

Context

In many countries, access to energy remains a major challenge, with direct consequences for health services, education and economic development. In Africa, this challenge takes on an additional critical social dimension: 600 million people have no access to electricity, and nearly a billion still use polluting fuels (firewood, charcoal) for cooking.

As energy demand is on the rise and inequity persists, a just energy transition is key to addressing climate, social and economic challenges simultaneously. It aims to reconcile decarbonisation, universal access to energy and inclusive economic development, whilst ensuring that no country or population is left behind.

It also represents a major opportunity for economic diversification and low-carbon industrialisation, contributing to climate resilience and the creation of green jobs.



© Enabel - Isabel Corthier

Our priorities

Enabel's approach links public policy, markets and finance, with a view to making the energy transition a catalyst for opportunities for communities, the climate and economies.

Supporting universal access to sustainable energy

We support access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for all, particularly for vulnerable groups and essential services. Our work involves strengthening energy networks, as well as rolling out mini-grids and decentralised solutions tailored to hard-to-reach areas. They also aim to improve the resilience of energy systems in the face of crises and climate-related shocks. The roll-out of clean cooking solutions and alternative fuels also forms part of energy access programmes, with significant impacts on health, environmental protection and gender equality.

Accelerating the transition to low-carbon solutions

We support the development and promotion of low-carbon solutions to help achieve emission reduction targets and strengthen energy security. Our work focuses in particular on the roll-out of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and establishing robust policy and regulatory frameworks. This priority helps to align our actions with climate commitments at national and international level.

Making the energy transition a driver of economic and industrial transformation

The energy transition presents a strategic opportunity to diversify economies and support low-carbon industrialisation. Enabel supports the structured development of low-carbon value chains and industrial sectors in key areas such as housing, industry, transport and trade. This priority aims to strengthen the competitiveness of partner economies, create jobs and attract investment in sectors undergoing transition.

Our services

Creating a supportive environment

- We support public sector partners in defining and implementing energy policies that are in line with national and international commitments, drawing in particular on Belgian public and private sector expertise.
- We help to strengthen regulatory frameworks and facilitate coordination between institutions and public, private and financial stakeholders, drawing on sector analyses, market assessments and data platforms.

Mobilising funding and structuring markets

- We support access to international climate finance and develop viable projects, from pre-feasibility studies through to the development of public-private partnerships.
- We also facilitate the introduction of innovative financial mechanisms (blended finance, carbon markets) to boost private investment and support sustainable energy markets.

Rolling out solutions and scaling up

- We carry out pilot projects, test innovative models and support the roll-out of tried-and-tested solutions.
- We support the roll-out of decentralised renewable energy and clean cooking solutions, whilst contributing to the development of local value chains.

Developing skills and supporting innovation

- We invest in training and reskilling programmes that are aligned with employment opportunities in support of the energy transition and the strengthening of institutional capacity.
- We are building the capacity of public institutions and supporting innovation and the development of tailored, sustainable solutions that deliver long-term impact.

Our experience

Sustainable energy and climate resilience in Mozambique

Through the RERD2+ project, funded by Belgium, Enabel has expanded access to clean energy in the rural provinces of Nampula and Zambezia, where solar mini-grids supply five villages and support local economic activities. At national level, Enabel supports the implementation of the 2023-2050 energy transition strategy and is strengthening efforts to mobilise climate finance, particularly through carbon markets. At the same time, a project funded by the Green Climate Fund is supporting access to clean and affordable energy in rural areas through the roll-out of 40 mini-grids. The project will directly improve the living conditions of more than 65,000 Mozambicans.

Utilisation of agricultural waste and the clean cooking market in Côte d'Ivoire

With funds from the European Union the VABICUI project is helping Côte d'Ivoire to reduce its emissions by converting agricultural waste (cashew nuts, palm fronds, etc.) into energy and by promoting clean cooking solutions, such as improved stoves and alternative fuels. It supports innovative SMEs and is testing, through industrial pilot projects, the use of Cashew Nut Shell Liquid (CNSL), an oil extracted from cashew nut shells, as an alternative fuel. At the same time, Enabel is supporting the development of a bioenergy code and a national clean cooking strategy, with a view to creating a framework conducive to private investment and the circular economy.

Low-carbon transport at the heart of strategic corridors in Tanzania

In Tanzania, the project to upgrade the Port of Dar es Salaam aims to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of regional trade, in partnership with the Port of Antwerp-Bruges International, TradeMark Africa and UN-Habitat. The project is funded by the European Union as part of the Global Gateway initiative. Enabel is leading the electric mobility component of the project: improving access to public transport and reducing the carbon footprint of urban travel by developing the market for light (two- and three-wheeled) electric vehicles and providing training in electric mobility-related professions in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam.

Port development and green hydrogen in Namibia

In Namibia, Enabel is supporting the country's energy transition and economic diversification. The initiatives focus on developing the green hydrogen sector and related skills, as well as on strengthening port and logistics infrastructure – notably the port of Walvis Bay, whose strategic location is key to regional economic integration. The aim: to make Namibia a key player in green hydrogen and low-carbon industrialisation in Southern Africa.

Enabel's expertise

The QR code gives you access to the full range of our expertise: Global health - Social protection - Education & skilling - Economic & business development - Food systems - Natural resources management, biodiversity - Climate governance - Energy transition - Water - Green building - Urban development - Human mobility - Security - Justice - Financial and administrative governance.

enabel.be - open.enabel.be

