

Capacity Building for Off-Grid Rural Electrification Planning at the Regional Level in Ethiopia

Background

Following a request from the Ethiopian Ministry of Mines and Energy, EUEI PDF began supporting capacity building for off-grid rural electrification planning within the Rural Electrification Executive Secretariat (REES) and on the regional level. The project also strengthened cooperation between government levels by familiarising Regional Energy Bureaus, Regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development (BoFED) and Regional Cooperative Commissions with Ethiopia's off-grid rural electrification master plan, methods of rural electrification planning and related tools.

Tools promoted included Geographical Information System (GIS) databases and GEOSIM simulation tools, which allow planners to take account of energy services. Moreover, a pilot local off-grid electrification plan was developed and discussed with representatives of all regions.

Strategic Targets

The overall objective is to build capacity within the REES, as well as in the regional and sub-regional administration for off-grid rural electrification planning.

Strategy Actions

To achieve its objective, the following actions were conducted:

- ▶ Prepared training material for staff of Regional Energy Bureaus and Regional Cooperative Bureaus
- ▶ Assisted REES in conducting a 10-day training session on using a database and GEOSIM with representatives from all regions
- ▶ Assisted REES in installing GEOSIM in four pilot regions
- ▶ Assisted REES in defining and testing modalities for data exchange and validation

Country	Ethiopia
Project Partner	Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Rural Electrification Executive Secretariat (REES)
Project Manager	Ray Holland
Term	March 2007 – December 2007

- ▶ Developed a local off-grid electrification plan in cooperation with REES and local authorities and discussed this with local stakeholders at the workshop
- ▶ Presented and discussed the local electrification plan with participants from REES and all regions

The Way Forward

Representatives from all Ethiopia's regions are now able to use GIS databases and the GEOSIM simulation tool to plan required energy services autonomously. In addition, REES staff can now install GEOSIM in different regions and the modalities for data exchange and validation between national and regional levels have been established.

A pilot local off-grid rural electrification plan is up and running, and can be shared with representatives from REES and the regions.

The successful follow-up to the project will depend on whether the regions adopt the tool for their rural electrification business plan development.





A pilot local off-grid electrification plan was developed and discussed.

A total of 43 experts participated in the GEOSIM training.

The project conclusions further highlighted:

1. The Universal Electricity Access Program (UEAP), partially funded by the World Bank, does not finance diesel-based projects anymore. Therefore, the GEOSIM tool can be used to assess the least-cost option between micro hydro power development and grid connection.
2. The importance of continuing updates and exchanges within and between regions and REES cannot be overstated. REES will need to provide continued support to regions in the use of the tool. The value of the tool and database for the regions as well as its development still needs to be better understood by the regions.
3. A successful follow-up to the project will depend on whether the regions adopt the tool for their rural electrification business plan development.
4. Involved experts are motivated in the use of the software. Huge progress has been made on GIS databases.
5. Confidence in the software and a good understanding of the main issues raised, as well as of the GEOSIM functionalities, will assist the region's work.

Follow-up activities will entail the Energy Bureau's putting into practice what it has learned by selecting a study area in each region and applying GEOSIM to develop a local plan.



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