



## Electrifying Remote Rural Communities with green energy. GREEN MINI-GRIDS IN THE GAMBIA

### SDGs supported by the initiative 1, 7, 12, and 13



Green Mini Grids, GMGs provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity access, particularly to rural communities who are facing energy poverty. The GMG initiative is part of the regional "Sustainable Energy for the Sahel" Programme which speaks directly to the Africa Promise, as affordable and sustainable energy constitutes one of the six Strategic Impact Areas of UNDP's Africa Promise.

### UNDP's role in supporting access to clean energy.

In 2022, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, MoPE to engage private sector and a team of energy experts to install a green-mini-grid in one of The Gambia's most isolated off-grid communities in the Upper River Region, known as, Sare Demba Toro. UNDP collaborated



Site for installation at Sare Demba Toro

with MoPE to identify and contract a company to assess and formulate a detailed document

for the GMG installation. A private company was identified to construct the GMG. The Green Mini Grid is expected to serve neighbouring communities of Sare Jamu Mballo and Sare Yerrore.

As work is ongoing at Sare Demba Toro, **Jinack**, an Island located 16 km north of the Capital City of Banjul, has never had electricity and cannot be reached by the national grid



Community school in Jinack

due to environmental and social safeguard concerns of passing transmission lines through the Nuimi National Forest Park which was gazetted in 1986 as a protected area.

Thus, UNDP is supporting the MoPE to assess the feasibility of installing a GMG on the Island. Given that the only way of providing electricity to the community is through off-grid solutions, it is important to assess the viability of installing a GMG to serve the community.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Promote clean energy access through the installation of renewable energy infrastructures.
- The assessment of innovative renewable energy solutions specific to the country context

### CHALLENGES

- Limited available financing for private sector investment, considering GMG is capital intensive
- Policy and regulatory framework in developing technical capacities to guide the sustainable development of GMG.