

Energy Fact Sheet

Established in 1985, the Trade and Development Bank Group (TDB Group) is an African regional multilateral development bank, with a mandate to finance and foster trade, regional economic integration, and sustainable development in Africa. TDB Group counts several subsidiaries and strategic business units including Trade and Development Banking, the Trade and Development Fund (TDF), TDB Asset Management (TAM), the ESATAL trade asset management company, TDB Captive Insurance Company (TCI), and TDB Academy.

TDB Lending Solutions

TDB Group provides bespoke short-term Trade Finance (TF) and long-term Project and Infrastructure Finance (PIF) solutions across diverse sectors. These financing solutions enable sovereign entities, financial institutions, and corporate clients – including Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) and SMEs – to undertake business activities and contribute to initiatives that are crucial for the economic, social and environmental sustainability of TDB Group's Member States. As part of its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework, TDB categorises its transactions according to the environmental and social (E&S) risks they pose. At the end of 2022, 71 per cent of TDB's portfolio exposure consisted of transactions with low E&S risk.

TDB uses one or a combination of financing modes, including direct financing via senior and mezzanine debt – often in co-financing arrangements with local and international lenders – loan guarantees, and syndications. It also provides export credit co-financing, as well as a range of non-financial services such as advisory, asset management and agency products.

TDB Energy Financing

TDB Group provides innovative financing solutions in the energy sector, through both short-term trade finance facilities aimed at enhancing energy security via the importation of strategic commodities, and long-term financing for low-carbon energy projects to support a just transition in the region.

Through its Project and Infrastructure Finance window, TDB finances long-term critical energy projects that contribute to reducing the electricity access gap, stimulating economic activity, creating jobs, and advancing climate action through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063, and Paris Agreement imperatives.

TDB is actively expanding its pipeline of renewable energy projects that extend industrial, commercial, and residential power access, including through off-grid and mini-grid generation solutions.



Solutions offered include:

Short-Term Trade Finance – up to three years

- Import and export financing
- Structured commodity finance
- Pre- and post-shipment finance
- Issuance of letters of credit
- Guarantees and bonds
- Supplier-focused working capital solutions, including receivables purchase financing and invoice discounting

Long-Term Project and Infrastructure Finance – up to 15 years

- Direct loans
- Lines of credit
- Guarantees
- Mezzanine debt
- Advisory and appraisal services
- Syndications
- Leasing

TDB Group Energy Sectors



Wind



Hydro



Solar



Peat



Evacuation



Natural Gas



Geothermal



Heavy Fuel Oil

Special Initiatives

TDB Off-Grid SME Facility

The TDB SME Off-Grid Facility provides access to debt financing for SMEs operating in the renewable energy space, with a particular focus on the off-grid sector value chain, including those involved in the supply, construction, and operation of infrastructure projects. This includes SMEs operating in solar home systems (SHS), as well as those facilitating the productive use of clean energy and commercial and industrial (C&I) captive power solutions.

TDB Funding Request Checklist

Minimum Requirements

- Business Plan/PIM including market study;
- Financing requirements: total project cost estimate, required debt amount and availability of equity/equity-raising plan;
- ESIA: compliance with IFC's Performance Standards;
- Financial structure: corporate or project finance;
- Financial model;
- Technical and procurement documents: technical studies and site investigations, ESIA report and approval, layout drawings, specifications, statement of basis of estimates (e.g. preliminary drawings, uncertified vendor equipment drawings, supplier quotations), bill of quantities, etc.;
- Project implementation plan and team for greenfield projects;
- Personnel details for brownfield projects;
- Execution strategy: timelines, EPC/EPCM or owner-managed, engineer/project manager and contractor;
- Permits, licences, approvals, land titles/leases as may be applicable;
- Proposed source of debt repayment;
- Three-year audited financial statements for brownfield projects;
- Proposed securities and guarantees;
- KYC documents: constitutive documents, shareholders list and IDs of shareholders with 10% shareholding and above;
- Minimum deal size of US\$5 million;
- Offtake Agreement: currency, tenor, tail, credit standing of offtaker and any credit enhancements as may be applicable;
- Indicative plan to mitigate against delays and cost overruns.

Select Awards and Recognitions

- African Leadership Magazine: Bank of the Year (2025)
- African Bankers Awards: African Banking Leadership Excellence Award: Admassu Tadesse, TDB Group President and Managing Director (2025)
- emefinance: Best financial institution syndicated loan in Africa (2025)
- emefinance: Best sustainability-linked loan in Africa (2025)
- emefinance: Best mono-line loan (2025)
- Global Finance: Best Bank for Trade Finance in Frontier Markets (2025)
- Global Banking & Markets Middle East Awards: Local Currency Loan Deal of the Year (2025)
- Global Finance: Best Bank in Kenya (2025)

Case Study: d.light design, Kenya

TDB Group, together with a consortium of lenders, has extended a loan facility to d.light, a leading provider and manufacturer of clean energy products, to support the development of renewable energy projects across Africa. The facility enables the continued expansion of d.light's solar initiatives, including through its pay-as-you-go (PayGo) consumer finance model – enhancing access for vulnerable and off-grid communities.



Off-grid solar energy projects have demonstrated significant environmental impact while contributing to key outcomes such as increased access to electricity, job creation, economic growth, improved health and education, and more – thereby advancing multiple SDGs.

Since its founding in 2006, d.light has sold over 25 million products – including solar lanterns, solar home systems, TVs, radios, and smartphones – positively impacting more than 155 million lives and helping to offset 33 million tonnes of CO₂.

Case Study: Rukarara VI Hydropower Project, Rwanda

TDB Group successfully closed financing for the Rukarara VI Hydropower Project, a landmark renewable energy investment in Rwanda that will add 9.7 MW of clean, reliable generation capacity to the national grid. The project represents a major step forward in advancing Rwanda's energy transition, expanding locally-generated renewable power, and reducing reliance on imported heavy fuel oil.



The project, developed by an indigenous and fully locally owned Rwandan company, stands out as a model for private-sector-led energy development in the region. The project will generate an estimated 55.5 GWh of electricity annually, directly improving energy security and expanding access for households and businesses. By displacing HFO-based thermal generation, it is expected to reduce approximately 37,050 tons of CO₂ emissions each year, contributing to Rwanda's climate resilience commitments and TDB's green financing priorities.

TDB's long-term partnership with the sponsor supported the successful issuance of a listed green bond to mobilise equity financing, deepening Rwanda's capital markets and crowding in private investors.

Case Study: Songa Energy, Burundi

TDB Group reached financial close on Burundi's largest long-term project financing, providing debt funding for the construction of two hydropower projects that will collectively supply over 62 GWh of clean, baseload electricity to the national grid each year.



The two projects – the 1.65 MW Upper Ruvyironza Small Hydropower Plant (SHP) and the 9.0 MW Upper Mulembwe SHP – are located in South Central Burundi and are currently under construction. They are expected to begin supplying power to the grid in 2025 and 2027, respectively.

During construction, the projects are supporting up to 500 jobs and facilitating the transfer of technical knowledge. Once operational, they will expand electricity access to more than 100,000 Burundian households.