

ECOFIN AGENCY · BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso launches \$4.8bn electrification programme

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Burkina Faso's Council of Ministers has adopted a CFA2,800 billion (\$4.8 billion) national energy investment programme, named Faso Wa-Fulu, targeting electricity access expansion by 2030. The programme was approved on 22 October and represents the country's most substantial structured energy commitment in recent memory, addressing a sector where only 34% of the population had access to electricity as of 2024 — one of the lowest electrification rates in West Africa.

The scale of the Faso Wa-Fulu programme signals that Burkina Faso's transitional government is treating energy infrastructure as a foundational development priority. With two-thirds of the population currently without reliable power, the programme's ambitions are broad: closing the access gap requires substantial investment across generation, transmission, and last-mile distribution. The article does not specify the exact breakdown of funding across these segments, nor does it detail the financing structure — whether this represents committed capital, budgeted state expenditure, or a funding target requiring external mobilisation.

Burkina Faso's energy sector operates in a challenging context. The country is landlocked, has limited indigenous fossil fuel production, and has historically relied on imported electricity from neighbours including Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as on thermal generation using imported fuel. Security conditions in large parts of the country have complicated infrastructure development and deterred some international investors. The Faso Wa-Fulu programme does not appear, from available information, to include significant oil and gas upstream components — the focus is

electrification, which typically encompasses solar, grid extension, and thermal capacity in the Burkinabè context.

For the international energy services community, this is a programme to monitor carefully. The \$4.8 billion headline figure is significant, but the Faso Wa-Fulu adoption represents a policy and planning instrument at this stage — not a procurement process or contracted expenditure. The pathway from ministerial adoption to tendered, financeable projects in Burkina Faso typically involves further regulatory steps, financing agreements with multilateral or bilateral partners, and in the current security environment, project-specific risk assessments. Norwegian and international service companies should track how the programme's financing structure develops, particularly any involvement from the African Development Bank, World Bank, or European bilateral programmes that have historically co-financed West African energy infrastructure.

The electrification targets embedded in Faso Wa-Fulu — if backed by credible financing — could generate procurement opportunities across power generation equipment, grid infrastructure, and engineering services in the medium term. However, given Burkina Faso's current political and security situation, market entry carries elevated risk and would require careful due diligence and local partnership strategies.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The Faso Wa-Fulu programme is a government policy adoption, not yet a tendered or contracted programme — Norwegian service companies should monitor financing announcements and multilateral involvement rather than initiating procurement outreach at this stage. If the programme advances toward bankable projects, there may be downstream opportunities in power infrastructure engineering and project services, but the current security environment in Burkina Faso warrants a cautious, watch-and-wait posture. Saga recommends tracking African Development Bank and World Bank engagement with this programme as the primary indicator of investable project flow.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Service:** Engineering and project management firms should monitor multilateral financing announcements tied to Faso Wa-Fulu as a trigger for eventual tender opportunities in power infrastructure.
- **Pipeline:** Grid extension and transmission infrastructure under a \$4.8bn programme may create demand for pipeline and energy transport engineering services if gas-to-power components are confirmed.
- **Drilling:** No upstream oil and gas component is confirmed in this programme; drilling-focused companies should monitor separately for any resource exploration activity in Burkina Faso.
- **LNG:** If Burkina Faso's power generation mix incorporates LNG or gas imports as a baseload solution, there may be a niche role for LNG infrastructure advisors, but this is not confirmed in current programme documentation.

[Original source: Ecofin Agency →](#)

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