



MISSION 300

ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY TO THE
LAST MILE COMMUNITIES

KEY FACTS AND PROGRESS



Sustainable Energy in Senegal: A community-led solar power initiative. (Photo: @AfDB_Group)

Q1: What is Mission 300?

The [Mission 300](#) is a transformative joint initiative launched by the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank (AfDB) with the ambitious goal of providing electricity access to 300 million people in Africa by 2030. Announced in April 2024, the initiative represents a historic shift in scale and cooperation to address energy poverty on the continent, where approximately [600 million people](#) currently live without reliable power.

This initiative calls for an augmented boost of the current rate of electrification in Africa. It is currently the most significant coordinated effort driving to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Universal Access to Energy) in history.

Q2: What is the strategic core objective of Mission 300?

Rather than just a light-the-bulb initiative, Mission 300 is designed as a catalyst for economic transformation. The initiative focuses on rapidly increasing reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity access across participating African countries through policy reform, financing, and project implementation. In the long run, this is aimed to bring universal human development, economic productivity and job creation, scaling through strategic partnerships, financial mobilization and private sector integration and transition to clean energy.

Q3: Which countries and regions have signed up for mission 300?

As of April 2026, 30 African governments have finalized National Energy Compacts, with the initial and second cohorts including:

- Initial Cohort (January 2025): Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- Second Cohort (September 2025-May 2026): Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zimbabwe, Uganda and others.

Specific Regional Focus Areas

- Western & Central Africa: Focus on regional interconnection projects and the DARES platform, including 17.5 million people in Nigeria.
- Eastern & Southern Africa: [The ASCENT](#) program targets 100 million people across 20 countries, including significant efforts in Ethiopia, Zambia, and Malawi.
- Sahel Region: Focus on solar technologies under the Desert-to-Power initiative.

Q4: Who are the key actors and what is their role in fostering M300?

Multilateral banks: Led by the [World Bank](#) and the [African Development Bank](#), Mission 300 aims to provide 250 million and 50 million clean energy connections, respectively, across sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. It will be supported by a five-year commitment of \$30–\$40 billion from these multilateral banks; \$6 billion from partners like the [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#) (AIIB), Islamic Development Bank, OPEC Fund, and France. This has already been witnessed the \$8.5 billion committed via World Bank operations as of October 2025. These funds, bolstered by \$1.2 billion in co-financing from governments and private investors, are currently being deployed across 150 earmarked projects to turn high-level capital into immediate ground-level connections.

African governments: Governments within the sub-Saharan African have been centres for local buy-in and ownership of the mission 300. As of May 2026, about 30 African heads of states endorsed the initiative through National Energy Compacts and the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration. Over twelve countries have entered into detailed National Energy Compacts, laying out how they will provide electricity to their people and advance reforms.

Philanthropic Organizations: [The Rockefeller Foundation](#), the [Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet \(GEAPP\)](#), and [Sustainable Energy for All \(SEforALL\)](#) have tendered funding, technical assistance, and helped to catalyse innovation for the initiative. The Rockefeller Foundation, the [RF Catalytic Capital Mission 300 Accelerator](#), and the Global Energy Alliance have collectively committed over \$60 million to support mission 300 projects implementation.

Rockefeller Foundation (RF) offers technical assistance and support to [Compact Delivery and Monitoring Units \(CDMUs\)](#), prioritizing the hiring of local talent. The CDMUs are dedicated teams, embedded within the government that are established to push for accelerated and efficient delivery of mission 300 goals. In addition, the RF supported the Mission 300 Expert Roster in partnership with Allied Talent Partners to provide CDMUs with specialized and short-term expertise.

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Q5: What do countries commit to under National Energy Compacts?

Under M300, [National Energy Compacts](#) serve as country-led "blueprints" or reform roadmaps. They are not merely aspirational documents but formal pledges by African governments to implement specific policy and infrastructure changes required to unlock investment. These will ensure;

- Policy & regulation: Market liberalization, utility performance improvements, streamlined permitting.
- Investment commitments: Scale grid and off grid rollout, prepare bankable projects.
- Renewable deployment: Increase solar, hydro, mini grids; integrate clean cooking solutions.
- Measurable targets: Time bound connection goals and data reporting requirements.
- Accelerating last-mile connections for underserved communities

Q6: What operational advantages make Mission 300 different from other previous energy initiatives?

Mission 300 distinguishes itself through a unified whole-of-ecosystem approach that replaces fragmented aid with a synchronized roadmap between the World Bank and the African Development Bank, bolstered by the Mission 300 accelerator to bridge the gap between technical planning and private investment. Its primary operational advantage lies in the use of National Energy Compacts, which tie financing directly to verify policy reforms and utility modernization, ensuring that infrastructure remains financially sustainable and attractive to private capital.

By leveraging specialized de-risking tools from the [International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#) and [Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency \(MIGA\)](#) alongside a radical transparency framework that tracks real-time progress via a public portal, the initiative has successfully accelerated connection rates to 1.5 times the historical average, transforming high-level commitments into a coordinated, bankable pipeline of large-scale energy projects.

Q7: What is the strategic shift in Mission 300 as of 2026?

The mission has shifted from high-level ambition to aggressive implementation. The focus is now on productive power prioritizing energy for irrigation, cold storage, and small businesses to ensure that electricity generates the household income needed for long-term sustainability. As of 2026, Mission 300 has shifted from broad political commitments toward implementation, delivery acceleration, and private sector mobilization. The initiative is increasingly focused on: project execution, investment-ready pipelines, utility reform, local delivery capacity, productive energy use, job creation, and commercial investment attraction. A major development in 2026 was the launch of the [Mission 300 Private Sector Council](#) to help mobilize large-scale private investment into Africa's energy sector.



Solar Migration: Some of the local communities have successfully integrated PV systems into daily infrastructure

Q8. How does the mission plan to solve technical gaps within African governments?



Mini solar used for charging a torch in the local community

As of April 2026, Mission 300 has hastened into an implementation phase, successfully reaching 44 million people through 30 National Energy Compacts. To ensure long-term viability, the initiative has shifted toward productive power, prioritizing energy for irrigation and small businesses to boost household income. Systemic hurdles like utility insolvency and currency risk are addressed through a \$5 billion [Local Currency Guarantee Facility](#) and the leadership of the Mission 300 Private Sector Council, which includes 14 global CEOs. By March 2026, 22 African energy professionals have been deployed across 14 countries (including Chad, Liberia, and Malawi). These fellows work directly inside government ministries to cut through the "red tape" that usually stalls energy projects. For example, in Lesotho, a Fellow helped streamline the National Energy Compact, leading to faster approvals for rural mini-grids.

Qn9. What is "Last-Mile" Connection?

A [last-mile connection](#) refers to the final extension procedures of the electricity delivery system which indicates the actual link between the main power distribution grid, a local mini-grid and the end-user's home, small business, or school. While building large power plants is complex, the "last mile" is often the most expensive and difficult part because it involves installing meters, wiring, and poles in remote, low-density rural areas. In 2026, M300 is moving away from just lighting basic solar lanterns toward productive-use connections that can power machinery, irrigation pumps, and refrigeration. Last-mile electrification is critical because many African households live far from existing power infrastructure.

Q10. What are the primary limitations hindering the rollout?

The initiative faces three main hurdles: utility insolvency, currency volatility, and rapid population growth, which often offsets the net gain in connection rates. To meet the 2030 goal, the implementation pace must accomplish twice as the historical average. Other challenges affecting the implementation include; weak transmission and distribution

from exchange rate volatility. Crucially, the March 2026 launch of the Private Sector Council comprising 14 global and African leaders from firms like Airtel Africa and Elsewedy Electric specifically targets the historical lack of private investment to ensure capital flows into vital off-grid and industrial solutions.

infrastructure, slow regulatory reforms, limited government implementation capacity, high cost of infrastructure development, political instability in some countries, delays in private investment mobilization, rural electrification costs, foreign exchange and debt pressures. These barriers may slow project execution if not addressed effectively.

Q11. With such an enormous investment required, what are the primary risks to Mission 300's success?

As of April 2026, Mission 300 has transitioned to aggressive implementation, addressing key risks in financial sustainability, grid stability, and regulatory bottlenecks, rising debt burdens, slow project implementation, weak governance and corruption, climate-related disruptions and insufficient private sector participation. To move beyond basic lighting toward productive power, the initiative now prioritizes energy for irrigation and small businesses to ensure households generate the income needed to sustain service. There are also concerns that rapid connection targets may outpace the development of reliable generation and transmission infrastructure.

Systemic hurdles are being mitigated through National Energy Compacts that drive utility profitability reforms, while a \$5 billion Local Currency Guarantee Facility protects investors



A photo of the Egypt - Benban Solar Park, Solar Photovoltaic Power Project under the Egyptian Feed-in-Tariff Program Round 2 - Alcazar Energy Egypt Solar 1

Q12. How much financing has been committed to Mission 300?

As of early 2026, M300 has mobilized significant financial commitments to accelerate electricity access across Sub-Saharan Africa. Over US\$6 billion has been pledged by development partners to support implementation. The World Bank Group has committed US\$8.5 billion across related energy access operations, supported by an additional US\$1.2 billion in co-financing from governments, development finance institutions, and private investors.

The African Development Bank Group and the World Bank aim to coordinate up to US\$48 billion in funding support through 2030. Overall, Mission 300 is targeting nearly US\$90 billion in total investment to achieve its goal of connecting 300 million people to electricity by 2030 in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet has also deployed over US\$270 million, helping catalyse more than US\$500 million in additional financing.

Q13. Is Mission 300 on track to meet its 2030 goal?

While the initiative has connected 44 million people as of March 2026, a record of significant challenges remain. To succeed, the mission must overcome the moving target of rapid population growth and bridge a multi-billion dollar private investment gap. The success of the mission depends on governments rapidly accelerating regulatory reforms and ensuring that energy access is tied to productive use so that it creates the economic growth needed to sustain the systems.

One of the most persistent hurdles is that Sub-Saharan Africa's population is growing nearly as fast as the rate of new connections. With the last-mile economic gap reaching the final 20-30% of the population involves connecting the most remote and impoverished communities. However, experts note that execution speed, utility reform, and infrastructure delivery remain decisive factors for success.

Q14. What is the current status and progress of mission 300 as of May 2026?

As of May 2026, M300 has expanded into implementation and delivery phases across multiple African countries. Official data confirms that 44 million people have been connected to electricity since the initiative's launch in 2024. This represents roughly 14.6% of the 2030 goal. The rate of electrification has successfully doubled year-over-year, moving from a 10.7% completion rate in late 2025 to 14.6% by early 2026. On the other hand, the National Buy-in confirms that 30 African countries have now signed formal National Energy Compacts, with the Republic of Congo recently joining the second cohort.

The private sector engagement has also increased significantly through new investment platforms and partnerships. For example: In March 2026, the World Bank Group, African Development Bank, and Rockefeller Foundation launched the Mission 300 Private Sector Council to mobilize large-scale commercial investment into Africa's energy sector.

Mission 300-supported financing mechanisms are helping expand mini-grid and solar projects in countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Burundi. Through guarantees and risk-sharing instruments, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) has supported mini-grids in Uganda, solar home systems in Kenya and Rwanda, and metro-grid projects in DRC.



Solar energy panel system in Kijumba ,Hoima district

1. Mini-Grid Developers: Companies like [Weza Power](#) (Burundi) and [Virunga Power](#) are building independent grids for communities far from national lines.
2. [PAYGO \(Pay-As-You-Go\) Solar](#): Business models using mobile money (like Airtel Africa) allow low-income households to pay for solar kits in small instalments.
3. Value-Chain Services: There is a growing niche for businesses providing "energy-plus" services, such as selling electric milling machines or solar-powered cold storage to farmers who just gained a connection.
4. Technical Maintenance: With millions of new solar home systems, there is a massive need for localized repair and maintenance franchises.

Q16. Beyond high level funding, what are the deliverables of M300 for Sub Saharan Africa?

Ultimately, the deliverables of Mission 300 extend beyond financing and infrastructure expansion to measurable development outcomes across Sub-Saharan Africa, demonstrated already through existing country experiences. Productive use of electricity is evident in countries such as Kenya and Uganda, where solar-powered irrigation, agro-processing, and cold storage systems have enabled farmers and small enterprises to increase productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and generate higher incomes. Similar outcomes are seen in Nigeria, where solar-powered processing clusters are supporting small-scale manufacturing and value addition in rural economies.

Job creation is another tangible outcome already being observed across the continent, particularly through decentralized renewable energy markets. Companies such as [ENGIE Energy Access](#), d.light, and Bboxx have created thousands of jobs in installation, distribution, and maintenance of solar systems, while large-scale renewable energy programs in countries like South Africa have generated extensive employment in wind and solar project development.

In the social sectors, electrification has significantly improved service delivery. In Rwanda and Uganda, solar-powered health facilities have strengthened maternal care, vaccine refrigeration, and emergency services, particularly in remote areas where energy access was previously unreliable. In education, electrified schools in Ghana, Malawi, and Kenya have extended study hours, enabled ICT learning, and improved student performance through access to digital tools and better learning environments.

Access to clean cooking and digital services is also expanding, with initiatives in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania promoting cleaner household energy solutions that reduce dependence on biomass fuels and improve health outcomes. At the same time, solar-powered telecom infrastructure and electrified rural communities in countries such as Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda are enabling mobile connectivity, digital finance, and access to online services in previously underserved areas.

In Rwanda, MIGA-backed investments through Weza Power are supporting transmission and distribution expansion projects aimed at increasing household electricity connections and strengthening grid reliability. The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and the Rockefeller Foundation have committed over US\$100 million toward accelerating M300 implementation, including strengthening project pipelines, technical assistance, and mobilizing private capital for renewable energy projects in nearly two dozen African countries.

Q15. Are there business opportunities in this area?

Yes, there are business opportunities in this area. The launch of the M300 Private Sector Council in March 2026 signalled a massive call for private enterprise. The opportunities for Entrepreneurs include;

These outcomes are reinforced by improvements in energy reliability and system performance, including transmission upgrades in Zambia and Kenya, hydropower expansion in Ethiopia, and utility reforms in Senegal that have improved efficiency and reduced losses. Taken together, these real-world examples demonstrate that Mission 300's deliverables are not limited to electricity connections alone, but encompass broader structural transformation—spanning economic productivity, job creation, social service delivery, and digital and clean energy transitions underpinned by strengthened energy systems and accountability frameworks across the continent.

Data Sources:

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