

Beyond the Grid Fund Africa (Liberia)

	Implementing partner(s)	Managed by Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) and implemented by Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)
	Location	Nationwide
	Agreement period	June 2019 – June 2025
	Budget total (Sweden)	100 000 000 SEK (in Liberia)

Overview and objectives

Beyond the Grid Fund (BGF) targets the provision of sustainable energy services for underserved people in rural and peri-urban areas of Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mozambique and Zambia. It aims to address limited access to electricity by facilitating commercial markets for decentralised renewable energy (DRE). This allows for the expansion of energy access to underserved areas more quickly than through traditional approaches such as centralised power grid expansion. In Liberia this goal is particularly relevant, as Liberia has one of the lowest electricity access rates in the world at approximately 12% nationally (Power Africa).

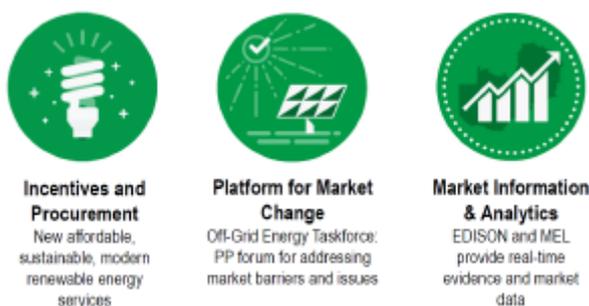


Figure 1: Pillars of BGF activity

BGF commenced its initial programme in Zambia. This programme in Liberia forms part of a wider expansion of that initiative to Liberia, Burkino Faso and Mozambique. BGF has three objectives in Liberia:

- Accelerate the **deployment of modern energy services** to unserved and underserved people in rural and peri-urban Liberia.
- Create a **new model for local and global public and private sector players to work together** for public benefit.
- **Gather and utilise market data and information** on the electricity market for the benefit of societies and citizens in Liberia and Africa more widely.

Activities

BGF conducts three pillars of activities:

- **Incentives and procurement:** BGF provides a financing mechanism to allow companies to scale-up clean energy services in areas which would otherwise not represent viable markets.
- **Platform for market change:** BGF also works to improve the wider market situation. This includes activities such as capacity building, technical assistance, and stakeholder outreach.
- **Market information and analytics:** BGF gathers, analyses and provides access to data on the energy market in order to inform investment decisions and policymaking.

“Incentives and procurement” is the main pillar of BGF’s activity. BGF acts as a collective buyer for electricity services for rural and per-urban customers, procuring a large set of energy service subscriptions (a defined electricity service for a paying customer) from private electricity providers. This larger contract scale, and cash-flow security, incentivises electricity service provision to underserved communities.