated concerns about power outages and fuel shortages, providing a long-term solution to our electricity challenges.

My vision for the future of pharmacy includes better access to current technologies for drug storage and transport, affordable and available medications, and effective health insurance systems. Such solutions can reduce out-of-pocket expenses for patients and improve overall healthcare delivery.


MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC OKUTA
BARUTEN LGA

AHMED MARIAM KPEROGI

HEALTH WORKER, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

BARUTEN, KWARA STATE

My childhood dream was to become a doctor, but life led me to become a community health worker.

I am based in Baruten Local Government, specifically in the Okuta district, an area predominantly speaking Baatonu and close to the Republic of Benin. Since its inception in 1983, our facility has been an important immunisation hub, established by the late Emir to extend primary health care to remote villages. Although modest in size, our facility is well-respected due to its strategic location and the quality of services we offer. We offer a broad range of primary health care services, including immunisation for children under five, antenatal care, uncomplicated deliveries, HIV and tuberculosis screening, and minor surgeries. For more complex cases, we refer patients to a general hospital.

Reliable power is essential for our work. It keeps our vaccine fridge running and ensures that our facility is well-lit, which helps us attract and retain patients.

Without constant power, we would struggle with darkness, equipment issues, and the risk of compromising vaccine quality.

The arrival of solar power has really aided our operations. We can now function around the clock with dependable lighting and cooling, making our work more efficient and enhancing comfort for both staff and patients.

The Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP) has powered only 100 healthcare centers across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. Through this initiative, Gombe State Specialist Hospital has boosted its capacity by 50%, now serving over 350 pregnant women monthly across its clinic, emergency unit, labor ward, and maternity wards.


TEAM B

AGRICULTURE

With consistent access to power, the agricultural sector can drive economic growth, ensure food security, and uplift entire communities by enabling modern farming techniques, reducing post-harvest losses, and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Scan to watch


PLAY
Scan to watch

ABDULLAHI ALIU NBUGAZA A.K.A. AUDU MANAGER

MILLER/REPAIRMAN

LAFIA, NASARAWA STATE

I've always believed that as long as I can work with my hands, my legs won't hinder me from doing my job, so my disability has never stopped me from earning a living.

My name is Abdullahi Aliu Nbugaza, but in a town with many Audu Alis, I needed a name that would stand out. So I go by Audu Manager.

I attended an Islamic school, where my teacher taught us the importance of not begging, and he encouraged those of us interested in learning a trade to do so. Today, I manage a grinding mill that serves people in the community.

In the past, I relied on diesel, and it was expensive to run the business; but with the coming of solar to our community things are much easier than before. Most customers are happy with our services, and they appreciate the work we do, so I'm grateful for that. People don't come to me out of pity; they come because they value my services.

Family has always been my priority. My first wife passed away, leaving me with one child, but I've since remarried, and my second wife and I have four children, some of whom are still in primary school. Through this job I am able to cater for my family as best as I can.

Abaribara Community,
Biase LGA, Cross River State


GUCCI

MAUREEN SUNDAY

FARMER

ABARIBARA, CROSS RIVER STATE

My childhood dream was to become a teacher, but life had different plans for me. Today, I am a farmer.

Cassava farming, while rewarding, is far from easy. The physical demands and the sheer amount of work involved can be overwhelming. The process of making Garri, a staple product derived from cassava, is laborious and time-consuming. I used to depend on a diesel engine to grind the cassava, and the noise, the fumes from the diesel engine, and the time required for these tasks were significant burdens.

The installation of a solar mini grid in my community, and the provision of a solar-powered cassava grinding machine has relieved me of so many burdens.

This new equipment has made my work more efficient. The grinder runs smoothly with just the flick of a switch, eliminating the need for noisy, fuel-hungry machinery. It has saved me a considerable amount of time and effort, allowing me to serve an average of 20 customers every day.

In the face of tough economic conditions, my cassava farming has become a stable source of income, to support my family and meet our needs. This business is not just a livelihood but a lifeline.

Garri is a flour made from cassava roots. It can either be eaten as a cereal, made into a street snack, or made into a dough to be eaten with soup. As a dough, it is popularly called Eba.

Eliot Creek,
Abaribara, Biase LGA,
Cross River State.

In Lafia, a community once dependent on gasoline generators, a 50kW solar mini-grid now powers 490 connections, energizing homes, businesses, and essential services—sparking economic growth and improving the lives of over 1,000 residents through clean, reliable electricity.

HAUWA'U SHAIBU

MILLER/FARMER

LAFIYAN KPADA, NIGER STATE

Life in Lafiyan Kpada is deeply satisfying. The community provides various opportunities in petty trade, farming, and other ventures, which support our livelihood. My children attend the local community school and are also picking up vocational skills.

Before a mini-grid was installed in our community, we had no other source of electricity. Its arrival was a breakthrough, allowing me to invest in an energy-efficient grinding machine. With a shortage of grinding machines in our area, this investment was essential. The reliable power supply has enabled me to expand my business and make a meaningful impact on my family.

Although I am also involved in farming and petty trade—selling provisions and fresh produce—it is my grinding business that has truly transformed my life. Witnessing these impacts first-hand, I would also greatly appreciate access to more energy-efficient devices, which could further enhance our community's growth.

I live here with my husband and our five children. Our home is filled with energy and the promise of a bright future.

RASHIDA ABUBAKAR

RICE PRODUCTION

RIGUNA, NASARAWA STATE

I got involved in rice production from a very young age. As a child, I was often tasked with fetching water for those working in the fields. After I had carried enough water and assisted with the processing, I was rewarded with a few measures of rice. Those early experiences ignited a deep passion for the work, shaping my future in rice farming.

Today, I manage the production of rice in large quantities, processing it and selling it in bags at the market. My journey began with just one small farm, but over time, I've expanded to owning more than two large farms dedicated to rice cultivation.

The production process starts with sourcing rice from other farmers, depending on the quantity I need. Once purchased, the rice is parboiled by either myself or my workers. After parboiling, the rice is dried before being taken to the dehusking machine. The dehusker separates the husk from the rice, preparing it for sale at the market. The most challenging aspects of my job are the parboiling and drying stages. These processes are time-consuming and require careful attention.

Before the introduction of solar power to our community, we struggled with unreliable power, often relying on petrol-powered grinding engines or manual pounding.

The arrival of solar has transformed our operations; now, we simply turn on a switch to start processing.

Rashida Abubakar, a rice farmer, uses a solar powered milling machineto mill rice for her herself and other farmers in her village.

The grinding time is reduced, the rice is cleaner, and the cost has dropped significantly since we no longer need to purchase petrol daily.

My customers appreciate the quality of the rice I provide and are pleased with the cleaner, more refined product. The satisfaction I derive from supplying high-quality products and earning a good income from it is immense. Returning home with a substantial profit from the market is heartening.

In the near future, my big dream is to process and sell 100 bags of rice in a single batch. Just as some people aspire to own houses or cars, my ambition is to achieve this significant milestone in rice production.

Given the importance of rice as a staple food in Nigeria, and the country's position as the largest producer of rice in Africa, producing about 8,435,000 tonnes annually, rice farming is deemed very lucrative. A large majority of Nigeria's rice is produced by small scale farmers, making it a source of income and livelihood for millions across Nigeria.

JOHN AHMADU

FARMER

DAKATA, KANO STATE

Farming has been a part of my life since childhood. I inherited my farm from my father and grew up watching him work the land. This instilled in me a deep interest in agriculture. Alongside farming, I learned to weave mats and baskets by observing others in my household. Continuing these traditions has always been my dream, and I'm proud to keep them alive.

I am married with three children. My father is still with us, but my mother has passed away. My family and I have faced numerous challenges, particularly with the unreliable electricity supply in our community. Before we had solar lighting, our evenings were marked by limited productivity. There is only so much one can do without light. Now, solar power has transformed our lives. We can work at any time, including after sunset, which has significantly improved our productivity. My children can now study and complete their homework in the evenings, and the improved lighting has bolstered our overall security.

The ability to weave at night has been particularly beneficial. This wasn't possible before the introduction of solar power, and it has opened up new opportunities for me. Engaging in activities after dark has become a reality, allowing me to utilize my time more effectively.

I take immense pride in being both a farmer and a weaver. In Kano, traditional crafts like weaving are deeply rooted in our culture. Being able to continue these practices with the aid of solar power brings me great joy. It feels rewarding to uphold these traditions while benefiting from modern advancements.

Looking to the future, I have ambitious dreams. I aspire to become a successful farmer on par with Aliko Dangote. I envision expanding my farm to include both livestock and crops, and achieving prosperity through agriculture. This vision drives me to work hard every day, and I am optimistic about what the future holds.

HADIZA NMA ZUBAIRU

BUSINESS OWNER/FARMER

GBANGBA, NIGER STATE

I live with my husband, Zubairu, and our five children: two boys, Mohammed and Abdul, and three girls, Hauwa, Aisha, and Amina. We all live in Gbangba, in Niger State, where I run a small business making Zobo drinks. I started this business after solar power was brought to our community. To prepare the zobo drink, I boil water in a pot, then add dried hibiscus to the boiling water. Next, I mix in spices and ginger, turn off the heat, and let the mixture soak. After soaking, I sieve the mixture to remove the solids, add flavorings and let the drink cool before packaging it. People love my zobo.

The introduction of solar has given us access to better lighting and energy-saving devices like a refrigerator and fan. It means I can make my drinks and chill them for customers, who love to have their drinks cold.

The access to energy has also positively impacted my children's education. When school is in session, the light helps them do their homework comfortably. As a homemaker, I find happiness in my role. I'm proud of what I've achieved for my family. Everything I do is aimed at securing a better future for my children.

Zobo (or Zoborodo) is the word in Hausa language for the edible plant Hibiscus Sabdariffa and the tasty drink it is used to make. Although Zobo is often consumed casually or at social gatherings, it is a herbal drink that is highly flavoured with flowers, seeds, and herbs which can be easily obtained from local farmers' markets in Nigeria.


POWER POINT

AKINBOBOLA NIKE

TRADER

LAOSO, ONDO STATE

My roots are firmly planted in Ondo State, where my husband and I hail from. Our family, known as the Akinbobola clan, used to live together in one home. Over time, as each member built their own houses, we gradually moved out.

Life in Laoso was once plagued with difficulties, especially before solar power arrived. We lived in literal darkness, which made it easy for thieves to steal our cocoa despite our vigilance. With the light now illuminating our surroundings, we can dry our cocoa outside without fear of theft, and our community has embraced the newfound brightness and the peace of mind it brings.

Laoso is now attracting those eager to experience our reliable power supply. Even people from Ondo city are envious of our consistent electricity. Many are now interested in buying land in Laoso to enjoy the benefits we have. These days, I spend my time watching movies and running my small business. I look forward to a future where I can benefit from owning cocoa land and provide for my family with peace of mind.

In Laoso, an agricultural hub centered on cocoa farming, the 54kWp hybrid solar mini-grid now powers 650 households and 230 businesses, energizing over 4,100 lives while boosting productivity, fostering local trade, and driving sustainable economic growth.

It is time to take decisive action and turn around this narrative: to light up and power Africa and accelerate the pace of economic transformation, unlock the potential of businesses, and drive much needed industrialization to create jobs.

-Dr Akinwumi Adeshina
The President of AFDB

Commercial activities at night –
UniAbuja Campus

MSMEs

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy and the largest employers of labor. With reliable power, they can create more jobs, drive innovation, and strengthen local communities by boosting productivity and generating income.

Scan to watch


MANCHESTER
CITY

The 362KW interconnected solar hybrid mini-grid located in Toto, Nasarawa State is the first of its kind to be commissioned under the REA. The mini-grid provides reliable, renewable electricity to over 1,000 households and businesses.

ALHAJI MUSA MUSTAPHA KANI

BUSINESS OWNER (YOGHURT FACTORY)

TOTO, NASARAWA STATE

My journey into this business began over 25 years ago, when I was just a young sales boy cycling around town selling yoghurt for my boss.
Eventually, I learned the ropes of producing and packaging yoghurt myself, but when it was time for me to start my own factory, I faced a significant challenge – I did not have enough money to start. So, I went back to farming and took on various small jobs to save up. After several years of hard work and saving, I finally had enough to set up my own factory, starting with two freezers and a power generator.

The power generator drained all my profits. About five years ago, a mini grid was installed in Toto community, and we decided to invest in a solar power system for our factory. This decision has transformed the way we operate. Now, we are more efficient and deliver our products on schedule.
The success of my factory has been incredibly rewarding. I've been able to support my family, build my own house, and create job opportunities for others.

Seeing my business grow and contribute positively to the community gives me a deep sense of satisfaction.

I also appreciate how reliable power has helped maintain customer trust and attract more clients.

People in my community have admired the growth of my business and encouraged me to expand even further. They've suggested using bikes and tricycles for deliveries to extend our reach.


MAGIC is
HATCHING

Prior to the installation of the 90kWh, mini grid in Adafila, Oyo State, the community had lived in darkness for almost two decades. Since the installation, new businesses have sprung up, providing services to customers in Adafila and neighboring communities.

AMORI FATAI BALELAYO

PURE WATER FACTORY OWNER

ADAFILA, OYO STATE

Solar power has not only helped my business but has also transformed the entire community.

More people now benefit from a reliable energy source, which has improved various trades and created job opportunities, especially for women.

Neighboring communities even rely on us for cold drinks during events and fasting periods. The company that brought solar power has supported local businesses, helping some of us acquire essential appliances through installment payments. I am now looking ahead, with hopes of expanding into bottled water production and supporting others who want to start new businesses here. God has been merciful, and with continued support, I believe even greater things are ahead for our community.

KAZEEM FATIMOH

BUSINESSWOMAN & CIVIL SERVANT

AKURE, ONDO STATE

I was motivated to switch to solar power after an accident that made me reconsider my power supply source. I had returned home from work one evening to find that there was no electricity. I tried to cook in the dark with a candle, but it started a fire in the kitchen. I had to quickly save myself and my children.

After the incident, “safety” took on a whole new meaning for me. I am extremely cautious with any explosive materials we use in the house, particularly in the kitchen. The incident also prompted me to switch to using solar-powered appliances in the house.

I feel much safer now with solar power, compared to using candles. I intend to continue to expand my use of solar powered appliances to include a high-max inverter and a solar refrigerator at home.

MUSA AGBO

WELDER

FADAMA-BAUNA, NASARAWA STATE

The one thing my business cannot do without is a reliable power supply. Before the introduction of solar power, our community had no stable power source, so we relied on generators.

Now we have a mini grid installed in our community, which has allowed us to abandon the generators and focus entirely on this new energy source.

This land, which I was able to purchase thanks to increased profits, will become the foundation for my expanded business, and my big dream is to grow this business into a large welding workshop within the next three years. I currently have ten apprentices—four young ones, including my son, and six older ones.

One of my proudest accomplishments was building my own house, where I live with my wife and two children.

It gives me great satisfaction that I don't need to rely on anyone else for my livelihood. Being able to support myself and my family is very important to me.

-Musa Agbo
Welder


Wesso
Canola O

OLAPEJU UMAH

FOUNDER, MY FOOD ANGELS

KETU, LAGOS STATE

At My Food Angels, we specialise in transporting food directly from farmers and markets to consumers, which includes both individuals and businesses.

With food inflation soaring every year, people now spend about 51% of their salaries on food.

By cutting out the middleman and sourcing directly from farms, we aim to reduce costs for our customers.

The current market only has about 26.7% of food fit for consumption, meaning that roughly 73% is wasted. We address this issue by ensuring our customers get fresher, less expensive food.

Post-harvest loss and logistics are the toughest parts of what we do. Even though we source directly from farms, we still have to discard some products that have deteriorated. We do have some cold storage, such as freezers, but cold storage for vegetables is expensive. Before migrating to solar, we struggled with power outages and could not store our products properly, incurring additional costs, but all this has changed. We now have reliable power, which has improved our ability to store proteins and shorten delivery times. This has allowed us to meet our customers' expectations more effectively.

The Nigerian market is large, youthful, and growing, which positions us well for the future.

USMAN GARBA

TAILOR

MEDILE, KANO STATE

My father enrolled me in a tailoring apprenticeship when I was still in secondary school. He believed it would be a valuable skill, so I began learning the trade in SS1. After school, you'd find me in the tailoring shop, honing my skills. Eventually, I established my own shop and started to earn money. That felt good! My former shop was destroyed by a fire caused by an electrical fault. It was a devastating loss, but it led me to switch to solar power after seeking advice. This decision has eliminated the risk of such incidents and given me peace of mind, knowing my shop is now safe.

The switch to solar was a smart move because electricity was one of the primary challenges I faced when I opened my first shop. The lack of a consistent power supply was a significant obstacle, as tailoring requires both day and night shifts. Without adequate lighting for night-time sewing, we either had to delay orders or postpone them until the following morning. Now, I can work uninterrupted into the night. This improvement has boosted my profits, allowing me to invest in larger machines and expand my services. I have also noticed a significant increase in both customer numbers and income. Customers are now more satisfied with my services because I deliver high-quality work on time.

Access to reliable energy has not only transformed my business but could also greatly improve the quality of life in our community. It would empower residents economically and promote overall community development. Many of us have turned to solar power to meet our daily needs.

DAMILOLA ADEOBA

FASHION DESIGNER

TEKOBO, OGUN STATE

Fashion was always a passion of mine, even when my initial ambition to become a medical doctor. When circumstances did not align with my ambitions, I found my path in fashion. When I initially started, I faced numerous challenges. I began with just one manual sewing machine. Financial constraints made it very difficult to invest in the necessary equipment. As my business grew, I acquired more machines, but then I faced power supply issues. We relied on a generator, which was expensive due to fuel costs that swallowed my profits.

Electricity is crucial in fashion design. Even if you use manual machines, you still need power to iron clothes and operate various essential tools. There were times when I had to travel to get my work done due to power outages and inadequate generator capacity. These constraints meant I sometimes had to turn down jobs to avoid disappointing clients.

About five years ago, we invested in an inverter system. This change was life-saving. The inverter has made a significant difference, allowing me to work on my schedule without the stress of power outages. With a reliable power source, I now have the luxury of time to plan my work more effectively and take on more jobs. This flexibility has enhanced my creativity and productivity, enabling me to meet urgent deadlines and explore more opportunities.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is seeing the joy on my clients' faces when they wear my designs. There's a special satisfaction in knowing that my work brings happiness and confidence to others. Fashion

designing is more than just assembling fabrics; it's about creating a personal connection with clients and fulfilling their needs.

I advise fellow entrepreneurs, especially those in small-scale businesses, to invest in sustainable power solutions. Given the unreliable power supply from the grid, relying on traditional generators can be costly and noisy. Solar energy offers a more affordable and quieter alternative.

Fashion designing is more than just assembling fabrics; it's about creating a personal connection with clients and fulfilling their needs.


sun king
HOME 200X
PLUS

ADERENI OLARONKE
AKA MAMA SOLAR
TRADER

IBADAN, OYO STATE

I live in the Odo-Okun community, where I sell iced soft drinks. Business is slower during the rainy season, but demand increases during the dry season. Before switching to solar products, I had to rely on community light, which was unreliable. I eventually disconnected from the community supply and gave away all the related equipment.

Currently, the only power source around me is solar products. Despite the rainy season, my sales are still strong. For instance, just yesterday, I earned ₦10,000 from selling iced soft drinks after church. The solar inverter keeps my drinks very cold. While some people think solar products are expensive, I believe they are worth it for the long-term value they bring.


Mama
Joy

CELESTINA AYO

RESTAURANT OWNER

PETTI, ABUJA

I operate my business in a vibrant community. I sell soy milk drinks, soft drinks, pure water, and juice, and reliable power supply is crucial for my business. If my drinks are not chilled, no one would buy them because customers expect their beverages to be cold. Solar energy helps ensure that my products are always cold, which has boosted sales. The technology is constant and reliable, and even when there are occasional issues with the system, they're usually resolved quickly by the service providers. My customers appreciate the consistency and quality of my service. They feel at ease, even at night, when they come by to buy from me. I feel I have earned their loyalty.

Last year, I had to travel to the village to care for my sick sister, and despite my efforts, she passed away. I returned in August 2023 with very little, starting afresh with just a crate of soft drinks and pure water. Thanks to the solar-powered freezer, I quickly attracted many customers and was able to recover financially. Now, I've even started investing in farming with the profits I've made. I also use an electric solar cooker, which has proven to be very efficient. With these innovative green products, I envision taking my business to new heights.

Managing a business in drinks, food, and provisions has not been without its difficulties, but for me, this venture is no mere employment; it represents a family legacy. Handed down from my mother, who inherited it from her own mother.


Viva
Laundry Sanitizer
Viva
Laundry Sanitizer

This business is a cornerstone of our family's heritage, and I hope to pass it down to my children.

OLAWOYIN HANNAH

TRADER

ALAKUTA, OYO STATE

Alakuta community is a great place, it is peaceful and there's a strong sense of community, making it a place where people are happy to stay. I have lived here for five years. I started this business mainly because I had a shop in my house and saw an opportunity to provide items that people in the community would need. Due to their needs, I decided to combine provisions, foodstuffs, and a POS business for easy transactions.

Before I began using solar power, people often thought my shop was closed even though I was still open. I used candles and lanterns, which were not bright enough to indicate I was still in the shop, leading to confusion among customers. Eventually, I decided to invest in solar lighting.

I initially bought solar products from my sister in Ekiti, who is a solar power agent. She recommended I purchase a solar bulb for my shop to increase visibility, and it has made a noticeable difference so far. The constant power supply has led to improved sales, particularly at night, and the brightness attracts more customers to my shop. The bright light also helps me spot counterfeit money, a problem I faced previously daily.

“I am now considering becoming a sales representative for solar products, to provide for those in the community who still lack solar lighting.”


MAN
MAN

DAN ASABE USMAN

PHONE REPAIRER

DANCHITAGI, NIGER STATE

I've been in the phone repair business for fifteen years now. But I only managed to open my own shop twelve years ago. I got started when I was sent to Zaria as a child to study. While there, I spent two years learning how to repair phones. When I returned to my village, I decided to set up my own phone repair business because I saw that there was a need for the service, which required the villagers to go to other towns.

When I first started my biggest challenge was the lack of constant electricity. I had to rely on generators, which were costly and required frequent maintenance. Then solar power came to my community, and everything changed. With 24-hour electricity, I no longer have to struggle with generators.

It has made my business much more efficient, profitable, and has removed the worry about power challenges.

> *There's no industrialization without electricity, without power, without energy. Electricity is a human right.*
>
> *-Wale Edun*
> *Minister of Finance and Coordinating*
> *Minister of the Economy of Nigeria*

In Petti Community, Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja, the 60kW Solar Hybrid Mini-Grid powers local enterprise, sparking economic growth through job creation, business expansion, and sustainable development, proving that access to electricity is the foundation for community-driven progress.

PLAY

Scan to watch

SAMUEL TITUS

COMPUTER SHOP OWNER

PETTI, FCT

Access to the internet means a lot because it exposes people to the digital world. In today's age, having internet knowledge is essential as it connects people to more opportunities and information.

I also offer computer training, allowing people in the community to learn computer skills and earn certificates. This gives them the opportunity to start their own businesses without needing to travel far for the knowledge. People from nearby communities and towns come to my shop because my services are cheaper.

The solar system was already in place before I started my shop. In fact, the availability of solar power was a key reason I decided to start this business, as I didn't have to worry about the cost of fuel.

I no longer need to buy fuel for generators, and I can offer services at lower prices because solar power is more affordable.

It has allowed me to operate more efficiently. The whole community benefits from reliable electricity, which has brightened the streets and given us a sense of pride—so much so that we call our area "Small London."My goal is to expand this business to other villages and bring the benefits of solar-powered business to more communities, so they can also take advantage of the opportunities we enjoy here.

From L–R: Guangzhe Chen, Vice President for Infrastructure, World Bank Group; Olufemi Akinyelure, Head, Nigerian Electrification Programme; Abba Abubakar Aliyu, MD/CEO, Rural Electrification Agency.

I think we need to continue to expand and rapidly scale up programs like this.

-Guangzhe Chen
Vice President for Infrastructure
World Bank Group

SANDRA CHUKWUDOZIE

CEO, SALPHA SOLAR ASSEMBLY PLANT

CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE

When I launched Salpha seven years ago, my mission was to transform lives through energy freedom. We focused on two groups: customers without reliable energy access, forced to depend on expensive and polluting alternatives, and young people passionate about energy but often overlooked due to lack of experience.

Our goal was to harness their passion and integrate it into the energy sector, creating a new generation of change-makers.

At Salpha, we don't see gender or tribe; we are united by our passion, reflected in the ecosystem around our assembly plant. Our team includes assembly workers, installers, sales agents, and other workforce members, many of whom are women trained and promoted within our organisation. We recognize that women are often overlooked and may not put themselves forward. We've seen assembly workers rise to become solar installers or sales agents. Without NEP, this wouldn't have been possible.

As Nigeria transitions to clean energy, I envision a future where anyone, especially women, can be leaders in the energy space. I see Salpha expanding across ECOWAS countries, continuing to transform lives through energy freedom, empowering customers, and creating green jobs across Africa. We aim to shift that narrative of Africa from being mere consumers to becoming producers, making a lasting impact on the continent.


NO NAKED FLAME

As one of the few companies in Nigeria manufacturing solar technology, Salpha Solar Assembly Plant is driving local innovation and job creation— a milestone made possible through the support of the NEP, fostering sustainable energy solutions and economic growth.


NIGERIA
ELECTRIFICATION
PROJECT (NEP)

LIGHTING UP LIVES: EMPOWERING NIGERIAN WOMEN THROUGH ENERGY ACCESS

LANDE ABUDU
STANDALONE SOLAR HOME SYSTEM (SHS) COMPONENT LEAD

Reducing Nigeria's energy access gap is a continuing effort. An estimated 92 million people lack access to electricity. To put this in perspective, that's roughly the combined population of our nearest neighbours – Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Nigeria being almost equally split between females and males; we can infer those 46 million Nigeria females lack access to electricity. This energy poverty disproportionately affects women and girls. This is why the work we do at Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) is crucial, particularly addressing this issue, and empowering women through energy solutions.

Through our initiatives, we've been able to deploy over one million solar home systems to underserved Nigerians, approximately 400,000 going to female-led households.

Using gender-disaggregated data, we can monitor the progress. This allows us to analyse, identify gaps and seek data-driven solutions that address the unique energy needs of women. Beyond energy consumption, NEP aims to encourage women in decision-making roles in the energy ecosystem. We require companies to have at least 30% women employed in their workforce and board, as part of the application process for our grants, creating awareness and support for women's empowerment in the energy sector. This is a deliberate effort to create a gender-inclusive energy sector, where women have equal opportunities to lead and participate.

Many of the accomplishments under NEP are as a result of the concerted effort among all stakeholders. The collaborations have enabled us to leverage each other's strengths, expertise, and resources to achieve our goals. Together, we have increased energy access to over 5 million Nigerians.

With the upcoming Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale Up (DARES) which aims to significantly expand on these achievements with a bold goal of improving energy access to 17.5 million Nigerians, I look forward to seeing the continued impact of our work, as we strive to create a more inclusive and equitable energy ecosystem.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DELIVERABLES

ASMAU GALADANCHI
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Access to electricity is a fundamental catalyst for economic development, improved livelihoods, and social progress. In Nigeria, where millions still live without reliable power, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) through the Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP) is at the forefront of addressing this challenge.

The transformative power of electricity is evident in the countless stories we encounter – from improved healthcare to enhanced educational opportunities, the impact of the NEP is profound. One particularly poignant experience was visiting a rural health centre in Adafila, Oyo State that had been without electricity for 22 years. In this day and age, it is almost impossible to imagine living without electricity for 22 years. Sadly, this is the reality for many communities across Nigeria. Fortunately, the arrival of solar power in Adafila revolutionized the operations of this health centre, enabling them to provide essential services around the clock.


COUTURE
EMEL

Across the country, we've witnessed how access to electricity is empowering individuals, families, and communities. Life-changing stories about the impact of NEP span different sectors, from business to socio-economic empowerment and even migration, as there is increased movement into communities where NEP is operational. This has inadvertently increased interest in the project. This increased visibility has attracted the attention of federal and state governments, international partners, and financiers eager to collaborate and expand the reach of NEP.

It is important, however, to note that promoting community ownership and sustainability is also critical to our success. We ensure that our developers engage in proper sensitization with communities, obtaining their buy-in and encouraging them to take responsibility for project maintenance and upkeep. Simplifying complex technical information about renewable energy is crucial, especially in rural areas where literacy levels are low. Ultimately, our goal is to address concerns and misconceptions, and educate residents about the benefits of renewable energy. This collaborative approach guarantees long-term sustainability and ensures that communities are invested in the project's success.

Our role as communicators is to be the voice of the project, amplifying the success stories, advocating for increased investment, and building a robust case for the continued expansion of this critical initiative. By effectively bridging the gap between policy and people, we are proud to contribute to a brighter future for Nigeria, where energy access fosters economic growth, improved healthcare, and enhanced opportunities for all.

ENERGY TRANSITION IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

ENGR. PAUL IYOGUN
PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT PROJECT MANAGER

Nigeria is committed to achieving about 36% of its total electricity generation from renewable energy sources as part of its contribution to the UN climate change goals. In alignment with this ambition, the new Electricity Act mandates distribution companies to source approximately 10% of their power from renewable energy. These initiatives aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and displace generators in underserved and off-grid communities.

However, the nation's transition to clean energy is hindered by several factors, chief among them being access to finance. Renewable energy, though critical, often struggles to attract private investment compared to sectors like oil and gas. Another challenge is the macroeconomic impact of the transition, exacerbated by the lack of local production capacity and insufficient data to support electrification planning and policy-making.

Notwithstanding, significant progress has been made over the past four years with the launch of the Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP). This initiative by the federal government, implemented through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), has catalysed and nurtured the energy ecosystem, boosting market confidence and attracting private investors, particularly in the deployment of mini-grids to underserved and unserved communities.

Mini-grids are all-in-one electrification solutions capable of delivering reliable power similar to conventional grids. Under the NEP programme, around 158 mini-grids have been commissioned in communities across Nigeria, many of which were previously unconnected to the national grid, resulting in approximately 120,000 new connections. Community engagement is at the core of what we do at the NEP. We actively engage with these communities to understand how the grids will enhance their productivity and quality of life. It is crucial for them to view the project as collaborative rather than exploitative. Community ownership of these projects is essential, as it ensures the security and sustainability of the grids. Residents are made aware that for these projects to be sustainable, services must be paid for.

NEP also places a huge emphasis on environmental and social management systems, particularly in grievance mechanisms. It's important to have clear pathways for addressing grievances within the community and to keep residents informed of any changes or updates to their services. We also encourage the formation of cooperatives or power committees within these communities, which facilitates easier engagement between developers and residents.

A landmark project under the mini-grid component is the interconnected mini-grid in the Toto community, Nasarawa State. It is the first operational interconnected mini-grid in the programme and Sub-Saharan Africa. A visit to this community reveals the tremendous impact of the NEP. Remarkably, the programme achieved its four-year forecast within just six months, necessitating a scale-up. This success is largely due to the increase in economic activities following the grid's deployment. We've witnessed business expansions, improvements in healthcare, salary increases, and a reduction in fossil fuel generator usage. We've also seen businesses relocate from grid-supplied border areas to communities with isolated solar hybrid mini-grid solutions due to the lower cost of doing business.

No doubt, the reliability of power from mini-grids will have both direct and indirect economic impacts, as sustainable development relies on dependable and affordable power. This will spur job creation, boost sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and curb rural-urban migration. By deploying mini-grids in these communities, we have created jobs for engineers, technicians, and others, thereby improving living standards.

Just observing the NEP's impact on healthcare, education, and livelihoods in these communities gives me a great sense of fulfilment. It makes me feel proud of what I do at the NEP.

Overall, NEP's success has made Nigeria's energy market more attractive to investors, driving the funding needed for the transition to cleaner energy. With the upcoming Distribution Access to Renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES) programme, I believe that Nigeria is well-positioned to meet its climate change goals.

A female STEM student from the University of Abuja takes the president of the Rockefeller Foundation, Rajiv J. Shah, on a tour of the University's 3MW captive solar hybrid power plant built under the Energizing Education Programme II.

Many countries around the world have gone through an urban led development model, which automatically creates challenges of reaching services to the last place in rural areas. Ideas like this change that model because we don't rely on some very expensive grids to reach every village but empower the local village with local facilities to change the lives of local people.

-Ajah Banga
President, World Bank Group

World Bank President, Ajah Banga, interacts with a community member during a visit to the 60kW mini grid at Petti community, Kwali Abuja, Nigeria

THE FUTURE: DARES

OLUFEMI AKINYELURE, HEAD NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

As the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) approaches its sunset, the future of Nigeria's energy landscape is poised for a new chapter. The Distributed Access to Renewable Energy Scale-Up (DARES) initiative represents a bold step forward, building on the NEP's successes and aiming to transform the renewable energy sector in Nigeria.

DARES is designed to expand on the remarkable achievements of the NEP by scaling up renewable energy solutions. This initiative is not merely about extending the project's reach; it's about the developers that were created through the NEP now evolving into powerful Renewable Energy Service Companies (RESCOs) capable of delivering projects at utility scale. It is also no longer a competition between the On-grid ecosystem as was the case in the early years of the NEP. DARES seeks to complement the national grid in underserved areas while also offering alternatives to off-takers in unserved areas.

A critical aspect of DARES is its emphasis on financial resilience and innovation. The initiative envisions a finance sector that embraces this vision with the creation of innovative funding tools and platforms.

DARES will put Nigeria on an accelerated path towards achieving its climate goals and also make Nigeria play a key role in facilitating the actualisation of the objectives of the Mission 300 program which aims to provide access to 300million Africans. The initiative represents a vision of a brighter future, where reliable and sustainable energy solutions are accessible to all, supporting economic development and environmental sustainability.

For me, the future hinges on three principles: simplicity, speed, and transparency. By adhering to these, we aim to provide electricity for all and meet our climate change commitments.


Scan to watch
DARES Video

LIST OF DEVELOPERS

A1 Power
A4&T Power Solutions
ACOB Lighting Technology
Arnergy
ASHIPA Electric
Asolar
Asteven Group
A.Y Global Intergrated Consult. Ltd
Azuri Techonology
Bagaja Renewable
Baobab Plus
Bartum Energy
Bboxx
Beacon Creative Ideas Ltd
Beebee Jump
Beximak Global Resources Ltd
Bravo & Yellow Ltd
Bumex this is a JV with Sygnite power
Bussdor Group Of Companies
CBC Energy
CeeSolar
Central Electric & Utilities Limited
Cloud Energy
Consistent Energy
Community Energy Social Enterprise Limited
Creeds Energy
DEC & Mutual Commitment Company Ltd (MCC)
Dongfang Electric International Corporation
D.light
Darway Coast
ECOF Kaduna Limited
Eauxwel Nigeria Ltd & Greencells GMBH
Electric City Energy
Emel Solar
EM-ONE Energy
Engie Energy
Energy Afric
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First Electric Power & Automation Services Ltd
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There is nothing that gives me more hope than our capacity to work together in common purpose. Knowing that when development is delayed – development is denied.

-Ajah Banga
President, World Bank Group

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NEP Achievement story


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