



Gambia solar energy for businesses

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The Gambia has set ambitious climate goals defined in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, aiming to have a total of 60 MW of installed solar capacity by 2025. This NAMA Support Project (NSP) Investing in Grid-Connected Solar PV in The Gambia provides incentives for the private sector to invest in solar capacity. The implementation of the project will result in 10.5 MW of installed solar capacity – 6.0 MW of installed capacity at Farafenni and 4.5 MW installed at Basse – servicing both of the country's grids, supplying clean to satisfy approximately 144,500 people's energy needs and reduce 322,019 tonnes of CO₂ across the 26-year lifetime of the solar PV technology.

The design of this Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) in The Gambia was founded upon fundamental analysis conducted over the last decade, with specific reference to the Rural Electrification with Renewable Energy in The Gambia NAMA produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2015, and the Feasibility study for Grid-Connected Solar Power Generation in The Gambia developed by UNDP in 2016. The NAMA is fully embedded within The Gambia's Vision 2020 and furthermore, it will contribute directly to the country's NDC and its recovery from the COVID-19 crisis by providing stable solar energy throughout the day for businesses in Farafenni and Basse.

Despite rising energy demand and reducing costs of solar PV technology, a number of barriers prevent IPPs adding capacity to the regional grids, including: a lack of security around the payments made by the off-taker (NAWEC) and a lack of experience with larger scale renewable energy installations in isolated regional grids or lack of interest of independent power producers (IPP) due to challenging environment.

The NSP implementation is now underway and is already working to achieve its key target outcomes:

The setting up of the partnership, the capacity building, the feasibility studies, have taken considerable time and many unforeseen challenges have had to be overcome. As a result, the national stakeholders are excited that the project is now under implementation. IPPs will be selected through a tender process which will commence in the first quarter of 2021. The capacity building of the IPPs and the NAWEC staff is well underway and the construction of the infrastructure at both sites will commence later this year.

On 24 February, UNDP launched the tender for the Independent Power Producer (IPP) to work and service for the construction and operation of the Solar PV plants. Offers can be submitted until 21 April 2021 through the online tendering system of UNDP [here](#).

For more information, please see the Investing in Grid-Connected Solar PV in The Gambia case study produced by the UNDP-UNCDF team.



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Learn more about The Gambia Grid Connected Solar project.

Learn more about rural electrification with renewable energy in The Gambia.

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The Gambia Solar Energy Project is an initiative within the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering which is committed to providing sustainable light and energy solutions to rural schools and communities within The Gambia.

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