



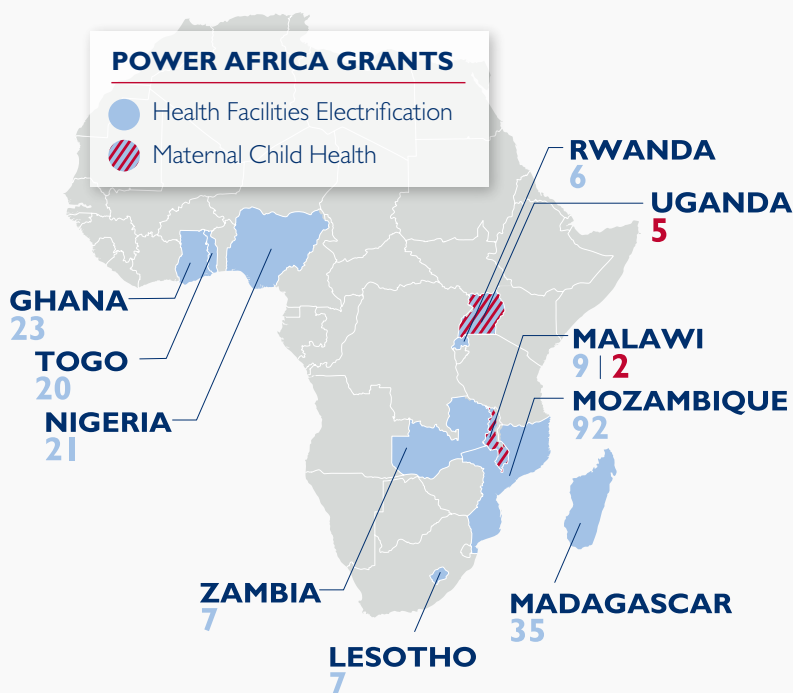
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



POWER AFRICA COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Updated December 2023

Power Africa is a U.S. Government-led partnership, coordinated by USAID, that brings together the collective resources of over 200 public and private sector partners to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa’s goal is to add at least 30,000 MW and 60 million connections by 2030.



In sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 60 percent of health care facilities do not have access to electricity; of those that do, only 34 percent of hospitals and 28 percent of health facilities have reliable access.¹ As part of the U.S. Government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Power Africa redirected funds to bolster sub-Saharan Africa’s off-grid energy sector and to assess power loads for hospitals, clinics, and critical care facilities.

Power Africa has redirected \$7.2 million for COVID-19 response & recovery, investing \$2.8 million into grants to off-grid solar energy companies for rural and peri-urban health facility electrification.

POWERING HEALTH IN RURAL LESOTHO

Nurse Meriam manages a clinic and maternity waiting home in rural Lesotho. For years, Meriam operated the clinic without reliable electricity. Through a Power Africa grant, a Lesotho-based off-grid energy company installed a containerized solar power solution, providing Meriam and her patients with a reliable, affordable, and clean source of power.



WATCH MERIAM’S STORY

¹Blimpo, Moussa P., and Malcolm Cosgrove-Davies. 2019. *Electricity Access in Sub-Saharan Africa: Uptake, Reliability, and Complementary Factors for Economic Impact Africa Development Forum series*. Washington, DC: World Bank (<http://hdl.handle.net/10986/31333>).



CONVENING DONOR EFFORTS TO ELECTRIFY HEALTH FACILITIES

Through a **two-year, \$1 million grant** funded by USAID, Power Africa and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) are supporting African governments and their development partners to identify, power, and sustainably maintain health facilities by 2030. Working in coordination with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the World Health Organization, United Nations Development Program, the Global Vaccine Alliance, the Rockefeller Foundation, and USAID, the program will provide African decision-makers with knowledge and tools to drive faster and more efficient progress toward universal electrification of health facilities. In addition, the Power Africa and SEforALL **multilateral health facility electrification energy compact** is set to electrify 25,000 health clinics with clean power by 2025.



INITIATING LARGE-SCALE HEALTH FACILITY ELECTRIFICATION

Power Africa is coordinating efforts with USAID Global Health and leveraging USAID's private sector engagement hub to design a public-private partnership to electrify and digitally connect thousands of health facilities across sub-Saharan Africa. Through this market-based approach, USAID will leverage private sector investment through USAID's Global Development Alliance program to design a large-scale health facility electrification program. The collaboration aims to improve health services and assist in COVID-19 response efforts through providing reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity.



STRENGTHENING POWER GRIDS

Power Africa facilitates investment in electricity transmission infrastructure and modernization of distribution utilities to improve energy access and increase cross-border power trade. These interventions support national government responses to COVID-19 by helping utilities keep medical facilities, homes, and essential services electrified throughout the crisis.

TANZANIA

Power Africa works with the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation to reduce commercial losses, support smart engineering solutions to reduce outages, and ensure reliable and stable power supply to 131 private and 161 state-owned health care facilities. Power Africa is also optimizing the power system supply for more than 210,000 customers in Zanzibar.

ETHIOPIA

Power Africa works with the Ethiopia Electric Utility in the Addis Ababa and Fin Fine regions, home to nearly 200 health care facilities, to improve utility operations, and optimize the power system for customers through uninterrupted supply.

KENYA

Power Africa works with Kenya Power to improve utility operations and provide a reliable power supply to more than 673 active health care facilities and 2.4 million customers in the Nairobi Region.

LIBERIA

Power Africa supported the procurement of a management services contractor for the Liberia Electricity Corporation. The new operators have greatly improved the availability and reliability of electricity and connected Monrovia's Central Medical Store to the grid. Previously, the Medical Store relied on USAID Health funds to buy expensive generator fuel to keep vaccines cool.



PROVIDING ON-THE-GROUND EXPERTISE AND LEADERSHIP

Power Africa is utilizing one of its most valuable assets – a network of technical experts and advisors located throughout sub-Saharan Africa – to provide demand-driven assistance to companies, investors, and industry associations aimed at ensuring business continuity, mobilizing relief funding, and advocating for government policies that recognize energy access as an essential service. Through our in-country teams, Power Africa continues to support African governments with power sector planning that prioritizes an optimal generation mix, strong distribution and transmission infrastructure, and widely available off-grid solutions.



POWERING HEALTH BEYOND THE GRID

In Nigeria and Kenya, Power Africa advisors worked with local associations to successfully advocate for solar home system companies to be deemed essential services, which allowed continued sales and installations of off-grid energy solutions for rural clinics, businesses, and homes. Power Africa partnered with local governments to identify communities where solar home systems (SHS) would have the greatest impact, and to develop a plan for equitable distribution of units at the least cost. Power Africa continues to support Nigeria's economic recovery by improving access to low-interest capital to help SHS providers rapidly expand their businesses.



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