

Niger

Enabling Energy Access through Demand-Side Subsidies (DSS)



Country	Niger
Technologies	Off-grid solar products
Target group	Refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and host communities
Project period	08/2022 - 12/2026
Budget	EUR 4,115,000
Financed by	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Coordinated by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
Fund Management by	Mercy Corps
Partners	Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances
Projected results	Electricity access for up to 35,600 people in Niger

Global Overview: EnDev's Demand-Side Subsidies (DSS) Component

Energy access is central to both achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. While significant progress has been made towards fulfilling SDG 7, millions remain unable to afford even the most basic energy products. Demand-side subsidies (DSS) seek to complement other market development interventions to address this affordability gap and ensure that **no one is left behind**.

DSS reduce the price of energy products for intended end-users without eliminating the price completely, thereby improving affordability whilst ensuring ownership. DSS mechanisms, when well-designed, complement and bolster other interventions, such as supply-side support. However, knowledge on and experience with DSS for off-grid energy access is limited to date.

EnDev is currently implementing a component focusing on piloting innovative DSS mechanisms to facilitate access to modern energy services for low-income and/or displaced populations who are not currently reached by commercial markets. The component operates in four countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Liberia, Malawi, Niger, and Uganda. The overarching aim is to contribute to global learning and knowledge-sharing on innovative DSS designs as well as provide recommendations for future replication at scale.

DSS in Niger

Niger is a landlocked country in the heart of the Sahel with a rapidly growing population exceeding 27 million. Since the start of the Central Sahel crisis in 2012, the region has been faced with an unprecedented humanitarian emergency. Niger currently hosts approximately 400,000 refugees and 530,000 internally displaced persons registered with UNHCR. The country has a national electrification rate of approximately 20% of the total population, and around 10% in rural areas.

The DSS pilot contributes to the objectives of the National Energy Access Strategy (SNAE) to achieve universal access by 2035. The pilot operates in rural areas to facilitate access to electricity for displaced households and members of host communities in Bagaroua, Bangui, Guidan Roundji, Sabon Guida, Azarori, Guidan Sori, and Chadakori. EnDev combines geographic and demographic targeting to identify eligible communes, while remaining flexible to adapt its intervention area.

Subsidies provided in the targeted regions lower consumer prices for high-quality, certified solar products, including solar lanterns and solar home systems (SHS). Customer eligibility is checked at the point of sale with an eligibility tool hosted by Kobo Toolbox. EnDev uses a results-based financing (RBF) modality to deliver subsidies through direct payments to participating companies, dependent upon consumer price reduction and independent verification of eligible sales.

In collaboration with Mercy Corps, EnDev builds a local market ecosystem in the target communities by ensuring the local presence of companies, and engaging young people and women as sales agents and technicians in the last-mile distribution chain. In addition, EnDev conducts extensive awareness-raising campaigns to strengthen product awareness, build trust in quality-certified SHS, and inform communities about eligible subsidies and after-sales services.

With the pilot, EnDev aims to close the affordability gap for underserved end-users and expand the reach of commercially viable markets by strengthening supply and demand in local communities.



Projected Impact

Through its demand-side subsidy schemes, EnDev Niger will:

- 1. directly enable up to 35,600 people to have access to modern energy services,
- 2. indirectly contribute to providing energy access for millions more through scale-up and replication.

Strategic Partnerships for Learning and Scale

The pilot is implemented with Mercy Corps as Fund Manager. EnDev also shares technical expertise and lessons learned, coordinates activities, and discusses possibilities for scale up with other development actors in Niger, including the World Bank's Niger Accelerating Electricity Access Project (HASKÉ). The HASKÉ project includes a large component targeting refugee areas that may benefit from EnDev's DSS experience in displacement settings and potentially take successful DSS mechanisms to scale.

Lessons learned on implementing DSS schemes in a displacement settings are shared with the wider international community through [the End-User Subsidy Lab](#).

Funded by:



Coordinated by:



Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Contact:

Energising Development
E endev@giz.de
I www.endev.info

Photos:

©Energising Development/GIZ

Author/Editor: Olivia de Vesci, Myrte van der Spek, Attila C. Yayrak, Yacine Boubacar Adamou

As of: April 2026

hat formatiert: Schwedisch (Schweden)