



FRES

green energy infrastructure project portfolio

The project "Scaling up access to modern energy services in Mali, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Guinea-Bissau by means of an energy-as-a-service business model" is a Team Europe funded green energy infrastructure project portfolio developed and implemented by **Foundation Rural Energy Services (FRES)**.

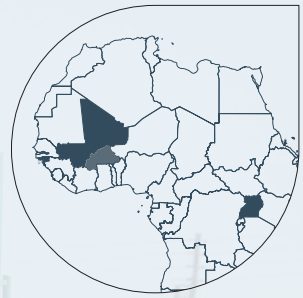
The project portfolio provides distributed renewable energy (DRE) to 46,500 people, mitigating 19,400 cumulative tonnes of CO₂ emissions and increasing direct employment opportunities since 61 employees have been hired locally by **FRES** across Mali, Uganda, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso. The project has enabled improved access to education for children and especially girls and access to indirect job opportunities in small businesses in rural villages for women and youth.

FRES leveraged blended finance for the project portfolio through a mix of own foundation financing and co-financing by the EU as part of the ACP-EU Energy Facility.

The project advances electrification in rural Africa by establishing electricity companies under local management in areas that have no access to a national or regional electricity grid. Between 2014 and 2021 **FRES** realised nearly 10,000 new energy connections in Mali, Uganda, Guinea Bissau and Burkina Faso, that provide affordable and reliable solar electricity to households, small businesses and community organisations.

Before, we sold ice imported from the big cities for 300 FCFA. Now we produce the ice on site, and we sell it at a lower price to the population."

An ice seller offers.



Location:

Mali, Guinea-Bissau,
Burkina Faso, Uganda



Budget:

EUR 10,666,666



Private financing: FRES

Team Europe financing:

EU (ACP-EU Energy Facility)



Green energy infrastructure:

305 kWp installed capacity
through green energy mini-grids
1,204 kW installed capacity
through PV (SHS)



Electricity connections:

The total number of project
beneficiaries are

46,500 people,
including:

7,169 new energy
connections

for income-generating
households without access to
(clean) electricity whose
main livelihood is agriculture,
2,064 connections for small
businesses, including artisans,
village shops, hairdressers,
tailors, mechanics and mobile
phone-charging companies,
217 schools, **65** clinics, **120** places
of worship and **95** community
centres electrified.



Climate impact:

The project portfolio avoided

19,400 cumulative
tonnes of CO₂ emissions



Social impact:

The project increased employment opportunities since 61 employees have been hired locally across Mali, Uganda, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso. The project also increased the quantity of children's time spent on homework and education, especially girls who spend less time preparing meals.

It then increased the number of small businesses and increased job opportunities for women and youth in the villages. Households with energy access have established small, home-based businesses, and existing SMEs have diversified their activities.



The lighting of the houses has given time back to the women and girls who now prepare dinner with much more convenience, while having the opportunity to do other things at the same time”.

**A community member
in Béléko (Mali).**



Solar home client, Uganda



The arrival of electricity has allowed the population to be able to do their photocopies and work on the computer without travelling to the big cities. Some documents can be photocopied and distributed to the students.”

**Martin Dembélé, who manages an internet café
in Diaramana (Mali).**

High-quality solar solutions have been installed across various settings, significantly enhancing access to renewable energy. These installations include 8,328 households and small businesses equipped with solar home systems (SHS), providing reliable and sustainable power for daily needs. Additionally, 15 nano grids have been deployed, resulting in 95 solar connections, further expanding energy access in remote areas. Moreover, five solar mini-grids have been established, delivering 1,308 solar connections and enabling larger-scale energy solutions for communities.

To ensure the long-term maintenance and operation of the solar installations, **FRES** developed and expanded four commercial energy companies in those countries, three of which are now financially sustainable. These are now well placed to meet all energy needs as customers climb the energy ladder and require more capacity.

FRES also established partnerships with certified e-waste management companies in the region, ensuring proper recycling of batteries and setting an example for the industry.



**Cynthia Kpozuxe – Business Advisor & Community Manager
at FRES – cynthia.kpozuxe@fres.nl
Alliance for Rural Electrification – are@ruralelec.org**