Off-Grid Power SL
green energy infrastructure project portfolio

Location:
Sierra Leone (Southern & Eastern, multiple locations)

Budget:
EUR 6,340,000

Team Europe financing:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Other financing:
UK, Switzerland, Powergen

Green energy infrastructure:
2.5 MW capacity.

Electricity connections:
The project provides renewable power to over

99,000 people,
often as first-time access to electricity. The project has also connected several community health centres, helping women to give birth safely during night-time hours and supporting health workers to keep vaccinations cool. Up to 6 kWh per month of electricity is provided to these institutions free of charge.

'Off-Grid Power (SL) Ltd (OGP)' is a partly Team Europe funded joint venture that developed, constructed and commissioned, and operates a green energy infrastructure portfolio of 40 solar hybrid mini-grids across the southern and eastern half of Sierra Leone.

The project provides distributed renewable energy (DRE) through mini-grids to over 99,000 people, often as first-time access to electricity. The project has also connected several community health centres, helping women to give birth safely during night-time hours and supporting health workers to keep vaccinations cool. Up to 6 kWh per month of electricity is provided to these institutions free of charge.

The joint venture was formed in 2019 by infrastructure investor 'Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)', financed by the UK, the Netherlands and Switzerland, and the off-grid developer PowerGen Renewable Energy. The initiative also secured ~EUR 106,000 of grant funding from PIDG Technical Assistance.

The project has had significant social impacts, including job creation, improved education, and enhanced quality of life. A total of 255 short-term construction jobs and 96 permanent operational jobs were generated, providing stable employment opportunities.

OGP is part of the Rural Renewable Energy Project (RREP) project, launched by the Government of Sierra Leone to increase energy access in the country. In 2022, Sierra Leone's rural electrification rate stood at just 5%, one of the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa. As a first of its kind in scale and scope, RREP was implemented by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to deliver 5MW of off-grid power, electrifying 94 communities across four regions.

Climate impact:
Data not available

Social impact:
The project has had significant social impacts, including job creation, improved education, and enhanced quality of life. A total of 255 short-term construction jobs and 96 permanent operational jobs were generated, providing stable employment opportunities. Additionally, 85% of customers have reported that their lives have improved since accessing electricity from the solar mini-grid programme. Reliable power has also benefited education, enabling children to study in the evenings. Schools have observed improved national test results, attributing this positive change to the availability of electricity.

The project has trained local technicians to monitor the installations and make minor repairs.

> *PowerGen's presence here is very important for the community because Pejeh Chiefdom has been in darkness for over 70 years."*
>
> **Chiefdom Chairperson.**

> *The arrival of this light has helped me in a lot of ways. I can invest into my children's education and take care of my parents."*
>
> **Telecentre Owner.**

> *With the coming of the solar light, it has made my work easier. Before, we used torchlight to deliver babies. Now, when a woman comes at 2am or 3am, she will meet electricity. So, the light has enabled us to save more lives."*
>
> **Midwife.**

> *Before we got electricity, the children found it very difficult to study at night. Most children are very poor and families cannot afford batteries for their children to read at night. Now, we have a lot of study groups at night and NPSE exam pass rates are improving."*
>
> **Headteacher.**

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