

ZAMBIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ZECDP)



Objective: Develop Viable Community-Owned Electric Cooperatives

The Zambia Electric Cooperative Development Program (ZECDP) is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Cooperative Development Program and implemented by NRECA International. ZECDP, in collaboration with local stakeholders and partners, aims to develop viable electric cooperatives in rural communities, that will play an important role in the electrification expansion efforts in Zambia.

Goals and Outcomes

- Increased access to renewable electric service in rural communities.
- Establishment of cooperatives as viable providers of electricity service.
- Increased income-generating activities for cooperative members through productive use of electricity.

Cooperative Advantage

Rural electric cooperatives are owned by the communities they serve and operate under the universally accepted Seven Cooperative Principles. Cooperative incentives and measurements for success are not driven by profitability, but rather quality of service, reliability, and sustainability. Using this model in rural and hard-to-reach communities can be a strong advantage for achieving long-term reliable and affordable electricity.

NRECA International has helped establish more than 250 electric utilities and cooperatives in 48 countries, empowering more than 160 million people worldwide. This organization was founded in 1962 when the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and USAID signed a cooperative agreement to share lessons learned in the electrification of rural United States with developing countries around the world.

Principal Activities

- Establish rural electric cooperatives.
- Build capacity and performance of electric cooperatives.
- Provide technical support to cooperatives at all phases.
- Mentor and train cooperatives to govern, manage and operate mini-grid systems.
- Address legal and regulatory barriers.
- Create productive use of energy programs.
- Collaborate with other cooperative development organizations.

Local Context

In Zambia, only 31 percent of the population has access to electricity, with an electrification rate of approximately 4 percent in rural areas. To expand access, improve economic growth, health care services, and social advancement, the government aims to achieve universal access by 2030.

Stakeholders

- USAID
 - Cooperative Development Program
 - USAID/Zambia
- Government of Zambia
 - Rural Electrification Authority
 - Ministry of Energy
 - Department of Cooperatives
- Zambia Federation of Cooperatives



For More Information

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