Niger envisions reaching universal electricity access by 2035. However, Niger’s ability to achieve this ambitious goal is constrained by significant challenges. Niger’s government is working to expand its electricity supply and encourage investment in the energy sector to stimulate the economy. Niger is already taking critical steps to improve energy markets by creating, in 2015, a regulatory body ARSE (Autorité de Régulation du Secteur de l’Énergie) to increase transparency and fair competition among numerous energy actors. The Government also created ANPER (Agence Nigerienne de Promotion de l’Électrification en milieu Rural), which is mandated to design, implement, and monitor rural electrification programs throughout the country. Other reforms include a joint Ministerial order that eliminates taxes on domestic solar energy production kits and wind generation equipment to enable a larger number of households to access electricity, a new electricity act that will authorize the establishment of independent power producers (IPPs), and ongoing work with consultants and the African Legal Support Facility to bolster the legal and regulatory framework for mini-grids.
POWER AFRICA’S ENGAGEMENT IN NIGER

MW GENERATION
Power Africa maintains a regional USAID transaction advisor, based in Dakar, to respond to opportunities in West African countries, including Niger. Technical assistance and capacity building related to competitive tenders, power purchase agreements (PPAs), and local financing also contribute to advancing generation capacity in Niger.

CONNECTIONS
Power Africa is providing support to Niger to increase rural electrification rates and signed a formal letter of cooperation last year with the rural electrification agency, ANPER, to outline collaboration to accelerate energy access in the country. Power Africa is also providing technical assistance in multiple areas including mini-grid development, increased off-grid rural electrification, and off-grid policy and strategy development. Through a USAID regional transaction advisor, Power Africa supports private sector expansion into the Nigerien off-grid market and has facilitated 28,053 solar connections since 2013.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT
Through the Climate Economic Analysis for Development, Investment, and Resilience (CEADIR) program, USAID is building the capacity of local lenders in the clean energy sector. Through the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), USAID and the US Department of Commerce have provided training to government officials on power project procurement and competitive tenders. This support seeks to enhance the enabling environment for private sector investment in Niger.

ABOUT POWER AFRICA
Power Africa is comprised of 12 U.S. Government Agencies, over 145 private companies, and 18 bilateral and multilateral development partners to support sub-Saharan governments by working together to increase the numbers of people with access to power. Power Africa’s goal is to achieve 30,000 MW of new generated power and 60 million new connections by 2030 to reach 300 million Africans.

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