LOCKS PRODUCTIVE USES OF ENERGY FOR WOMEN IN LESOTHO

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.

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.