

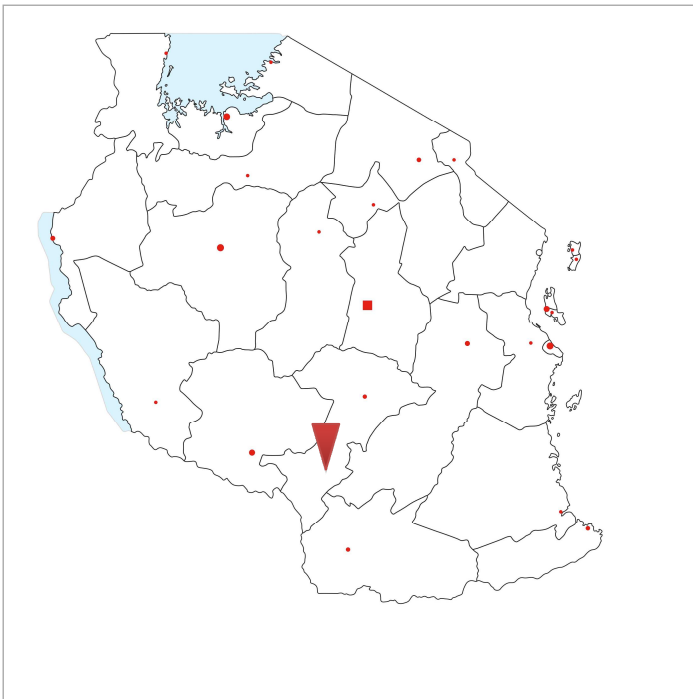
Increasing Access to Modern Energy Services in Ikondo Ward - Njombe



In partnership with the European Union



The overall objective of the action is to promote social and economic development in the Ikondo Ward, by granting access to modern energy services to households, productive enterprises and service delivery facilities.



Key Information

Sector: Rural Electrification

Lead Partner: CEFA Onlus

Other Partners: Matembwe Village Co. Ltd

Budget: EUR 1,800,000 (EU funding EUR 1,400,000)

Duration: Implementation ended Jan 2016.

Background

Ikondo Ward had limited access to modern energy services. It therefore faced a serious obstacle to its economic and social development. An economic assessment realized for CEFA in 2009, highlighted that 63% of those interviewed identified access to electricity as the Ward's top priority.

The other problem tackled by the action are inefficient and unsustainable biomass consumption practices. Like the great majority of the Tanzanians living in the rural areas of the country, the inhabitants of the Ikondo Ward still count on biomass, especially fire-wood, as their main source of energy.

Three hydropower plants developed by CEFA have benefited from EU funding. One in Matembwe (120 kW) in operation since the early 1980s (!); one in Boma-la'ngombe (250 kW) since 2001 and one in Ikondo (80 kW) in operation since early 2000s.

This project, also in Ikondo, was realized with funding from the 10th EDF Energy Programme, and focused on upgrading the existing hydropower plant in order to accommodate a new 350 kW turbine. It also foresaw the expansion of the local mini-grid (50 km of new MV and LV lines) in order to reach 4 new villages with no access to modern energy service; plus the interconnection with the Matembwe mini-grid and TANESCO's national grid.



Through these projects approximately 1,500 direct beneficiaries have been granted access to reliable and affordable electricity services. In order to foster the productive use of electricity in rural areas, CEFA with the support of EU, has launched several income-generating activities in its areas of intervention, e.g. a hatchery, an animal feed factory, a jam and sausages factory, several carpentries and tailoring workshops and an oil mill.

Project Details

CEFA is an Italian NGO specialized in the implementation of integrated rural development initiatives. Present in Tanzania since 1976, CEFA has focused its attention on rural electrification, realizing three micro-hydropower plants in the villages of Matembwe, Bomala'ngombe and Ikondo.

Due to the community's constantly increasing demand for electricity, the micro-hydropower plant in Ikondo had practically allocated all of its 80 kW generating capacity. In order to complete the electrification of the village of Ikondo and serve also other four villages in the area, CEFA decided to increase the generating capacity of its hydropower plant by installing an additional 350 kW turbine.

In addition to this, a 50 km expansion of the MV and LV lines of the Ikondo mini-grid has allowed to reach the villages of Nyave, Ukalawa, Isoliwaya and Kanikelele. Moreover, the Ikondo mini-grid has interconnected with the Matembwe mini-grid, forming a joint grid that now serves a total of 7 village. Finally, the Ikondo-Matembwe mini-grid has interconnected with TANESCO's national grid, allowing the former to supply to the national utility the surplus of energy produced and not consumed locally.

The Ikondo hydropower plant and its mini-grid have been handed-over by CEFA to the Matembwe Village Company Ltd - MVC. Founded in 1989, the MVC has been gradually entrusted with all the activities established by CEFA within the framework of its first integrated rural development project: the Matembwe mini-grid, an animal feed factory and a hatchery. With no financial support from CEFA since 1989, MVC has demonstrated its capacity to successfully manage the social and economic activities inherited throughout the years, becoming a relevant actor within the local economy.

Results achieved

- Upgraded up to 430 kW the Ikondo micro-hydropower plant.
- Extended of 50 km of existing Ikondo mini-grid.
- Connected 225 households, private enterprises and public service providers to the local distribution grid.
- Interconnected the Ikondo-Matembwe mini-grid to TANESCO's national grid.
- Established a Ward Rural Electrification Committee (WREC) and handed-over the Ikondo mini-grid to MVC Ltd
- Realized training sessions on rational and safe use of electricity and energy efficiency practices.

Status update

New connections are made on a daily basis. The total number of users connected to the Ikondo-Matembwe mini-grid is currently 1,142. Further expansions of the mini-grid have already been planned and will allow to serve new hamlets and villages in the months to come.

On the 15th of November 2016, the Minister of Energy and Minerals of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Prof. Sospeter Muhongo, together with the Ambassador of the EU to Tanzania, H.E. Roeland Van de Geer, will officially inaugurate the upgraded Ikondo-Matembwe mini-grid.

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