



Niger National Child Project under the GEF Africa Minigrids Program

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10833

Countries

Niger

Project Name

Niger National Child Project under the GEF Africa Minigrids Program

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

8/31/2022

Review completed by PM

1/12/2023

Program Manager

Filippo Berardi

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

PIF

CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
ITEM CLEARED (both technical and PPO comments)

02/10/23, FB

1. Cleared
2. Cleared
3. Cleared
4. Cleared
5. a, b, c, d: All cleared.

PPO Comments, 1/23/23:

1. On project information: the executing partner mentioned below is not a GEF Agency, please request the agency to review and correct.

Other Executing Partner(s) ⓘ	Executing Partner Type
Nigérienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification (ANPER)	GEF Agency

2. In section 6 (Institutional Arrangements and Coordination), the Ministry of Energy and Renewable Energies is shown as responsible for implementing component 1 (there is no mention on who would execute the other components) ? however, in the section ?Project

Information?, the executing partner is the Nig?rienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification (ANPER). Please revise.

3. In both section 6 and the audit checklist there is an indication that UNDP would carry out executing functions. However, this is not reflected in the budget, neither there is a letter of support signed by the OFP nor an approval provided by GEFSEC to this extent. Please remove these references in all documents referenced above, as appropriate.

Oversight and execution	
8. Where execution support services have been agreed with GEF Secretariat, specify if the LOA with the Government to provide CO support has been duly completed, cleared by BPPS, and	X
In previous GEF-funded projects in Niger (including one implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Renewable Energies), UNDP provided implementation support at the request of implementing partners and where UNDP has comparative advantages: recruitment of UNVs and international and national consultants for assessments	

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opw ID: 13CDEC90-8746-424D-837E-6854F3078A62

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

signed by the relevant parties and included as Annex to the UNDP-GEF project document before signature by the implementing Partner, Government Coordinating Agency and UNDP. Please provide the link to the LOA. Also, please indicate what provisions have been taken to ensure that a proper separation of functions between staff providing oversight of the Implementing Partner executing the project and execution on behalf of the Implementing Partner is in place	and purchase of vehicles. This support was made based on a letter of agreement signed by a common agreement between UNDP and the implementing partner. Following the recognized need in previous projects, based on capacity assessment, trainings and spot-checks were conducted to strengthen the capacity of the national actors. The Prodoc clearly outlines a proper separation of functions between staff providing oversight of the implementing partner executing the project and execution on behalf of the implementing partner
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4. Status of Utilization of PPG is presented per outcome (Technical Studies, project document package) instead of per eligible category as indicated in Guidelines ? please amend.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews. Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory, Project Specific Annexes, <i>The project document package was prepared by a team of national and international consultants.</i>	38,000	15,801	22,199
Validation Workshop and Report Delivery of final outputs	7,000	0	7,000
HACT assessment of the Implementing partner	5,000	0	5,000
Total	50,000	15,801	34,199

5. On the budget:

a. Several budget items under column ?expenditure category? overlap with the text in column ?detailed description? ? please amend.

b. Kindly note that Audit expenses should be charged to the PMC and not to the components. Please amend.

Other Operating Costs	2.4. Accounting, audit, etc. incl. for funding purposes - 2000		8,000					8,000	8,000	Nigérienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification / Agence Nationale Pour l'Électrification Rurale (ANPER)
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c. The salary for a Project Assistant/Coordinator is being charged across components. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC.

Sub-contracting partner	2.1. 50% of Project Assistant/Coordinator of the PMU covering pilot project related topics		37,188					37,188	37,188	Nigérienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification / Agence Nationale Pour l'Électrification Rurale (ANPER)
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d. Unspecified operating costs cannot be covered by GEF resources.

Other Operating Costs								-	12,000	12,000	Nigérienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification / Agence Nationale Pour l'Électrification Rurale (ANPER)
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Technically Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes - aligned with Objective 1 of the Climate Change Focal Area to "Promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy break-throughs", through CCM1-1 and 1-3.

Agency Response

31/01/2023

1. The executing partner has been amended to "Government".

2. The Implementing partner for the project is ANPER but the Responsible Party for component 1 is the Ministry of Renewable Energy because they are the only ones in charge of policy and strategies. This is the reason why the Ministry is indicated as the Responsible Party for component 1.

3. This is addressed.

4. This is addressed

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

01/12/2023, FB

01/11/2023, FB

The following two requests below were not actioned:

0.a: Co-financing from Sweden: please mark that as grant/investment mobilized, instead of in-kind/recurrent expenditures.

0.b: Co-financing from UNDP: please mark that as either grant/investment mobilized, instead of recurrent expenditures.

ALSO: please include the link to the SIDA letter of cofinancing as evidence. Right now when clicking on the icon below, the referenced document is the AfDB letter, not the SIDA letter. (see snapshot below).

FINALLY: please remove all highlighter from the text, so to have a clear version for CEO Approval.

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)	Evidence
Recipient Country Government	Nigérienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification (ANPER)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	76,490.00	
Recipient Country Government	Nigerienne Agency for the Promotion of Rural Electrification (ANPER)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	135,104,356.00	
Donor Agency	SIDA-Swedish International Development Agency	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,276,171.00	
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00	
Total Co-Financing(\$)				136,757,017.00	

12/19/2022, FB

0.a: Co-financing from Sweden: please mark that as grant/investment mobilized, instead of in-kind/recurrent expenditures.

0.b: Co-financing from UNDP: please mark that as either grant/investment mobilized, instead of recurrent expenditures.

0.c: please update the section titled "Expected contributions from co-financing":

Expected contributions from co-financing

The project will work with a variety of partners and initiatives to achieve the project's objective including the global environmental benefits, many in the form of co-financing (see Annex 13 co-financing letters of the Prodoc). Through their various contributions including solar power plants and grid enhancement among others, co-financiers will support access to renewable energy in rural areas.

An overview of the co-financiers, their current efforts to overcome the development challenge, their expected role in the project as well as the expected results to be achieved, can be found in the table below. It is worth mentioning that each of the partner and partner type will be represented at the National Dialogue Platform.

Total co-financing for the project is USD 229,123,647.

Partnerships: The project will work with a variety of partners and initiatives to achieve the project's objective and results (see table below)

Table 3 - Identified partners for the AMP in Niger

1. Cleared. thank you for the clarification.

2.a: Please remove the AfDB cofinancing (USD 90,909): the attribution of the share of the SEFA contribution of the Desert to Power AfDB initiative to the GEF AMP Niger project is weak (dividing the overall amount in equal parts between the 11 countries is not convincing), and also considering that the cofinancing letter from AfBD states that the project runs until 2023, but the Niger AMP project will most likely not start implementation until mid of 2023. Please also remove mention of the AfDB portion in the "describe how investment mobilized was identified" section.

2.b: cleared.

2.c: cleared.

2.d.i: cleared.

2.d.ii: Cleared. The revised co-fin letter from ANPER, as reflected in the revised CEO Approval Request document, is noted.

10/01/2022:

Several clarifications and adjustments would be welcome at this stage:

1. The co-financing amount announced by UNDP at PFD stage was of 995,000\$ (Self-financing column in Annex A of the PFD) and is now reduced to 300,000\$ in-kind at CEO

endorsement request stage. No explanation is provided with regards to this reduction to 1/3 of the expected self-financing by the GEF agency.

2. Regarding other co-financiers:

2.a: The 995,000\$ in-kind contribution of AfDB through the SEFA project on mini-grids identified at PFD stage is confirmed in the attached co-financing letter. However, it does not match with the number mentioned in the endorsement request table, which is of 90,909\$ (this figure is not mentioned in the co-financing letter). A clarification would be relevant on whether another co-financing request for an AfDB in-kind contribution is missing or whether this figure is a typo related to the SEFA study.

2.b. The 5,000,000\$ grant contribution of the AfDB identified at PFD stage is now absent from the co-financing table (a regional SEFA study covering Niger among other countries is mentioned in the co-financing letter but not registered in the table).

2.c. The 2,500,000\$ grant contribution by SIDA is now identified as an in-kind contribution and the amount is reduced to 1,276,171. Although the contribution to the AMP child-project is clear in the co-financing letter, a clarification would be relevant as to the reason for these changes.

2.d. Cofinancing from ANPER: A co-financing by ANPER of 76,490\$ is confirmed by a co-financing letter ? this in-kind contribution is additional to the amounts identified at PFD stage and does not call for any clarification. However, another co-financing registered under ANPER is claimed for an amount of 207,380,077\$ which would raises several concerns:

2.d.(i): This number is the result of several existing financing provided by other donors to the ANPER. A letter is provided by ANPER announcing that these amounts is a co-financing for the project ? but no co-financing letters from the donors from which the financing originates can be found.

2.d.(ii): In addition, there is no description of the clear links between the listed co-financing sources in the ANPER investment mobilized letter, and the specific components of the GEF-UNDP child projects. It seems that amongst the listed sources for instance, the WBG project HASKE would be the one that most directly would match the criteria for cofinancing. Overall partners outlined in table 3 of the endorsement request (some of which match the list, including WBG) would be more relevant to cite as co-financiers as their contribution is effectively associated with project outputs. Significant restructuring of the co-financing table and related co-financing letters would be relevant in order to better clarify the articulation between co-financiers and coordination partners ? as also raised at PFD stage by Council comments.

--> The Agency is requested to take a closer look at the several cofinanciners listed in the ANPER letter, pick only the ones that are directly relevant to the child project and also consider whether only specific components/years of expected financing could be considered as relevant. Then please revise the cofinancing table and provide a summary justification for the linkages of each of the claimed sources of cofinancing.

Agency Response

14/12/2022 KH

1. Kindly refer to the PFD Annex 4 stage there was no UNDP co-financing planned however the USD 995,000 are actually a grant from AFDB's SEFA as stated in the ?Indicative Sources of Co-Financing for the Project? table in the PIF.

2.

- a. The USD 995,000 SEFA "Green Minigrids Programme in Niger" indicated in the AfDB co-financing letter ends in 2022 and hence the full amount will not be considered as co-financing as the AMP Niger will only start in 2023. However, the AfDB Desert to Power project lasts for 5 years and ends in 2023, and covers 11 countries. Hence the year 2023 equivalent amount for the country of Niger is taken into account as co-financing, i.e. USD 90,909. This indeed a proportion that was discussed with the AfDB during consultation. This is indicated
- b. Same as above, the USD 5,000,000 SEFA "Green Minigrids Programme in Niger" identified at PIF is ending in 2022 hence cannot be considered as co-financing for the project. this is the reason why it is removed at CEO ER stage.
- c. The SIDA's "Liptako-Gourma rural electrification project" duration is from 2020 to 2024, The AMP Niger is estimating to start in 2023; hence only 2 years out of 4 are considered as co-financing for AMP Niger. The total amount was divided by 4 years to have a broad approximation of disbursements per year as a more realistic approach. This was discussed with SIDA during consultation.
- d. Noted for the in-kind ANPER's contribution letter.

(i) The donors have ANPER as its executing agency and therefore has the mandate is to implement, supervise and coordinate all rural electrification efforts including minigrids. During consultation at PPG stage, the World Bank Office in Niger authorized ANPER to indicate the 2 World Bank projects (HASK and NESAP) in the AMP Niger from ANPER co-financing letter. Having a letter from the rural electrification agency has been done in many GEF AMP countries, including Comoros, Nigeria and others and approved by the GEFSec.

(ii) Thank you for the comment. ANPER's letter and co-financing projects considered as well as their amount have been carefully revised. Identified projects for co-financing remain the same (8 projects) but only the investments and technical assistance provided to minigrids (excluding solar home systems etc.) and only for the duration of the AMP Niger project were accounted for. As such, the ANPER co-financing amount of US\$ 207,380,077 got reduced to US\$ 135,104,356. Additional details in the form of a table have been added to the CEOR Doc and the Prodoc accordingly. The letter of co-financing has been amended as such and will be attached as Annex 13

23/12/2022 KH

The AfDB portion has been removed from the co-financing as requested.

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. An amount of 1,601,376 \$ is requested from GEF 7 CC STAR allocation, with Agency fee of 144.124 \$ (9% - in line with GEF policies and guidelines and consistent with PFD stage).

Agency Response
Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. A PPG is requested (GEF ID 10833), within the allowable cap (50 000\$, agency fee of 4,500\$), with advanced programming and utilization accounted for in Annex C ? with two thirds of the committed funds yet to be spent. The results of PPG activities so far have been integrated in the table summarizing changes since the PFD and throughout project description.

Agency Response
Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

12/19/2022, FB

The calculation sheet is now available.

10/01/2022:

The calculation sheet provided at PFD stage was in line with the methodology in the prescribed guidelines.

There has been an update in the transmitted result for the GHG calculation (see item II.6 of the review sheet) for which the related annex (Annex 12 according to the endorsement request) is not found in the attached documentation (the section is referenced in the Project Document but is empty).

--> Please provide the calculation sheet for the child project.

Agency Response

14/12/2022 KH

This was an omission the Calculation sheet is now attached as Annex 12

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. In line with the framework identified at PFD and regional child project level, the four components will focus.

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. The baseline scenario details the key barriers faced in the Niger context in alignment with those identified at PFD and Global project level, based on preliminary PPG results summarized in table 2 (and throughout the project description), including on issues of access to hardware, adequacy of digital tools, high developer risk, challenging financial context with associated risks (outlined in item 13 of this review sheet).

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
cleared.

12/19/2022, FB

10/01/2022:

Yes. The alternative scenario focuses on most of the outputs and activities described initially in the PFD, including on convening, dissemination, tracking progress, scaling up financing, business model innovation with private sector, policy and regulation;

A change of scope since PIF stage is summarized at the beginning and justified by advances made during PPG stage and new studies available. This helped to identify that a strong engagement on mini-grid pre-exists in Niger, which led to re-orient the GEF financed activities away from support to tendering and on capitalizing on these experience towards scaling up efforts (including through a replication plan) and related training and stakeholder engagement capacities;

The specific mini-grid technologies supported in this child project pertain to solar PV + battery systems.

--> One clarification would be relevant with regards to the articulation with other initiatives as outlined above in item I.4 of the review sheet regarding co-financing.

Agency Response

14/12/2022 KH

Articulation and coordination with the other initiatives including in the co-financing letters will be facilitated via different means during project implementation and will contribute to stakeholder engagement as well as avoiding overlaps and duplication while leveraging synergies:

- ? ANPER, whose mandate is developing rural electrification including minigrids, is the implementing partner of all the projects listed in the co-financing letter. The Directorate General (DG) and his team are effectively and actively contributing and coordinating a smooth articulation among all existing initiatives.
- ? The AMP Niger plans to create a national dialogue platform around minigrids, and include all the partners involved in the minigrids space in Niger (see Output 1.1.)
- ? The AMP Niger aims to create a national community of practice is another lever to facilitate the articulation between the different initiatives and relevant stakeholders
- ? The AMP Niger Project Board/Steering Committee plans to include partners such as AfDB, World Bank and others which has proved successful in various other GEF countries to ensure coordination between partners.
- ? AMP Niger project implementation unit will set a plan for interactions and consultations with the partners with the various platforms and will be conducted via regular meetings, yearly workshops, provide trainings and develop awareness raising campaigns adapted to Niger's culture etc.

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes, the alignment of the project with CCM objectives and related activities is elaborated on in detail

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

The contribution from the baseline is clearly elaborated based on the engagement during PPG phase. Co-financing would benefit from some clarifications as detailed above.

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

19/12/2022, FB

10/01/2022:

The number of beneficiaries more than doubled since the PFD estimate, as a reflection of the active engagement approach developed during PPG phase.

On the GHG emissions front, the estimate was reduced to 2,069,015 tCO₂ ? the order of magnitude of the direct and indirect contribution to this result is in order with the PFD calculation but no detail is provided on the reason for this change (retracting 10% of indirect GHG due to regional TA does not lead to the provided number).

--> Please provide the detailed Annex 12 mentioned in the request to clarify this point.

Agency Response

14/12/2022 KH

The reason for the changes of beneficiaries and GHG emissions are related to the assumptions and methodology used to calculate these numbers as well as additional information collected during PPG on priorities and local realities in Mali. Details are provided in the Annex 12 as requested.

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes ? the whole project structure has be re-oriented during PPG phase in order to focus mostly on scaling up efforts from existing mini-grid support in Niger, including through the preparation of a replication plan.

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes, a map is provided in annex D, although no coordinates are provided.

Agency Response
Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. The theory of change is based on the PFD Structure and components are consistent as well. Connections with regional project through cooperation with AMP Burkina Faso and Mali for example for francophone training. The CoP component of the regional project is also embedded in this national project through brief papers, webinars, digital platforms, among others. Contribution of indicators to the aggregated result of the overall program are noted in the M&E section.

Agency Response
Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. A stakeholder engagement plan is detailed in Annex 8 to the request. Stakeholder engaged during the design phase are outlined throughout the endorsement request, including but not limited to table 3. Further engagement planned through workshops during the rest of the PPG and during implementation, including means of engagement in the context of the covid19 pandemics (in person and virtual meetings).

Agency Response

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes, the gender analysis was completed and summarized in the documents and mainstreamed into actions in particular related to component 1 and 4.

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. Each output and related activities includes a detailed engagement with relevant stakeholder involved in the area, including private sector (e.g. Schneider Electric Foundation for the training component). The stakeholder engagement plan details how private sector was engaged in project development ? for example, the Solar Professional Association is a key stakeholder in the project identified throughout the description.

Private sector is at this stage not identified as a financier.

Agency Response

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. Risks identified during PPG phase include hardware and digital risks (mentioned as high), as well as developer risk, end-user credit risk, financing risk, currency risk, sovereign risk. These risks are matched with mitigation measures although some of them are not related to specific actions related to a responsible entity (i.e. political risk insurance for example).

See item 20 of the review sheet for social and environmental risks.

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. As detailed above, the articulation between coordination and co-financing could be however clarified as several activities pertaining to coordination are now identified as co-financing.

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. The project is in line with national policies and related planning, including Niger's Master plan for Electricity Access 2021-2025, and revised NDC (2021 submission). Dedicated regulations on mini grids are mapped as well as gaps and how they are currently covered (for example on standards observed in current tenders).

Agency Response
Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. The approach is fully integrated with the regional child project of the Africa Minigrid Program, as detailed in item II.9 of the review sheet mentioned above. Through the project timeline regarding component 4 and its associated workplan, the approach is associated with a timeline and set of deliverables.

Agency Response
Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. A monitoring and evaluation plan with related budget, timeline and result system is provided including in table 7 of the endorsement request.

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes ? access to energy is detailed as indicator 2 of the results framework and related to the core indicator on direct beneficiaries of the project.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes, in addition, see below sections.

Env and Social Safeguards (ESS):

Yes. Dedicated annexes (9 and 5) are included and cover the Environmental and Social Management framework for Niger, Sao Tome and Principe and Zambia. Risk (table 3.1), impacts and management measures are outlined. Given the substantial risk rating, ESS assessments will be performed by UNDP and are outlined in the risks section. The result of the assessment is well reflected in the endorsement request including for the environmental and social screening of mini-grid regulations.

The budget associated with each types of measures as part of this framework is not indicated yet (flagged for further work during PPG and project implementation).

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes, provided in annex A of the endorsement request.

Agency Response
GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

10/01/2022:

No pending comments from PFD.

Agency Response
Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Cleared.

01/11/2023, FB

12/19/2022, FB

1. The comments below on co-financing from France were not addressed. Please update and expand the answer

2. the answer to the comment from Germany on coordination with GIZ refers to a possible mission/event that is in the past, please update the section with current information.

10/01/2022:

The answers to Council comments are gathered in Annex B with a specific focus on the comments concerning Niger. Requested coordination meetings have been held and the engagement approach detailed.

--> The answer which regards co-financing needs some clarifications as outlined in other items of this review sheet.

Agency Response

14/12/2022 KH

The updated ANPER co-financing letter will be added.

The clarifications on the portion amount indicated in the CEO ER has been explained with the duration and portion specifically to Niger. Please see the detailed answers in section regarding co-financing

23/12/2022 KH

1. This question relates to the other countries in AMP round 2 Benin, Zambia and Mali.

Kindly note that specifically for the case of Niger, there is a wide range of donors World Bank, SIDA, BOAD, IsDB, Abu Dhabi Development Fund, Saudi Development Fund, etc. Please refer to the co-financing letters and table . The amount of all the development partners working in the off-grid space in Niger is USD 136,757,017. Therefore there is significant amount of development partners in the space to have an effective change.

The aim of the Niger AMP is to set up a national dialogue coordination with the development partners and government as a result to ensure good coordination between donors is key to avoid any duplication and have effective results in terms of off-grid solar electrification.

2. A key objective of AMP is to align and complement with the support of existing development actors in minigrids.

Specifically in Niger, during the PPG, there was consultation with the GIZ Representation in Niger, who was invited to attend the Prodoc validation workshop. GIZ indicated that potential projects around Energising Development ?EnDev? around access to energy (minigrid and clean cooking) is having a mission in September 2022 to possibly extend their programme to Niger.

As from today, it was confirmed by the GIZ Advisor Energizing Development (EnDev), Sarah Leitner, that two missions have taken place to coordinate with institutional and political partners as well the various donors and that they are currently in project design phase.

The design of the Endev project, acknowledges the AMP Niger project and keen to participate to the national dialogue platform (activity under component 1) with all development partners.

10/012023 KH

1. The comments below on co-financing from France were not addressed. Please update and expand the answer

We have updated the response in the Annex to the CEO ER. The new response reads as follows:

Specifically for the case of Niger, there is in fact a wide range of donors World Bank, SIDA, BOAD, IsDB, Abu Dhabi Development Fund, Saudi Development Fund, Exim Bank of India etc. These are captured indirectly in the ANPER co-financing. Please refer to the co-financing letters and table The amount of all the development partners working in the off-grid space in Niger is approximately USD 136 million. Therefore there is significant amount of development partners in the space to have an effective change.

2. the answer to the comment from Germany on coordination with GIZ refers to a possible mission/event that is in the past, please update the section with current information.

We have updated the response in the Annex to the CEO ER. The new response reads as follows:

Specifically in Niger, during the PPG, there was consultation with the GIZ Representation in Niger, who was invited to attend the Prodoc validation workshop. GIZ have also indicated the possibility to collaborate on the Energising Development ?EnDev? initiative around access to energy (minigrid and clean cooking). Following two additional missions in late 2022, GIZ have now confirmed the design of EnDev acknowledges the AMP Niger project and EnDev is interested to participate in AMP Niger?s national dialogue platform (activity under component 1) with all development partners.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

Yes. As detailed above, 15,801\$ out of the 50,000\$ requested are used at this stage for preparatory work and studies by a team of national and international consultants. Further work is to be conducted including for a validation workshop and HACT assessment of the implementing partner.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Cleared.

10/01/2022:

A project map is included in annex D, with no coordinates.

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
02/10/2023, FB -

all comments from PM and PPO addressed. Project is recommended for technical clearance.

01/11/2023. FB

Not yet - the Agency is requested to address the remaining comments and resubmit.

12/19/2022, FB

Not yet - the Agency is requested to address the comments and resubmit.

10/19/2022, FB

Not yet - the Agency is requested to address the comments and resubmit.

10/01/2022:

Not yet - the Agency is requested to address the comments and resubmit.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	10/1/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/19/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/11/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/12/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/23/2023	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

Niger is West Africa's largest country. Its electricity access rate is one of the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa at around 19.3%, with 19.5 million people lacking access to electricity. To reach universal access to electricity of 65% by 2030, Niger needs about USD 4.2bn according to its Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Investment Prospectus, so the establishment of the right set of enabling and derisking conditions for the rapid scaling up of investments is of key importance. Niger has high and reliable solar irradiation intensity, and solar + battery mini-grids represent an effective electrification modality, complementary to grid extension and stand-alone solar home systems. However private sector investments at scale are still facing barriers and risks, including on financing, hardware, social acceptance, lack of skills, developer and end-user credit risks.

Five components and relevant outputs and activities have been developed to increase address the identified challenges and stimulate the uptake of low-carbon minigrids (mainly solar-based) in Niger, by improving the financial viability and promoting scaled-up commercial investments. The project focuses on the cost-reduction (hardware, soft and financing costs) and innovative business models for minigrids. A derisking framework developed by UNDP for renewable energy systems have been adapted to minigrids and will be adopted to catalyze private sector investments as well as policy reform packages. The activities proposed under the five project components will seek to:

1. Advance national consensus on a national minigrid delivery model and adopt enabling policies and regulations to facilitate investment in low-carbon minigrids

2. Operationalize innovative business models based on cost-reduction, with strengthened private sector participation in low-carbon minigrid development
3. Facilitate financial sector actors' readiness in investing in a pipeline of low-carbon minigrids and ensure that concessional financial mechanisms are in place to incentivize scaled-up investment
4. Leverage digital tools and solutions, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities to enable minigrids market development
5. Conduct the relevant project monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of the above project components is expected to result in direct emission reductions of 17,015 tCO₂e and indirect emission reductions of approximately 2 million tCO₂e. Expected beneficiaries are 13,534 people, of which 51% are expected to be women.