

Abaco Community Center, Microgrid

**Microgrids in
Communities
Vulnerable to Extreme
Weather Events**





Background

- CCI partners with 15 countries across the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, bringing together critical stakeholders from across the public and private sectors and NGOs to enable the transition to a low-carbon, more resilient economies and societies.
- CCI has assisted in developing more than 70 megawatts of clean energy projects, lowering emissions by over 90,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, and attracted more than \$125 million in project investments.



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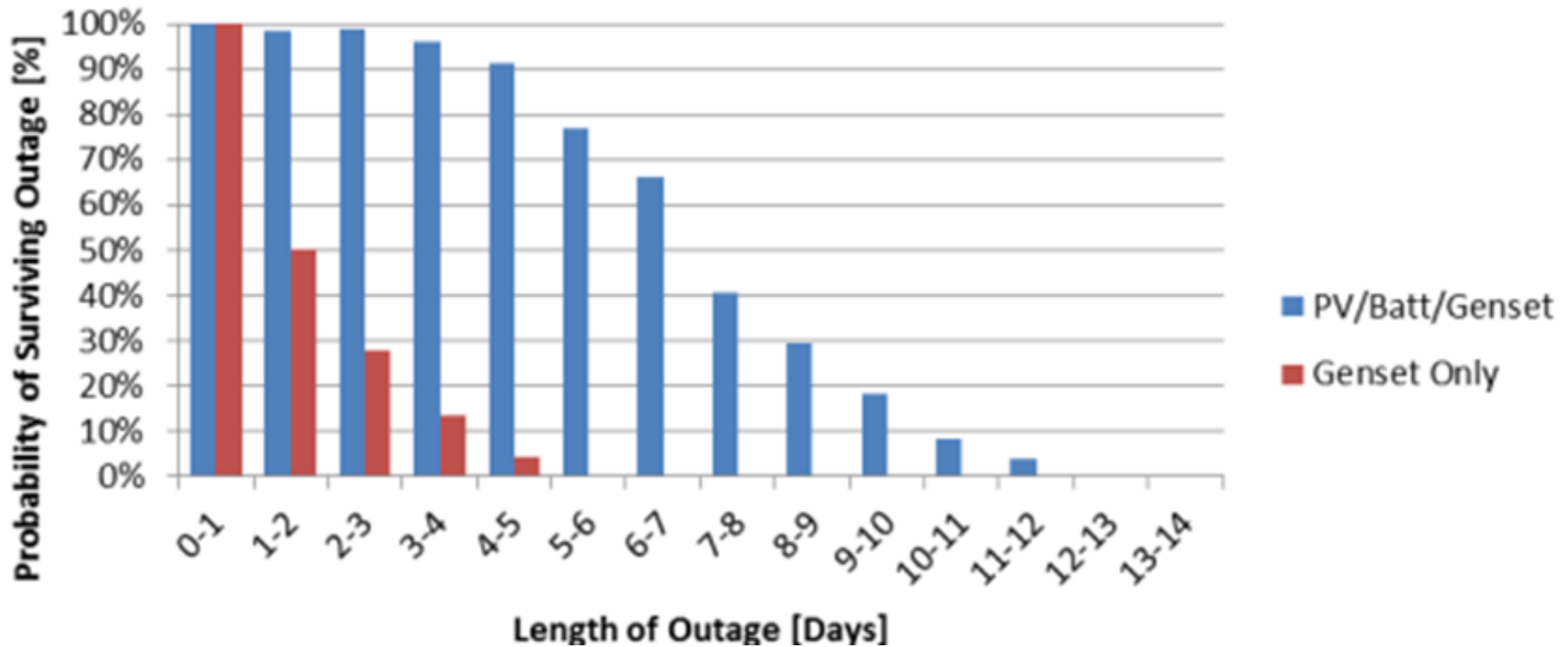
Impact of Extreme Weather on Small Island Developing States

- Hurricane Dorian made landfall on the Abaco Islands with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph (295 km/h), making it the strongest hurricane on record to affect the Bahamas.
- Hurricane Dorian knocked out the power and other critical services on the Abacos.



Resiliency

Microgrid analysis to determine the probability of surviving a grid outage using generators



Source : [How Solar PV Can Support Disaster Resiliency | State, Local, and Tribal Governments | NREL](#)





Aim to Build Back Better

Main Features of Abaco Community Center

- 10,272 square feet
- ≈800 evacuees
- Constructed to withstand 185 mph wind and designed to International Code Council, Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters ICC-500 standards
- Site would be elevated above historical storm surge level
- All electrical equipment would meet high energy efficiency standard



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Abaco Community Center Microgrid



Three (3) options were investigated for the installation of solar PV and storage at the facility.

- **Option 1** – Includes solar PV, energy storage and diesel generator. Estimated cost of system is \approx \$ 0.7 million.
- **Option 2** – Considers solar PV and energy storage. Estimated cost of system is \approx \$ 2.5 million.
- **Option 3** – Looks at critical loads, which make up about 40% of the total building load. Estimated cost of system is \approx \$ 0.45 million.



Selected System — Option 1



The main components of the system would be:

- ≈ 134 kWp roof-mounted solar PV array
- 130 kW inverter
- 130 kW diesel generator, and
- ≈ 470 kWh battery energy storage system (Li-ion)
- Microgrid controls
- 64% of energy would be produced by renewables and 36% would be grid purchase/ diesel generator
- The solar array would utilize $\approx 70\%$ of the available roof space

Key Recommendations from Solar Under Storm II

- ✓ If top-down clamps are required, use clamps that hold modules individually or independently. Another option would be to specify through-bolting of modules.
- ✓ Specify bolt hardware that is vibration-resistant and appropriate for the environment.
- ✓ Pitched-roof systems should only have modules installed within the envelope of the roof structure (no overhanging modules over the roof edges).
- ✓ Requirement that structural engineering be performed in accordance with ASCE 7 and site conditions, with sealed calculations for wind forces, reactions, and attachment design.

<https://www.clintonfoundation.org/our-work/clinton-climate-initiative>



Additional cost of increased resilience

- ✓ The project would incur an increase of approximately 5% in costs versus the standard Category 3 or 4 rated solar PV installations.
- ✓ Additional costs come in the form of labor for the extra time needed to fasten modules and install more connections.
- ✓ Additional costs in material (higher rated modules, racking supports, and fasteners).





R E S I L I E N C E

Key Takeaway

HOMER software optimized design, combined with expert analysis of past failures can support the creation of microgrids that:

- are cost effective
- provide resilience
- enhance reliability
- reduce diesel use



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9TH ANNUAL • VIRTUAL
OCTOBER 12-14, 2021

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