

	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): NDICI AFRICA 2022 Total estimated cost: EUR 50 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 50 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Since 2020, Sierra Leone has become the poorest country in West Africa. The country's installed power capacity per capita is among the lowest in the world with approximately 105 MW available for a population of around 8 million. Only 23% of the national population and 2% of the rural population have access to electricity, which also constrains business development. Energy poverty, one aspect of broader economic poverty, has distinct gender characteristics that disproportionately affect women and girls. Women and girls are often primarily responsible for collecting fuel and water at the community level.

The state has incorporated into its energy policies the development of mini solar grids as a means of delivering electricity to areas far from the national grid. Around 60 villages are now equipped and a market is emerging.

However, although electrification programmes in particular for mini grids expand the access to energy, the productive use of energy and, with it, the economic transformation is below potential. Moreover the low consumption increases the operational expenditures and decreases the affordability of electricity for households. Participation of rights holders represented by local communities' organisations and people living in vulnerable situations is essential to develop fit for purpose solutions.

In order to address these challenges, the action has the overall objective to:

Contribute to increased generation, improved accessibility and increased use of sustainable, affordable and reliable energy

And the specific objectives :

1 : To build generation and distribution infrastructure for sustainable, reliable and affordable energy and improve access to it

2 : To promote the use of renewable energies, technologies and digitalisation

3 : To strengthen governance and financing of the renewable energy sector

Thus, this action will support financial investment in the off-grid solar system market in Sierra Leone, develop the services offered by access to electricity for households and public services (health centres and schools), taking into account the need to reduce the environmental footprint of batteries and panels. The action is expected to generate 6 Megawatt (MW) of sustainable energy, benefiting 400 000 people. Working across multiple value chains, in particular agriculture, the action will promote access to financial services for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and strengthen basic, technical and managerial skills prioritising people living in vulnerable situations and specifically women and young people. At least 30% of the energy supplied will be utilised for production. 1 000 enterprises (mainly micro-enterprises and farms) will increase their productivity and their viability thanks to sustainable and reliable energy. This will increase the resilience of the population facing crisis due to pandemics, economic shock and climate change. Finally, the action will support the government of Sierra Leone in improving the regulatory and investment framework in the renewable energies sector and ensure that the investments made turn quickly and effectively into sustainable economic growth developing decent work jobs for men and women as well as supporting women empowerment. The regulatory areas concerned are the regulation of tariffs, the regulation of concessions for