

Project Developer
OnePower Lesotho

OnePower Lesotho is a renewable energy start-up providing affordable and reliable electricity services to off-grid communities, giving families, schools, health clinics and local businesses the opportunity to thrive.



UNLOCKING PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY FOR WOMEN IN LESOTHO

POWER

This project aims to advance inclusive and productive use of energy through a women-led productive use of electricity company (PUECO) in Lesotho. The PUECO will support the creation of women-owned local enterprises and develop a last-mile supply chain for energy efficient appliances in three communities served by OnePower solar mini-grids. The PUECO will provide local women entrepreneurs with training and starting capital to become anchor customers for the mini-grids. Local women will also be recruited to retail energy efficient appliances. EEP Africa financing will enable One Power to pilot this model and demonstrate the value of integrating a PUECO with mini-grid construction.

Total Project Budget
EUR 350 830

EEP Africa Financing
EUR 212 253

Project Partners
Esmart Global, National University of Lesotho

Type
Pilot project
Mini-grid stand-alone

Project Code
LEST6210


Technology
Solar PV

Location
Lesotho



Outcome and Impact

The project will support 12 women entrepreneurs to create energy-enabled businesses in three communities, serving a population of more than 5,000 people. The project also aims to distribute over 450 energy efficient appliances and create 40 new jobs, with 70% earmarked for women. If successful, this model will be replicated and scaled-up to 10 new mini-grids that OnePower is developing in Lesotho.