



# TAF Newsletter #16 | December 2018

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The EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy

## What's new: Field Facts and Findings

### **The Gambia's Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Systems for Schools and Health Facilities**

The TAF team is providing the Government of the Republic of The Gambia support to design a project to electrify with solar photovoltaic-battery system about 1,000 schools and 100 health on-grid and off-grid facilities in the country.



### **Programming Actions for Energy Efficiency across the Mediterranean**

How can policy convergence and further cooperation of Neighbourhood-South countries on energy efficiency (EE) be enhanced? The TAF has provided analysis and advice to the European Commission, prioritising support to energy efficient buildings and domestic appliances, which contribute significantly to the rapid increase in the region's energy consumption.



## What's next: Upcoming Missions

### **The Philippines - Assessment of the Market Potential for Renewable Energy Projects and Funding Opportunities for Private Sector Investments.**

**What we do:** The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

**Focus on:** Central & West Africa

**Who's who:** Meet the Team

*'The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy' newsletter covers items of news from all the countries of operation of the EU TAF: East & Southern Africa, West & Central Africa, East & South Neighbourhood, Asia & Central Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.*

*If there is a particular topic that you would like to see covered in future newsletters, please write to us. We welcome your feedback!*

*With our best wishes,*

*The TAF teams*

# What's new: Field Facts and Findings

## The Gambia's Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Systems for Schools and Health Facilities

*Activity Areas: Technical support in programming and preparation of projects, Mobilisation of funds and facilitation of partnership*

The TAF team is providing the Government of the Republic of The Gambia support to design a project to electrify with solar photovoltaic-battery system about 1,000 schools and 100 health on-grid and off-grid facilities in the country.

The Government of the Republic of The Gambia through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA), with the financial support from the European Union (EU) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) is preparing to launch the 'Photovoltaic (PV) solar systems for Schools and Health Facilities Project. The ultimate aim of the project is to increase access to reliable energy services, mainly to the schools and health facilities in rural and urban communities of The Gambia. The project is designed to assure the sustainable provision of electricity powered by solar systems for at least 20 years.



*Hon. Minister (Mrs) C. Cole, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education addressing participants at the Regional Stakeholders' meeting at Region Two Education Hall in Brikama, West Coast Region.*

The prefeasibility study lays out a path to construct, monitor, and sustainably maintain about 900 PV/battery systems planned for some 100 health facilities and some 800 sites covering the needs of about 1,000 schools throughout The Gambia; totalling to about 6 MW PV on and off-grid installations.

Due to the importance of the Project, both the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and the EIB required to identify, address and propose mitigation measures to minimize any negative impacts and disruption. An Environmental and Social Management Framework Study (ESMF) was carried out and led to the approval of a check-list form to be filled prior the installation of each individual PV systems by the contractor, under the guidance and supervision of the Project implementation team and the NEA.





# What's new: Field Facts and Findings

**Some 792,000 patients and 400,000 pupils and students attending public schools will directly benefit from the project, as well as well as hundreds of health facility and school staff working and living in the buildings to be electrified with PV systems.**

The ESMF Study has offered an opportunity for stakeholders and beneficiaries to review the environmental consequences of the Project, during three regional meetings that took place in Brikama, Farafenni, and Basse. The results of the ESMF were presented during a validation meeting that took place in Banjul on November 29, 2018.

Only limited negative impacts on the environment are expected to occur during construction. The main environmental challenge is the disposal of the PV materials, especially batteries, in a general poor situation regarding waste disposal and recycling possibilities in The Gambia. This will be mostly evident when the lifetime of batteries are reached in approximately 5 to 10 years, depending on the batteries that will be used. The costs of recycling batteries are reasonable; there may even be the opportunity for generating new jobs and turning a profit for businesses.

The project is innovative in terms of scope, but also due to the long-term financing commitment of the EU and EIB. This project was identified during the first joint mission of the TAF with the EIB and the World Bank that took place in April 2017. Since then, the TAF has undertaken various missions in The Gambia to discuss technical options, the institutional setting, and to prepare an advanced technical pre-feasibility study.



*Participants with the Director of Education Region 2 office at the stakeholders' meeting in Brikama, West Coast Region*

The project is expected to start in 2020 with the set-up of a Technical Assistance team, and the launch of the procurement tender. Installations of the first PV systems is expected to take place by 2022.



# What's new: Field Facts and Findings

## Programming Actions for Energy Efficiency across the Mediterranean

*Activity Areas: Technical support in programming and preparation of projects*

How can policy convergence and further cooperation of Neighbourhood-South countries<sup>1</sup> on energy efficiency (EE) be enhanced? The TAF has provided analysis and advice to the European Commission, prioritising support to energy efficient buildings and domestic appliances, which contribute significantly to the rapid increase in the region's energy consumption.

The TAF has been tasked by DG DEVCO, the European Commission's (EC) Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, and DG NEAR, the Directorate-General responsible for EU cooperation with the 8 EU Neighbourhood-South (ENI South) countries, to analyse the current situation in the sector of EE for buildings and appliances, identifying gaps in legislation, and proposing possible directions for a regional initiative, against the context of vast differences among



*EU TAF Team meeting with Nezha EL OUAFI, State Secretary for Sustainable Development of Morocco (Rabat, June 2018).*

ENI South nations, their modest past cooperation in this field and their preference for bilateral cooperation. Two policy and regulatory areas of operation were identified: **building codes for energy efficient buildings and energy standards & labelling (S&L) for domestic appliances.**

In each of the 8 ENI South countries, the TAF expert team held meetings with the main public and private shareholders, including Ministries in charge of Energy, but also Ministries of Housing (for buildings) and Ministries of Industry (for appliances) as well as significant building developers, industry representatives, NGOs and the main donors.

Country Fiches identified specific activities in energy efficient buildings and energy standards & labelling appliances - past, running and future – made by governments, international/regional organisations (EU, UN, WB, EBRD) and bilateral donors. On this basis, the TAF experts identified policy and regulatory gaps and two main areas of possible intervention: **peer learning and pilot initiatives.**

<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.



## Peer learning and Pilot initiatives

According to the findings, exchange of experiences through an **expert technical platform** between the more experienced countries and the few lagging behind, has the potential to promote a horizontal peer learning and policy ownership, complementary to the usual vertical technical assistance from the EU to these countries.

A priority, both for energy efficient buildings and domestic appliances, would be an effective enforcement of existing regulation, including control of building design and delivery (e.g. by municipalities), testing of appliances to verify compliance with minimum energy performance standards and market surveillance in the points of sale of appliance's energy labelling.

Pilot initiatives, on the other hand, aim to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of EE actions capable of initiating a change in the market. **Green/ energy efficient buildings** aim to assess measurable technical and economic benefits as well as technical and organisational challenges. For appliances, **scrapping programmes** backed by awareness raising campaigns, control of label compliance and electrical equipment recycling have the potential to increase the share of energy efficient appliances (i.e. A or A+ labels) and thus to reduce electricity consumption and peak demand.

These findings were presented at a Regional Workshop on EU policies for standards & labelling of appliances, organised by DG ENER, the EC's Directorate-General for Energy, and DG NEAR in Brussels in October 2018, with a broad participation from ENI South and Balkan countries. Delegates participated lively in the sessions and confirmed their interest to become involved in such regional actions and programmes.

## What's next: Upcoming Missions

### **The Philippines - Assessment of the Market Potential for Renewable Energy Projects and Funding Opportunities for Private Sector Investments**

The EU TAF will organise a mission to assess the existing market potential for renewable energy investments projects and the funding opportunities for private sector investments in renewable energy in the Philippines. The experts will assess the feasibility and opportunity of supporting the Philippines' renewables sector under the Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI) blending facility. Based on the outputs, they will also elaborate a dedicated support scheme for the Philippines. The mission should provide clear recommendation to the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and the local Delegation of the European Union regarding the right instruments to be put in place in the Philippines to reach these ambitious objectives.

In a partnership agreement signed in 2012, the EU and the Philippines have committed to closer cooperation on energy and climate change. Household electrification stands at 89.6% (June 2016), which means that over 2.4 million households in the Philippines remain without access to grid electricity.



# What we do: The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

## The 'EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy'

The 'EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy' assists partner countries in fine-tuning their energy policies and regulatory framework that allow for increased investments in the energy sector. The TAF supports countries which are committed to reaching Sustainable Energy objectives, and in particular those who selected energy not only as one of the priority areas of their national policy agenda but also as focal sector in their bilateral cooperation with the EU for the period of 2014-2020.

Through targeted expert missions to the partner countries, five types of technical assistance packages ('Activity Areas') are delivered:

**Policy and reforms; Capacity building; Investment projects planning; Mobilising funds and partnerships; Industrial and technology cooperation.**

## Overview of TAF support:

Since its launch in 2013, the TAF has provided technical assistance for some 240 missions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A year after the Sub-Saharan Africa TAF launch, TAF operations were extended to also accommodate regions beyond Sub-Saharan Africa, and to date over 30 technical teams have been deployed by the TAF 'Rest of the World' Facility – ranging from the East and South Neighbourhood and Asia to Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Supporting the **#EU's vision** and strategies at national and regional level

Provision of **#high quality** technical assistance at Partner Country and Region

**#Low lead times** from ToR preparation to assignment launch

Efficient and **#effective management** of each mission

**#Control mechanism** and QA for coherent deliverables

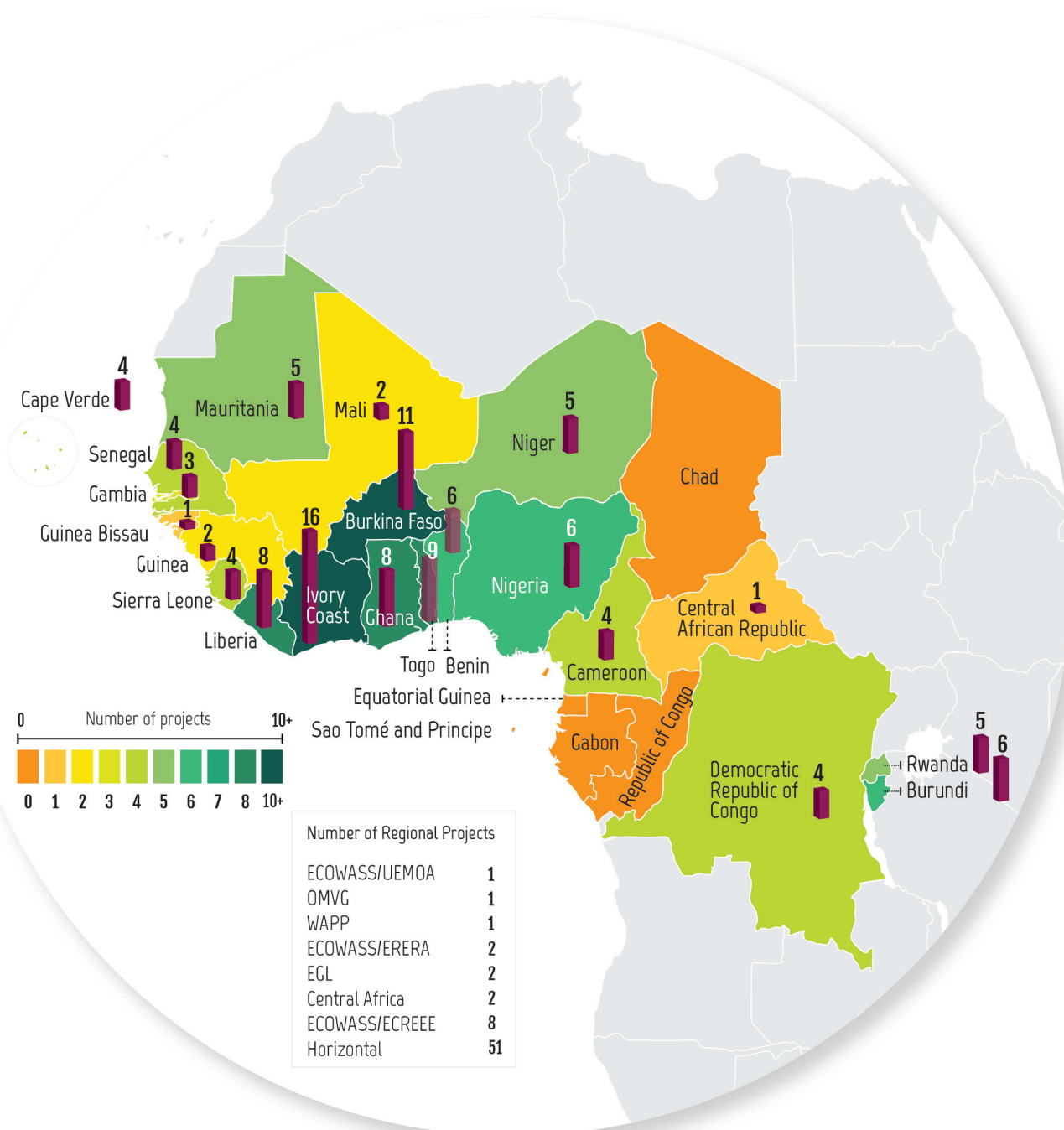




# What we do: The EU's Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy

## Focus on:

### Central & West Africa



# Who's who: Meet the team

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## DISCLAIMER

This newsletter update has been drafted by the EU's Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for Sustainable Energy. The aim is to update EU Delegations regarding news and findings from the TAF missions and areas of assistance. The data has been collected from various sources by the TAF Experts in the context of the ongoing TAF missions, and is not exclusive. Please feel free to contact us with any feedback on the information provided, or other areas of support you would like to be informed of.



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