USAID SOUTHERN AFRICA ENERGY PROGRAM

Helping Southern Africa increase power generation and access while promoting investment in the energy sector for a brighter, more sustainable future

The USAID Southern Africa Energy Program (SAEP), a Power Africa initiative, works to advance energy policy and regulatory reform and accelerate investment to increase power generation and access to electricity throughout the region. According to World Bank data, less than 25 percent of the non-South African population living in SAEP’s 11 target nations have access to electric power. Where service does exist, subsidized tariffs and vertically integrated utilities contribute to reduced supply.

The lack of reliable power affects the competitiveness of Southern African industry, agriculture, and the economic opportunity and health conditions for rural populations, women, and youth. By strengthening the enabling environment and facilitating public and private transactions, SAEP leverages the momentum of private investment to help focus SAEP’s resources in ways that best support the reform of national and regional energy ecosystems. At the same time, SAEP produces the tangible results needed to create a sustainable cycle of additional reforms, increased investment, and continued political will.

SAEP is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in support of the U.S. Government’s Power Africa initiative. Power Africa includes 12 U.S. Government agencies, more than 145 private companies, and 18 bilateral and multilateral development partners to support sub-Saharan governments by working together to increase the number of people with access to power. Power Africa’s goal is to achieve 30,000 megawatts (MW) of new generated power and 60 million new connections by 2030 to reach 300 million Africans. USAID supports Power Africa through programs that bring together technical and legal experts, the private sector, and governments from around the world to work in partnership to increase the number of people with access to power.

ALIGNING ENERGY REFORM AND ELECTRIFICATION GOALS WITH INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SAEP works to address five key constraints to investment in the Southern African energy sector:

1. Improving Regulation, Planning, and Procurement for Energy
2. Improving Commercial Viability of Utilities
3. Improving Regional Harmonization and Cross-Border Trade
5. Increasing Human and Institutional Capacity
IMPACT AND RESULTS

▪ Facilitated financial close of approximately 2,200 MW of new renewable energy generation capacity

▪ Added 9,390 MW to the Power Africa transaction pipeline and completed targeted transaction advisory services to Independent Power Producers and governments to move generation projects to financial close

▪ Guided multiple national regulators in analyzing utility tariff change applications. This assistance provided regulatory authorities with leading practice processes for tariff reviews

▪ Developed a geospatial model in Zambia that maps the entire country, identifies areas without electricity, and presents the lowest-cost electrification options such as grid extension, developing mini-grids, or installing solar home systems (SHS)

▪ Supported the growth of the SHS market in Malawi by giving SHS companies streamlined access to an array of support, including operational assistance, working capital financing, and grants

PARTNERS AND TARGET COUNTRIES

SAEP collaborates with national ministries, utilities, transmission and distribution companies, regulators, and the private sector.

IMPLEMENTED BY

Deloitte Consulting LLC with a consortium of regional and international partners

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.usaid.gov/southern-africa-regional

Craig VanDevelde  
Chief of Party  
USAID SAEP  
cvandeveldedeloitte.com

Ashley King  
Regional Energy Officer  
USAID/Southern Africa  
aking@usaid.gov

Liz Pfeiffer  
Deputy Chief of Party – Technical  
USAID SAEP  
lpfeiffer@southernafricaenergy.org