



AWARENESS,
COMMUNICATION
AND SENSITISATION



CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT

Solar Training & Entrepreneurship

SUMMARY

Country	Togo
Implementer	Energy Generation
Target groups	Young from Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast and Senegal
Duration	12/2021 – 06/2023
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

The West African Region has one of the lowest electrification rates worldwide, with 220 million people living without access. At the same time, it has a vast renewable energy potential. The Economic Community of West African States' (ECOWAS) Renewable Energy Policy aims to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030, with 25 % of the population served by solar PV minigrids or standalone solutions. However, rollout of such systems has been slow. One reason for this is a lack of welltrained technicians. Due to improper installation and maintenance, systems are susceptible to failure, which can lead to reduced trust in the technology and results in fewer new projects overall.

IMPACT LOGIC

Energy Generation trains 49 young people, among them 20 women, from Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast and Senegal, on how to plan, install and maintain solar PV systems, opening up a new business field for them. Young people who successfully complete this training can apply for a oneyear startup grant to help them realise their project idea. The threemonths training at Energy Generation's campus in Lomé qualifies participants to install and maintain solar PV and irrigation systems. Theoretical knowledge on renewable energy and business management also enables them to develop their own business idea in the field of solar energy. Those who do not start their own business are prepared for the job market through targeted workshops. Throughout their training, the young technicians have access to the resources of the Energy Generation Campus. All participants receive a scholarship and those who do not live in Lomé are also provided with housing. At the end of the training, participants return to their home countries to apply their knowledge. Those who excel with their business idea receive a onetime financial award and are mentored by Energy Generation during the startup phase. During this time, the newly trained technicians go through a multistage learning course, focusing on business strategy, product development, marketing and communication.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

This approach offers an intraregional training of new solar technicians in West Africa. It fosters the proliferation of quality solar PV installations in the region and young entrepreneurs in entering the sector.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gruene-buergerenergie.org