



Reducing Rural Poverty through Increased Access to Energy Services

A Review of the Multifunctional
Platform Project in Mali



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United Nations Development Programme

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Foreword

In working with the government of Mali on the multifunctional platform, UNDP has sought to promote an integrated, multidimensional approach to reducing rural poverty. Rural women who benefited from the platforms experienced a significant reduction in the burden associated with typical household tasks as well as savings in the time devoted to these activities, which have allowed them to engage in income-generating opportunities and improve their overall socio-economic position. In addition to these direct impacts on women, the impact study undertaken in 2001 showed that the multifunctional platforms also lead to improvements in water quality (which is no longer drawn from wells); the delivery of services by local health facilities; school attendance by girls; and job creation for rural blacksmiths, carpenters, and mechanics, all of which contribute to reducing poverty in rural areas.

Although it is not a solution to all problems, the multifunctional platform is a viable solution to reducing rural energy poverty given that the electricity grid is not expected to reach most rural communities within the next twenty years. While the Mali programme will require further support to improve the current approach and to ensure its sustainability, the demonstrated impacts of the multifunctional platform approach on poverty reduction and sustainable development have encouraged other countries in the West African region to want to develop similar programmes. Delegations from several countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, and Togo) have visited Mali to learn from the multifunctional platform experience.

A regional programme is being initiated based on the Mali multifunctional platform approach to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in several sub-Saharan Africa countries. This assessment report provides a timely opportunity to consider improvements in the current approach and provide constructive inputs for the regional programme.

Together, I hope we can work to overcome the challenges of rural energy poverty.

Jocelline Bazile-Finley
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Acronyms

ADEME	Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie
CAC	Cellule Appui Conseil
CERP	Centre d'Expansion Rurale Polyvalent
CNC	Cellule Nationale de Coordination / National Coordination
CNESOLER	Centre Nationale de l'Energie Solaire et l'Energie Renouvelable
CP	Centre Pilote de Conakry / Pilot Technical Center in Conakry
EDF-ACCESS	Electricité de France - Programme ACCESS
FCFA	Franc Communauté Francophone d'Afrique
GNP	Gross National Product
HDI	Human Development Index
hp	Horsepower
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
Kg	Kilogram
PAIB	Programme d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base pour la Lutte Contre la Pauvreté
PCSD	Programme Cadre du Secteur Privé
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RMS	Results Management System
RBM	Results Based Management System
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation



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