

Initiatives to Support Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries

by

*The United Nations
(UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO)*



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UN Support for Renewable Energy Investment in Low-Income Countries

Experience

The UN has wide-ranging experience, and combined strengths in the full range of renewable energy options that are available to Governments and other stakeholders.

National Ownership

Response to local requirements is a key feature of any UN intervention. Local representation and coordination in target countries ensure coherence with country objectives and national ownership of RE activities.

*UN organizations
and renewable
energy initiatives*

Maximum Benefit from Investment

The UN has extensive resources to help countries achieve the greatest local benefit from RE by building the necessary national and local capacity and structures.

Diversified support

UN organizations bring different areas of RE focus, all available to countries. This includes policy, technology and RE finance expertise, links with key local stakeholders and opportunities for residential, commercial and industrial RE applications.

Menu of UN Services to Support Sustainable Renewable Energy Implementation

Support for
Sustainable RE
Implementation

Supporting on-the-ground energy service delivery and the productive use of renewable energy

Building incentives for RE through national policy, legislation & regulation.

Enabling local actors to install and maintain the most appropriate RE technology

Fostering public finance and private sector investment in RE

Linking renewable energy to national energy policy & development strategies

Facilitating national/local multi-stakeholder dialogues and policy planning

Analyzing and designing policy and financing options on renewable energy for decentralized options

Designing and enhancing institutions and delivery mechanisms, particularly for off-grid energy solutions

Developing human expertise and skilled professionals at all levels (local communities, national policymakers)

Knowledge sharing from international experience to overcome barriers and scale-up RE implementation

Multi-Level UN Support for Renewable Energy

Country

The UN provides an integrated menu of services to countries through its country offices by coordinating relevant UN agency resources for joint implementation. The demand from local stakeholders determines the priority RE interventions, to ensure national ownership.

Regional

The UN's renewable energy interventions at the country level are supported by a network of regional centers across the world that contain policy, technology and financial advisors. These centers provide support to country and regional renewable energy initiatives.

Global

The UN hosts over 100 experts working on renewable energy, in addition to a network of more than a thousand professionals involved in project-level activities from global to community levels in more than 120 developing countries.


Examples of UN Agency Renewable Energy Services

UNDP's global renewable energy portfolio consists of 1500 programmes/projects in over 100 countries from 2001. UNDP bring to partner countries global and regional capacities to support policy development, knowledge and technical expertise for effective implementation. It has on-going renewable energy programmes in all SREP Countries including Nepal, Ethiopia, Mali, Kenya, Honduras and Maldives. For example in Nepal, UNDP supports the Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) in partnership with the World Bank and other partners.

UNEP is the UN's centre of environmental expertise and support for sustainable renewable energy implementation. UNEP provides a range of pre-investment services worldwide, including RE resource mapping to identify the most appropriate RE technologies, RE policy development, access to carbon finance, building capacity of the local financial sector to support RE, knowledge-sharing. Examples are the African Carbon Asset Development Program, the Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment and the Climate Finance Innovation Facility.

UNIDO is currently implementing small-scale hydro-power (SHP) projects worldwide and is developing an umbrella programme with a focus on South-South cooperation. Technical support for SHP projects is in part provided by the International Centre for Small Hydro-Power in Hangzhou, China. UNIDO's Regional Center for Small Hydro-Power in Trivendrum (India) and UNIDO's Regional Centre for Small Hydro Power in Abuja (Nigeria) are examples of local offices that provide technical assistance at the regional level.


Summary of UN Support for Renewable Energy in Countries



The UN provides a wide range of **advisory, knowledge and capacity development services** to accelerate the scaling up of renewable energy programmes/projects in low-income countries



These services are offered from a **global knowledge network and policy/technology support system** for development and environmental issues, including renewable energy



The UN's support for renewable energy implementation in countries provides an essential pre-investment service to facilitate the **effective application of investments** from MDBs, bilateral agencies and the GEF including the private sector