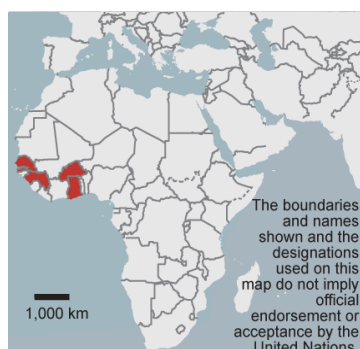


Energy for poverty reduction in Africa: Energizing community-led rural development using multifunctional platforms in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea and Senegal



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Burkina Faso; Ghana; Guinea; Senegal

Duration: September 2004 to December 2008

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; UNOPS

Other Implementing Partners: KITE; ENDA (local NGOs)

Budget: \$2,413,599

Key Words: Capacity-building; rural communities; poverty reduction; environmental insecurity

BACKGROUND

In 2004, roughly 1.6 billion of the world's poorest people had no access to electricity or other forms of commercial energy. Some 2.4 billion people still burned traditional biomass—wood, crop waste and animal dung—for cooking and heating, which depleted forests, polluted the air and caused respiratory ailments. In rural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, it was not uncommon for women to spend five or six hours a day gathering firewood and collecting water; a time consuming and heavy burden to carry. The lack of efficient mechanical power weakened

productivity and limited opportunities to earn money through small-scale enterprises, such as food processing, carpentry and welding. In order to expand access to modern energy services in rural communities, one of the new technologies developed was a versatile apparatus known as the multifunctional platform (MFP). MFPs are 10-horsepower engines with belts that drive various tools, such as cereal mills, seed press or battery chargers. When connected to an electric alternator, MFPs can generate electricity to pump water, light homes and refrigerate vaccines.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With its regional focus, the project sought to develop MFP-based rural energy enterprises so as to expand access to modern energy services in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea. Building on past and ongoing MFP initiatives in West Africa, the project implemented a broad range of activities to (i) improve

the capacities of rural communities to operate and manage their own energy services; (ii) share lessons learned across borders through workshops; and (iii) operationalize rural energy interventions through a learning-by-doing approach.

BENEFICIARIES

In total, the MFPs reached about 250,000 people, in particular women, in rural areas of Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea who received access to

energy services in homes, schools, health centres and other public spaces.