



# Lusaka microgrid operation

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In a virtual address to the Global Leadership Council of the Rockefeller Foundation, President Hakainde Hichilema unveiled an ambitious plan to revolutionize Zambia's energy landscape and provide electricity to communities living off the national grid. This transformative initiative aims to bring essential services, economic opportunities, and improved living conditions to underserved regions across the country.

President Hichilema, in his address, expressed his commitment to improving the lives of Zambians through enhanced access to electricity. He unveiled the groundbreaking plan to deploy approximately 1,500 mini-grids throughout the nation, marking a significant step toward achieving energy independence and bridging the energy access gap that has plagued many communities for far too long.

The President announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the first of these mini-grids is set to take place before the end of this year, signaling an expedited timeline for tangible change. These mini-grids will not only bring power to remote regions but will also be run as businesses, offering local communities opportunities to increase income and access improved health services, among a host of other benefits.

This endeavor has been made possible through collaboration and support from The Rockefeller Foundation and the 'Sustainable Energy for All' team. President Hichilema expressed gratitude for their partnership and encouraged more partners to join this life-changing initiative. As this project gains momentum, it is expected that additional organizations and stakeholders will come forward to contribute to its success.

President Hichilema invited the youth and cooperatives of Zambia to seize this extraordinary opportunity. By engaging with the mini-grid initiative, they can enhance business prospects, stimulate trade, and attract investment to their communities. This collective effort will not only bridge the energy access gap but also build a brighter and more prosperous future for all Zambians.

Lusaka, Zambia - The investment is specifically in Standard Microgrid's Zambia operating company. The funding will help Standard Microgrid scale its operations in Zambia to serve clean, low-carbon reliable power to more than 130,000 Zambians from underserved communities lacking access to electricity.

Lusaka, Zambia - Standing in the bustling peri-urban settlement of Ngwerere, where nearly 1,000 Zambians live on the outskirts of Lusaka, you can see the power lines that follow the main road. But the residents here have never had access to grid electricity. That has not stopped enterprising business owners from setting up three video arcades and a movie theater, thanks to a 12-kilowatt solar array and battery bank installed by Standard Microgrid, which also provides power to grocery stores, hair salons, and nearly 100 homes.

In all, about 600 million people in the area do not have electricity, a problem being tackled by the Mini-Grid



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Innovation Lab, a new partnership between The Rockefeller Foundation and CrossBoundary Group.

Zambia's Minister of Energy Matthew Nkhuwa presided as the guest of honor February 7th at the ribbon-cutting for Standard Microgrid's 10th solar microgrid in Zambia, which also served as the public launch of the Africa Minigrid Developers Association's Zambia country chapter.

Lusaka, Zambia - Sweden's Ambassador to Zambia Henrik Cederin signed four contracts last Friday with companies offering a variety of rural energy solutions, marking the start of operations of the Power Africa: Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia (BGFZ). The USD25m Fund, which is financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and managed by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), aims to bring modern energy to one million Zambians, and build a solid foundation for continuing growth of the market such that it can serve all Zambians.

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He made a vow. When his 16-year-old daughter died from an illness doctors could not diagnose, Allen Bailochan Tuladhar promised he would carry out her dream to help young people in Nepal obtain better access to technology and computer science education.

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