

The Project for Rural Electrification of Asesewa and Yeji Areas (Stage 2/2)



Project Sites Yeji Area

1. Background of Project

In 1995, the Government of Ghana published their National Development Policy Framework called "Vision 2020". As part of it, the Government formulated the National Electrification Scheme aiming to provide electricity across the nation by 2020.

Asesewa and Yeji areas had been contributing largely to the economic development of Ghana, since both are important areas for food production and agriculture, including inland fisheries in Yeji. These areas, however, had always been without electricity. As Asesewa and Yeji are some distance away from the electrified district capital, it was expensive to connect these areas to the national electricity grid.

The Government of Ghana requested grant aid from Japan for the electrification of Asesewa and Yeji areas. The Government of Japan assisted the electrification of the Asewa area in the first phase of the Project, and that of the Yeji area in the second phase.

This evaluation deals with the second phase, the electrification of Yeji area.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY 1997

(2) Type of Cooperation

Grant Aid

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organizations

Ministry of Mines and Energy

Volta River Authority

Authority of Electric Supply of Ghana

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

- a) To improve the standard of living of the residents of the Yeji area.
- b) To activate industries in the Yeji area.

2) Project Purpose

To provide stable electricity to the residents and industries in the Yeji area.

3) Outputs

- a) Transmission line facilities are constructed in the Yeji area.
- b) An appropriate operation and maintenance system for transmission line facilities is established.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Grant	605 million yen (E/N amount)
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Ghanaian Side

Land, storage of equipment and machinery
Local cost

3. Members of Evaluation Team

JICA Ghana Office

(Commissioned to Quans Inter-Continental Associates Ltd.)

4. Period of Evaluation

8 November 1999-15 December 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

The construction of facilities, including 86.1km of

33kV line and 95 km of low voltage network and substations, was completed as planned. Overall project implementation was highly efficient.

(2) Effectiveness

The project purpose was achieved, as the nine targeted villages had been connected to the national electricity grid. However, due to the shortage of electric meters procured by the Ghanaian side, only 20 percent of interviewed households were actually supplied with electricity. The remaining 60 percent were waiting to be connected to distribution lines, which accompanies the installation of meters.

(3) Impact

Residents supplied with electricity were able to enjoy an improved standard of living. For example, safety in the area was increased by the spread of night-lighting, and access to information was improved by listening to the radio for longer periods of time. Food preservation and housework also became more convenient. Regarding business activities, the interviewed business people answered that the supply of electricity had revitalized business activities in the area: 35 percent had extended their business hours by about 1.5 hours; 40 percent improved their facilities by introducing electrically-operated appliances; and 60 percent were planning to extend their business operations. It is still too early to evaluate the project impact on employment, but the number of people who were engaged in economic activities using electricity had increased, especially in the area of agricultural product processing, retail sales and small supermarkets.

(4) Relevance

The purpose and activities of the project were highly relevant to the needs and policies of Ghana. The project was consistent with the Government of Ghana's National Development Policy ("Vision 2020") aiming to supply electricity to all, and contributed to the improvement of standards of living of the people. At the same time, the Project met the development assistance policies of Japan, which target especially underdeveloped areas in the partner countries. The project promotes good relations between Ghana and Japan.

(5) Sustainability

Since power industries are maintained and operated by user fees, the supply of electricity aided financial sustainability in that industries and incomes were



A transformer placed on a telegraph pole



Booster Station at Atebubu area

enhanced which in turn increased user-ability to pay. On the other hand, the fact that many users are still poor and may not be in a position to pay electric bills promptly may inhibit sustainability.