

## A-Core Container

# Kenya's 2MW energy storage smart microgrid



## Overview

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Do mini-grids work in Kenya?

Mini-grids have a long history in Kenya, with the first installations dating back to the early 1980s. In recent years, several diesel-based mini-grids have been transformed into hybrid diesel-solar or diesel-wind systems, and several fully renewable energy mini-grids have been deployed.

How do solar mini-grids work in Kenya?

For solar mini-grids, generation equipment is imported but assembled locally. Industries that manufacture and supply the batteries for electricity storage in solar mini-grids exist in Kenya, and, therefore, associated jobs are likely to be mostly domestic.

How much does a microgrid cost in Kenya?

For reference, national grid connection fees in Kenya have historically been \$412 (with users often having to pay extra for additional power poles), although more recently this has been reduced by half. In our experience, keeping the connection fee (the “barrier to entry”) low is essential to getting the microgrid business up and running quickly.

Are green mini-grids a sustainable alternative?

However, the advent of renewable energy technologies, particularly solar photovoltaics, has provided a sustainable and cost-effective alternative. Green mini-grids are decentralized energy systems that generate electricity from renewable sources, primarily solar and wind, and distribute it within a localized network.

What is the medium-term growth potential for the microgrid in Kenya?

The medium-term growth potential for the microgrid market in Kenya, as well as in other energy access markets including in Africa, South and South-East Asia, is very high. We base our analysis on the following observations

from Kenya: 1 Businesses create commercially viable returns: The microgrid 1.

How successful is Kenya's off-grid solar access project?

The success of such initiatives is not isolated. The Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP), a flagship program by the Ministry of Energy and funded by the World Bank, aims to provide electricity and clean cooking solutions to remote and underserved counties.

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