



# Tajikistan off-grid solar

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Nairobi, 8 October 2024--Off-grid solar is the most cost-effective way to power 41% of people globally by 2030 who are still living without energy access. The sector already provided 55% of the new connections in sub-Saharan Africa between 2020 to 2022 - where over 80% of the unelectrified population lives.

The latest Off-Grid Solar Market Trends Report (MTR) 2024, published today by the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and GOGLA, warns that a 6-fold increase over current investment levels - or \$21 billion - is required to realize off-grid solar's potential to contribute to universal energy access, or this opportunity will be missed. Under the current trajectory, 660 million people are projected to still be without electricity by 2030.

Companies, investors, governments and development partners need to work together to ensure off-grid solar fulfills its potential, enabling the achievement of SDG 7, and having a transformative impact on households, businesses, farmers and social infrastructure.

The MTR was presented at the plenary session of the biennial Global Off-Grid Solar Forum and Expo in Nairobi to over 1500 attendees, including 100+ policymakers, 100+ investors and development actors, and hundreds of companies across the distributed renewables sector.

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Murghab District, VMKB, August 16, 2023 - USAID is collaborating with Pamir Energy Company (PE) to provide sustainable energy to the country's remote regions while also helping the Government of Tajikistan to diversify its renewable energy (RE) generation capacity. For decades, remote communities in Tajikistan's Viloyati Mukhtori Kuhistoni Badakhshon (VMKB) have lived without access to reliable, affordable, and secure electricity.

The Murgab District in VMKB is situated in a harsh environment with communities living 3,600 meters above sea level in bitterly cold and inhospitable conditions. Due to its isolated location, the Murgab District is not connected to the national or regional grid. USAID partnered with PE to improve the quality of life of the residents of Murghab District by providing access to sustainable and reliable sources of energy by upgrading the capacity of a previously USAID-funded solar power plant (SPP) from 200 kW to 800 kW, with 1.2 MWh of battery storage capacity.



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The Murghab SPP will provide Murghab Township with access to a stable energy supply, which will further promote economic growth and social development in the region and Tajikistan. As a result of USAID support and lessons learned from the Murghab SPP experience, the PE team gained the necessary skills and abilities to replicate the construction of similar RE power plants, thus increasing Tajikistan's capacity to meet its clean energy goals.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Government of Tajikistan, the U.S. Embassy, USAID/Tajikistan, and PE. During the ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Manuel Micaller noted, "The Murghab solar power plant demonstrates how national governments, international donor organizations and private companies can combine forces to solve some of the region's greatest development challenges."

This USAID-funded Murghab Solar Power Plant is the first such industrial-scale project in the country and is a successful example that can be scaled up in other areas by power utilities and donor organizations.

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