

RENEWABLE ENERGY OFFER FOR THE SAHEL

Accelerating sustainable socio-economic growth through increased access to clean energy

The UN’s Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel falls in the scope of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and the subsequent UN’s Support Plan for the Sahel (2018), in particular its fifth priority area “Promoting access to renewable energy”. In order to develop this offer, UN agencies joined forces under the leadership of UNDP to propose an integrated approach, able to support the Sahel countries transition to a sustainable energy path and massively increase their access to clean energy. A conceptual framework was developed in 2020 to take stock of ongoing UN interventions in the Sahel, detail the priority actions in the next 5 years and identify the UN’s comparative advantages in this sector. The conceptual framework is the umbrella under which a five-year UN renewable energy programme for the Sahel is currently being developed to operationalize this offer.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The overall purpose of this offer is to trigger sustainable socio-economic growth through increased access to clean energy in the Sahel

- **CREATING ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR THE SOUND DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS**
- **ROLLOUT OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS AND BASIC SERVICES**
- **SUPPORTING PRODUCTIVE USE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY, IN ORDER TO TRIGGER EQUITABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH**

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The offer addresses both the access to electricity and to clean cooking and focuses primarily on off-grid renewable energy solutions in rural areas, where an immense potential exists to trigger economic growth and agriculture transformation, create green jobs especially for young women and men and reduce poverty. This, in turn, can revert rural exodus, immigration and youth enrolment to radical streams and violent extremist groups. The offer also considers fragile communities in peri-urban areas – such as displaced populations and their host communities – who can also greatly benefit from off-grid renewable energy systems.

OPERATIONALIZATION

Seventeen UN agencies are currently working together under the leadership of UNDP and with the support of UNISS Implementation Support Unit in Dakar to operationalize the offer and develop an actionable joint program, aligned with the priorities of the 10 countries and building on ongoing programming. The steps involved in programme development, described in the figure below, combine efforts at the regional and national levels. It is expected that programme implementation will start by mid-2021.

- 1

Select priority countries using a multi-criteria analysis
- 2

Perform detailed baseline and gap analysis
- 3

Develop joint programming addressing agreed priorities
- 4

Build partnerships and mobilize resources
- 5

Implement joint programme

