

A new, "third generation" of mini- grids has emerged, which are solar-hybrids, incorporating the latest technologies such as smart meters and remote monitoring systems, and are typically designed to interconnect with the main grid.

At just 18% of electricity access, AMP in Malawi is building on existing activities and directly aligned with the National Energy Policy, which recognizes the role of off-grid and mini-grid systems in closing the electricity supply deficit.

Being the first of its kind in Malawi, the mini-grid is cheaper, quicker to implement and potentially more financially sustainable than larger capacity mini-grids currently deployed in the country. This new method of rural electrification also allows for more electricity and a higher impact than the solar home systems offered on the market.

Commissioned in July 2020, the Mthembanji solar microgrid has been collecting data through smart meters and remote monitoring devices for over 10 months. An objective of EASE is to utilise project learning to inform the microgrid sector in Malawi, specifically through analysis and sharing of data.

Powering eCook devices on mini-grids in Malawi has the potential to improve mini-grid profitability while offering environmental and social benefits. This study explores this opportunity drawing on pilot case study data from mini-grid powered eCook devices gathered through smart meters and social impact surveys.

DCM SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS is licensed by the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) to carry out renewable energy activities such as the design, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy technologies subjected to the conditions prescribed to the Energy Regulations By-Laws 2009, made under the Energy Regulations Act Cap. 73:02.

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