

Strategy 2026-2027 and beyond

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Vision

An Africa united in self-determination and collective prosperity, where universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy drives an African-led inclusive economic transformation and improved quality of life for all. Grounded in African priorities, institutions, innovation, and resources, this vision advances energy sovereignty, economic autonomy, and long-term prosperity in line with the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 while contributing to global frameworks including Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) and the Paris Agreement. Achieving this ambition requires national, regional and continental leadership, strong African institutions and partnerships, and strategic international cooperation that reinforces African-led solutions and locally grounded pathways to sustainable development.

Energising Development (EnDev) is a strategic partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC) and development partners, jointly advancing energy access priorities across Sub-Saharan Africa. EnDev contributes to strengthening institutional and technical capacities for the implementation of AUC's Agenda 2063 and the UN's Agenda 2030, in particular SDG 7, as well as the Paris Agreement. As an internationally highly recognised strategic partnership, EnDev works with partner countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in reaching nationally defined energy access targets and low-carbon development pathways. Within the partnership, development partners may assume different roles, including contributing to EnDev through joint funding at the overall programme level or through co-financing specific activities at national or regional level. The jointly funded EnDev programme is commissioned by BMZ as part of its African Union Commission (AUC) portfolio and is implemented by GIZ.

Mission

EnDev's mission is to make a significant contribution to achieving the African Union Commission's (AUC) and its Member States' targets for universal, low-carbon energy access by strengthening locally rooted, inclusive, and sustainable energy markets.

Energising Development (EnDev) promotes sustainable access to modern energy services for households, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as social institutions, as a driver of inclusive economic development, social progress and low-carbon transformation. EnDev strengthens and scales inclusive markets for modern energy services, with a particular focus on underserved and low-income populations, ensuring that no one is left behind.

1. Context & Relevance

Expanding inclusive energy access remains a central priority for economic and social transformation across Sub-Saharan Africa.

While Asia and Latin America near universal electricity access, Africa still accounts for around 85% of the global population without electricity access, despite significant progress in the past years and substantial renewable energy potential. Approximately 600 million people remain without electricity and nearly 1 billion without access to clean cooking solutions, disproportionately affecting rural populations, women and girls, refugees, and low-income households.

Limited access to modern energy services constrains economic opportunities, reinforces inequalities, and affects health, education, and livelihoods.

In rural areas, high last-mile distribution costs, limited infrastructure, affordability constraints, and insufficient access to finance hinder the delivery and uptake of modern energy services. Rapid urbanisation further strains energy systems and intensifies access deficits in urban centres. Unreliable access or the absence of modern energy services limits private sector growth, agricultural value addition, and the quality of health and education services. Reliance on traditional cooking practices also poses significant health risks and time burdens, particularly for women and girls.

While women are central actors across energy value chains, as users, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers, their leadership, economic participation, and decision-making roles across households, markets, and institutions remain constrained.

Energy access has gained renewed political momentum at continental and global levels,

supported by a growing number of large-scale initiatives aimed at accelerating progress. Under the African Union's Agenda 2063, member states have committed to expanding renewable energy capacity and strengthening regional energy connectivity as part of a long-term structural transformation agenda. Continental and national frameworks, including electrification strategies, energy compacts, and transition roadmaps, reflect growing efforts to scale investment, mobilise finance, and accelerate progress towards universal, affordable, and sustainable energy access.

Despite recent progress, local market systems and institutional actors continue to face structural, financial and capacity-related constraints, limiting the transition of political commitments into inclusive energy access expansion. At the same time, growing political commitment and large-scale programmes create opportunities for approaches that strengthen market systems, build on existing local capacities, improve regulatory and institutional conditions, and better connect public initiatives with private sector engagement and local entrepreneurship.

Recognising the need for coordinated and implementation-oriented action to accelerate affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access, EnDev will further strengthen its focus on Sub-Saharan Africa from 2026 onwards. Building on more than 20 years of experience and partnerships, and aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, EnDev supports coordination, market development, and locally grounded energy access improvements, including climate-friendly electrification and clean cooking solutions.

2. Objective and Target Groups

EnDev's overall objective is to expand inclusive, reliable and sustainable access to modern energy services for households, social institutions and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Sub-Saharan Africa contributing to locally driven inclusive economic and social development.

The programme focuses on underserved and low-income populations in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas, where access to electricity and clean cooking solutions remains limited, unreliable, or unaffordable. Particular attention is given to women and youth as key

economic actors and agents of change, as well as to refugees, host communities, small-scale entrepreneurs, and local service providers. To address the diverse needs and constraints of these priority populations, EnDev promotes inclusive and sustainable energy markets. Through a consumer-oriented and locally grounded market approach, the programme supports both first-time access and the progressive transition to more reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy solutions, tailored to local demand, user needs, capacities, and ability to pay.

Key Features

Strategic partnership of the AUC with development partners: advancing the Energy Access & Just Transition to significantly contribute to securing affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all on the African continent.

Contribution to Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement: advancing universal access to modern energy services in an inclusive and climate-friendly manner

Translating international & continental strategies into local action: accelerating market development for decentralized energy & clean cooking solutions

Leave No One Behind: prioritizing underserved and low-income populations, with a strong focus on gender equality and empowerment.

Results & scale: combining direct energy access results with strategic partnerships and catalytic approaches to enable long-term market transformation.

3. Approach

As a programme operating on a continental scale across diverse country contexts, EnDev applies a common strategic framework and approach for its portfolio, underpinned by an overarching theory of change and its achievements being measured against a programme-wide logframe (see Chapter 4 for the ToC and Annex 1 for the logframe).

At the same time, implementation approaches are tailored to the specific country level situation to reflect the priorities of African Union Member States, their national energy strategies, and local market conditions. This allows EnDev to respond to different levels of market maturity, institutional capacities, and access challenges, while ensuring the additionality of its interventions and strong coordination and complementarity with other development partners and sector initiatives.

Market-Based Approach: EnDev's approach is grounded in the understanding that sustainable access to modern energy depends on the development of viable and inclusive energy markets capable of reaching underserved populations. To this end, the programme applies a holistic market systems approach that addresses key barriers to energy access across the enabling environment, supply and demand side.



Enabling environment: Strengthening policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks, including standards, coordination and market governance



Supply side: Supporting local energy companies across the value chain through business development, innovation support, quality assurance and improved access to finance.



Demand side: Expanding the adoption of clean, reliable and sustainable energy solutions through awareness raising, improved affordability and support for productive use.

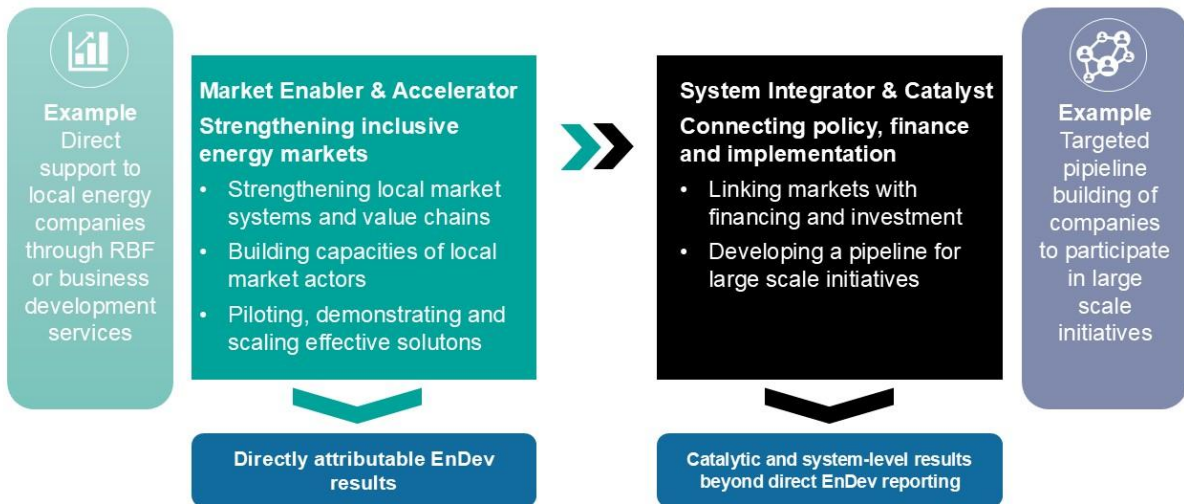
Across its portfolio, EnDev applies this market systems approach differently depending on the maturity of the market. In nascent markets, where market systems are still emerging, the programme focuses on creating enabling conditions, strengthening local ecosystems and reducing barriers for private sector development. In more mature markets, where core market functions are already established, EnDev increasingly supports the scaling and integration of proven market models, leveraging partnerships and larger financing mechanisms to maximise impact, as well as innovation.

Building on two decades of experience in electrification and clean cooking markets, EnDev supports inclusive market development

by strengthening local market systems and value chains, fostering business growth and innovation, and contributing to improved policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks. At the same time, the programme promotes the adoption of modern energy solutions through awareness raising, improved affordability and support for productive use.

EnDev follows a **technology-neutral and adaptive approach, with a focus on renewable energy solutions**, allowing national level projects to tailor interventions to country-specific market conditions and policy objectives. This includes support for electrification (grid, mini-grid and off-grid) and clean cooking solutions. Interventions are continuously adapted based on learning and evolving market dynamics.

In response to a more mature and interconnected energy access landscape, EnDev builds on its established **role as a market enabler and accelerator** while increasingly **acting as a system integrator and catalyst**. This evolution reflects EnDev's continued focus on direct market development alongside a growing role in connecting market actors, financing mechanisms and large-scale initiatives to support scalable and inclusive energy access outcomes.



Portfolio Development

The EnDev partnership builds its portfolio through successive programming cycles that reflect available and expected donor contributions. This allows the portfolio to evolve over time while maintaining strategic coherence. The portfolio focuses on Member States of the African Union and seeks to achieve a balanced

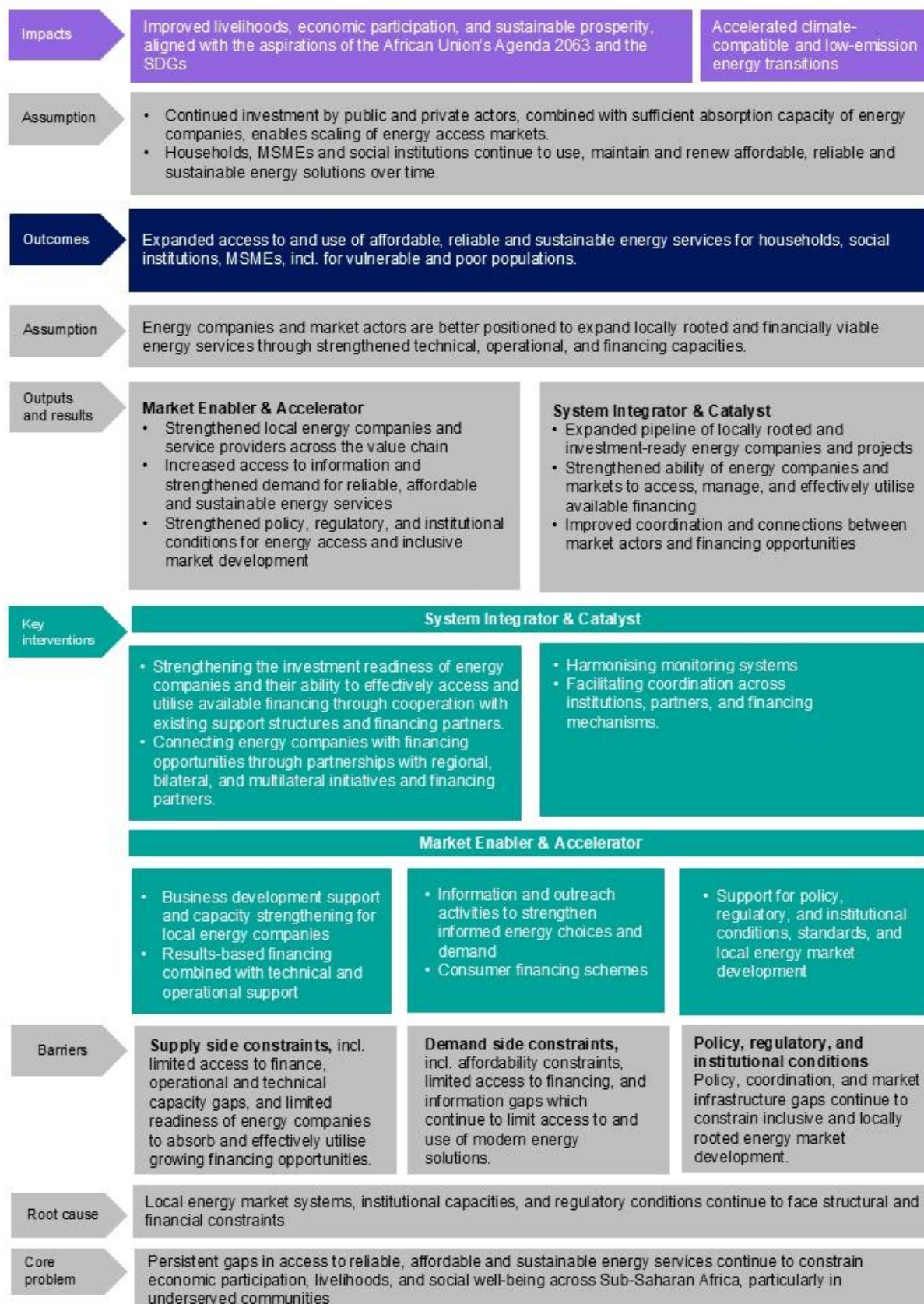
geographical distribution across Sub-Saharan Africa. The programming cycles enable the partnership to review the ongoing the portfolio regularly to respond flexibly to changing market conditions, barriers and opportunities while maximising impact, fostering innovation, and generating learning across diverse country contexts.



Portfolio Expansion Pathways

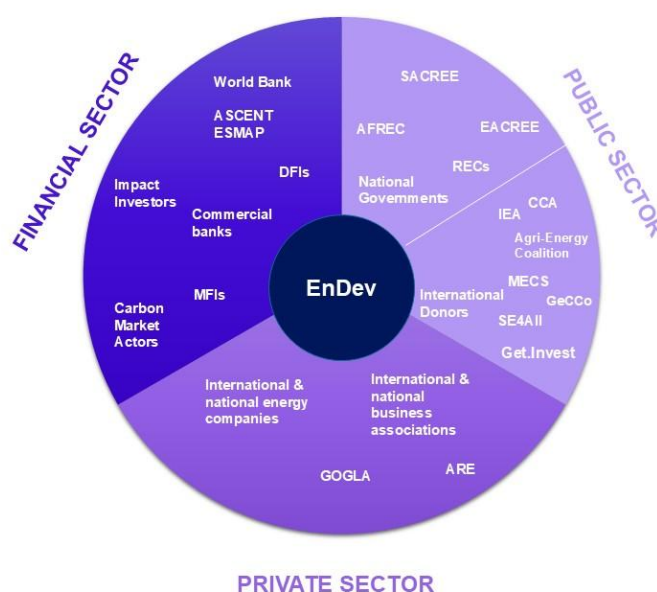
-  **Extension of implementation period**
Extend the duration of ongoing country interventions
-  **Scaling-up interventions**
Expand the scope and expected results within the existing country portfolio
-  **Inclusion of additional Member States**
Add additional Member States in consultation with the AUC and the Core Donors

4. Theory of Change



5. Partnerships

EnDev's partnership approach is designed to translate political ambition – African and international priorities - into coordinated implementation at scale, by aligning and cooperating with actors from the public, private and financial sector on national, regional and continental level in Africa. In addition, civil society organisations and representatives are consulted in planning processes and involved in implementation on national level, to ensure their perspectives are reflected in programme implementation.



Through its partnership with the **African Union Commission (AUC)**, EnDev aligns with continental strategies, while ensuring through a **bottom-up Member State level programming** approach, that all interventions are aligned with national priorities. EnDev implements a continental portfolio under the umbrella of the AUC achieving concrete results at national level. These levels are linked through cooperation with AU specialized agencies (e.g. the African Energy Commission (AFREC)) as well as relevant Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their respective energy sector specific institutions. This complements the national portfolio with selected cross-country activities and supports coordination and harmonization processes at regional level.

To enable scale, EnDev works closely with major international initiatives and financing partners,

particularly the **World Bank** and their *Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT)* programme, thereby contributing to the objectives of **Mission 300**. EnDev works closely with different financiers, (local) banks and investors incl. carbon markets and is closely aligned with key initiatives such as GET.invest to jointly support domestic company growth. By acting as a bridge between **local markets and financing mechanisms**, EnDev translates increasing financial commitments into effective and inclusive energy access outcomes.

In response to a dynamically evolving stakeholder landscape, EnDev forges alliances for joint agenda setting, knowledge exchange as well as coordination and harmonisation. Key international partners include **Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)** and the

International Energy Agency (IEA), incl. the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA), as well as business associations such as the **Alliance for Renewable Electrification (ARE)** and **Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)**, which represent private sector perspectives and facilitate connections between companies, financiers and investors.

In addition, EnDev actively drives exchange and coordination as well as joint learning on specific sector topics in practitioner groups and networks, for example in the context of the **Global eCooking Coalition (GeCCo)** which is led together with the UK-funded Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS), SEforALL, and GEAPP, or the **Agri-Energy Coalition** with members such as GOGLA and IRENA, REEP and SEforALL, with a focus on productive use of energy. EnDev actively contributes to technical exchange and coordination formats on Results-based Financing (RBF) to share lessons learnt and promote greater harmonisation of RBF mechanisms at national and regional level.

Following a bottom-up programming approach **partnerships on Member State level vary and reflect the country-specific intervention approach**. These actors typically include sector

ministries and regulatory bodies, business associations and domestic companies, financial institutions (e.g. micro finance institutions (MFIs) and commercial banks) and civil society organisations.

EnDev prioritises the **use and strengthening of Africa-led solutions**, working with and enabling national institutions and local market actors wherever feasible. At the same time, it engages with initiatives of other development partners to ensure **alignment, complementarity and effective use of resources**. This approach supports sustainability, institutionalisation and long-term impact.

Continental, regional and national strategies are closely interlinked and mutually reinforced, with **experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt from national implementation feeding into regional and continental dialogue and harmonisation processes**. At continental portfolio level, EnDev develops and consolidates knowledge that is shared through dialogue platforms, consultation and planning processes, and broader communication and outreach activities

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

EnDev's monitoring system ensures transparent, high-quality and accountable results across the whole continental portfolio aggregated on programme level.

The system tracks direct **outcomes at target group level** for households, social institutions and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), covering the full spectrum of supported energy technologies. Results are disaggregated by energy access tier levels in line with international standards such as the Multi-Tier Framework (MTF). Where contextually feasible, outcome data is further disaggregated by gender and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) dimensions to inform inclusive and gender-responsive reporting and programming.

Additionality and attribution of results are ensured through EnDev's bottom-up programming approach at national level. The selection and design of interventions are guided by criteria aimed at ensuring that reported results are directly linked to programme activities and go beyond market developments that would have occurred without EnDev's engagement or through the support of other development partners. At the same time, **sustainability considerations are embedded throughout the programming process**, with interventions designed from the outset to strengthen locally rooted and long-term market viability and ensure continuity beyond the duration of the programme.

Monitoring data is collected and verified at national level and undergoes a quality

assurance process to ensure consistency, traceability, and data quality across the programme portfolio. EnDev makes use of **digital and web-based solutions** across implementation processes, including programme monitoring, data collection and verification, and data sharing with cooperation partners. EnDev also seeks to further strengthen and mainstream shared monitoring platforms with other development partners.

Monitoring data forms the **foundation for adaptive management**, enabling evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement of interventions. EnDev systematically shares relevant data and insights with the African and international energy access community to contribute to sector learning and transparency.

To further strengthen evidence and learning, EnDev regularly conducts **evaluations and impact studies** to assess programme performance and identify areas for improvement, in line with the OECD DAC criteria, with particular attention to sustainability and impact. In addition, EnDev undertakes thematic studies and analyses on **topics of strategic relevance**, such as gender equality and social inclusion. The focus of such evaluations and studies is regularly aligned with the members of the Consultative Group (CG), who jointly steer the partnership

Abbreviations

ARE	Alliance for Renewable Electrification
ASCENT	Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation
AUC	African Union Commission
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development / Germany
CCA	Clean Cooking Alliance
CG	Consultative Group
EnDev	Energising Development
GEAP	Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet
GeCCo	Global eCooking Coalition
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GOGLA	Global Off-Grid Lighting Association
IEA	International Energy Agency
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MECS	Modern Energy Cooking Services
MFI	Micro finance institutions
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
MTF	Multi-Tier Framework
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development / Development Assistance Committee
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEforALL	Sustainable Energy for All

ANNEX

ANNEX 1: EnDev Partnership Logframe 2026 - 2027 and beyond

EnDev is a strategic partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC) and like-minded development partners supporting the implementation of the Agenda 2063 and African energy access priorities through inclusive and sustainable energy market development, while contributing to global objectives under the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

Impact level¹ assessed in the context of external evaluations, impact and thematic studies		
Improved access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy services for households, social institutions and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises contribute to inclusive socio-economic development, and sustainable sector transformation.		
<i>(Consumptive / domestic use)</i> Impact area 1 Livelihoods and well-being: Improved levels of energy use and satisfaction of basic needs Impact area 2 Gender equality and women's empowerment: Enhanced opportunities and improved conditions for the participation and resilience of women and girls Impact area 3 Indoor air quality and health: Reduced exposure to harmful pollutants and smoke from traditional cooking and lighting solutions	<i>(Institutional use)</i> Impact area 4 Public services and social development: Improved conditions for quality education, healthcare and other essential social services	<i>(Productive use)</i> Impact area 5 Economic opportunities and income generation: Improved income generation through the productive use of energy, including for women-led economic activities
	<i>(Society)</i> Impact area 6 Resource mobilisation and sustainable investment: Increased investment in climate-friendly energy solutions by energy users, companies, financiers and public institutions	

¹ At impact level, the contribution of EnDev interventions to broader development impacts cannot be directly attributed. EnDev's monitoring system therefore focuses on directly measurable and attributable results at outcome level.

Outcome level²
assessed by EnDev's monitoring system

The number of people in private households, social institutions, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in selected AUC Member States that have gained access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services.

Outcome indicator 1 Energy access for private households X people in private households have gained access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supply		Outcome indicator 2 Energy access for social institutions X social institutions have gained access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supply.		Outcome indicator 3 Energy access for MSMEs X micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) have gained access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supply		Outcome indicator 4 Climate change mitigation Amount of reduced or avoided greenhouse gas emissions of households, social institutions, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by X tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent/year.	
<i>Baseline value:</i> 24,867,900	<i>Target value:</i> 25,467,900 people	<i>Baseline value:</i> 13,260 social institutions	<i>Target value:</i> 13,380 social institutions	<i>Baseline value:</i> 46,390 MSMEs	<i>Target value:</i> 46,630 MSMEs	<i>Baseline value:</i> 2,611,210 t CO ₂ e	<i>Target value:</i> X t CO ₂ e
<i>Source of data & collection: Collection of sales and installation data for products & services; baseline data on household size and direct survey of beneficiaries; results gender-disaggregated using population and gender statistics.</i>		<i>Source of data & collection: Collection of sales and installation data for products & services; monitoring systems in partner countries; direct survey of customers and beneficiaries.</i>		<i>Source of data & collection: Collection of sales and installation data for products & services; monitoring systems in partner countries; direct survey of customers and beneficiaries.</i>		<i>Source of data: Calculations of CO₂e mitigation based on UNFCCC methodology and technologies promoted via collection of sales and installation data for products / technologies / services. NOTE: Ex-post target value calculation based on actual portfolio (number of sales / connections and type of technologies).</i>	

² Baseline and target values are presented here in line with the impact matrix being part of the commission of the programme (as of April 2026). Baseline values for indicators 1, 2, 3 and 4 correspond to EnDev achievements in Africa as of 12/2024. Target values are projections and will be reviewed and updated based on the Programming 2026-2027.

Output level
assessed by EnDev's monitoring system

Supply Side

The capacities of the private sector in selected AU Member States for the provision of modern energy services are strengthened.

Output indicator 1

X company representatives have successfully participated in further training measures to further develop their business models with a focus on "Leave no one behind" or "Innovative technologies".

Baseline value: 0 representatives

Target value: 100 representatives

Source of data & collection: Annual review of project documents relating to training initiatives and capacity building. The companies involved are domestic, international, and German/European that provide products and services for modern energy supply (tailored to the needs of the target groups) in the fields of electrification and cooking energy. The successful participation of company representatives is assessed via a questionnaire completed at the end of the training sessions.

Output indicator 2

X companies [x of them women-led] have submitted financing applications, advised by the project, to financiers for the provision of modern energy access.

Baseline value: 0 companies

Target value: 24 companies, of which 6 are women-led.

Source of data & collection: Annual data collection and analysis of documentation from supported companies. Financing comprises grants, equity, commercial and concessionary loans, collateral and guarantees, and carbon finance. Financiers are providers of grants (including providers of result-based financing (RBF)), loans, equity and guarantees, and thus include both private and public banks, investors, funds and other intermediaries, including those from the carbon market. Companies are considered women-led if at least one woman is registered in the commercial register as an owner or managing director. To promote gender-transformative approaches, companies in which women hold leadership positions are also included.

Affordable, reliable and sustainable access to energy products and services

Products and services include **cooking energy solutions** across all tier levels incl. biomass-based stove types and eCooking solutions, as well as access to **electricity** through off-grid, mini-grid and grid-based connections.

- **Affordable:** Consumer prices and financing mechanism are designed to ensure that modern energy services and products are affordable for households, social institutions, and MSMEs with targeted support measures adapted to specific market conditions and population groups.
- **Reliable:** Energy services that are available when needed, dependable over time, and capable of supporting intended household, social, and productive uses.
- **Sustainable:** Energy is provided in an environmentally and socially manner, prioritising renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions to reduce carbon emissions and harmful indoor air pollution.

Target groups

- **Households (people):** access to modern energy services for consumptive and domestic use
- **Social Institutions:** access to modern energy services for public and community service delivery, including health and education facilities
- **Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs):** access to modern energy services for productive and income-generating use³.

Data disaggregation

Results data are reported in line with the logframe and further disaggregated to support a more granular strategic and operational programme steering. Disaggregation level include:

- results per country,
- cooking and electrification,
- type and quality of access,
- specific target groups (e.g. LNOB, gender)

³ The classification of company size is based on the number of employees: micro enterprises have 1–4 employees, small enterprises 5–9 employees and medium-sized enterprises 10–50 employees.

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