

Are solar mini-grids a viable option in southwestern Mali?

Southwestern Mali alone has 53 Gigawatt of solar potential, enough to meet the whole country's power demand. Solar mini-grids are not only a viable option for last-mile communities but are also at the heart of economic development and improved healthcare in those areas.

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Solar mini-grids are not only a viable option for last-mile communities but are also at the heart of economic development and improved healthcare in those areas. With longer supply of electricity from the solar mini-grid, a pharmacist in Bancoumana has been able to increase her profitability as she can now sell medicines that require cold storage.

What is the Smart Micro Grid Controller project?

The Smart Micro Grid Controller project develops intelligent equipment for microgrids, featuring integrated control and safe operation functions. This project aims to support energy developers and producers in using their investments more efficiently.

Does Mali need solar power?

While more than 83 per cent of Mali's population are still lacking energy access, the country has considerable potential to scale up clean energy access through solar power. Southwestern Mali alone has 53 Gigawatt of solar potential, enough to meet the whole country's power demand.

In Mali, 83% of the population is faced with this problem, while the energy potential of the country is enormous. To remedy this, the Malian government has implemented a rural electrification strategy based on decentralised mini-grids.

Facility, the solar energy production capacity in Mali increased from 16 MW in 2013 to 100 MW in 2022. This project to install solar mini-grids is expected to benefit 123,000 people.

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the green mini-grid market in Mali. Green-mini grids include mini-grids powered by renewable energy resources - solar radiation, wind, hydropower or biomass - either exclusively, or in combination with diesel generation.

WeLight started working in Mali in 2021, installing five solar mini-grids which created 1,000 connections. On the back of that positive development, this new results-based financing project should create more than 3,500 new connections.

How do you provide sustainable energy in rural Mali? "In 2001, FRES started installing individual solar systems in households to power lights and televisions; before that, these households had no electricity. We soon expanded these installations to create mini-grids.

In Mali, almost half the population has no access to electricity. The country's authorities, helped by major international funders, are working hard to remedy this situation. For isolated areas that are difficult to connect to the national grid, the solution is to create hybrid production facilities combined with local mini-grids.

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The country's primary electricity grid is dominated by hydro and thermal generation, with an increasing share of fossil fuel in the generation mix. Despite the immense potential of solar resources in the country, it represents only 3% of the country's installed capacity.

The funds will support its electrification activities in rural areas of Mali, where WeLight has been operating since 2021. According to CEI estimates, the grant will enable the expansion of the five solar mini-grids currently operated by the company.

The Help Desk has been set up so mini-grid developers and policymakers can find practical information on mini-grids quickly. This includes market reports, links to industry stakeholders, instruction guides, business forms and templates, financial models and much more.

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