CET Africa

Environmental, Social, and Impact Annual Report 2025



About this report

CEI Africa supports clean energy access in Africa. This report explains its environmental and social safeguards and the impact reported for 2025. This public edition presents aggregate results.

Environmental and social performance

01 Governance, portfolio overview, incidents and grievances

02 Portfolio safeguards and investment reviews

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Impact and outlook

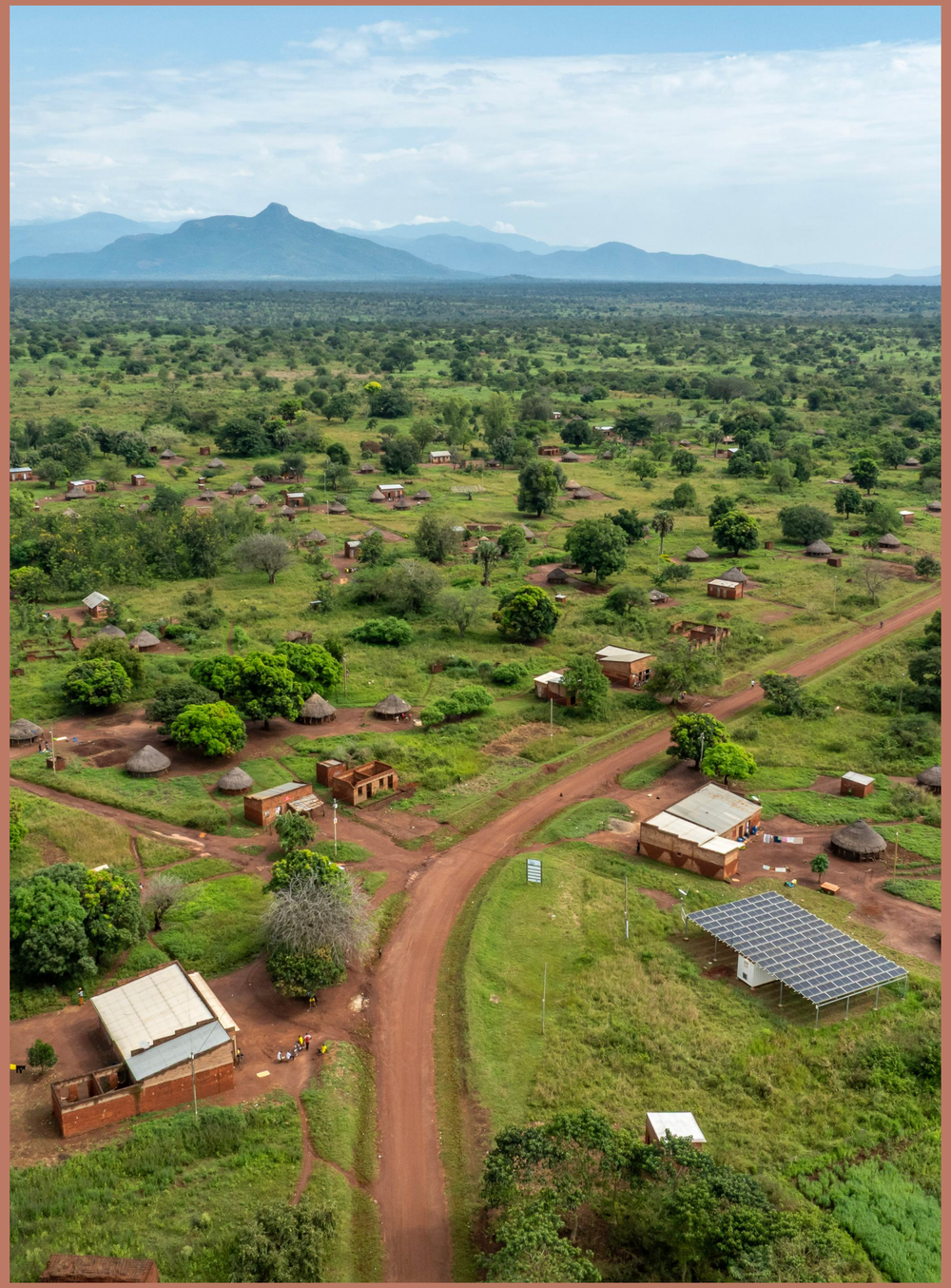
12 Fund-level impact

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01 Governance and policy

Area	Progress during 2025
Policy and strategy	CEI Africa updated its environmental and social policy to cover a wider range of clean energy activities, including energy storage and commercial solar. It approved investment and technical assistance strategies.
Governance	A dedicated environmental, social and impact team supported investment reviews, monitoring and specialist advice.
Investment reviews	Environmental and social due diligence continued across lending and grant programmes. Reviews considered risks and the safeguards needed before financing.
Specialist support	Work advanced on environmental and social regulations for mini-grids, an advisory support programme and a gender strategy.



02 Portfolio overview

Safeguards improved, while implementation still needs attention.

Progress

- The environmental and social policy covers a wider range of clean energy activities.
- Investment reviews and specialist support continued across the portfolio.
- No grievances reached the Foundation Manager during 2025.

Continuing challenges

- Contractor safety, incident reporting and electronic waste procedures remain uneven.
- Early-stage businesses need support to put policies into practice.
- Many productive-use deployments had not met verification requirements by year-end.

Priorities for 2026

- Strengthen workplace and community safety and follow up corrective actions.
- Improve grievance channels and the evidence used in monitoring.
- Advance specialist environmental, social and gender support.

03 Incident management

Portfolio-level reporting and lessons from 2025

Reporting	Response	Learning
CEI Africa received a serious-incident report during 2025.	CEI Africa investigated, notified the relevant oversight bodies and agreed corrective actions.	The case highlighted weaknesses in contractor oversight and timely escalation.
No other serious incidents were reported in 2025.	Monitoring and follow-up continue through investment reviews and action plans.	An absence of reports does not establish that no incidents occurred.

Prevention and follow-up

Monitoring will assess whether corrective actions work in practice. This report excludes company names, locations, dates and case details that could identify the people or businesses involved.

04 Grievance reporting

2025 status

No grievances reached the CEI Africa Foundation Manager during 2025. This does not necessarily mean that communities or customers had no concerns. Some portfolio businesses still need to formalize complaint channels and explain how people can use them.

2026 actions

CEI Africa to support portfolio companies to develop grievance redress mechanisms to record complaints, respond to concerns and document resolution. Regular Monitoring to check that grievance channels function, to confirm the absence of escalated complaints.



05 Safeguards in direct investments

Common themes across supported activities. Company-level assessments are confidential.

Focus	Portfolio-wide priorities	Monitoring approach
Worker and community safety	Construction, installation and equipment operation require clear safety procedures.	Review contractor practices, training and community engagement.
Environmental management	Waste, batteries and equipment need safe handling and disposal.	Track environmental procedures and action-plan implementation.
Management systems	Businesses need clear responsibilities and accessible grievance channels.	Follow progress on risk management, reporting and corrective actions.

06 Safeguards in lending partnerships

Common themes across supported activities. Company-level assessments are confidential.

Focus	Portfolio-wide priorities	Monitoring approach
Investment screening	Lending partners need to identify risks in the businesses they finance.	Strengthen screening, risk assessment and due diligence.
Oversight	Underlying investments create contractor, supply-chain and waste risks.	Improve reporting and follow-up across financed activities.
Accountability	Clear incident and complaint procedures support earlier responses.	Strengthen management systems and grievance channels.

07 Reviewing future investments

Common themes across supported activities. Company-level assessments are confidential.

Review area	Environmental and social focus	Required safeguards
Construction and operations	Workplace safety, community engagement, permits and site access.	Assess risks and agree actions before final investment approval.
Products and distribution	Product quality, customer protection, after-sales service and waste.	Review supplier and distributor practices and end-of-life plans.
Management readiness	Capacity to manage risks across activities and partners.	Assess reporting, grievance procedures and implementation responsibilities.

08 Safeguards in mini-grid grants

Common themes across supported activities. Company-level assessments are confidential.

Focus	Portfolio-wide priorities	Progress and follow-up
Safe deployment	Construction safety and contractor management.	Safety procedures and management systems developed, with continued monitoring.
Community engagement	Local consultation and accessible complaint channels.	Stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanisms strengthened.
Environmental protection	Waste management and environmental compliance.	Environmental assessments and monitoring continued as projects advanced.

09 Energy for productive use

Common themes across supported activities. Company-level assessments are confidential.

Focus	Portfolio-wide priorities	Progress and follow-up
Safe equipment use	Installation, workplace safety and customer awareness.	Training and operating procedures strengthened across supported activities.
Community and customer voice	Engagement and accessible grievance procedures.	Businesses formalized complaint handling and stakeholder engagement.
Environmental management	Electronic waste and equipment disposal.	Waste procedures and management systems continued to develop.

10 Grant programme reviews

Environmental and social reviews support responsible deployment.

Programme	Review focus	What this means
Results-based financing	Permits, community engagement, construction safety and management readiness.	Financing links to delivery and verification requirements.
Productive-use support	Equipment safety, customer protection, waste management and grievance channels.	Support aims to help businesses and households use energy productively.
Impact verification	Baseline information, monitoring data and evidence on gender outcomes.	Deployments may need more operating time before results qualify for verification.

Company awards, country-level applicant counts and transaction milestones are excluded from this public edition.

11 Technical assistance

Workstream	Purpose	Progress during 2025
Mini-grid regulations	Help developers and investors understand environmental and social requirements.	A regional database and dashboard progressed through pilot feedback.
ESG Pillar support	Provide specialist ESG TA on the development of E&S policies, procedures management plans and implementation.	The advisory programme reached final contracting, with launch planned for 2026.
Gender inclusion	Identify gender gaps and improve inclusion in supported financing activities.	Gender support progressed alongside development of CEI Africa's gender strategy.

12 Fund-level impact

Reported impact reflects the share of results attributed to CEI Africa's financing. The figures below summarize the fund rather than individual recipients.

Indicator	Reported result	Five-year target
Mini-grids financed	42	245
Energy connections	31,756	190,556
Beneficiaries	174,175	994,721
Private capital mobilized	€16.25 million	€102 million
Installed capacity	6.66 MW	16 MW
Annual emissions reduction	10,472 tCO2e	41,169 tCO2e

Targets: five-year projections updated February 2025. Beneficiaries rounded to whole people.



13 Lessons learned

Environmental and Social performance

Portfolio businesses continued to strengthen risk management and stakeholder engagement.

The next challenge is consistent implementation across contractors and field teams.

Workplace safety, supply-chain oversight and electronic waste management remain priorities.

Impact performance

The report shows progress in energy access and renewable energy capital deployment.

Recently approved financed investees and grantees need time to produce measurable outcomes. Some productive-use deployments had not yet met the minimum operating and verification period at year-end. Deployment counts therefore continue to remain distinct from verified impact.

14 Priorities for 2026

Common themes across supported activities. Company-level assessments are confidential.

Priority	Planned action
Safer grantee/investee workplace operations	Follow up corrective actions and strengthen contractor safety, community protection, incident reporting and grievance records.
Specialised Targeted ESG Pillar support	Launch ESG advisory support, complete the mini-grid regulations work and advance the gender strategy.
Clearer reporting	Improve digital monitoring and communicate aggregate results while protecting confidential information.

15 Glossary

Term	Meaning
CEI Africa	Clean Energy and Energy Inclusion for Africa
E&S	Environmental and social
ESG	Environmental, social and governance
Due diligence	Review of risks and safeguards before financing
Grievance mechanism	A process for receiving and resolving complaints
Mini-grid	A local electricity network serving homes or businesses
Productive use of energy	Using energy for income-generating activities
Results-based financing	Financing linked to agreed and verified results
Technical assistance	Specialist advice and capacity support
Attributed impact	The share of results assigned to CEI Africa's financing
MW	Megawatt, a measure of installed power capacity
tCO2e	Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

CET Africa



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