

## Kongres Container

# Papua New Guinea solar off-grid system



## Overview

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The government recently launched a solar energy project in the Katima rural area of the Sinasina-Yongomugl District, Chimbu Province, to provide reliable electricity to local communities—especially in off-grid areas where power access has been limited. Is off-grid solar lighting a success in Papua New Guinea?

Off-grid solar (OGS) lighting in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a success story. Since 2012, sales have grown at an annual average rate of 68 percent, increasing market penetration from 2 to 60 percent of households. PNG today has one of the highest prevalence rates of use of off-grid solar lighting in the world. It is due to several factors.

How much does Papua New Guinea spend on solar lighting?

Expenditure on solar lighting is expected to increase by 10 percent per year and will grow over the next five years. While the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) plans to invest in grid electrification, households are responsible for purchasing their own solar lighting products, spending on average about \$192 a year. The addressable market encompasses 60 percent of PNG's households that own off-grid solar lighting, making it the second.

Does PNG have an electrification strategy?

Off-grid solar lighting continues to play an important role in PNG's electrification strategy. To accelerate development of this market, the PNG government intends to support off-grid electrification through OGS products.<sup>35</sup> Under the National Energy Policy for 2018 to 2028, the Department of Petroleum and Energy plans to regulate solar products.

How much does it cost to build a mini-grid in Papua?

The cost of building three mini-grids near Ambunti in North-Western Papua. However, the feasibility study has raised concerns about their economics. Cost estimates came to \$5.5 million to \$6 million for three mini-grids connecting 850 households, or more than \$6,400 per household.

What percentage of Papua New Guinea is electrified?

13 percent<sup>20</sup> This is even lower than the earlier World Bank estimate of 18 percent. By comparison, neighboring Indonesia claims almost total electrification and the Solomon Islands has, in the past two decades, surpassed Papua New Guinea with an electrification rate of almost 50 percent.<sup>21</sup> In addition, even in a

What is lighting Papua New Guinea?

t and reduce poverty in Papua New Guinea. ABOUT LIGHTING PAPUA NEW GUINEA IFC's Lighting PNG program works to foster the growth of a sustainable market for modern off-grid energy in Papua New Guinea, with a focus on solar lighting products & appliances, and solar home systems.

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