



Morocco: Green mosques

Morocco plans to create jobs in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy, starting with reducing the energy use of the country's mosques.

Special initiative North Africa, Middle East
Theme:
Economic stabilisation



The challenge

Morocco accords top priority to expanding renewable energies and promoting the use of energy-efficient technologies. The potential for business and employment in these areas has not yet been fully harnessed. To create jobs, companies need new market opportunities, such as the modernisation of the energy use in buildings. However, many decision-makers, potential clients and citizens are unaware of the benefits of renewable energies and the existing scope for saving energy. The demand for such services has therefore been low up until now. Specialists are also in many cases not sufficiently skilled. With its Green Mosques Programme, the Moroccan Government is seeking to encourage wider use of energy-efficient technologies.

Our approach

The project is taking a three-pronged approach. At first, it aims to reduce energy consumption in mosques and other public buildings. Working on the basis of energy performance contracts, Moroccan companies set out to modernise energy efficiency in buildings. Their earnings come from the energy savings that they achieve, which the building managers pay them for an agreed period. The companies thus bear the financial and technical risk of carrying out the measures, but at the same time develop new business opportunities. Modernisation of the mosques mainly involves installing photovoltaic and solar thermal systems and fitting LED lights.

Another aim of the project is to raise awareness among Moroccan citizens for renewable energy and energy efficiency – for

example through information campaigns and in cooperation with imams and mourchidates (female clerics). The idea is to promote long-term consumer demand for new technologies and generating further business opportunities.

Project title	Creating jobs by improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy in mosques
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Nationwide
Political partner	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development (MEMDD)
National partners	Ministry of Habous and Islamic Affairs (MHAI); Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (AMEE); the state energy investment company SIE (Société d'Investissements Énergétiques)
Overall term	January 2015 to March 2019
Financial volume	EUR 5 million

The third objective of the project is to create new jobs for Moroccan citizens in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. More market opportunities for companies are being opened up and their competitiveness is being improved, thereby generating new jobs. Jobseekers are being made more employable to improve their skills for existing and newly created jobs. In particular, new staff will be needed to audit public buildings, maintain installations and monitor energy savings. The project supports the creation of new companies on basis of a status newly introduced in Morocco facilitating freelance work.



Photo (left): Religious dignitaries discuss about arguments in favour of environment protection.
Photo: GIZ/Noëlie Vegas



Photo (right): The Moulay Yazid mosque in Marrakech was equipped in 2016 with LED lighting, photovoltaic panels and solar water heaters.
Photo: GIZ/Adnane Azizi

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The project is part of a special initiative designed to stabilise and promote development in North Africa and the Middle East run by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Through the projects that make up this special initiative, BMZ is helping to open up economic and social prospects for people in the region. Within this context, an additional sum of more than EUR 300 million has been earmarked for development cooperation projects in the period from 2014 to 2021. The thematic focus is on youth and employment promotion, economic stabilisation, democracy and stabilising neighbouring countries in crisis situations.

The results in figures...

The contract for modernising the energy efficiency of the first 100 mosques was awarded to a consortium of companies following a public tender. The consortium guarantees energy savings of 40 per cent over the contract term of five years. As pilot projects, the two largest mosques in Marrakech (Moulay Yazid and Koutoubia) and a mosque in the rural locality of Tadmamt have been fitted with LED lighting, and photovoltaic and solar thermal systems. Almost 400 imams, murchidates and officials in the Ministry of Habous and Islamic Affairs (including 94 women) have taken part in the project's awareness workshops. The participatory process has led to the development of a guideline containing religious arguments for energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energies.

With the intensive participation of regional actors in the consultation process, the project has been able to carry out various employment promotion activities in four regions of Morocco. University graduates and staff from engineering firms have been

trained to carry out energy audits and subsequently assisted in their search for employment. The project has so far created 117 new jobs and improved the employability of more than 250 individuals.

...and the faces behind the figures

Yassine Alj founded a company specialized in energy services more than two years ago in Agadir. „It was tough at the beginning, but I am happy to see now that our business starts to take off.” The young company has carried out energy inventories in fifteen mosques in Agadir and energy audits of ten faculties at the University Ibn Zohr for the “Green Mosques” project. “This experience enabled us to improve our work on energy efficiency services in public buildings, hereby helping us to become more competitive on the international level. I was able to recruit an energy efficiency engineer and two technicians for our company. I aim to secure these jobs for the long term through the acquisition of new projects.”



Energy-entrepreneur Yassine Alj.
Photo: GIZ/Adnane Azizi

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