

## Improving reliability of the power distribution system in Goma (DRC) using solar distributed generation

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### Abstract

The existing power distribution system of the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has many problems, including the scarcity of electric energy, power unreliability, the low access rate of electrification, poor flexibility in the network topology, and lack of demand response, which lead to shedding of load, unbalancing and overloading the system. The reliability of the Goma power distribution system is very poor by international standards. The major cause of this is the lack of adequate energy supply to meet demand. To mitigate the power reliability problem, a solar-based distributed generation (DG) is modelled and evaluated in this study. Each feeder has been considered separately with an appropriately designed DG. The work has evaluated initial investment cost and life cycle cost of the investment to assess the feasibility of the proposed solution. Based on the unserved energy and electricity tariff, an economic analysis was conducted. The reliability indices are computed and the modelled solution is designed for each feeder in PV syst software and simulated using ETAP, whose simulation results show that the reliability can be improved by up to 76%.

**Keywords:** reliability indices; distributed generation; photovoltaic system; energy investment cost

### Highlights

- Reliability analysis and determination for Goma.
- Reliability indices are mathematically calculated using IEEE 1366 standard.
- The distribution system reliability will improve by up to 76%.
- Solar distributed generation can greatly improve the reliability of electricity supply in Goma.

## 1. Introduction

The economic growth of a country relies on a stable and reliable electric power supply. The power system has to feed its customers with adequate electrical supply as economically as possible, with a reasonable level of reliability, as nowadays utilities are working in a competitive market and their survival will depend on how they attract and retain their customers. Different ways to improve reliability are used by distribution companies, such as installing switching devices (Khounnouvong and Premrudeepreechacharn, 2015), protective devices, automation system implementation, network reconfiguration, and distributed generation (DG) installation (Garamaw, 2020).

### 1.1 The present study

The city of Goma is located in North Kivu province in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (latitude -1.67409 and longitude 29.2284). Currently, the city is supplied by three major power plants: Ruzizi in Bukavu, South Kivu province, with an average capacity of 6 MW transmitted; Matebe in Rutshuru with an average capacity of 5 MW transmitted to the city; and NURU solar power plant in Goma, with a total capacity of 1.3 MW. The three plants are not interconnected, which contributes to poor reliability, while currently around 55 MW of electrical power is needed in Goma but only around 12.3 MW energy is supplied. The poor reliability of this network leads to many blackouts, outages, interruptions and load shedding.

This paper evaluates the reliability of a distribution system in Goma. Based on the study and evaluation of the solution, a solar PV distributed generation is designed and modelled for its availability, feasibility and cost-effectiveness to improve the distribution network indices. A literature review follows. Section 2 describes the methodology and the study case. Results are discussed in section 3, considering system design of PV DG and analysis of the investment cost. Reliability indices are improved with PV DG in section 4. Conclusions are drawn in section 5.

The papers described in the literature review propose the performance of reliability, different improvement of reliability indices techniques used and calculated using IEEE 1366 standard and compared to international standard. However, none of them has evaluated the energy not supplied, the relevant cause of interruptions, and then chosen the improvement technique accordingly. Therefore, based on the formulated problem and causes of interruptions and outages, this paper aims to find the reliability indices of the existing network, to use solar distributed generation as a way to improve it, and establishes the cost of the investment. The cost analysis for the designed system is also included.

### 1.2 Literature review

Power distribution system reliability is a major consideration in system operation and planning and several studies have been conducted to improve the reliability indices of power distribution system networks. They suggest different techniques for improvements. Khounnouvong and Premrudeepreechacharn (2015) proposed protective equipment, such as recloser and switching for reliability improvement in an electrical distribution system. Rahmawati and Hariyanto (2015) studied the optimal placement of switches in a distribution system and conducted a cost/worth analysis of the reliability improvement method. Chandhra Sekharet al. (2017) presented the reliability parameters and reliability indices of the Indian electricity network and compared the indices to national standard. Gono et al. (2011) conducted an empirical reliability computation. Hossein and Arani (2015) considered a case study where reliability indices were computed, analysed and compared with the standard, while Xu (2019) used reliability tracking to identify the weak points at which DG could be incorporated to improve the system reliability. In Garamaw (2020), the power reliability of a city in Ethiopia was evaluated, using the potential impacts of DG units on mitigating the power system reliability problem of the network. Two cases were considered: DG installed at 15 kV feeders, and DG connected at low-voltage sites (15/0.4 kV).

Reliability assessment of renewable energy interfaced electrical distribution system considering the electrical loss minimisation was developed by Kumar et al. (no date), using the optimal location(s) and sizing(s) of the renewable energy sources (REs), and incorporating a battery storage system. Jose and Jorge (2020) reviewed and classified the state-of-the-art of reliability assessment in a microgrid. It has been established that more research studies are needed to assess how new control strategies and information and communications technology impact DGs' reliability. Agrawal et al. (2020) suggested a suitable modification in existing reliability indices in order to make them more appropriate for underground distribution systems. They addressed a new methodology for the reliability evaluation of underground distribution systems by proposing dynamic failure rates of feeders and suggests network reconfiguration to enhance the reliability and performance of distribution systems. Ghulomzoda et al. (2020) studied the method of control using reclosers in Tajikistan with distributed small generation. Based on modified reclosers, a method of decentralised synchronisation and restoration of the grid normal operation after the loss of the main power source was proposed.

A combined power generation system constituted with DG, battery storage and electric vehicles

in a microgrid was applied by Bai et al. (2015) to achieve a reliable evaluation of a distribution network with microgrids. A methodology to model charging load and discharging capacity of multiple electric vehicle batteries was developed. The reliability of the distribution system was improved, based on determining the optimal capacity according to an economic and reliability evaluation. A predictive based reliability analysis of an electrical hybrid distributed generation was presented by Fu et al. (2018). The effect of a battery bank, as an electrical storage system, was investigated on the reliability of a DG system that forms an EHDG with a photovoltaic (PV) system as the main source.

Many papers have discussed the design and integration of PV systems in a grid. Garamaw (2020) focused on the key technical issues and design optimisation of large solar power plants. Gonen (2007) designed and built a PV power system installed on a rooftop over an area of 50 m<sup>2</sup> with a power output of 6 kWp. The installation of PV was done with a slope of 6° and produced around 10 006.7 kWh of electrical energy per year. It was connected to the grid without a battery and the investment included the cost of maintenance and life cycle costs over 25 years. Gono et al. (2011) performed a techno-economic analysis of a solar PV power plant installed to meet the energy demand of a building in Delhi. Hossein and Arani (2015) showed that energy savings on net consumption and maximum demand can be maximised via optimal sizing of the solar PV-battery system, using the MATLAB genetic algorithm tool. The study revealed that optimal sizing of the solar PV-battery system contributed to energy bill savings up to 20% of net consumption via solar PV self-consumption, 3% of maximum demand (MD) via MD shaving and 2% of surplus power supplied to grid via net energy metering in regard to the Malaysian electricity tariff scheme and cost of the overall system.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Reliability indices

Reliability can be taken as the ability of a system to perform its required function with specified conditions in a time interval. It is also the percentage of time a voltage source is uninterrupted (Williset al., 2009). Reliability indices are found to consider the downtime and uptime of a component or element. Most reliability indices are average values of a particular reliability characteristic for a given system. The indices for distribution analysis include customer-oriented indices and load- or energy-oriented indices.

#### 2.1.1. Customer-oriented indices

*System average interruption frequency index (SAIFI):* This index, in units of 1/C/a, shows the number of

sustained interruptions that a given or average number of customers are facing during a specified period (Power and Energy Society, 2012). It is calculated as in Equation 1.

$$SAIFI = \frac{\sum \lambda_i N_i}{\sum N_T} \quad (1)$$

where  $\lambda_i$  is the failure rate at load point  $i$ ,  $N_i$  is the total number of customers interrupted at load point  $i$ , and  $N_T$  is the total number of customers at load point  $i$ .

*System average interruption duration index (SAIDI):* This index, in units of h/C/a, represents the total duration of interruption that a certain number of customers are facing during the period (Power and Energy Society, 2012) and calculated as in Equation 2.

$$SAIDI = \frac{\sum U_i * N_i}{\sum N_T} \quad (2)$$

where  $U_i$  is the restoration time in minutes,  $N_i$  is the total numbers of customers interrupted, and  $N_T$  is the total numbers of customers.

*Customer average interruption duration index (CAIDI):* This index, in units of h, is the sum of customer interruption durations divided by the total number of customer interruptions (Power and Energy Society, 2012), and calculated as in Equation 3.

$$CAIDI = \frac{\sum U_i * N_i}{\sum \lambda_i * N_i} = \frac{SAIDI}{SAIFI} \quad (3)$$

where  $U_i$  is the restoration time in minutes,  $N_i$  is the total number of customers interrupted, and  $\lambda_i$  is the failure rate at load point  $i$ .

*Customer average interruption frequency index (CAIFI):* This index gives the average frequency of sustained interruptions for those customers experiencing sustained interruptions. The customer is counted once regardless of the number of times interrupted for this calculation (Power and Energy Society, 2012), and calculated as in Equation 4.

$$CAIFI = \frac{\text{Total number of customer interruptions}}{\text{Total number of customers affected}} = \frac{\sum N_0}{N_i} \quad (4)$$

where  $N_0$  is the number of interruptions, and  $N_i$  is the total number of customers interrupted.

*Average service availability index (ASAI):* This index indicates a period of time (often in percentage) that a customer has power provided during one year (or other defined reporting period). It is the ratio of the total number of customer hours that service was

available during a given period to the total customer hours demanded (Power and Energy Society, 2012), and calculated as in Equation 5.

$$ASAI = \left[ 1 - \frac{\sum U_i N_i}{\sum N_T * T} \right] * 100 \quad (5)$$

where  $T$  is the time period under study in an hour,  $U_i$  is the restoration time, in an hour,  $N_i$  is the total number of customers interrupted at load point  $i$ , and  $N_T$  is the total number of customers served.

**Average service unavailability index (ASUI):** This index is the probability of having loads unsupplied and it is the complementary value to the ASAI (Power and Energy Society, 2012), and is calculated as in Equation 6.

$$ASUI = 1 - ASAI = \frac{\sum U_i N_i}{\sum N_i * 8760} \quad (6)$$

### 2.1.2. Load and energy-oriented indices

**Energy not supplied index (ENS):** This index, in units of MWh/a, is the amount of unserved energy or the energy not delivered to the customers in a given period (Power and Energy Society, 2012) and expressed as in Equation 7.

$$ENS = \sum L_a(i) U_i \quad (7)$$

where  $L_a(i)$  is the average load.

**Average energy not supplied index (AENS):** This index, in units of MWh/Ca, shows the average amount of energy not supplied or served, for all users known as customers (Power and Energy Society, 2012), and mathematically represented by Equation 8.

$$AENS = \frac{\text{Total energy not supplied}}{\text{Total number of customers affected}} = \frac{\sum L_a(i) * U_i}{\sum N_o} \quad (8)$$

**Average system interruption frequency index (ASIFI):** The calculation of this index is based on load rather than customers affected. ASIFI is sometimes used to measure distribution performance in areas that serve relatively few customers that have relatively large concentrations of load, predominantly industrial/commercial customers (Power and Energy Society, 2012), as expressed in Equation 9.

$$ASIFI = \frac{\text{Connected kVA interrupted}}{\text{Total connected served}} \quad (9)$$

**Average system interruption duration index (ASIDI):** The calculation of the ASIDI is based on load rather than customers affected (Power and Energy Society, 2012), as expressed in Equation 10.

$$ASAI DI = \frac{r_i * L_i}{L_T} \quad (10)$$

### 2.2 Description of the case study

The Société Nationale d'Electricité (SNEL) network is the main supplier in Goma and covers 18% electrification access rate of the city. A 70kV transmission line is extended from Ruzizi to Goma substation. The distribution system in the city has primary voltages of 15 kV and 6.6 kV and it is stepped down to 380 and 220 V for the customer level. It has one substation, with an installed power of two transformers working alternately as  $2 \times 10$  MVA / 110-70 kV/15kV ratings and one thermal power plant with 1.1 MVA rating but not used due to its high fuel cost. Its topology is radial, as shown in Figure 1, and contains five feeders. Table 1 describes several power transformers, the total installed capacity for each feeder, as well as conductor size.

Table 2 gives the frequency and duration of interruptions due to non-momentary and planned interruptions in the existing grid of SNEL in Goma, while Figures 2 and 3 show the planned and momentary interruptions of each feeder of each year in the distribution system from the recorded data of the SNEL substation from June 2018 to May 2020.

**Table 1: SNEL feeder data (SNEL, 2018; 2019).**

Name of feeder	Total number of distribution transformers	Total capacity of distribution transformer (kVA)	Voltage rate (kV)	Conductor size
South feeder (L1)	31	13 250	15	AAC 50mm <sup>2</sup>
Centre feeder (L2)	17	7 875		
North feeder (L3)	7	3 970	6.6	
Route Sake feeder (L4)	41	16 575		
Sotraki feeder (L5)	19	8 050		

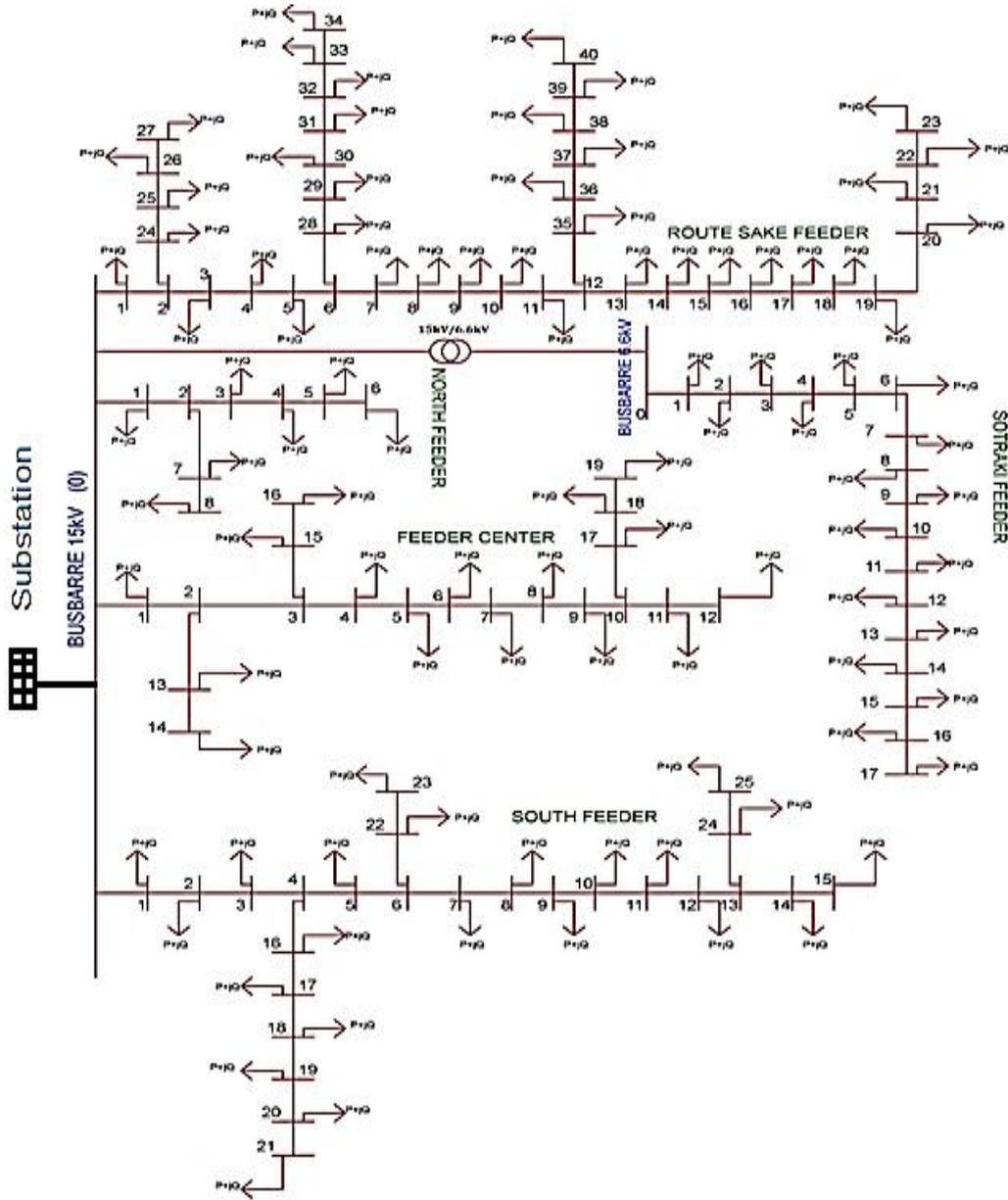


Figure 1: Overview of the SNEL network (SNEL, 2018; 2019).

Table 2: Frequency and duration of interruptions from 2018 to 2020 (SNEL, 2018; 2019).

Lines	Frequency of interruptions per year			Duration of interruptions (hours per year)		
	Momen- tary	Planned	Total	Mom	Planned	Total
L1	254.4	224.48	478.8	12.182	165.75	177.932
L2	270.7	860	1 130.7	9.4512	3 395.71	3 405.16
L3	90.15	1 540.92	1 048.1	3.525	5 595.84	5 599.37
L4	386.9	885.36	1 272.3	57.024	2 312.8	2 369.82
L5	33.12	904.8	907.9	1.7955	5 004.6	5 006.4
HV	224.2	25.08	249.3	43.28	0	43.28
Syst	1 259	4440	5 087	-	-	-

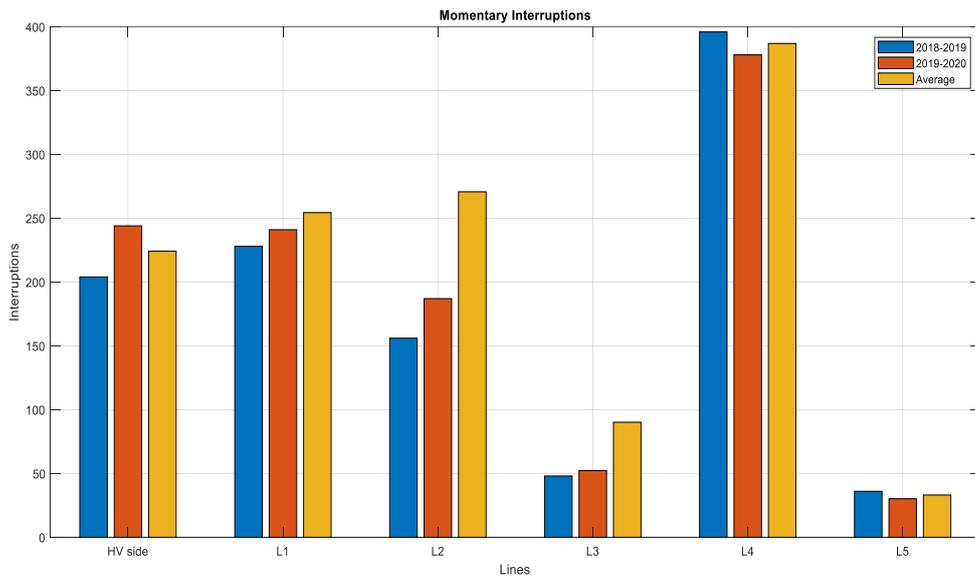


Figure 2: Momentary interruptions.

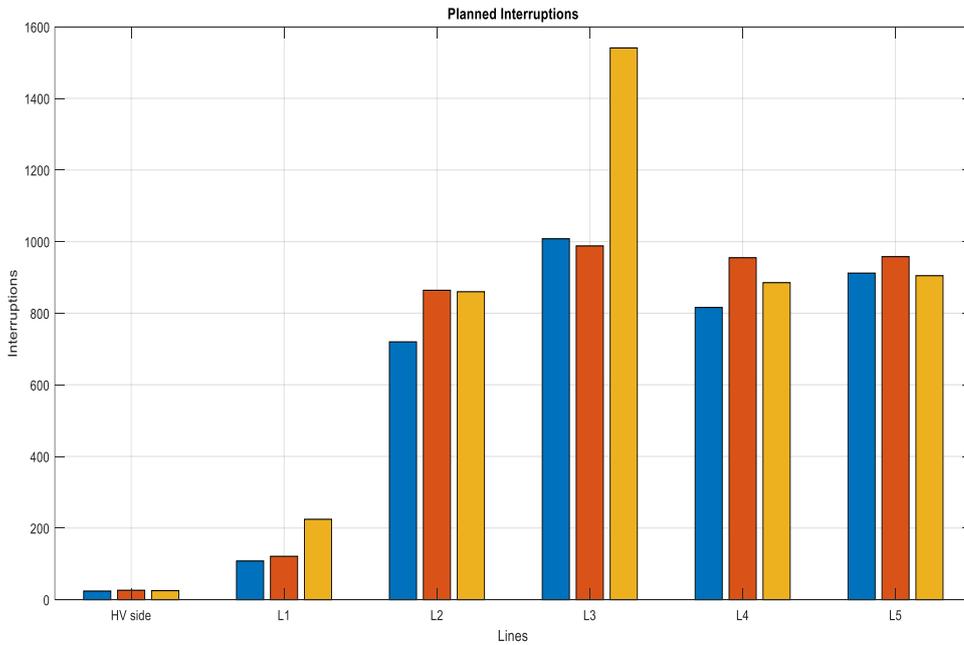


Figure 3: Planned interruptions.

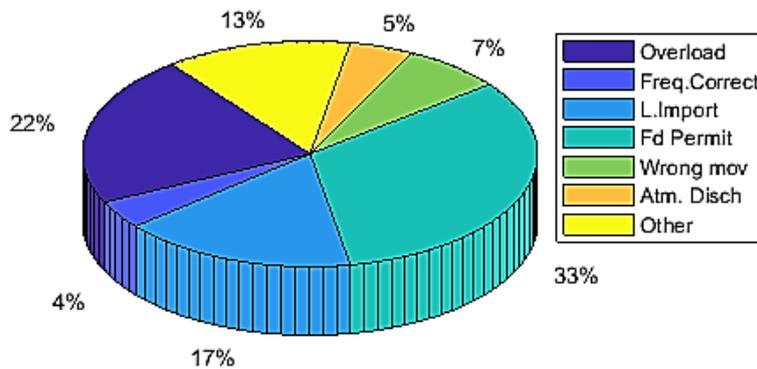


Figure 4: Causes of interruptions of the overall system.

Figure 4 shows the frequency of interruptions for each cause as well as its duration classified for each feeder and it gives also the percentage of each cause of interruption in the system.

Based on Figure 4, the percentage contributions of each cause of interruptions of the total frequency and duration of interruptions of each feeder and the overall system are analysed. Thus, load shedding (permutation of feeders) is the greatest cause of interruptions (33% of them) and its long duration is due to the scarcity of electric energy produced. Overload is the second-largest cause of interruption (22%) in the system – often due to the high customer demand and the inability of the system to meet it.

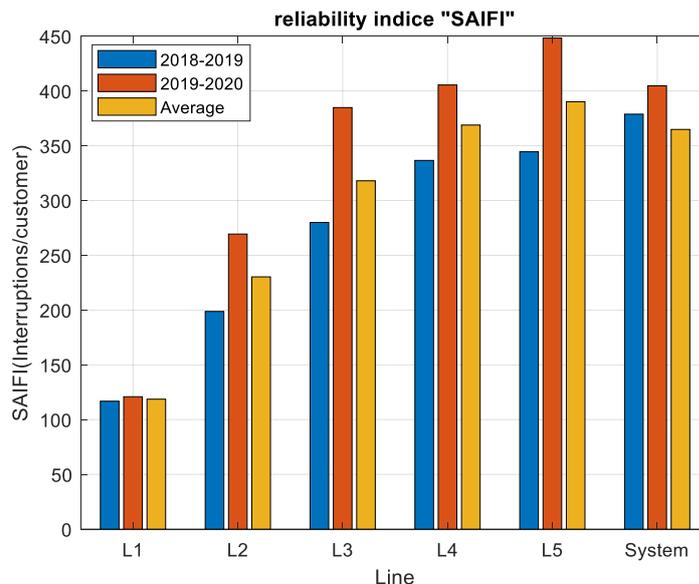
As the demand for energy is much greater than the supply and cannot be easily controlled, a power limiter has been installed at the beginning of the high voltage transmission line to ensure that Goma’s network does not exceed its predefined

portion. Interruptions caused by the power limiter in the network account for 17% of all interruptions, 7% represents some human error occurring in the exploitation of the network, atmospheric discharges account for 5%, and frequency corrections account for 4%. Other causes represent 13% of all interruptions, including birds, component failure, insulator perforation, poles damaged by cars, and burned wires.

Based on the recorded data for interruption between 2018 and 2020, the reliability indices for each feeder are calculated as shown in Table 3. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the comparison of the commonly used reliability indices SAIFI and SAIDI, which are the major indicators of the level of reliability. Figure 7 shows all calculated reliability indices of Line 1, from which it can be seen that some indices are not visible, due to the higher value of certain indices.

**Table 3: Reliability indices of the SNEL network.**

Line	SAIFI (Int/c/a)	SAIDI (h/c/a)	CAIDI (h)	CAIFI	ASAI	ASUI	ENS (MWh/a)	AENS (MWh/ca)	MAIFI	ASIFI	ASIDI
L1	118.6619	59.3309	0.5	0.1134	0.9898	0.010	0.27825	0.00006	0.338	2.822	0.132
L2	230.3102	806.086	3.5	0.6669	0.9492	0.050	5.11875	0.0026	0.146	3.888	0.431
L3	317.9797	1705.53	5.36	0.3876	0.8888	0.111	7.7415	0.0051	0.11	2.603	1.220
L4	368.8943	491.859	1.33	0.4266	0.978	0.022	4.07745	0.0013	0.233	5.110	0.340
L5	390.1688	1995.86	5.12	0.5972	0.9386	0.061	11.01643	0.0047	0.171	3.389	0.708
<b>syst</b>	<b>364.878</b>	<b>1478.7</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.941</b>	<b>0.0581</b>	<b>210.439</b>	<b>0.0152</b>	<b>0.999</b>	<b>3.586</b>	<b>15.9</b>



**Figure 5: SAIFI values of each feeder and the overall system.**

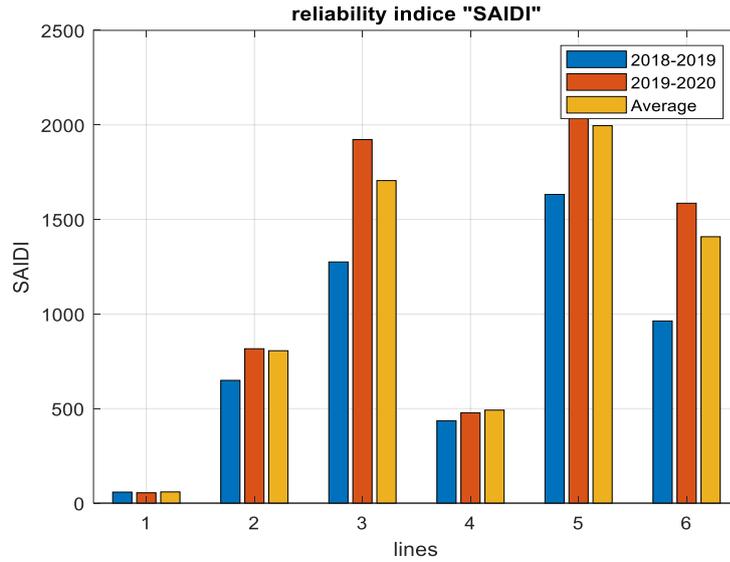


Figure 6: SAIDI values of each feeder and the overall system.

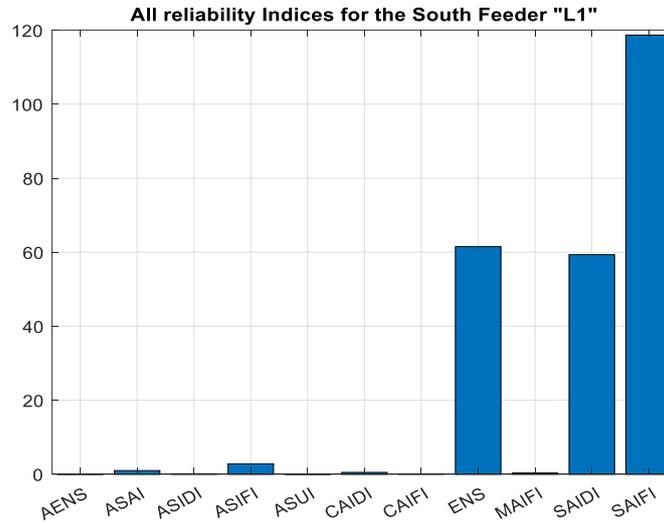


Figure 7: Reliability indices of Line 1.

The economic impact of poor reliability of SNEL's distribution system, based on the highlighted descriptions and analysis, is shown in Table 4. The economic evaluation of the reliability shows the cost of an outage at the utility side illustrated in Equation 12. Utility outage costs include the loss of revenue for energy not supplied, and the increased maintenance and repair costs to restore power to the customers affected. The maintenance and repair costs can be quantified by Equation 11 (Gonen, 2007).

$$C_{m\&r} = \sum_i^n C_i + C_{comp} \quad (11)$$

where  $C_i$  is the labour cost for each repair and maintenance action, and  $C_{comp}$  is the replacement or repair cost. Therefore, the total utility cost for an outage is expressed in Equation 12.

$$C_{out} = (ENS) \times (cost/kWh) + C_{m\&r} \quad (12)$$

where  $ENS$  is the energy not supplied.

In the expected energy not supplied (EENS) index, energy per customer unit time is defined by Equation 13.

$$EENS_i = \sum_{j=1}^{N_e} L_i \times r_{ij} \times \lambda_{ij} \quad (13)$$

where  $N_e$  is the total number of elements in the distribution system,  $L_i$  is the average load at load point  $i$ ,  $r_{ij}$  is the failure duration at point  $i$  due to component  $j$ , and  $\lambda_{ij}$  is the failure rate at load point  $i$  due to component  $j$ .

**Table 4: Economic analysis of each feeder**

Line	$C_{outage}$ (USD)	EENS (MWh)
L1	95 872.5	0.2703
L2	4 895 257.5	5.003775
L3	3 617 475	3.995934
L4	992 992.5	4.027725
L5	8 004 141.3	10.82081
System	20 605 739	806.359

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Design of solar distributed generation

Around 76% of interruptions are caused by lack of energy produced, as demonstrated by the difference between the installed capacity and average power transmitted through transmission lines of each feeder, as shown in Table 5.

Based on the power not served (Table 5), the capacity of the powerplant, the area, number of PV module needed, inverter capacity and converter size of each feeder were sized, as shown in Table 6. These steps have been considered when sizing the system (Nwaigwe et al., 2019; Diantari, 2016).

- i) Calculate total Watt-hours per day needed from the PV modules.

- ii) Size the PV modules.
- iii) Calculate the total Watt-peak rating needed for PV modules.
- iv) Calculate the number of PV panels for the system.

**Table 5: Power evaluation peer feeder**

Lines	Total installed capacity (MVA)	Average transmitted power (MVA)	Power not served (MVA)
L1	13.25	3.075	10.175
L2	7.875	1.445	6.43
L3	3.97	2.703	1.267
L4	16.575	2.982	13.593
L5	8.05	1.62	6.43
Total	49.72	11.827	37.893

PV syst software has been used to verify and ensure that the results given in Table 6 were calculated properly. Figure 8 shows the way the system has been configured in the software. In Figures 9–12, different reports of system design of each feeder have been given and described.

The screenshot shows the 'Grid system definition, Variant "New simulation variant"' interface. Key sections include:

- Global System configuration:** Number of kinds of sub-arrays: 1. Simplified Schema button.
- Global system summary:**
  - Nb. of modules: 58863
  - Module area: 114100 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Nb. of inverters: 15
  - Nominal PV Power: 19425 kWp
  - Maximum PV Power: 19567 kWdc
  - Nominal AC Power: 15000 kWac
- PV Array:**
  - Sub-array name and Orientation: Name: PV Array, Tilt: 5°, Azimuth: 0°.
  - Presizing Help: Enter planned power: 18500.0 kWp, or available area(modules): 108668 m<sup>2</sup>.
  - Select the PV module: Filter: All PV modules, Approx. needed modules: 56061. Selected: JA Solar, 330 Wp 32V Si-poly JAP6-72-330/3BB.
  - Sizing voltages: Vmpp (60°C): 32.4 V, Voc (16°C): 47.4 V.
- Select the inverter:**
  - Output voltage: 405 V Tri 50Hz.
  - Selected: SMA, 1000 kW 596 - 900 V TL 50/60 Hz Sunny Central 1000CP XT.
  - Nb. of inverters: 15. Operating Voltage: 596-900 V, Global Inverter's power: 15000 kWac.
- Design the array:**
  - Number of modules and strings: Mod. in series: 21, Nbre strings: 2803.
  - Operating conditions: Vmpp (60°C): 680 V, Vmpp (25°C): 802 V, Voc (16°C): 996 V.
  - Plane irradiance: 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup>.
  - Array nom. Power (STC): 19425 kWp.

**Figure 8: System sizing using the PV system of Line 1.**

**Table 6: System sizing for each feeder**

Lines	Power (MW)	Energy (MWh)	Solar plant capacity (MW)	Number of panels	Inverter capacity (MVA)	Power trans- former capacity (MVA)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
L1	8.7505	210.012	18.5	60 895	21.11	20.7	114 178.1
L2	5.5298	132.72	8	26 523	9.19	9.01	49 730.63
L3	1.08962	26.151	3	9 730	3.37	3.31	18 242.22
L4	11.69	280.56	13	43 554	15.1	14.8	81 663.79
L5	5.5298	132.72	12.5	40 850	14.17	13.88	76 594.05

Simulation variant : <b>New simulation variant</b>	
Simulation date 21/09/20 10h38	
<b>Simulation parameters</b>	System type <b>No 3D scene defined, no shadings</b>
<b>Collector Plane Orientation</b>	Tilt 5° Azimuth 0°
<b>Models used</b>	Transposition Perez Diffuse Perez, Meteornorm
<b>Horizon</b>	Free Horizon
<b>Near Shadings</b>	No Shadings
<b>User's needs :</b>	Unlimited load (grid)
<b>PV Array Characteristics</b>	
<b>PV module</b>	Si-poly Model <b>JAP6-72-330/3BB</b>
Original PVsyst database	Manufacturer JA Solar
Number of PV modules	In series 20 modules In parallel 1212 strings
Total number of PV modules	Nb. modules 24240 Unit Nom. Power 330 Wp
Array global power	Nominal (STC) <b>7999 kWp</b> At operating cond. 7177 kWp (50°C)
Array operating characteristics (50°C)	U mpp 682 V I mpp 10524 A
Total area	Module area <b>46987 m<sup>2</sup></b> Cell area 42473 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Inverter</b>	
Original PVsyst database	Model <b>Sunny Central 1000CP XT</b>
Characteristics	Manufacturer SMA
	Operating Voltage 596-900 V Unit Nom. Power 1000 kWac
	Max. power (=>25°C) 1100 kWac
<b>Inverter pack</b>	Nb. of inverters 7 units Total Power 7000 kWac
	Pnom ratio 1.14

**Figure 9: Report of system characteristics of Line 2.**

Simulation variant : <b>New simulation variant</b>	
Simulation date 21/09/20 10h50	
<b>Simulation parameters</b>	System type <b>No 3D scene defined, no shadings</b>
<b>Collector Plane Orientation</b>	Tilt 5° Azimuth 0°
<b>Models used</b>	Transposition Perez Diffuse Perez, Meteornorm
<b>Horizon</b>	Free Horizon
<b>Near Shadings</b>	No Shadings
<b>User's needs :</b>	Unlimited load (grid)
<b>PV Array Characteristics</b>	
<b>PV module</b>	Si-poly Model <b>JAP6-72-330/3BB</b>
Original PVsyst database	Manufacturer JA Solar
Number of PV modules	In series 19 modules In parallel 505 strings
Total number of PV modules	Nb. modules 9595 Unit Nom. Power 330 Wp
Array global power	Nominal (STC) <b>3166 kWp</b> At operating cond. 2841 kWp (50°C)
Array operating characteristics (50°C)	U mpp 648 V I mpp 4385 A
Total area	Module area <b>18599 m<sup>2</sup></b> Cell area 16812 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Inverter</b>	
Original PVsyst database	Model <b>Sunny Central 500CP XT</b>
Characteristics	Manufacturer SMA
	Operating Voltage 430-850 V Unit Nom. Power 500 kWac
	Max. power (=>25°C) 550 kWac
<b>Inverter pack</b>	Nb. of inverters 5 units Total Power 2500 kWac
	Pnom ratio 1.27

**Figure 10: Report of system characteristics of Line 3.**

<b>Simulation variant :</b> New simulation variant	
Simulation date 21/09/20 10h56	
<b>Simulation parameters</b>	System type <b>No 3D scene defined, no shadings</b>
<b>Collector Plane Orientation</b>	Tilt 5° Azimuth 0°
<b>Models used</b>	Transposition Perez Diffuse Perez, Meteonom
<b>Horizon</b>	Free Horizon
<b>Near Shadings</b>	No Shadings
<b>User's needs :</b>	Unlimited load (grid)
<b>PV Array Characteristics</b>	
<b>PV module</b>	Si-poly Model <b>JAP6-72-330/3BB</b>
Original PVsyst database	Manufacturer JA Solar
Number of PV modules	In series 21 modules In parallel 1876 strings
Total number of PV modules	Nb. modules 39396 Unit Nom. Power 330 Wp
Array global power	Nominal (STC) <b>13001 kWp</b> At operating cond. 11665 kWp (50°C)
Array operating characteristics (50°C)	U mpp 716 V I mpp 16289 A
Total area	Module area <b>76365 m²</b> Cell area 69029 m²
<b>Inverter</b>	
Original PVsyst database	Model <b>Sunny Central 1000CP XT</b>
Characteristics	Manufacturer SMA
	Operating Voltage 596-900 V Unit Nom. Power 1000 kWac
	Max. power (=>25°C) 1100 kWac
Inverter pack	Nb. of inverters 11 units Total Power 11000 kWac
	Pnom ratio 1.18

Figure 11: Report of system characteristics of Line 4.

<b>Simulation variant :</b> New simulation variant	
Simulation date 21/09/20 10h59	
<b>Simulation parameters</b>	System type <b>No 3D scene defined, no shadings</b>
<b>Collector Plane Orientation</b>	Tilt 5° Azimuth 0°
<b>Models used</b>	Transposition Perez Diffuse Perez, Meteonom
<b>Horizon</b>	Free Horizon
<b>Near Shadings</b>	No Shadings
<b>User's needs :</b>	Unlimited load (grid)
<b>PV Array Characteristics</b>	
<b>PV module</b>	Si-poly Model <b>JAP6-72-330/3BB</b>
Original PVsyst database	Manufacturer JA Solar
Number of PV modules	In series 21 modules In parallel 1894 strings
Total number of PV modules	Nb. modules 39774 Unit Nom. Power 330 Wp
Array global power	Nominal (STC) <b>13125 kWp</b> At operating cond. 11777 kWp (50°C)
Array operating characteristics (50°C)	U mpp 716 V I mpp 16445 A
Total area	Module area <b>77098 m²</b> Cell area 69692 m²
<b>Inverter</b>	
Original PVsyst database	Model <b>Sunny Central 2200</b>
Characteristics	Manufacturer SMA
	Operating Voltage 570-950 V Unit Nom. Power 2200 kWac
Inverter pack	Nb. of inverters 5 units Total Power 11000 kWac
	Pnom ratio 1.19

Figure 12: Report of system characteristics of Line 5.

### 3.2 Cost of investment

The total capital cost includes the cost of the PV array, cost of the inverters, cost of the step-up transformers, and the balance of system equipment – which includes the cost of electrical wiring, meter, protections, junction boxes, cabinets, switchgear, combiners, fuses, breaker and other non-electrical components, and the cost of civil work and structure. The assumed cost of each component is shown in Table 7. Table 8 describes the investment cost. The study does not consider storage, as it has been conducted for grid connected system; therefore cost related to storage will not be given.

**Table 7: Cost assumed per component or service considered in the designed PV plant. (Nwaigwe et al., 2019; Fu et al., 2018; Scenarios and development)**

Designation	Value
PV module (USD/kW)	600
Inverter (USD/kW)	50
Transformer (USD/kWp)	20
Balance of system equipment USD/kWp)	74
Civil work (USD/kWp)	165

According to Stapleton and Neill (2012) and Renewable Energy Agency, 2019, the maintenance and operational costs per year generally account for 1–2% of the total cost of investment, which includes the cost of purchased components. Therefore, in the

present study, 1% as maintenance and operation has been considered. Table 9 shows the cost of maintenance and operation for each feeder, and the total capital cost.

**Table 8: Total cost of investment for each feeder, in USD.**

Lines	PV modules	Inverters	Power trans- formers	BOS	Civil work	Total initial investment cost
L1	10 961 095.7	897 584.9	413 945.0414	1 351 868.474	3 014 301	16 638 795
L2	4 774 140.3	390 945.9	180 295.0889	588 810.6448	1 312 889	7 247 081
L3	1 751 252.9	143 407.02	66 135.94684	215 987.855	481 594.5	2 658 378
L4	7 839 723.7	641 981.229	296 066.6372	966 899.2574	2 155 924	11 900 595
L5	7 353 028.7	602 126.626	277 686.6324	906 873.5377	2 022 083	11 161 798

**Table 9: Maintenance and operation cost and total cost for each feeder, in USD.**

	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
O&M	166 387.9549	72 470.8068	26 583.78	119 005.9	111 618
Total cost	16 805 183.45	7 319 551.49	2 684 962	12 019 600.8	11 273 416

**Table 10: Maintenance and operation for 25 years and life-cycle costs of each feeder, in USD.**

	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
<i>M&amp;O<sub>actual</sub></i>	1 510 303.467	657 817.513	241 300.99	1 080 216.995	1 013 156
<i>Lcc</i>	18 149 098.96	7 904 898.19	2 899 679.24	12 980 811.85	12 174 955

**Table 11: Energy and sale of electricity in 25 years.**

	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
Energy (MWh)	31 271.8	13 620.5502	4 996.3	22 366.6	4 307.6
Sale of electricity (USD)	39 089 800.4	17 025 687.8	6 245 372.4	27 958 266.45	5 384 517

Life cycle cost (*Lcc*) will be calculated considering the initial investment costs (*C*) and the maintenance and operational (*M&O*) long-term costs (Stapleton and Neill, 2012; Diantari, 2016), as shown in Equation 14.

$$Lcc = C + M\&O \quad (14)$$

It is assumed that the solar PV power plant has 25 years of life, based on expected PV lifespan. The discount rate (*i*) that is used to calculate the present value in this study is 8% (Villafuerte and al. (2019). This value is chosen based on the actual interest rate bank loans in DRC. Actual value of the maintenance and operational costs during the project life of 25 years is calculated, based on Stapleton and Neill (2012) and Diantari (2016), as shown in Equation 15.

$$M\&O_{actual} = M\&O_{past} \left[ \frac{(1+i)^n - 1}{i(1+i)^n} \right] \quad (15)$$

With the initial investment cost (*C*) and the calculation of the actual maintenance and operational (*M&O*), life cycle costs for solar to be built during the project life of 25 years is shown in Table 10 for each feeder.

Based on the local radiation and output power found in Table 6 at the power transformer side, the annual energy that can be produced by solar PV power plant is calculated using Equation 16, and sale of electricity after 25 years is given by Equation 17. Both are represented in Table 11.

$$Energy = \text{maximum output power system} * \text{daily radiation} * 365 \quad (16)$$

$$Sale\ of\ electricity = Energy * \text{electricity tariff} * \text{year} \quad (17)$$

Based on the life cycle cost of the investment shown in Table 10 and the sale of electricity described in Table 11, it is seen that the project leads to profit.

The life cycle cost of Line 1 is USD 18 149 098.96 and the sale of electricity for Line 1 gives USD 39 089 800.4, while the lifecycle cost of Line 5 is USD 12 174 955 and its sale of electricity gives USD 5 384 517. It could be argued that the sale of electricity of Line 5 leads to a loss, but this is compensated for by the sale of electricity of other lines. Figure 13 shows the comparison between the life cycle cost of each line and its sale of electricity.

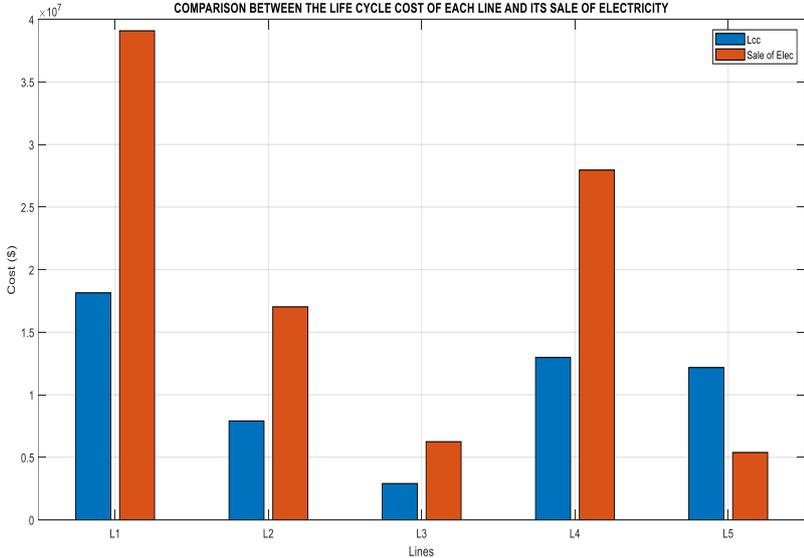
**4. Discussion**

When applying solar DG to a power plant, the interruption frequency as well as duration will be reduced, as shown in Table 12 and Figures 13 and 14, considering the same load and same number and category of customer. The frequencies of interruptions and durations of interruptions of Line 1 are reduced by 72% and 86% respectively. The frequency and duration of interruptions of Line1 are 478.8 interrup-

tions per year and 177.932 hour per year respectively. When the line is fed using solar DG, the frequency of interruptions is reduced to 135.8 per year. The duration of interruptions of Line 1 is 177.97 hours per year, but when the line is fed using solar DG, this is reduced to 26.08 hours per year.

The reliability indices of the designed distributed generation system are calculated, with results given in Table 13, which shows reliability indices calculated using the predicted frequency and duration of interruptions of the designed grid system using solar photovoltaic DG. The SAIFI value of the overall system is reduced by using it.

The SAIDI value of the overall system is reduced as shown in Figure 15 and, therefore, the reliability of the existing network is improved. SAIDI improvement is higher than SAIFI because the causes leading to more hours of the outages were solved using DG.



**Figure 13: Life-cycle cost of each line vs its sale of electricity.**

**Table 12: Interruption frequency improved using solar distributed generation.**

Lines	Present network		Future network	
	Frequency	Duration	Frequency	Duration
L1	478.8	177.97	135.8	26.08
L2	1130	3 405.36	287.8	143.1
L3	1 125.8	5 599.7	189.8	141.38
L4	1 670.2	2 374.43	562.6	148.57
L5	903	5 005.64	187.4	86.3

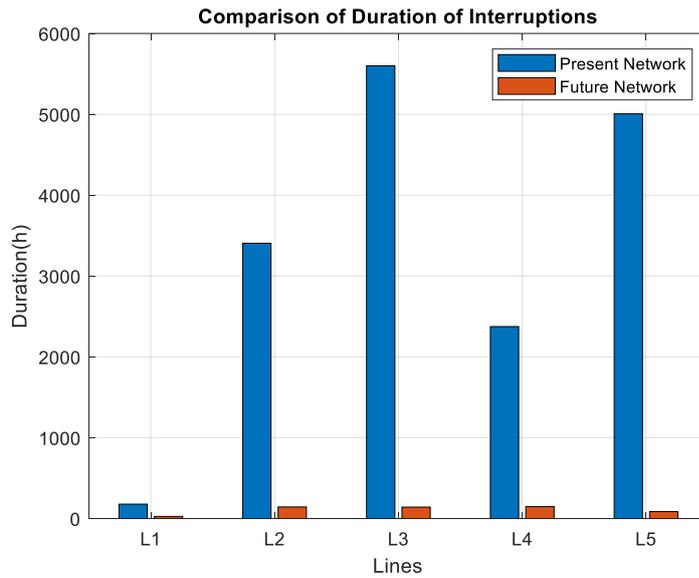


Figure 14: Comparison of duration of interruptions before and after mitigation.

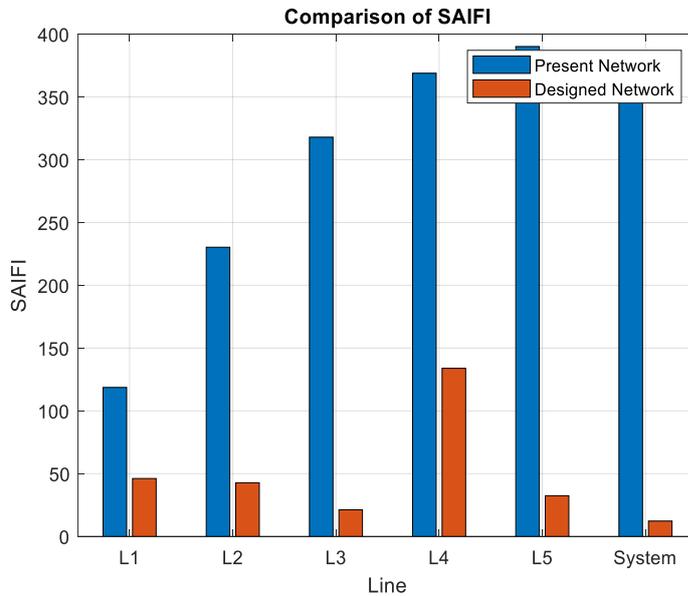


Figure 15: Comparison of SAIFI between the existing and future networks.

Table 13: Reliability indices resulted from solar distributed generation.

Line	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI	CAIFI	ASAI	ASUI	ENS	MAIFI	ASIFI	ASIDI
L1	46.12	8.86	0.192	0.102	99.999	0.0001	0.03956	0.339	2.822	0.0499
L2	42.73	21.25	0.4972	0.558	99.997	0.0001	0.13077	0.146	3.889	0.0607
L3	21.22	15.81	0.7449	0.738	99.998	0.0001	0.06512	0.12	2.603	0.1702
L4	133.9	35.35	0.2641	0.515	99.995	0.0001	0.2859	0.234	5.111	0.0665
L5	32.42	14.93	0.4605	0.38	99.998	0.0001	0.08009	0.171	3.389	0.0631
Syst	12.247	37.067	3.027	0.028	99.9998	0.00020	0.89147	1	3.586	0.2375

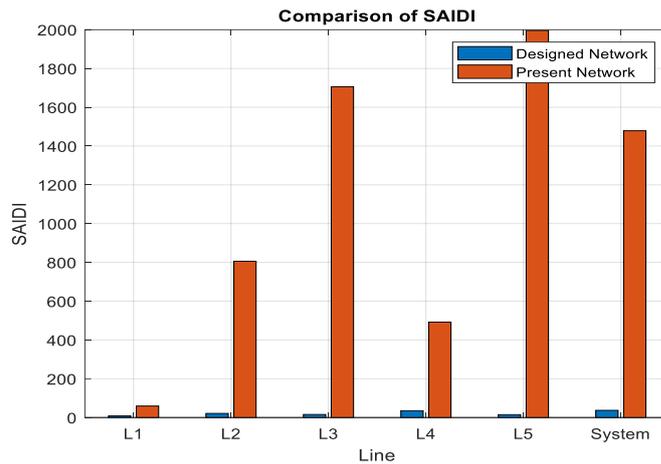


Figure 16: Comparison of SAIDI between the existing and future networks.

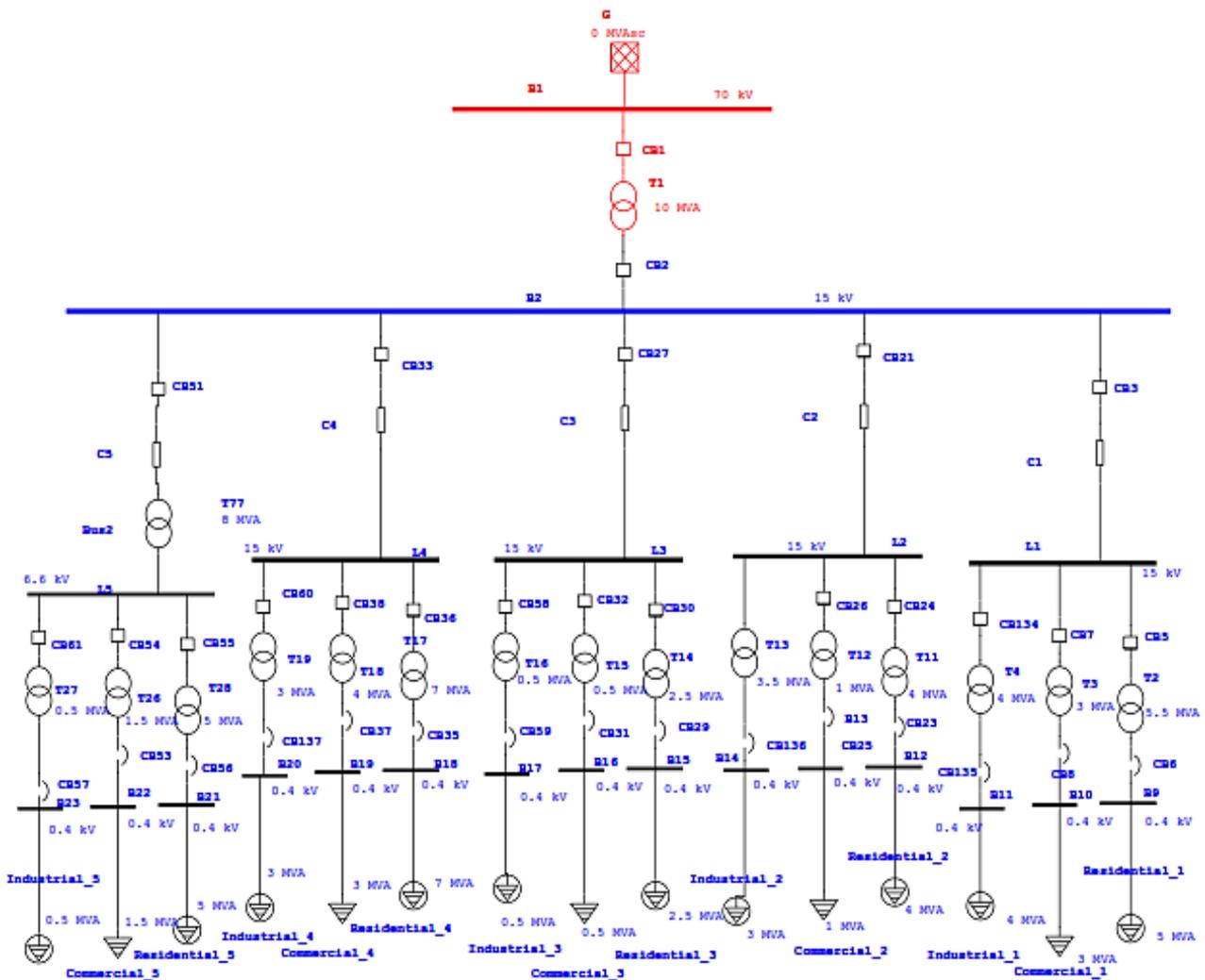


Figure 17: Distribution model of the existing network.

#### 4.1 Simulation of reliability analysis

The distribution model of the existing grid shown in Figure 17 is done to verify the calculated reliability indices values. Figure 18 shows the simulation model of the designed system. The system model is an overhead line, using step-down power transform-

ers, with loads categorised considering residential load, commercial load, and industrial load. The summary report provides a listing of reliability indices for the overall system of distribution model of the existing network.

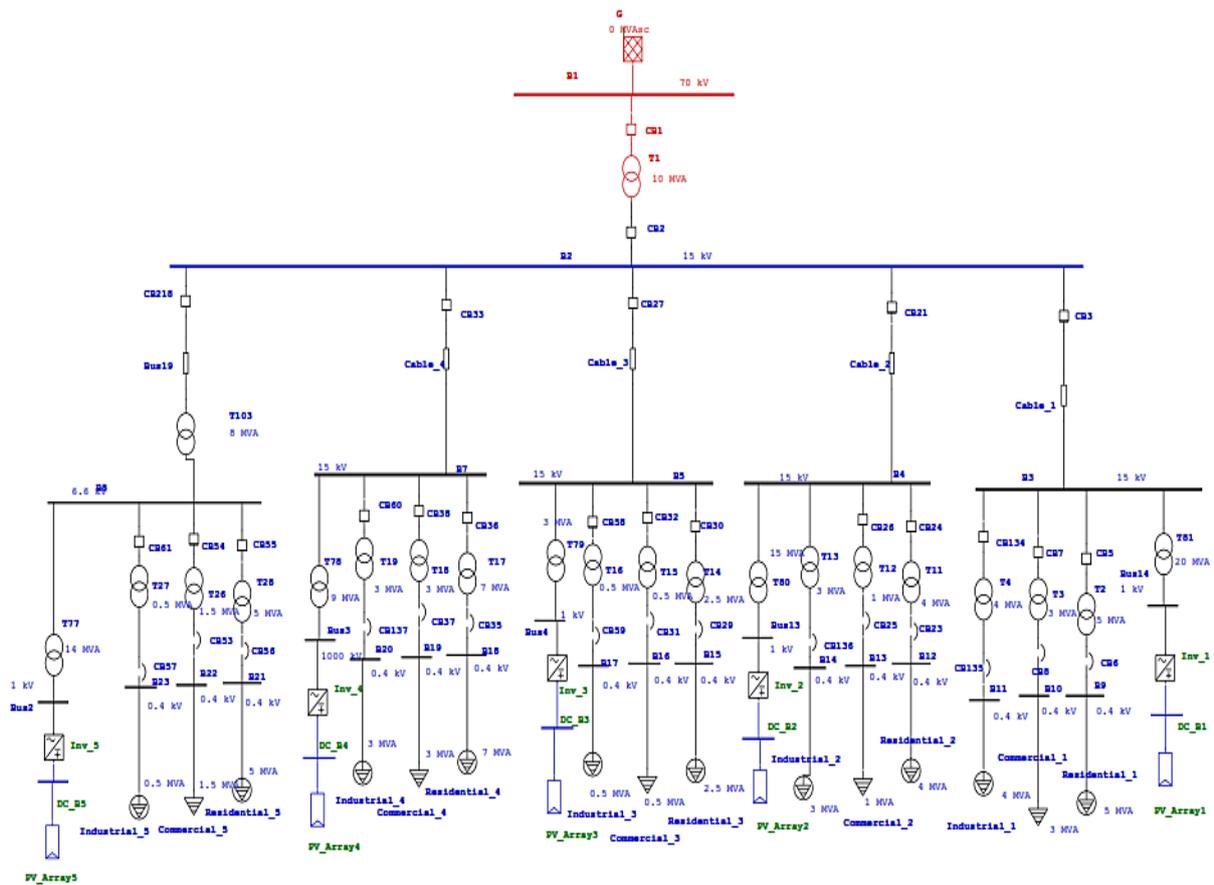


Figure 18: Distribution model of the future network with solar distributed generation.

The report presented in Table 14 describes the values of the reliability indices of the overall system such as SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI, ASAI, ALIFI, and ALIDI of the existing network. This simulation result verifies that the prediction of the values of each reliability index shown in Table 3 is done properly. It proves that the reliability of the existing network is very poor and has to be improved. For instance, from the simulation report shown, it can be seen that the SAIFI is 326.6100 interruptions per customer per year and SAIDI is 1319.8180 hours per customer per year, which verifies that the prediction of SAIFI and SAIDI in Table 13 is done properly.

Table 14: Summary report of the simulation of the existing network

ACCI	kVA/customer
AENS	4.10207 MW hr/customer.yr
ALII	kVA pu
ASAI	0.8493 pu
ASUI	0.15066 pu
CAIDI	4.041 hr/customer interruption
CTAIDI	hr/customer
ECOST	USD 82 956 030 /yr

EENS	56 428.820 MW hr/yr
IEAR	USD 1.470 /kW hr
SAIDI	1 319.8180 hr/customer.yr
SAIFI	326.6100 f/customer.yr

Similarly, CAIDI, ASAI, ALIFI, and ALIDI values in Figure 17 verify the mathematically calculated values given in Table 3. Additional to this, the summary report gives the values of expected customer outage cost (ECOST), expected energy not supplied (EENS), and interrupted energy assessment rate (IEAR).

The summary report shown in Table 15 confirms that the reliability indices found using mathematical methods are correct. The result proves that the reliability of the system has been improved as it was calculated mathematically, as shown in Table 13. From the simulation summary report, we can see that SAIFI is 11.2 while is 12.2 in Table 13; SAIDI is 38.49 while it is 37.06 as calculated value. As SAIFI and SAIDI are based on how frequency interruptions and duration of the interruptions have been improved, it proves that the reliability the power distribution system has been improved.

The result found in ETAP software 16.0 for the overall system certifies that the predictive values

were properly calculated. However, some values found by calculation are slightly different from the one obtained by simulation, such as AENS and EENS.

**Table 15: Simulation report of the designed distribution network.**

ACCI	kVA/customer
AENS	0.1202 MW hr/customer.yr
ALII	kVA pu
ASAI	0.9956 pu
ASUI	0.00439 pu
CAIDI	3.421 hr/customer interruption
CTAIDI	hr/customer
ECOST	USD 2 364 215.005 /yr
EENS	1646.164 MW hr/yr
IEAR	USD 1.436 /kW hr
SAIDI	38.4994 hr/customer.yr
SAIFI	11.2550 f/customer.yr

## 5. Conclusion

This research has shown that the reliability of Goma power distribution system is very poor, due to the lack of energy produced leading to scarcity of the energy in the city. The reliability has been improved using solar distributed generation, as the main cause of interruption was the lack of energy produced which resulted in demand exceeding supply. The average frequency of interruptions of Goma

network is 364.87 interruptions per customer per year and the average duration of interruptions is 1478.7 hours per customer per year for the overall system, which have been improved to 12.247 for the system average interruption frequency index (SAIFI) and 37.067 for the system average interruption duration index (SAIDI). Investment cost was calculated based on the standard cost of each equipment, and the life cycle cost was calculated considering the discount rate in the cost of operational and maintenance for the designed system. Applying photovoltaic distributed generation has improved the reliability of the system by up to 76%.

## Author contributions

G. Sengi was responsible for data curation, writing original draft preparation, writing the review and editing visualisation, methodology, investigation and resource organisation.

E. Ntagwirumugara was responsible for visualisation, supervision of formal analysis, funding acquisition, writing the review and editing visualisation, project administration and resources.

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