



WeLight Madagascar

green energy mini-grid infrastructure project portfolio

WeLight Madagascar is a green mini-grid energy infrastructure project developer active in Madagascar, founded in 2018 by Axian, Sagemcom, and Norfund. The company receives funding from Team Europe.

WeLight currently operates 172 solar mini-grids sites in Madagascar, of which a project portfolio of 118 mini-grids have been financed by Team Europe. The project portfolio provides distributed renewable energy (DRE) to 250,000 people, more than 35,000 households, 6,000 small industries, 2,200 businesses, and 800 public buildings. The project avoids 1,930 tonnes of CO₂ emissions every year. The 118 sites have been operational since late August 2024.

WeLight leverages a blended public-private finance model that combines public funding with private investment. The project portfolio of 118 mini-grids have been financed by three European institutions: the European Investment Bank (EIB), the world's largest multilateral financial institution which since 1970 has lent a total of € 893 million to support long-term investments in Madagascar; Electrifi, an EU-funded impact investment facility, financing early-stage private companies and projects focusing on new/improved electricity connections as well as on generation capacity from sustainable energy sources in emerging markets; and Triodos, a Dutch bank which connects a broad range of investors with innovative entrepreneurs and sustainable businesses.

"With improved access to information and global news, we are now as informed as residents of major cities."

Customer of Ambovonomby, Madagascar



Location:

Madagascar,
Atsimo-Andrefana Region



Budget:

EUR 23,000,000
(for 118 sites)



Private financing:

Triodos Investment Management

Team Europe financing:

European Investment Bank and
EDFI Electrifi



Green energy infrastructure:

up to 4,130 MWh per annum



Electricity connections:

The project provides renewable power to

250,000 people,
more than

35,000 households,
6,000 small industries,
2,200 businesses,
and **800** public buildings.



Climate impact:

The project will avoid

1,930 tonnes of CO₂
emissions every year.



Social impact:

New jobs: Over 12,300 new jobs are related to the productive use of energy and local businesses, fostering economic development and improving livelihoods within community. This growth in employment opportunities supports both income increase and local economy improvement, contributing to a more robust and diversified job market.

Women empowerment: More than 5,000 women got employed in emerging sectors, promoting gender equality and providing women with valuable economic opportunities. This empowerment enables women to contribute actively to their communities and gain financial independence, enhancing their role in local economic growth.

Educational advancement: More than 230 schools are electrified, enhancing administrative efficiency and extending learning hours. This improvement leads to a significant boost in exam success rates, with an estimated 35% increase in official exam pass rates compared to periods before electrification, as demonstrated by previous impact studies.

Healthcare improvement: Over 120 health centres are electrified, improving nighttime patient care and facilitating night births. The introduction of advanced medical equipment further enhances the overall quality of healthcare provided in the villages, ensuring better health outcomes for residents.

Night-time safety: More than 2,000 streetlights are installed, significantly improving security. The increased lighting enhances public safety and supports economic activities that extend into the evening, contributing to a safer and more vibrant community environment.



When I started my business, all my machines ran on diesel, and I was spending 20,000 ariary a day on fuel. Since switching to electricity, my costs dropped to between 50,000 and 100,000 ariary per week, depending on the orders. I've gained in comfort and productivity. There's no more diesel or motor oil smell. My house is always lit up. I can watch TV, listen to music—whether it's raining or cloudy, I have always stable power. It's a big change from my solar panels!."

Tantara, Sawmill Owner, Anjangoveratra Madagascar



70% of WeLight's female beneficiaries are investing in hair salons, commerce, and small restaurants. This led to increased income and economic stability for their families and impacted positively the community."

Mayor of Anivorano Est, Madagascar



With extensions until 6 pm, along with more flexible working conditions and increased autonomy, our students have shown a remarkable change in their behaviour."

High School Director, Andohajango, Madagascar

This programme enables increased productivity and income, better employment opportunities and living standards in rural communities. It also enables households to benefit from a wide range of services, from access to technology to improved drinking water and education quality.

Electricity generated benefits for the entire population by providing public lighting, powering various public infrastructures, including healthcare centres, improving security and community atmosphere.



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