

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

## TOP 28 REA PARTNERSHIPS TRANSFORMING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SPACE IN NIGERIA



17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY  
ENERGY • EMPOWERMENT • EFFICIENCY

# Table of Content

PAGE		PAGE	
<b>04</b>	FOREWARD	<b>05</b>	MESSAGE FROM CEO
<b>06</b>	ACTIVATING A STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT IN THE ENERGY SECTOR	<b>07</b>	STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THE REA FOR IMPACT AND BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY
<b>08</b>	STRENGTHENING LEGISLATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS	<b>09</b>	PARTNERING STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR ACCELERATED DEPLOYMENT OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACCESS IN OFF-GRID COMMUNITIES
<b>10</b>	PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIOECONOMIC GROWTH - IMPLEMENTING AN ODA IN THE OFF-GRID SECTOR	<b>11</b>	STRENGTHENING INVESTMENTS IN THE SOLAR ENERGY SUB-SECTOR
<b>12</b>	PLUGGING INTO THE CARBON CREDIT MARKET, SUSTAINING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN NIGERIA	<b>13</b>	EVOLVING HYBRID RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS FOR OPTIMIZED AND SUSTAINABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY
<b>14</b>	IMPLEMENTING THE NIGERIA ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT, POWERING NIGERIA'S UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED	<b>15</b>	PARTNERSHIP FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING, INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING
<b>16</b>	CLOSING THE ENERGY DATA GAP FOR EQUITABLE DEPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE-CENTERED ENERGY SOLUTIONS	<b>17</b>	DERISKING SUSTAINABLE LIGHTING SOLUTIONS, STRENGTHENING THE AG-ENERGY ECOSYSTEM, AND CATALYZING INNOVATION IN NIGERIA
<b>18</b>	IMPLEMENTING THE AFRICA MINI-GRIDS PROGRAMME (AMP) IN NIGERIA	<b>19</b>	CATALYZING INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE GCIP



# Table of Content

PAGE		PAGE	
<b>20</b>	ELIMINATING BOTTLENECKS AND UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR OFF-GRID ELECTRIFICATION IN NIGERIA	<b>21</b>	BOOSTING CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCESS IN NIGERIA
<b>22</b>	EXPLORING INTERCONNECTED MINI-GRID ACCELERATION SCHEME (I)MAS, POWERING MORE UNSERVED NIGERIANS	<b>23</b>	CATALYZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
<b>24</b>	DESIGNING THE ONE STOP INVESTMENT PLATFORM (OSIP) FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIA	<b>25</b>	ADVANCING ENERGY ACCESS THROUGH DATA, CAPACITY-BUILDING, AND SECTOR COORDINATION
<b>26</b>	OPTIMIZING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN	<b>27</b>	STRENGTHENING OF THE REA TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE (TSD)
<b>28</b>	IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMMES TARGETED AT AGRICULTURE, LAND, WATER RESOURCES AND LOCAL COMMERCE	<b>29</b>	CHARTING A CLEAR PATH FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS INITIATIVE (PCNGI)
<b>30</b>	LEVERAGING DATA TO EXPAND ENERGY ACCESS FOR SMES IN NIGERIA	<b>31</b>	EXPANDING THE REA'S GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS THROUGH THE EEP
<b>32</b>	STRENGTHENING THE ENERGY STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE MARKET IN NIGERIA	<b>33</b>	EXPANDING NEP PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACCESS
<b>34</b>	THE REA'S LINKAGE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)	<b>35</b>	PICTURE GALLERY



# Foreward

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**S**ustainable energy is the pillar for impactful and inclusive development in sub-Saharan Africa. In the same light, strategic partnerships have become central to the successful implementation of all development efforts. At the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) we firmly believe that achieving universal access to sustainable energy requires strategic collaboration and collective action amongst critical stakeholders.

National development and socio-economic transformation come with complex challenges as well as multifaceted opportunities to proffer fit-for-purpose solutions to existing problems. This is why it is nearly impossible to find a one-size-fits-all solution from any singular, independent entity delivering sustainable development goals without galvanizing the strength of active stakeholders in the space.

At the REA, we continue to embrace the tenets of SDG17: *Partnerships for the Goals*, recognizing the critical role that partnerships play in accelerating impact in last-mile communities. In the last 4 years, we have maintained an open-door policy for strategic partnerships and productive engagements with stakeholders in the public and private sectors; governments; development partners; innovators; researchers; product developers; community leaders, and the growing list of actors and problem solvers in the development space.

While at the vantage point of delivering on the objectives of SDG7 and deepening the transformation achieved through the delivery of clean, sustainable energy solutions to the unserved and the underserved across Nigeria, at the REA we witness so frequently the central role of energy and how the Agency's efforts affect quality healthcare delivery, sustainable agriculture, education, small and medium scale enterprises as well as better communal living.

We are delighted to present to you our latest publication, dedicated to highlighting some of the key impactful partnerships the Agency has forged in its relentless pursuit of expanding sustainable energy access interventions nationwide.

This publication is a testament to our unwavering commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7): access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all and it shows partnership efforts targeted at sustainable finance, renewable energy technology growth, knowledge, capacity development, and data.

Over the years, our strategic partnerships have not only enlivened last-mile communities but have also strengthened the off-grid sector in Nigeria while improving healthcare service delivery, empowering local entrepreneurs, catalyzing economic growth, energizing academic institutions, and safeguarding the environment.

Through the pages of this publication, we invite you to embark on a journey with us; one that celebrates the power of collaboration, innovation, and shared responsibility in the pursuit of universal energy access.

We hope that this publication serves as both a source of inspiration and a call to action. Let it ignite a spark within you, a spark that fuels your own passion for partnership and motivates you to contribute to the global drive for sustainable energy access.

Thank you for joining us on this journey towards a world where sustainable energy is accessible to all.

Together, we can make a difference.





## Message from the CEO —

In our pursuit of a sustainable energy future, we are reminded of the profound wisdom encapsulated in the words of an African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This adage beautifully underscores the essence of partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with SDG 17, in particular, serving as the linchpin of collaboration and collective action.

Over the years, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has explored the interlink between SDG7 and SDG17 with a clear understanding that the delivery of sustainable energy objectives across Nigeria has only been possible due to the Agency’s strategic collaborations with other active frontline change-makers in government, the private sector, and the development space.

With the quality guidance of the Federal Ministry of Power, the REA has nurtured alliances with state governments, MDAs, commercial banks, development finance institutions, private sector players, equipment manufacturers, and academic institutions. As an implementing Agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria, these alliances have, in no small measure accelerated the delivery of our core mandate.



***Partnerships are the lifeblood of our agency’s mission. We recognize that the challenge of ensuring affordable and clean energy for all is too immense for any one entity to address in isolation. It is in the spirit of shared responsibility that we continue to deliberately forge these strategic alliances.***

The journey of the Rural Electrification Agency is not a mere narrative of electrifying villages or deploying renewable energy solutions; it is a testament to the power of hard work, qualitative insight, unity, and collaboration. It is a story of how, together with our partners, we have harnessed innovation, leveraged resources, and scaled transformative solutions that have touched the lives of millions of Nigerians.

I am delighted to present this e-publication, which articulates the pivotal role of partnerships in driving the implementation of SDG 7—Affordable and Clean Energy. It is an immense privilege to reflect on the journey we have undertaken, hand in hand with a multitude of stakeholders who share our unwavering commitment to expanding energy access and promoting sustainability.

In the pages of this publication, you will discover inspiring updates on partnership, innovation, and impact. Our collaborations have not only accelerated progress toward universal energy access but have also amplified the broader impact of our efforts, from poverty reduction to climate resilience.

These partnerships equally reflect the pivotal role sustainable energy plays in the lives of people and how pivotal it is for all stakeholders to explore the interlink between all SDGs. We must harness the collective strength of diverse stakeholders, harmonize our efforts, and navigate the intricacies of a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Together, we have indeed traveled far, and as we continue our journey, we do so with a shared vision of a world where affordable, clean, and sustainable energy is not just an aspiration but a lived reality for all.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners for their unwavering support, to our team for their tireless dedication, and to our readers for their shared commitment to this collective endeavor.

Together, we have embarked on a journey that is both challenging and exhilarating.

Together, we will go far.

**Engr. Ahmad Salihijo Ahmad**  
MD/CEO, Rural Electrification Agency (REA)

# 1 Activating a Strategic Roadmap for Sustainable Impact in the Energy Sector



In 2020, a repositioned REA birthed, with the Agency's new leadership leading a collaborative process to clarify the organization's vision; developing a theory of change and strategic priorities; and assessing the Agency's realities while designing future program portfolios. The product of this collaborative engagement is captured in the Agency's Vision and 5-Year Strategy Roadmap designed to connect vision to action, guiding the REA's growth path for off-grid, renewable energy projects and clearly highlighting the REA's purpose in promoting electricity access throughout Nigeria.

The long, collaborative process that led to the activation of a practical and actionable roadmap for the Agency was co-facilitated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Power Africa – Nigeria Power Sector Programme (PA-NPSP). The NPSP team worked in full collaboration with the REA, analyzing the Agency's realities and charting a smooth course that has led to the delivery of impactful projects, programs, and initiatives in the last 4 years.

Delivering quality technical support to the REA, the NPSP team worked collaboratively with the Agency to refine its strategic priorities, midwifing a theory of change for achieving the REA vision through three categories of interventions: (1) demand-side; (2) supply-side; and (3) coordination and capacity building.



## IMPACT



The REA and the PA-NPSP have successfully strengthened strategic engagements in the off-grid space through a Quarterly Stakeholders Forum which has greatly improved inter-sectorial and inter-Agency collaboration.



Through an iterative process, the partnership helped with the delivery of a data-driven, impact-focused 5-year strategic roadmap which the REA continues to optimize across all programmes.



The NPSP programme continues to provide invaluable technical support to the REA while mainstreaming knowledge-driven conversations on energy access, climate action, energy data, gender mainstreaming, etc.



## 2 Strengthening the Internal Workings of the REA for Impact and Better Service Delivery



**B**eyond ensuring the accelerated deployment of projects to beneficiaries across the nation as mandated by the Federal Government, the REA Management, as part of the objectives to reposition the agency for better service delivery paid keen attention to the Agency's structure and internal workings through a holistic institutional assessment.

While working with the REA team and in line with the agency's strategy objectives, DAI worked with the agency for the delivery of a practical and evidence-based institutional assessment. DAI is a global institution that works on the frontlines of global development, transforming ideas into action—action into impact.

The output of the REA – DAI engagement has improved upon the Agency's internal mechanisms through a holistic institutional assessment, guided by the Agency's 5-year strategy



### IMPACT



The assessment provided suitable recommendations for the achievement of quality service delivery standards, serving as inputs into the agency's overarching strategic plan.



Highlighting pain points and a clear path for progress, the institutional assessment has enabled the REA to strengthen its workforce, fine-tuned internal mechanisms while expanding its network with frontline partners and stakeholders across the sector.



A knowledge-driven, impact-focused product, the institutional assessment report created a clear path for the strengthening of expertise and optimization of resources at the REA, leading to better delivery of its mandate.

## 3 Strengthening Legislation, Implementation, and Sustainability of Rural Electrification Projects



As part of the transformative efforts of the newly positioned REA, in August 2020, the Agency facilitated a critical engagement with members of the 9th National Assembly (NASS), convening a knowledge-driven workshop targeted at legislation, implementation, and sustainability of the Federal Government's rural electrification projects being implemented through the REA.

The 2-day workshop, a day each dedicated to members of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, was important to the Agency's journey towards better service delivery. This became the first structured engagement between the lawmakers and the REA since the Agency's creation.

The Workshop and the close-knit collaboration it precipitated provided the opportunity to assess pain points and bottlenecks in the delivery of off-grid electrification, enabling the lawmakers to improve legislative processes, project selection, and impact of appropriated funds relative to least cost technology, scope, and relevance of projects. Conversations and quality insights were equally tailored towards addressing energy poverty and its socio-economic implications for the benefiting communities.



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### IMPACT



The REA – NASS collaboration aided the reassessment of the effect of budgeting processes on the projection of impactful programs in line with the overall agenda of government in the sector.



The engagement led to the exploration of sustainable finance strategies and resource options for the optimization of decentralized energy solutions across the nation.



The knowledge-driven interactions and presentations deepened the knowledge of the legislators on the possibilities and opportunities in the nation's off-grid space, leading to better legislative buy-in.



## 4 Partnering State Governments for Accelerated Deployment of Sustainable Energy Access in Off-grid Communities



One of the most futuristic and participatory engagements in the off-grid sector, pre-2023 Electricity Act, was the REA's strategic collaboration with the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF). Through the support and guidance of the Federal Ministry of Power and the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), the Agency created and maintained focal channels with all 36 states of the Federation through high-level interactions, information sessions, and roundtables. Through these engagements, the REA has assessed pain points and practical strategies needed to drill down on the impact of energy access interventions in all the 774 LGAs of the federation.

The State Government is a critical partner in the business of off-grid electrification and productive use of energy for socio-economic growth. In recent times, the REA, while optimizing its mandate, expertise, and presence in all 6 geo-political zones of the nation, has strengthened the link between the Agency and the offices of the respective state governments.

As the States explore investment opportunities in the energy sector, in line with the new Electricity Act, the Agency continues to play a critical role through its capacity and impact footprint as well as its ability to facilitate private sector investments across the value chain.



**Africa Clean Energy**  
Catalysing Africa's Solar Markets

### IMPACT



This partnership is aiding access to qualitative data on gaps in the respective states while drilling down on the needs and opportunities of regional institutions.



The engagements have improved the knowledge and local expertise of state government representatives on the implementation of decentralized energy programmes within states.



Through the inauguration of state Focal Persons, the REA has succeeded in initiating a platform for the exchange of ideas and access to energy access data for a more equitable electrification plan.



# 5 Partnership for Socioeconomic Growth - Implementing an ODA in the Off-grid Sector



In 1969, the concept of ODA was adopted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a government aid specifically targeted at the economic development and welfare of developing countries and has become a gold standard of foreign aid.

An impactful ODA in Nigeria, co-facilitated by the REA, alongside the Federal Ministry of Power and the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning, is the ODA received by the Nigerian Government, through the Korean Institute of Advancement of Technology (KIAT).

After months of productive engagements with the Federal Government, facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Power, the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning (BNP), and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed between the Korean Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT) and the Nigerian Government in 2022.

With the REA's keen interest in technical standards and sustainability of deployed equipment, the ODA enables the Korean Government to deploy high-quality Korean products and construction materials, while facilitating technology transfer and project sustainability.



Korea Institute  
for Advancement  
of Technology

## IMPACT



Provision of premium-grade mini-grid projects designed to deliver a total renewable energy capacity of 1.6MWp and 3.0MWhr system across 4 main communities in the FCT and its environ.



A state-of-the-art energy management system (EMS) capable of hosting all mini-grids in the country, auxiliary services, such as productive appliances including milling, grain, drying, water systems, lighting, and smart metering devices.



Deployment of Auxiliary Productive Use Equipment support facilities such as productive appliances including grain mills, drying, water systems, lighting and smart metering devices to beneficiary communities.



Foreign & Local Capacity development for Staff members and Stakeholders working with REA.



## 6 Strengthening Investments in the Solar Energy Sub-sector



In the nation's efforts to expand solar power access and accelerate equitable economic development, the REA continues to strategically implement the Federal Government's solar energy programmes while drawing in quality private sector participation.

Against this backdrop, the Agency, facilitated a partnership with Chapel Hill Denham, recognized as one of the top 20 financiers of mini-grid developers worldwide. Chapel Hill Denham is equally a key stakeholder recognized for its contributions to climate finance in Africa.

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both institutions, the partnership is designed to bring expertise in financing renewable energy projects and promoting sustainability principles in Nigeria. Coincidentally, the MoU between the REA and Chapel Hill Denham was signed at a first-of-its-kind investor matchmaking event convened by the REA.



### IMPACT



The partnership will improve solar power adoption in Nigeria and facilitate financing for off-grid electrification projects.



It aims to improve expertise in financing renewable energy projects and promoting sustainability principles in Nigeria.



The partnership will facilitate financing for off-grid electrification projects and contribute to Nigeria's energy access goals and economic development through the Solar Power Naija (SPN) Programme.

# 7 Plugging into the Carbon Credit Market, Sustaining Renewable Energy Projects in Nigeria



**G**lobally, nations are reacting to the threat of climate change in different ways. A consistent conversation in the fight against climate change is on the optimization of carbon offsets (or Carbon credits), which are measurable, verifiable emission reductions from certified climate action projects.

Carbon credits are leveraged as market-based instruments that allow companies, governments, and other institutions to address greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects that reduce or remove carbon dioxide or other harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the atmosphere.

With the pivotal role of the REA in the energy access and environmental sustainability ecosystems, the Agency is forging alliances with stakeholders in the global carbon credits market. In 2022, at COP27 in Egypt, the Agency finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Calgary and Dubai-based greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction project developer, Carbon-AI to identify and develop small-scale solar energy projects in Nigeria, funded through proceeds from carbon credits that are generated through Carbon-Ai-financed and developed flare gas capture projects.



## IMPACT



Through this partnership, both the REA and Carbon-Ai are exploring opportunities to finance and develop solar energy projects in unserved or underserved communities near CarbonAi's flare gas capture projects in Nigeria.



Carbon-Ai will apply its carbon finance and project development expertise to finance, design and construct viable projects, monetizing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions using its proprietary data management platform.



## 8 Evolving Hybrid Renewable Energy System for Optimized and Sustainable Electricity Supply



As part of REA's continuous efforts targeted at leveraging innovative solutions to improve service delivery and sustainability in the usage of off-grid solutions in last-mile communities, the Agency activated its Research and Innovation Hub in the year 2021. The partnership between the REA and the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) is targeted at evolving Hybrid Renewable Energy System for Optimized and Sustainable Electricity Supply in the areas of operation of REA projects.

Specifically, both institutions plan to leverage NABDA's patented technology on "Biomethanization System for Biodegradable Organic Feed stocks", marketed as BEGS Digesters Series, a biodigester that converts biodegradable organic feedstock to biogas, which the biogas further uses as fuel for electricity generating sets and other range of uses. NABDA's technology fits into the REA's efforts on R&D, as well as the Agency's deliberate attempts at initiating practical pilots on local solutions for local energy problems.

NABDA was established as a specialized Agency of the Federal Government mandated to promote, coordinate, develop and deploy cutting-edge biotechnology research and development, processes and products for the socio-economic well-being of the nation. Both institutions are committed to optimizing their technical and intellectual resources for the growth of the clean energy ecosystem.



### IMPACT



This partnership is aiding the exploration of the NABDA's BEGS Digester Series on select REA projects using biomass systems, aiding the development of home-grown renewable energy solutions.



The close-knit engagement between both institutions is strengthening government-to-government partnership and knowledge exchange for research, development, and innovation in the nation's off-grid space.



Experimentation of NABDA solutions through the REA Research & Innovation Hub, which seeks to nurture innovative approaches to rural electrification.



# 9 Implementing Nigeria Electrification Project, Powering Nigeria's Unserved and Underserved



One of Africa's biggest off-grid electrification programmes, the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) is delivering impactful energy infrastructure in last-mile communities nationwide, while strengthening private sector participation for the delivery of sustainable energy solutions.

The NEP is being jointly funded by the World Bank and the African Development Bank to the tune of \$550 million. A private sector-driven electrification programme, the NEP is bridging the energy access deficit by providing electricity to households, MSMEs, educational and healthcare facilities in unserved and underserved rural communities through the deployment of mini-grid, Solar Home Systems (SHS), captive power plants, and productive use appliances to ensure the sustainability of these off-grid solutions.

With REA as the implementing Agency, the Programme aligns with the Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan and also supports the Power Sector Recovery Plan (2017-2021) objectives to increase private investment in the energy sector, including implementation of rural energy access and off-grid/mini-grid energy services.



THE WORLD BANK



## IMPACT



Over 100 solar hybrid mini-grids deployed across Nigeria through the NEP.



The NEP has become an exemplary electrification project in sub-saharan Africa due to its data-driven, people-focused implementation model.



Over 1.6 million solar home systems successfully deployed across the country through the NEP, impacting over 7 million Nigerians.



The NEP has impacted over 5 million Nigerians, resulting in improved socio-economic development in unserved and underserved locations.



Through the NEP, the REA has successfully powered over 50 healthcare institutions while the programme is currently delivery on the Phase 2 of the Energizing Education Programme (EEP).



# 10

## Partnership for Institutional Growth



The Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Facility (ACE-TAF) programme is a 4-year programme funded by the UK Government Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented by Tetra Tech International Development and other partners.

Following the launch of the Programme in August 2019, the REA and ACE-TAF have maintained a close-knit relationship, aiding the delivery of technical support across key areas of the Agency's mandate. The launch of ACE-TAF in Nigeria has, through the REA and other stakeholders in the energy sector, aided the growth of the off-grid sector.

Through the REA-ACE-TAF partnership, a range of support was provided to the Agency. With a shared vision as outlined on the REA mandate, the ACE-TAF programme has, over the years aimed its interventions at complementing government efforts, private sector, and donor initiatives to overcome many of the barriers preventing the development of markets for high-quality stand-alone solar systems.

Through the ACE-TAF, the FCDO worked to increase access to reliable energy leading to better well-being and livelihood opportunities for poor and vulnerable people in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Africa Clean Energy**  
Catalysing Africa's Solar Markets

## IMPACT



Improved work on the Energy Access Database and Geospatial Tool is targeted at providing grid data, designed to guide stakeholders in determining the least-cost technology mix of in Nigeria.



Impactful, forward-leaning efforts such as the State Government Engagement Strategy, targeted at fostering a harmonious working relationship between REA and the States to create a pathway for access to data on unserved and underserved communities.



Implementation of capacity-building programmes to advance the implementation of interventions and strategies developed by REA towards ensuring Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).



Development of a GESI Instruction Manual that ensures a standardized approach for an inclusive OGS delivery by the REA.



# 11 Closing the Energy Data Gap for Equitable Deployment of People-Centered Energy Solutions



The role of quality data remains pivotal in the energy space, globally. As the REA continues to deliver on its mandate, the Agency is equally at the forefront of efforts targeted at exploring and optimizing technological tools designed to aid a strong energy access data infrastructure in Nigeria.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), in collaboration with the Africa Clean Energy Technical Assistance Facility (ACE-TAF) Program and the REA designed and launched the Energy Access Explorer (EAE) Nigeria – a novel data-driven, integrated approach to achieving universal access to energy services.

A commendable effort targeted at closing the data gap in the energy sector, the Energy Access Explorer (EAE) is an online, open-source, interactive, geospatial platform that seeks to help clean energy entrepreneurs, energy planners, donors, and development-oriented institutions identify high-priority areas where energy access can be expanded.

Beyond its visualization and analytical capabilities, the EAE functions as a dynamic geographic information system and data repository which reduces software engineering and data transaction costs for both data providers and users.

Its unique backend infrastructure comes with an easy-to-navigate Content Management System and allows administrative users with limited or no GIS and programming expertise to add data and metadata in a simple manner.



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

## IMPACT



Improved knowledge through technical support and capacity building of the REA team on data management in the nation's off-grid space.



Simplification of off-grid project planning for stakeholders for better project conceptualization and efficient project development.



Early stage development of a dynamic geographic information system and data repository, which reduces software engineering and data transaction costs for both data providers and users.

# 12 Derisking Sustainable Lighting Solutions, Strengthening the Ag-Energy Ecosystem, and Catalyzing Innovation in Nigeria



With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a suite of special programs were activated at the REA, post-COVID. In 2021, the REA launched the GEF-UNDP financed “Derisking Sustainable Off-grid Lighting Solutions” (DSLOS) programme, designed to develop a private sector-led technology value for making off-grid renewable energy technologies, such as solar lanterns and solar home systems, available to base-of-pyramid rural households who would not be electrified at least until after 2025.

With implementation ongoing, DSOLS is directly supporting the impact of the Rural Electrification Strategy and Implementation Plan (2016) and the energy access targets in the SE4All Investment Prospectus. The project rationale is underpinned by a novel approach to derisk private sector investments in the market for rural decentralized renewable energy access.

In line with the REA’s strategic priorities, the objectives of this partnership are being achieved through three outcomes.



## IMPACT

- Putting in place appropriate policies, programmes, and regulations that address policy, awareness, and financial barriers to facilitate investment in sustainable off-grid lighting solutions and corresponding business models.
- Ensuring off-grid lighting providers are operating and accessing working capital and equipment.
- Mainstreaming good practices, lessons learned, market assessments, demand-supply surveys, delivery models, and business models documented to support replication and scaling-up of project results.



# 13 Implementing the Africa Mini-Grids Programme (AMP) in Nigeria through the UNDP & GEF



The Africa Mini-grids Program (AMP) is a country-led technical assistance program for mini-grids, active in 21 African countries and complemented by a 'regional platform' acting as the advocacy, coordination, and knowledge management hub for the program.

AMP is expressly targeting early-stage mini-grid markets, seeking to establish the enabling environment for subsequent private investment at scale. The program's objective is to support access to clean energy by increasing the financial viability and promoting scaled-up commercial investment, in renewable energy mini-grids in Africa, with a focus on cost-reduction levers and innovative business models.

With the REA as the implementing partner of the AMP in Nigeria, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) continue to act as collaborators towards the growth of the nation's renewable energy space.

The Africa Mini-grid Program in Nigeria is designed as an enabler project of the REA's Energizing Agriculture Programme (EAP) which aims to advance one of REA's strategic priorities of focusing on the unserved and underserved to increase economic opportunities through agriculture and productive sectors in rural communities across the country. This objective is in line with the mandate of the REA to catalyze economic growth and improve the quality of life for rural Nigerians.



## IMPACT



The AMP will impact an estimated 70,063 direct project beneficiaries out of which 34,559 are women.



The program will expand energy access to about 20 unserved communities across Nigeria through increased financial viability and scaled-up commercial investment.



To provide a lifetime global environmental impact estimated at 74.2 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e.

# 14 Catalyzing Innovation for Sustainable Development through the UNIDO – GEF funded GCIP



In line with the REA's push for improved R&D and innovation in the off-grid space, it has, in the last 3 years, institutionalized a Research and Innovation Hub aimed at building an ecosystem of partnerships with impact funding to stimulate innovative solutions/technologies, towards improving agricultural productivity and other socio-economic infrastructures (Health, Water, Transport, Education, Communication), to address rural electrification challenges in rural communities.

Through these efforts, the REA is repositioned as a key stakeholder at the forefront of facilitating knowledge-driven, people-centered energy access solutions through a growing community of researchers and innovators. The Agency was, therefore, an appropriate implementing institution for the UNIDO – GEF funded Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) promoting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship to address the most pressing climate and environmental challenges.

In Nigeria, GCIP is implemented in collaboration with the Co-Creation Hub (CCHUB) and the Government of Nigeria, represented by the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (FMSTI) and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA). The REA will execute GCIP Nigeria activities for a period of 12 months while delivering on the objectives of the programme and collaborating with other key stakeholders.



## IMPACT



The GCIP is providing added value for domestic economic and industrial development by bridging the gap between cleantech innovators and investors in the renewable energy space.



In line with the REA and UNIDO's objectives on innovation and R&D, the GCIP opens up a new community of cleantech start-ups and SMEs working on disruptive solutions in energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste beneficiation, green buildings, transportation, etc.



Leveraging this partnership, the REA will design and operationalize the financial mechanism designed to support SMEs whose solutions will improve energy access in unserved and underserved regions.



# 15 Eliminating Bottlenecks and Unlocking Capital for Off-Grid Electrification in Nigeria



**F**inancing off-grid projects and other climate-resilient infrastructure remains a major bottleneck for Off-grid Developers and other private sector players across sub-Saharan Africa. This has greatly slowed down the needed action on SDG7, causing a slow pace of deployment of renewable energy infrastructure in last-mile communities. Over the years, the REA has been at the forefront of optimizing public-private partnerships for an improved and resilient off-grid sector, while delivering on the facilities needed to alleviate energy poverty, nationwide.

As part of the Agency's efforts targeted at sustainable finance for sustainable growth, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Infrastructure Credit Guarantee Company Limited (InfraCredit), a third-party guarantor for approved developers under the SPN programme, in a bid to catalyze long-term local currency investments into the Nigeria solar off-grid space through the Federal Government's Solar Power Naija (SPN) Programme.

The SPN is aimed at delivering 5 million new renewable energy connections, impacting 25 million Nigerians and creating 250,000 jobs in the nation's renewable energy sector. As a key stakeholder in the nation's financial sector and an institution with a robust history of unlocking potential for long-term local currency infrastructure finance in Nigeria, InfraCredit is collaborating with the REA to unlock opportunities in the off-grid space through the SPN.



## IMPACT



Enabling private sector developers to scale the bottlenecks involved in accessing off-grid infrastructure financing.



Guarantees provided by InfraCredit will help to unlock additional capital for mini-grid companies, either through the Bank of Industry (BoI) or commercial banks.

# 16 Boosting Clean, Renewable Energy Access in Nigeria



In line with the REA's multiple strategic efforts targeted at delivering on the energy access goals of the nation, the Agency activated a productive partnership with a global player in the clean energy space, Oando PLC. Oando established its clean energy subsidiary, Oando Clean Energy Limited (OCEL) in 2021 in a bid to invest in climate-friendly and bankable energy solutions across the African continent.

The REA – Oando collaboration kick-starts a strategic alliance aimed at exploring innovative approaches to clean energy development, fostering socio-economic growth in post-oil subsidy Nigeria. This partnership is equally significant as it further reaffirms the growing culture of public-private partnerships in the nation's business landscape.



## IMPACT

-  De-risk investment opportunities and create opportunities for sustainable finance.
-  Explore new approaches to clean energy development for socio-economic impact in post-subsidy Nigeria.
-  Achieve energy access, security, and affordability of clean energy solutions for Nigerians.



# 17 Exploring Interconnected Mini-grid Acceleration Scheme (I)MAS, Powering More Underserved Nigerians



The Interconnected Mini-grid Acceleration Scheme (I)MAS is a program implemented by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) on behalf of Federal Ministry of Power (FMP) with support from the Nigerian Energy Support Programme (NESP) that is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Government. The IMAS model was uniquely designed to provide power supply to underserved communities under DISCO-franchised areas.

The IMAS is a true test of the possibilities achievable with a fine collaboration between an implementing agency, a Distribution Company, a renewable energy project developer, and a beneficiary community.

Through the IMAS, NESP/GiZ provides the in-kind grant at 60% (provided as PV Assets, Distribution Network Assets, and Smart Meters) of the project while developers are to provide counterpart funding of around 40% via financial institutions, the REA, through the Rural Electrification Fund (REF), provides the direct grant agreement documents, and technical assistance to developers and performs monitoring and evaluation of the projects, to ensure compliance in equipment standards and other Mini-Grid guidelines in the Country.



## IMPACT



To provide electricity power supply, to underserved DISCO's franchise selected communities in Nigeria.

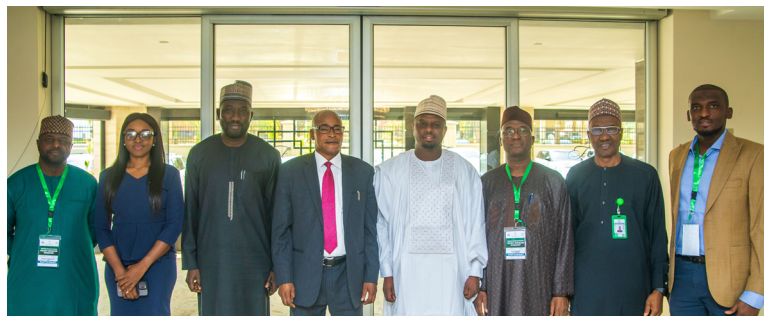


To provide a minimum of 135,000 people or 36,000 customers<sup>1</sup> (incl. residential, public, commercial, or productive users using single-phase or three-phase effective connections) with access to reliable electricity services at an affordable tariff via privately-led solar IMG projects in Nigeria.



The IMAS model has strengthened the collaboration link between multiple stakeholders in the energy sector, with the sole objective of providing sustainable energy to communities with energy access gaps.

# 18 Catalyzing Economic Development through Innovative Solutions for Agricultural Productivity in Rural Communities



In line with the REA's focus on sustainable socio-economic development through the productive use of renewable energy technologies, it collaborated with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and the Global Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) for the strategic implementation of the Energizing Agriculture Programme (EAP).

The EAP is a three-year initiative being implemented with funding from The Rockefeller Foundation, aimed at stimulating the use of mini-grid electricity in agricultural productive uses. The EAP focus is on enabling market-led solutions and breaking the silos separating electrification and agricultural development.

Nigeria's agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in the nation's growth, providing an estimated one-quarter of the country's GDP and employing two-thirds of the labor force, with a potential to generate \$40 billion in exports.

The EAP therefore has the potential to electrify agricultural loads catalyze scaling the adoption of decentralized renewable energy systems and spur local community development.



## IMPACT



Ensure local ownership of solutions and scaling by partnering widely and sharing insights broadly.



To build on existing agriculture and electrification initiatives in Nigeria and then accelerate the deployment and adoption of the most effective solutions for rural communities across the country.



To accelerate the deployment of effective, impactful productive use technologies across 70 viable communities in Nigeria.



# 19

## Designing the One Stop Investment Platform (OSIP) for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Investments in Nigeria



The REA became a key stakeholder in the inter-Agency Cooperation on the Green Energy Investment Platform, a One Stop Investment Platform (OSIP) for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Investments in Nigeria. The OSIP serves as a hub for up-to-date information and opportunities in the Nigerian renewable energy sector.

This allows stakeholders to have access to information on business opportunities in the renewable energy industry. The REA is collaborating with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH – Nigeria Energy Support Programme (NESP), Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), and the Federal Ministry of Power for the OSIP project.

This partnership exemplifies the quality of inter-agency coordination in the renewable energy investment ecosystem in Nigeria. The NIPC was established by the Nigeria Investment Promotion Act Chapter N117 of 2004 and mandated to encourage, promote, and co-ordinate investments in the Nigerian economy.

Through the strategic collaboration of all partner agencies, the OSIP is being designed as a robust platform aimed at derisking projects and accelerating access to technical, regulatory, and economic information, accessible to stakeholders globally.



NIGERIAN  
INVESTMENT  
PROMOTION  
COMMISSION



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

### IMPACT



The OSIP platform will mainstream the nation's renewable energy space, catering to international and regional investors in need of necessary information to facilitate investment in the renewable energy and energy sector.



The platform aims to match investors with local commercial players in the sector, as well as opportunities in the form of investment schemes, grants, and public tenders.

# 20 Advancing Energy Access through Data, Capacity-Building and Sector Coordination



In October 2023 a strategic partnership was activated between the REA and the Africa Mini-Grids Developers Association (AMDA). As part of the REA's Vision and Strategic Roadmap, the Agency has, over the years expanded its partnership portfolio with associations and institutions across the continent, while collaborating with forward-leaning stakeholders

With the pivotal role and sustained impact of AMDA in Africa's renewable energy space, the REA – AMDA partnership is a significant step forward for the mini-grid sector in Nigeria as it underscores a shared commitment to research, data-driven decision-making, and the establishment of robust industry standards.

The REA and AMDA are collaborating on a non-exclusive basis to further advance access to sustainable electricity for Nigerians and other African countries through mini-grids and decentralized utilities, and ultimately achieve universal access to energy by the year 2030.



## IMPACT



The partnership is focused on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and better coordination of the sector, amongst other data-driven initiatives.



Targeted at promoting sustainable energy access for unserved and underserved communities through private sector development and financing.



Enhancement of policies, regulations, and rapid deployment of clean energy technologies in Nigeria.



# 21 Optimizing the Objectives of the Economic Sustainability Plan



In July 2022, the Federal Government of Nigeria unveiled the new Nigeria National Petroleum Company Ltd, a dynamic global energy company with businesses and operations across the entire spectrum of the energy value chain. This new institution is poised to equally nudge host communities towards sustainable impact and social development.

With the objectives of the NNPC clean energy development being in line with the REA mandate on renewable energy use for socio-economic development, both agencies initiated a collaboration designed to deepen renewable energy impact both regionally and nationwide.

This inter-agency collaboration enables the NNPC to play the pivotal role of a guarantor, providing guarantees for off-grid developers with commercial banks while guaranteeing payments and equity upon the completion of the loan tenure from project developers.

The Agency will therefore be responsible for any shortfalls in repayment on loan facilities by developers. This particular collaboration equally involves other key stakeholders such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Yola Electricity Distribution Company (Yola DISCO) as well as other commercial banks.



Energy for today  
Energy for tomorrow

## IMPACT



The partnership enables the NNPC to provide a guarantee allowing PV plant developers seek funding from commercial banks.



It provides opportunities for more impact investors to partner under this structure to provide the technical expertise required to develop the project and co-invest alongside the identified investors.



With a total capacity of 30MW, this multi-party collaboration births a transaction that would be the biggest non-hydro renewable energy project in Nigeria.

## Strengthening the REA Technical Services Directorate (TSD) for Project Sustainability



As part of the Agency's efforts to strengthen its directorates while ensuring better service delivery, it optimized the long-standing partnership with the Nigerian Energy Support Programme (NESP) to enhance the Technical Services Directorate (TSD) within the agency. This support was initiated in response to TSD's request for technical assistance, capacity building, and organizational development, and it received approval from the REA management.

The primary objective of this collaboration is to strengthen TSD's the REA's ability to optimize technical support services across all projects, through its Technical Services Directorate. Specifically, the partnership aims to improve TSD's functions in project planning, implementation, adherence to standards and specifications, and project monitoring and supervision throughout the project's lifecycle.

This partnership builds on previous joint efforts, such as training sessions for the TSD headquarters and regional teams to assist in monitoring TSD's ongoing projects, which has thus far, equipped the REA with the internal capabilities, procedures, and tools needed to effectively implement cost-effective electrification projects across Nigeria.



Nigerian Energy  
Support Programme

### IMPACT



This has allowed the TSD to develop and align its approaches to electrification planning and project assessment from start to finish.



In the medium term, it empowered the TSD to ensure sustainable project implementation through improved planning, design, supervision, visualization, and adherence to technical standards.



This collaboration enabled the TSD to implement cost-effective electrification projects linked to a programmatic budgeting process, where projects are designed to serve both unserved and underserved consumers, including healthcare centers, markets, schools, and agriculture



## 23 Implementation Electrification Programmes Targeted At Agriculture, Land, Water Resources And Local Commerce



**W**hile expanding the REA's Government-to-Government partnerships targeted at regional and national development, the Agency signed a MoU, in 2021 with the National Fadama Development Project (NFDP) to collaborate on various activities related to planning and implementation of electrification programs targeting agriculture, land, and water resources. These "Agro-Energy" programs aim to deliver electricity for productive purposes and unlock economic opportunities in rural and agrarian communities.

The agency also collaborated with stakeholders during the pre-implementation phase of the programmes, offering support in conducting both desktop and field surveys to identify feasible project sites. Among the stakeholders involved are the At-Risk Children Programme (ARC-P) and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI).

More specifically, aligning with REA's proposed agro-energy programs, NFDP's second component, which focuses on Small Scale Community Owned Infrastructure, seeks to revitalize surface water sources and construct new small-scale irrigation and borehole systems. It also includes other groundwater irrigation schemes and infrastructure support. Within this framework, REA provided decentralized solar pumps and/or centralized solar mini-grids to viable FADAMA irrigation schemes.



### IMPACT



1,392 solar-powered irrigation pumps were deployed in the six geopolitical zones. This initiative has positively affected more than 11,000 individuals and 6,000 farmers, including approximately 810 female farmers.



The outcomes have resulted in the lighting up of over 170 farms using Solar Street Lights (SSLs), the training of over 3,000 farmers on pump maintenance and innovative irrigation techniques, and significant savings in expenses such as maintenance and fuel.



2,046 Solar Home Systems (SHS) deployed, effectively connecting 1,972 households, 5 primary healthcare centers, 10 schools, 22 religious centers, and 7 offices. Over 10,000 individuals benefited, including 5,000 students.



More than 350 direct and indirect jobs were created, and over 3,000 women engaged in trades such as retail, tailoring, and hairdressing.

## 24 Charting a Clear Path for the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI)



In light of the removal of the Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) subsidy and the subsequent impact on the incomes of poor and vulnerable households, the REA, while optimizing its mandate, is committed to supporting the new administration's efforts to mitigate the effects of the subsidy removal. One of the key measures being adopted by the Federal Government is E-Mobility, which includes the utilization of electric vehicles (EVs) and the establishment of charging stations.

The elimination of fuel subsidies has generated significant interest in E-mobility in Nigeria, presenting an opportunity to revolutionize infrastructure development and logistics. The Federal Government has set ambitious goals to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector by transitioning from gasoline/diesel-powered passenger vehicles to electric buses and two-wheelers by 2030, with the long-term objective of having 60% of vehicles in Nigeria as Electric Vehicles (EVs) by 2050.

On October 24, 2023, the Rural Electrification Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bovas and Company Limited, a partner of the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Initiative, to collaborate on several activities during the planning and implementation of electrification programmes targeted at deploying charging infrastructure for mass transit buses, taxis, tricycles, and motorcycles in rural and peri-urban areas.



### IMPACT



The Federal Government of Nigeria targets over 11,500 new CNG-enabled vehicles and 55,000 CNG conversion kits for existing PMS-dependent vehicles.



The agency's collaboration with Bovas and Company Limited is targeted at demonstrating the potential of EVs and creating a secure environment for scaling up this transformative technology.



Initiate initial efforts on set-up of charging infrastructure for mass transit buses, taxis, tricycles, and motorcycles in suitable locations within rural and peri-urban areas.



To include the installation of solar mini-grids and charging stations for Bovas' mass rollout of e-vehicle transit buses, while accelerating the achievement of the objectives as detailed in the PCNGI.





Through the Federal Government's Energizing Economies Initiatives (EEI) being implemented by the REA, over 19, 000 SMEs benefited from clean, safe, and sustainable energy access during the Pilot phase of the programme. Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the economy and important contributors to job creation and development in a country.

In light of this, the Federal Government through the REA developed the EEI, a comprehensive programme designed to stimulate economic growth and development in emerging markets by addressing energy access and infrastructure challenges. This initiative leverages public and private sector collaboration to improve access to reliable, clean, and affordable energy, driving economic productivity, and fostering sustainable development in the country.

To adequately strengthen this pivotal initiative to support more SMEs, the REA optimized the support of the University of Massachusetts through the Electricity Growth and Use in Developing Economies (E-GUIDE), a program sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. Due to inadequate data on latent electricity demand in Nigeria, E-GUIDE's expertise in constructing measurement and data analytics techniques that are verified using real data on electricity consumption and infrastructure is of significant value. The EEI program seeks to quantify this latent demand through a series of well-designed surveys, sensor measurements, and metering infrastructure.



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The ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

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## IMPACT



Seventy-eight (78) SME Clusters were identified within peri-urban and rural areas across the country with the aim of providing them with a sustainable, clean, and reliable power supply.



Through the EEI, this effort helps to pinpoint future opportunities for investments, making those future investments more efficient, and accelerating the replacement of dirty, harmful generators with cleaner, more sustainable sources of electricity.

## 26 Expanding the REA's Gender Mainstreaming Efforts through the EEP



In November 2023, the Rural Electrification Agency activated a partnership with Ceesolar, a renewable energy firm specializing in solar system design, construction, and energy systems deployment. This partnership is specifically targeted at the implementation of the female-only Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Internship Program, a vital component of the Energizing Education Programme.

Being delivered in phases, the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) is an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), to provide sustainable and clean power supply to 37 Federal Universities and 7 University Teaching Hospitals across Nigeria. The project includes the provision of an independent power plant, upgrading existing distribution infrastructure, street lighting to improve security within the universities' campuses, as well as the development of a world-class training center on renewable energy for each university.

In Phase 1 of the EEP, the Agency trained and certified over 80 female interns, over 60% of who are now in active roles in the renewable energy sector. To complement this success, the REA - CeeSolar partnership is targeted at improving the female internship programme in the ongoing Phase 2 of the EEP.



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### IMPACT



One of the immediate impact of the project, will be the facilitation of 140 female STEM students' transition into the field of renewable energy.



The Internship Programme is expected to further provide theoretical and hands-on practical experience to 20 selected female students from each of the seven beneficiary institutions under Phase 2 of the EEP.



The REA - CeeSolar partnership will equally play a pivotal role in pushing more young female renewable energy professionals into the nation's off-grid space in the near future.



# 27 Strengthening the Energy Storage Infrastructure Market in Nigeria



**A**s part of REA's statutory mandate, the Agency has maintained its desire to enhance the industrial level of renewable energy applications in Nigeria, including energy storage technology and cultivating a large number of indigenous professional talent in the industry through thorough engagement in capacity building in renewable energy technology so as to avert foreign exchange losses caused by the importation of related products.

In line with this strategic direction, the Agency has formed a partnership with the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure of Nigeria (NASENI) a Federal Government Agency responsible for science, technology, and engineering infrastructure development and the introduction of high technology into Nigeria and LEMI, a private company delivering competence in the Solar energy and battery manufacturing sector.

This partnership is targeted at the establishment of a lithium battery energy storage products manufacturing processing factory in Nigeria. Against the backdrop of its mandate, the REA continues to deliver electrification solutions to the rural, unserved and underserved efficiently, economically, and at such performance standards that reasonably meet social, industrial, and agricultural needs. These efforts are primarily targeted at rural communities to promote electricity access for unserved, and underserved populace to have unfettered access to electricity facilities.



## IMPACT

-  The development and establishment of a Lithium-Ion Battery Manufacturing and Processing Factory in Nigeria.
-  The partnership will enhance Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investment to drive the output value of peripheral ancillary products.
-  To create direct employment and technological expertise in the renewable energy industry.
-  With the current efforts in the technological space on the development of more sustainable and environmentally friendly storage systems, the partnership will drive R&D.



Through the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), the REA, in October 2023 activated a partnership with Cross Boundary Energy Access Assets Nigeria Limited, a subsidiary of Cross Boundary Access, a leading project financier of mini-grids in Africa, and ENGIE Energy Access Nigeria, a leading provider of solar home systems and mini-grid solutions.

As the agency continues to work towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) of universal energy access, it has maintained strategic partnerships with independent institutions and joint ventures that align with the objective of delivering clean, safe sustainable energy to Nigerians.



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CROSSBOUNDARY

### IMPACT



This partnership marks a significant milestone in the quest to bring electricity to underserved communities in Kogi, Nasarawa, and Niger States.



Under this public-private partnership agreement, a portfolio of mini-grids will be constructed to connect hundreds of households and micro-businesses in underserved and unserved rural communities.

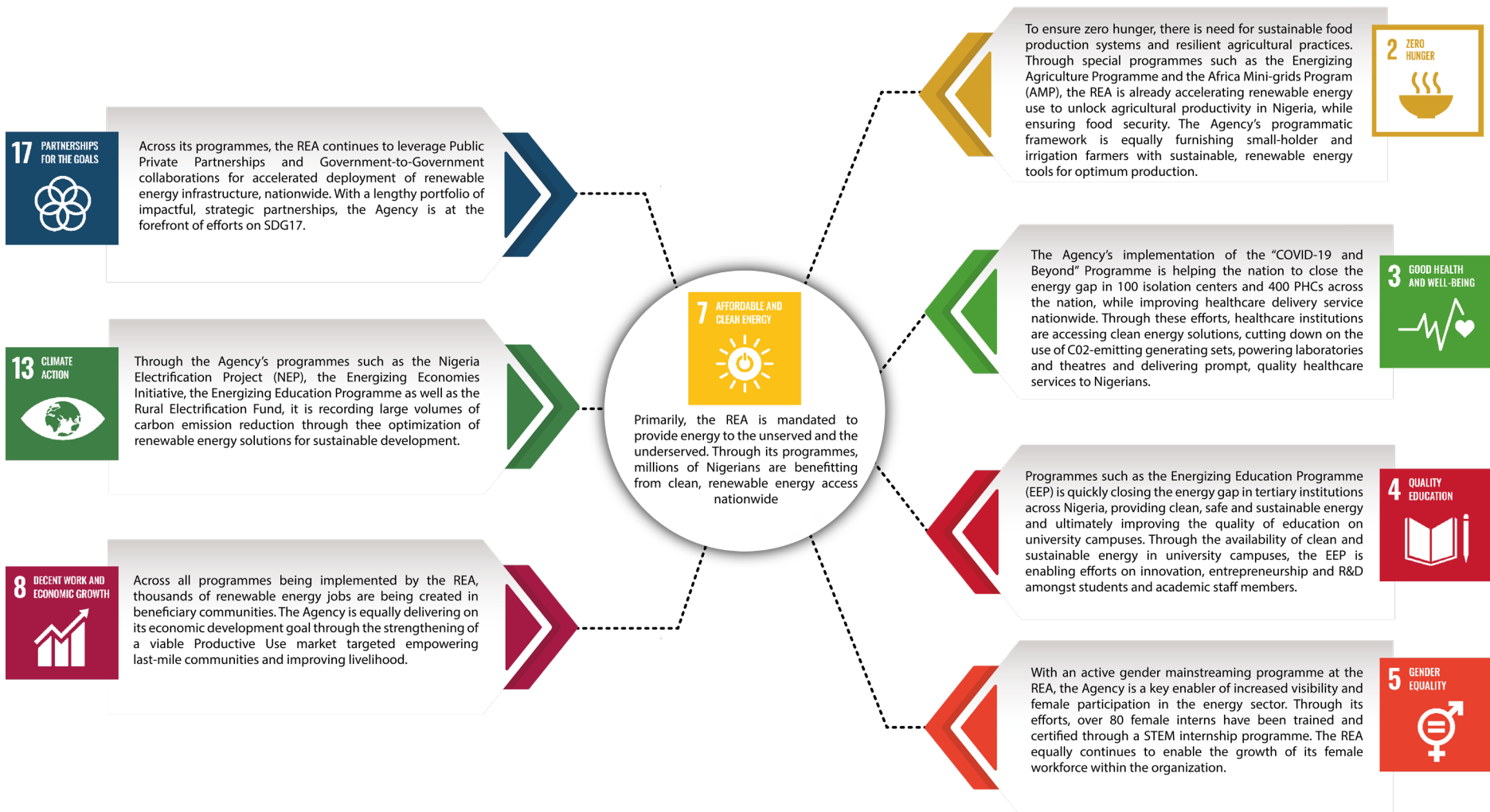


The partnership will bring clean and stable electricity to 15 rural communities spread across Nigeria





# The REA's Linkage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)









# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY**  
ENERGY ≠ EMPOWERMENT ≠ EFFICIENCY



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