



# Commercial microgrids burundi

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Under development since 2015, the 7.5 MW solar plant was built thanks to the efforts of multiple international entities including the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the U.K. government-funded Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP).

Burundi-based renewable energy company Gigawatt Global Coöperatief U.A. has announced the completion of the country's first large-scale PV plant - a 7.5 MW installation under development since 2015 and for which construction works were announced in 2017.

The project was financed by South Africa-based equity investor Inspired Evolution, the U.K. government-funded Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP), and Gigawatt Global itself, while the construction loans were refinanced by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

Additional direct and indirect financial support was provided by the Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP) set up by Finland, the U.K., and Austria, as well as by the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO).

The US\$14 million installation is located near the village of Mubuga, in the Gitega Province, and has increased Burundi's total generation capacity by over 10%. The electricity generated at the site will be sold to the country's national electric company, REGIDESO, under a 25-year power purchase agreement.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, Burundi had an installed solar power of around 5 MW at the end of 2020. The country's current total power generation capacity is around 108 MW, of which 48 MW comes from hydropower and 51 MW from conventional power plants.

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Independent power producer (IPP) Kaboni Energy has commissioned its first Burundian mini-grid pilot system in the rural Giharo, Rutana province. The development is noteworthy for its funding model, which Kaboni calls a community energy co-operative (CEC).



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In a significant stride towards sustainable development, the Republic of Burundi recently witnessed a momentous event: the inauguration ceremony by the President of the Republic of Burundi for the 11 mini-grids installed by Aptech Africa Ltd, marking a transformative leap in the nation's energy landscape.

The 11 Mini- grids cover 5 provinces in Burundi with 9 Mini- grids having a capacity of 34.88kWp each and a battery bank storage of 254.4kWh each, 2 mini- grids have a capacity of 17.44kWp each and a battery bank storage of 129.6kWh each. The mini- grids also included a Low Voltage distribution line.

The inauguration of these mini-grids illuminates a path towards a brighter future. Aptech Africa's commitment to sustainable energy solutions aligns seamlessly with Burundi's aspirations for development, making this collaboration a testament to the power of innovation and partnership.

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Web: <https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

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

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

