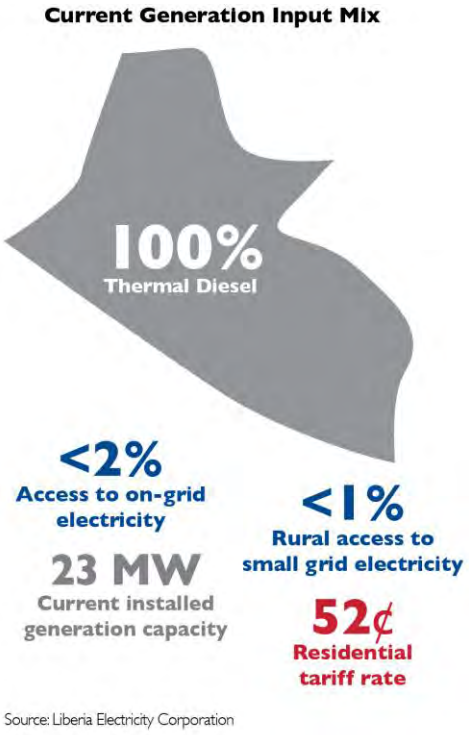
WHAT POWER AFRICA MEANS FOR LIBERIA

Liberia Energy Sector Overview

The Government of Liberia is working closely with development partners, including Power Africa, and is undertaking ambitious steps to rebuild its electricity infrastructure. The civil war, which ended in 2003, destroyed nearly all of the country's ability to provide electricity for its over four million people. Unemployment and extreme poverty are pervasive in Liberia.

Liberia has one of the lowest electricity access rates in the world with an overall total of less than 2%. In the capital city of Monrovia, only 6.7% of the population has access to electricity. And Monrovia's grid is largely supplied by expensive diesel fueled generation resources. Less than 23 Megawatts (MW) of Liberia's on-grid installed generation operate on a daily basis and, therefore, larger facilities such as hotels, restaurants and office buildings self-generate electricity at their premises at levels estimated to be ten times greater than the existing installed generation capacity. By the end of 2014, an additional 37 MW will be in place for the public grid managed by the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

By 2030, the country aims to connect 70% of Monrovia to the electricity grid and provide access to 35% of the rest of the country, or the equivalent of over one million new connections and a peak load over 300MW. As the critical next step, Liberia, with development partner support, is rebuilding the Mt. Coffee hydropower plant. When the plant and related transmission line come on line in 2016, there will be during the rainy season, a maximum capacity of 140 MW in Liberia available through the public grid.



In Liberia, Power Africa is supporting the development of the energy sector through the construction of small-scale, renewable pilot projects, as well as through building government capacity and providing training. Power Africa is also evaluating potential projects for private sector partners, and helping to improve the regulatory and legal environment.

Power Africa Initiative: Mobilizing Investments in Energy

In six focus countries — Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia, Ghana, and Nigeria- Power Africa is pursuing ambitious strategies for energy sector development. Additionally, in Uganda and Mozambique, Power Africa is promoting responsible and transparent resource management.

Working with host governments, the private sector, and other partners such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank and other governments, Power Africa accelerates investments to develop resources responsibly, build out power generation, efficient distribution and transmission, and expand the reach of mini-grid and off-grid solutions. A key initial goal is to add 10,000 MW of cleaner, more efficient electric generation capacity in the six focus countries.

A New Way of Doing Business for Development

Power Africa directly addresses constraints to investment by taking a transaction-centered approach to galvanize collaboration, producing near-term results while driving forward reforms that pave the way for future investment. This two-pronged approach focusing on transactions and on energy sector management enables public sector partners, such as ministries and power companies, to more effectively and efficiently govern energy resources and leverage private sector investment and technology to meet vital energy needs for economic growth, health, and education.

The U.S. government brings the trade, regulatory, finance and other expertise of 12 specialized agencies to advance transactions between public and private investors. Power Africa outreach efforts, including trade delegations, invite U.S. and other companies to invest in the region and bring their cutting-edge technologies and solutions to expand access to affordable and sustainable electric power.

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For more information on Power Africa visit: www.usaid.gov/powerafrica

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