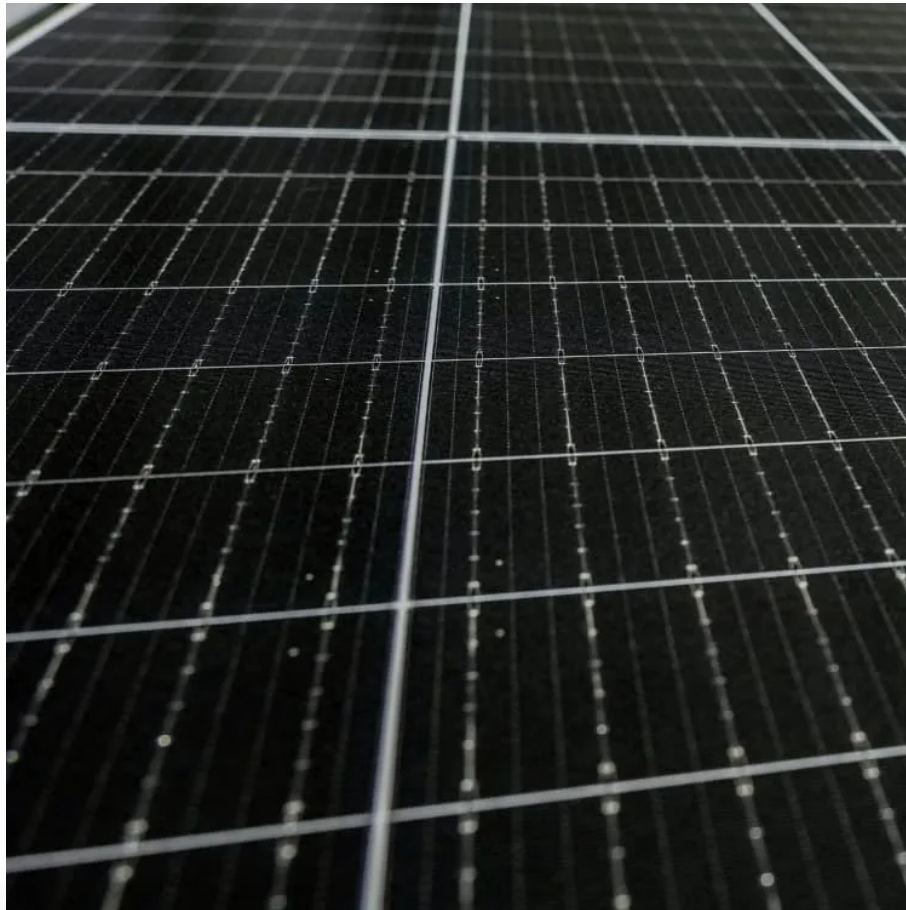


Kongres Container

Small-scale solar power generation system in Liberia



Overview

Hundreds of homes as well as clinics and schools in northern rural Liberia are set to be powered by solar mini-grids – part of a wider electrification drive aimed at bringing a stable electricity supply to thousands more. How can Liberia improve energy security?

One strategy is to diversify the energy mix by increasing the share of domestic renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, for electricity generation. By harnessing these indigenous and sustainable energy resources, Liberia can decrease its reliance on imported fuels and enhance its energy security.

How many solar-based mini-grids are there in Liberia?

The aim is to develop up to 30 solar-based mini-grids in Liberia, relying on local materials and workers for the construction. It is estimated that once these are operational, the mini-grids could provide more than 4,400 residential, commercial and institutional energy service connections.

What are the main energy sources in Liberia?

The primary energy sources in Liberia are traditional biomass fuels such as firewood and charcoal, which account for more than 80 % of the country's total energy consumption [5, 12, 13]. Petroleum products, including gasoline and diesel, account for about 10 % of energy consumption, while hydroelectric power accounts for just over 6 % .

Will Liberia get a 20 MW power supply in 2020?

In addition, the government signed a Power Purchase Agreement with a solar energy company to provide the country ≥ 20 MW of electricity in 2020 . Despite these efforts, much work remains to be done to improve access to reliable and affordable energy in Liberia.

How much solar power does Liberia have?

According to estimates by the World Bank Group, Liberia has a solar potential of ~5.4 kWh/m² per day, with up to 6.5 h of sunshine per day on average . Similarly, Liberia has considerable hydroelectric power potential due to its numerous rivers and other resources.

How will Liberia's energy policy change?

“Liberia is committed to increasing its share of renewable energy to 75% from the current 67%, while the generation base is expected to increase by 150%. “Liberia aims to mobilise \$70 million of private capital for utility-scale solar and another \$80 to \$100 million for [distributed renewable energy] and clean cooking.”

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