



USAID SOUTHERN AFRICA ENERGY PROGRAM NAMIBIA COUNTRY PROFILE

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

Namibia's national electrification rate stands at 45 percent. Namibia has a low population density, at roughly three people per square kilometer, which makes it challenging to extend services to the 79 percent rural population who do not have access. In addition, Namibia currently imports up to 73 percent of its electricity from surrounding countries. To address the economic inequalities and reduce imports, Namibia's energy sector is taking steps to increase its energy generation by establishing improved tariff procedures and consolidating electricity distributors into more efficient distribution companies. The USAID Southern Africa Energy Program (SAEP), a Power Africa initiative, is providing technical assistance to various public and private stakeholders, including the Electricity Control Board (ECB), NamPower, and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) in their quest to expand power generation and provide increased access to electricity.

SMART ELECTRIFICATION

With only 19 percent of rural households connected to the grid and an increase in urbanization in Namibia, SAEP supports MME, the City of Windhoek, and the various electricity distributors in their efforts to expand access to electricity. Work is underway to revisit ways that distribution companies can provide electricity to their customers in an efficient, effective, and sustainable manner. To this end, SAEP also supports the ECB to develop improved regulatory policies and planning procedures to pave the way for greater private sector participation in the electricity sector.

IMPROVED REGIONAL HARMONIZATION

With rapidly increasing demand for electricity, Namibia is looking to cross-border power trade throughout the Southern Africa region. This goal requires Namibia's national utility, NamPower, to be prepared to take on increased power trading responsibilities, align internal regulations, and improve infrastructure. To support regional transmission interconnector projects, SAEP provides advisory services on cross-border power trade optimization and advancement.

PHOTO: SAEP

RENEWABLE FUTURE

As the Government of Namibia continues to harness the vast renewable energy potential, it faces operational and planning challenges due to the variable nature of these energy sources. To assist in combating these challenges, SAEP provides technical assistance to various public and private stakeholders. The program works with electricity distributors on incorporating innovative measures (e.g., battery storage) to help minimize intermittency and shift generated energy to meet demand. SAEP is also building on previous support that USAID provided to the ECB to establish the renewable energy feed-in-tariff (REFIT) program, along with accompanying regulations to create an environment beneficial for Independent Power Producer (IPP) investment into Namibia's electricity sector.



SAEP provides support in analyzing the potential use of battery storage to manage solar variability and reduce energy costs for electricity distributors. Photo: SAEP



SAEP is working with the City of Windhoek to develop an approach to electrify more households in informal settlements. Photo: SAEP

CONTACTS

NAMIBIA

David Jarrett
Country Manager
Deloitte Building, Jan Jonker Street, Windhoek
+264 (0)81 356 9120
djarrett@southernafricaenergy.org

SOUTH AFRICA

Elizabeth Pfeiffer
Chief of Party
Brooklyn Court, 361 Veale Street, Pretoria
+27 (0)12 942 9392
lpfeiffer@southernafricaenergy.org

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