



ASCENT Project Preparation Facility



1. Introduction - Energy Access & Financing Status Quo



In Eastern and Southern Africa:



365 million people lack access to electricity



558 million lack access to clean cooking solutions

For the private sector:



Financing remains a central bottleneck. While debt capital is available for well-structured opportunities, it is often costly



Investment Readiness is a Challenge. Developers lack the technical, financial, and operational capacity required to bring projects to

Project Preparation plays a critical role in:

- Accelerating access to finance and time it takes to reach financial close
- Equipping companies with tools and intelligence to expand into new areas/markets
- Enhance business performance
- Develop a pipeline of investable businesses with solid returns/ impact

2. Overview of the Project Structure



Regional Energy Access Acceleration Platform



COMESA Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

Knowledge exchange,
convening, data, skills
development and consumer
engagement

Advisory support to
governments on planning,
policy regulation and finance
mobilization

**Project Preparation
Facility (PPF)**

Project management and
capacity building support to PIU

Digital Monitoring, Reporting
and Verification (MRV)
Platforms for Energy Access and
Climate Finance



The PPF will provide support to governments and the private sector in developing bankable, investment-ready projects through a demand-driven approach

1. Project development support to national agencies on the design and implementation of energy-access projects

2. Cross-border solutions will identify, prioritise, and facilitate cross-border energy provision among multiple countries to accelerate energy access in border areas

3. Support to private-sector DRE and clean cooking companies to achieve growth and bankability

Funding allocation of \$25m across all three subcomponents



3. Overview of ASCENT Project Preparation Facility



Duration

Five-year period (2025–2030)



Geography

Priority countries: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia



Focus area

- DRE (off-grid solar, mini-grids, productive use of renewable energy)
- Clean cooking solutions
- Cross-border electrification and energy access in border areas
- Public-sector energy access project development
- Market development & investment readiness for DRE & clean cooking



Applicants

- **Public-sector institutions** e.g., energy ministries, rural electrification agencies, and public utilities
- **Private-sector DRE and clean cooking companies**, including women and youth owned investable businesses
- **Industry associations and investors** providing project preparation and business development services complementary to the PPF and targeted at companies in ASCENT-eligible countries



4. Five Ways of Providing Support



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| 1 | Publicly available Resources (Ecosystem Interventions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publicly available, non-exclusive resources that support the development of DRE and clean cooking markets and energy access planning across the region• Examples: Geospatial planning, country briefs, market assessments, standards support |
| 2 | On-Demand Technical Assistance (Roster of Experts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-kind, on-demand technical assistance through a pre-qualified roster of experts to beneficiaries under any thematic area that enhances investment readiness• Examples: Due diligence support, feasibility studies, carbon finance projects |
| 3 | Grants for Project Preparation and Business Development Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milestone-based grants to eligible private-sector DRE and clean cooking companies for activities critical to unlocking equity or debt financing that are not covered by the roster of experts• Examples: Embedded technical assistance, integration of software and digital systems |
| 4 | Grants to Industry Associations and Investors Providing Project Preparation and Business Development Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milestone-based grants to industry associations, investors, lenders and other entities essential to realising PPF's objective of unlocking DRE and clean cooking financing |
| 5 | National Agencies and Cross-Border Solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support to national agencies and cross border energy solutions provided through in-kind technical assistance delivered through the PPF's roster of experts |

5. Pathways for Partners, Companies, and Institutions



Knowledge Resources

Access: Public, open

Mode: Co-creation w/ Partners and Roster of Experts



Companies

Support: TA, grants, or combination

Access: Continuous application window, select targeted, time-bound calls



Financiers

Support: Grants only

Access: Continuous application window



Industry Associations

Support: Grants only

Mode: Partnerships

Scope: Market & Pipeline development



National Agencies

Support: TA only

Access: Co-creation



Roster of Experts

Access: Request for EoI to be published Q2

Engagement: Framework agreements

Purpose: Rapid TA delivery

7. Contacts



For inquiries, please contact
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Thank you for your attention!

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