

## Commercial microgrids lusaka

Lusaka, Zambia - Standing in the bustling peri-urban settlement of Ngwerere, where nearly 1,000 Zambians live on the outskirts of Lusaka, you can see the power lines that follow the main road. But the residents here have never had access to grid electricity. That has not stopped enterprising business owners from setting up three video arcades and a movie theater, thanks to a 12-kilowatt solar array and battery bank installed by Standard Microgrid, which also provides power to grocery stores, hair salons, and nearly 100 homes.

The Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa is arranging a side event on 15 November at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29). Results-based financing has effectively accelerated access to clean energy in rural areas and supported Africa's green transition and technological innovation. What are the opportunities and challenges of scaling the off-grid sector in the future?

A new study shows that the Off-Grid Task Force in Zambia has accelerated the growth of the country's off-grid energy sector and transformed challenges into opportunities. Currently, lessons learned from the Zambia programme are being implemented across all countries supported by the Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa (BGFA) with the aim of addressing a broad range of key factors through scaling up activities to reach more underserved populations with affordable off-grid electricity solutions. Read more through the [link](#) and download the report and a summary flyer.

Established clean energy access through BGFA in 2023 is benefitting 1,500 African businesses and impacting a total of 1.2 million lives across five Sub-Saharan African countries. In 2023, approx. 210,600 energy service subscriptions were provided, bringing total subscriptions up to 240,700 by the end of the year. This has generated 6,500 MWh of clean electricity and reducing 15,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions.

A new agreement has been signed with Nuru Soci?t? par Actions Simplif?e Unipersonnelle (Nuru SASU) to scale up the development of new mini-grids in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which will provide access to clean energy in the northeastern part of the country. The implemented project will provide access to electricity for residential, commercial and institutional customers in peri-urban and urban areas.

Two new agreements have been signed with Koolboks Ltd and Equatorial Power Ltd in Uganda to scale up access to solar-powered cooling solutions and develop new mini-grids in the country. Access to electricity and off-grid refrigeration will allow small and medium-sized businesses in rural communities to establish new ventures to support economic development in these areas.

BGFA was set-up in 2019 on the initiative of the Swedish Government, building on the successful, award-winning initial pilot phase in Zambia, the Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia (BGFZ). BGFA is an ambitious multi-donor funding facility that aims to kick-start markets for clean, off-grid energy in Sub-Saharan African countries. It works through a combination of an innovative results-based financing

mechanisms for energy companies, close cooperation with governments and real-time data collection and analysis.

Funding rounds are now closed in the following countries:

How a mini-grid is changing the lives of Cecelia, Godfrey and the rest of their community in Ngwerere, on the edge of Lusaka.

How off-grid solutions have made a positive impact on Steven's family life on the outskirts of Lusaka.

How the Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia has brought new opportunities and optimism to Lister and Kennedy in a rural community in Chongwe, east of the Zambian capital of ...

BGFA has not yet generated any own impacts, but the decision to expand the concept into Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Liberia, Uganda and a new funding round in Zambia builds on the experiences of the pilot programme Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia (BGFZ) and early positive experiences in terms of rural and peri-urban customers' interest in buying affordable off-grid energy service connections, mobilised private capital and strong social and gender outcomes.

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

