

# Renewable energy

## Support access to basic electricity services in Guinea Bissau

Providing Solar Home Systems (SHS) to the rural population of Gabu on a fee-for-services basis

*"For a household or a small enterprise access to electricity means being linked with the external world, with available sources of information, communication and commercial opportunities. This also helps in reducing the exodus from rural areas. This is the most important part of our work in Guinea Bissau."*

Caroline Nijland, Director Business Development, FRES Netherlands.



### EU Partners

Fondation Rural Energy Services (FRES)

Daridibò

### Facts and Figures

- EU contribution: € 2 500 000 (75% of total cost)
- Duration: 48 months (Nov. 2011 – Nov. 2015)
- Target: 3000 beneficiaries and customers of SHS



### Context

Access to electricity in Guinea Bissau is a major issue. Funds allocated to electricity provision are minimal and are mainly channelled to urban areas. Rural and peri-urban areas are the most affected. People are obliged to find their own solutions such as kerosene lamps, batteries, candles, diesel generators, which have negative consequences: pollution, noise, fire hazard, health complications. Moreover the lack of electricity affects income generating activities, communications and social activities.

### Objectives

- Improve living conditions in Gabu Region.
- Make electricity accessible to households and small enterprises.
- Create a company able to provide solar electricity services on a sustainable fee-for-service basis.
- Reduce the negative consequences associated to the use of oil-based products.

### Impact

- 1 company established with a clear business and marketing plan and 3 technical teams created to install and maintain the Solar Home Systems (SHS).
- 650 customers have installed SHS in the first year and a half (final target: 3000) and pay the service fee.
- Communities are sensitized about the benefits of alternative energy use and in particular of solar system.

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### Joana Maria Cá, FRES GB client in Gabu Region

"I really appreciate the quality of the services delivered by FRES Guinea Bissau to Gabu population, in particular to the households living in very isolated areas.

"Thanks to the service offered by FRES GB, I started a commercial activity that consists in recharging mobile phones at a reasonable price and it is very profitable. The income allows me to cover different expenses, including important basic expenditures for my family. Besides recharging mobile phones, through the solar panel system I installed, I can also use the fan and watch the television.

"In addition, I feel that I have acquired more expertise in using and maintaining the battery. Finally I also know that I am preserving the environment, since I don't utilize the generator and oil-based products anymore."



Joana Maria Ca