



Burundi energy storage policy updates

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Poor-quality power service is undermining opportunities for economic growth in Burundi and the lack of investments has compromised access to expansion efforts. The ASCENT Burundi Project will support the Government of Burundi's (GoB) Universal Access Program, launched in 2023 and will reinforce the medium voltage network across the country while rehabilitating, modernizing, and expanding Bujumbura's distribution network.

With \$190 million in funding (\$100 million from an IDA* grant and \$90 million from other donors including French Development Agency, European Union, European Bank of Investment), the project will target women-led households and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), helping them benefit from access to reliable and affordable electricity, offering opportunities to increase productivity and create jobs.

The project will complement the on-going National Solar Energy in Local Communities Project ("SOLEIL-Nyakiriza") which focuses on scaling up solar decentralized solutions.

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