

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

East Africa Solar Panel Latest



Overview

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There has been a major pick-up in solar panel imports into Africa over the last 12 months - a shift that is likely to impact almost every country on the continent. This report presents Ember’s analysis of Africa’s imports of solar panels from China. The Chinese solar panel export data gives.

African countries imported a record 15,032 MW of solar panels from China in the 12 months to June 2025, a 60% jump from the prior year. In May alone, imports hit 1.57 GW —roughly three-quarters of the Hoover Dam’s capacity. Twenty countries set new highs, with Nigeria overtaking Egypt for second.

The take-off of solar in Africa is a pivotal moment. This report is a call to action, urging stronger research, says Ember’s Dave Jones The Mwalumina Rural Health Centre in Chongwe is powered via a solar PV installation. Source: [unicefzambia/X](#) There has been a major pick-up in solar panel imports.

In a remarkable move that underscores both opportunity and urgency, Kenya has emerged as the biggest importer of solar panels in East Africa. In the 12 months leading to June 2025, Kenya brought in a staggering 495 MW of solar capacity—nearly two and a half times the 200 MW it imported in 2021.

Solar imports into Africa increased by 60% between July 2024 to June 2025, setting a new record and showing the strongest sign yet of a continent wide shift to renewable energy. The latest figures place Africa among regions seeing a sharp turn to solar as countries seek affordable and reliable.

Africa holds vast solar potential, with 60% of the world's best solar resources, yet solar PV currently accounts for only 3% of the continent’s electricity

generation. As global efforts intensify to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, Africa's role in achieving this target is more critical.

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