

Malawi grid stabilization

By compact closeout, transmission losses were nearly halved from the pre-compact level of 10.5 percent, but distribution losses showed almost no change and remained at 12 percent. Total system losses declined from 22 to 17.3 percent at closing, but because many of these improvements preceded the completion of IDP construction activities, the compact's role in this result is unclear.

Addressing load shedding was not a project objective; however, persistent load shedding undermined the achievement of the broader compact objective of improving the availability and reliability of the power supply. Between January 2017 and December 2019, there were only 43 days without load shedding, and unplanned outages increased slightly in both frequency and duration, rather than decreasing as expected.

In order to achieve project objectives and sustain results in the future, it is essential for key government institutions involved in Malawi's power sector to coordinate efforts in addressing the generation supply gap, ensure continued maintenance of compact-funded infrastructure, and support financial sustainability of the power sector through cost-reflective tariffs.

In most households, outages continued to impact the productivity of household members. Women suffered most acutely since outages disrupted their domestic activities such as cooking and left them with less time to dedicate to productive activities, including their business. Men spent time on unproductive leisure pursuits such as drinking that reduced their ability to be productive at work the next day, and youth were unable to study effectively without proper lighting, affecting their academic performance.

MCC's monitoring data and other grid-level data were used to analyze grid-level outcomes, specifically, the availability and reliability of the power supply. End-user-level outcomes were examined using quantitative data from enterprises and qualitative data from communities, and measured changes to the cost of doing business, access to reliable electricity, and value addition to production.

Energization of infrastructure (i.e. treatment) took place between March and December 2018. Endline data collection occurred from October and December 2019. Therefore, the exposure period to IDP interventions varied between 12-18 months.

The Malawi Integrated Energy Planning Tool is an online, publicly available, interactive, and user-friendly data visualization platform that equips Malawian policy makers and energy practitioners with data and insights to make informed decisions on strategies and operations to advance energy access in the country.

The tool is powered by extensive geospatial analytics and modelling and provides actionable intelligence for the private sector and government stakeholders to plan the expansion of least-cost access to electricity, access to clean cooking, health-facility electrification and medical cold-chain energy assessment in the context of a



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national COVID-19 vaccination rollout. The tool presents interactive and downloadable data from Malawi based on integrated energy planning analyses to achieve universal energy access in the country by 2030.

The Malawi Integrated Energy Plan is a detailed Malawian geospatial energy access analysis, the results of which are accessible via the Malawi Integrated Energy Planning Tool, developed by Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Malawi, with support from Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and The Rockefeller Foundation.

The Malawi electricity access project (MEAP), financed by the World Bank to the tune of US\$150 million, is a 5-Year project that was launched in January 2020 with an objective of supporting the Government of Malawi to increase access to electricity in the country. The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Energy and the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) Ltd. The Project has three components with both implementing institution sharing one component and implementing one other component separately.

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Web: <https://www.sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

