

How much does a solar system cost in Yemen?

Rassam paid about 50 million Yemeni rials (around \$90,000 based on the unofficial market exchange rate) for his system, which is considered large by local standards. The average cost of an array is around \$10,000. Rassam financed the solar panels with a loan from Al Kuraimi Islamic Bank, one of the country's largest private lenders.

Why are people moving to solar power in Yemen?

The migration to solar power is part of what researchers say is an energy revolution in the country of 28 million, where the electric grid has been decimated by fighting. More than 50 percent of Yemeni households rely on the sun as their main source of energy, and solar arrays power everything from shops to schools to hospitals.

Is solar power a lifeline in Yemen?

"For many in Yemen, especially for farmers, solar power has been a lifeline," says Matt Leonard, who specializes in microfinance with IFC. "The key now is to scale up its use." Yemen has long been the poorest country in the Middle East and North Africa, but a conflict that broke out in 2014 has pushed the country to the brink.

Can solar power save Yemeni rials?

Farmer Mohamed Ahmad Sid El Rassam can attest to those benefits. He built a solar-powered water pump on his land in the region of Beni Hocheich. The setup chopped his diesel use by more than 85 percent, saving him 17 million Yemeni rials (\$68,000) a year.

Can solar power irrigate a famine in Yemen?

Across Yemen, a growing number of farmers are turning to solar power to irrigate their fields, a shift that comes as the country tries to stave off what the United Nations warns is an impending famine.

Why do Yemenis rely on diesel generators?

But a collapsing power grid--only 10 percent of Yemenis have access to central electricity--means that many farmers in Yemen's arid hinterland rely on diesel generators to power wells. Along with belching out

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greenhouse gases, farmers say the generators are expensive to run.



Before Yemen's war crisis, Yemen had the lowest access rate to electricity (i.e. 40% of the population) compared with the regional rate of around 85%. The majority of Yemen's supply of electric energy depended on fossil fuels, including Mazot, Diesel, and recently LPG.



This report documents the development of solar energy in Yemen. It uses own calculations, recent household surveys, and extensive literature research, in addition to numerous interviews with local actors to verify and elaborate information. The report analyses the development and role of solar systems in Yemen, and it identifies barriers that



Yemen has access to a vast, untapped power source that can solve both of these problems: solar energy. A significant portion of Yemen's population has already adopted solar energy and its potential for further expansion is substantial.

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Unfortunately, there are currently no incentives for businesses wanting to install solar energy in Yemen. The country is facing a severe economic crisis and the government does not have the resources to provide any financial support for renewable energy projects.

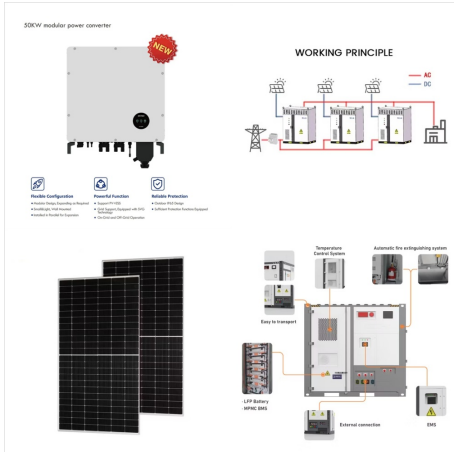


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Explore the solar photovoltaic (PV) potential across 6 locations in Yemen, from Sa`wan to Aden. We have utilized empirical solar and meteorological data obtained from NASA's POWER API to determine solar PV potential and identify the optimal panel tilt angles for these locations.

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The project provides updates on the status of solar PV market including the local supply chain of solar PV products, the available technical specifications and the prices and quality of solar PV systems components (i.e. PV panels, charge controllers, inverters and batteries).



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