



CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT



INSTALLATION

Reliable Electrification Through Solar Mini-Grid and Business Promotion

SUMMARY

Country	Senegal
Implementer	Mercy Corps
Target groups	Rural communities
Duration	06/2020 – 12/2020
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

In Senegal, the share of households with access to electricity nationwide was 70 % in 2020. Meanwhile, about half of the population in rural areas is still without electricity. Currently, four villages in the Tambacounda region with a total of 263 households (or about 4,000 people) receive energy through a solar-powered mini-grid. This system has limited capacity and can no longer sufficiently supply all customers. Due to the limited availability of electricity, both household use and economic development in the region is hampered. Businesses are often unable to operate all necessary equipment and either need to reduce their economic output or are forced to close altogether.

IMPACT LOGIC

Mercy Corps is promoting the use of renewable solar energy for business activities in these four villages as part of the project. For this purpose, first, a market study of 24 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is conducted to identify their energy needs. Second, an increase of 100% in the output of the local solar power plant is realised by upgrading existing technology and improving the connection to individual households. Thereafter, the SMEs receive economic mentoring through support in the elaboration of business plans, provision of management and selection of equipment. In addition, the SMEs are connected to technology suppliers and financiers. The aim of the project is to create new jobs, an increase in the turnover of at least 15% for the 24 SMEs and the implementation of an awareness campaign on electricity consumption reaching out to at least 200 people.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

The innovative character of this project shows in the holistic planning, which combines knowledge gained in the market study with the expansion of the solar plant capacity and professional mentoring of the SMEs. In addition, the project also makes an effort to support women empowerment measures. One precondition for the selection of supported SMEs is, that at least 50% are led by women. Furthermore, the project also has an impact on local households which profit from an improved energy access and economic development. Thus, this approach aims at social, economic and ecologic dimensions for sustainable impact.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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