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PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE



National Framework for Leapfrogging to Energy Efficient and Climate Friendly Air Conditioners and Refrigerators in The Gambia

For more information, please visit:
www.united4efficiency.org

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

National project

The Gambia



TARGETED PRODUCTS



STATUS ACTIVE

STARTING DATE: JANUARY 2023
CLOSING DATE: DECEMBER 2024

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MoPE)
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA)

PARTNERS

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United for Efficiency (U4E)



TOTAL PROJECT COST



\$400,000
GEF grant and co-financing

TEAM LEADERS

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DONOR

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

KEY PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to develop an integrated policy approach to advance to high efficiency room air conditioners and residential refrigerators in The Gambia through the transformation of the national market, thereby reducing electricity demand and the related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Annual Savings in 2040*:



52.9 GWh on annual electricity savings (avoided investment costs for 2 power plants of 5 MW)

17.7 GWh (avoided) 35.2 GWh (saved)



10.7 million USD savings in annual electricity costs

3.6 USD (avoided) 7.1 USD (saved)



28.5 thousand tonnes of CO₂ avoided annually (equivalent to around 16 thousand cars)

9.5 kt (avoided) 19.0 kt (saved)

* Based on the U4E 2022 Country Savings Assessment. Minimum Ambition Scenario.



THE CHALLENGE

The Gambia faces high temperatures and a significant proportion of the population is at a high risk of not having access to cooling due to extreme poverty and low electricity access. In 2020, it was estimated that this amounted to around 230,000 and 490,000 of the rural and urban populations, respectively. Additionally, 1.3 million of the middle-income population are at risk due to limited purchasing options for cooling appliances, causing them to favour more affordable options that are more likely to be inefficient, which could raise energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Gambia currently has the highest electricity tariffs in the Western African region and the absence of regulatory frameworks and Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for cooling appliances hinders a sustainable market transformation towards higher-efficiency products, leading to inefficient products that contribute to high energy consumption and carbon emissions. The implementation of energy efficiency standards can contribute to alleviating the risks the country faces.

The demand for air conditioners and refrigerators in The Gambia is predicted to rise by up to 44% by 2040. Meeting this rising demand with inefficient air conditioners and refrigerators poses a severe strain on the electricity grid. Energy-efficient appliances de-escalate the pressure on the electricity grid through reduced blackouts and brownouts and provide means to build additional capacity generation. Moreover, it is imperative to establish a strong policy and regulatory framework and promote higher efficiency appliances to meet the ambitious political targets set by The Gambia.

WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

United for Efficiency's (U4E)'s team of experts and partners, following the U4E Integrated Policy Approach, provides technical assistance to The Gambia through the development of a National Cooling Action Plan, regulations and practical innovative interventions to ensure a successful market transition to energy-efficient air conditioners and refrigerators, thereby reducing national electricity consumption and related greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions. The project will:

- Build local capacity for government policymakers on energy-efficiency of air conditioners and refrigerators and their impact on the environment and climate.
- Develop a national market assessment to assess the current situation of air conditioners and refrigerators in the country.
- Formulate a National Cooling Action Plan which will provide the background recommendations for the development of the legislative framework on energy efficiency measures and an integrated vision across the sectors that are involved in cooling.
- Establish a regulatory framework for implementation of MEPS and labels for air conditioners and refrigerators.
- Develop a concept note to scale up the project to broader activities beyond the completion of the project.



UN ENVIRONMENT'S INTERVENTION



United for Efficiency provides developing and emerging economies through their in-house experts and specialized partners with tailored technical support to transform their markets by accelerating the adoption of energy-efficient lighting, appliances, and equipment. Currently, it is present in more than 30 countries worldwide. Based on each country's circumstances, United for Efficiency works with any of the following products: lighting, refrigerators, room air conditioners, motors and transformers - five products that together consume over half of the world's electricity.

By following United for Efficiency's Integrated Policy Approach and covering crucial elements from the transformational pathway, such as Standards and Regulations; Labelling and Communication strategies; Financial Mechanisms; Monitoring, Verification and Enforcement; and Environmental Sound Management, countries achieve a lasting market transformation, allowing monetary savings on their utility bills, helping businesses thrive through greater productivity, enabling utilities to meet growing demand for electricity, and assist governments in reaching their economic and environmental ambitions. Such support is available at three levels: Global, Regional and National providing several tools and resources to support committed countries in their efforts, such as Policy Guides, multiple assessments (country level, street lighting, etc.), policy roadmaps and harmonization process recommendations, development of training for policymakers and practitioners and National action plan implementation support.