POWER AFRICA OFF-GRID PROJECT

Power Africa is a U.S. Government-led partnership that brings together the resources of over 170 public and private sector partners. Power Africa’s goal is to add more than 30,000 megawatts of new electricity generation capacity and connect 60 million new homes and businesses to cleaner, more reliable power by 2030. Contributing to this goal, the USAID-funded Power Africa Off-grid Project works to improve off-grid energy policies and regulations; catalyze $500 million in new investment capital; and facilitate six million new off-grid electricity connections in sub-Saharan Africa by 2022.

HEALTH FACILITY ELECTRIFICATION

WHY HEALTH FACILITY ELECTRIFICATION?

• Only 28 percent of healthcare facilities in sub-Saharan Africa have access to reliable electricity.

• Of the maternal deaths in lower- and middle-income countries, 67 percent occur in sub-Saharan Africa. This region also has the highest under-five mortality rate in the world, with one in 13 children dying before their fifth birthday. Many of these deaths could be prevented with adequate health infrastructure, such as lighting and medical equipment, that facilitates improved obstetrics and child healthcare.

• Sub-Saharan Africa is the region that is the least equipped for infection prevention and control, with limited and intermittent cold chain storage impeding vaccine coverage and COVID-19 response efforts.

TO ADVANCE HEALTH FACILITY ELECTRIFICATION, THE PROJECT:

Uses private-sector capacity to supply off-grid renewable energy.

Supports long-term business plans that are financially sustainable for the health facility and the company.

Prioritizes innovative and commercially viable business models that use off-grid energy productively (e.g., by providing extra services on-site and collecting revenue to subsidize the energy supply).

Aims to share and scale effective business models.

Prioritizes sustainability, focusing not only on electrification, but on maintaining a consistent supply of electricity.

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The Project has awarded $3,070,650 in grant funding to electrify more than 250 health facilities in ten countries in sub-Saharan Africa. To date, under the health facility electrification grant window:

Havenhill Synergy Ltd. (Nigeria): Havenhill electrified 21 public health facilities in Oyo State.

KYA-Energy Group (Togo): KYA electrified 20 health centers and installed locally manufactured solar-powered hand-washers and device-charging stations.

Muhanya Solar Ltd. (Zambia): Muhanya electrified seven health facilities and is providing clean drinking water at each center with solar-powered borehole pumps.

Nanoé (Madagascar): Nanoé has electrified 35 health facilities in the Ambanja and Ambilobe districts, where it has trained and franchised 15 local entrepreneurs to help maintain the solar systems.

OffGridBox (Rwanda): OffGridBox electrified six health facilities and has supplied them with vaccine fridges and equipment sterilizers. OffGridBox’s solar systems also power welders and sewing machines at each site.

OnePower (Lesotho): OnePower has electrified five health facilities with its containerized solar plant.

PEG Solar (Ghana): PEG has electrified 23 health facilities and is training healthcare staff to use the systems safely.


Zuwa Energy (Malawi): Zuwa is procuring the equipment to electrify nine health facilities and will electrify staff housing at each facility.

The Project selects grantees by:

- Announcing open and competitive requests for applicants.
- Scoring applicants on diverse criteria to determine their proposals’ merit (e.g., cost effectiveness and the impact of the solution offered).
- Prioritizing three capacities: Impact, long-term operation and maintenance, and scalability.

To honor the memory of Madeline Williams—a distinguished USAID Foreign Service Officer from the Great State of Minnesota—the Project has dedicated $450,000 in grant funding to electrify maternal and child health facilities. This grant is being awarded to the following companies:

- IPCS Malawi: IPCS will electrify two maternity wards in Malawi and equip the health facilities with device-charging stations.
- SustainSolar: SustainSolar will electrify five health centers on the islands of Namayingo District in eastern Uganda and distribute clean water to each facility.

MEDIA AND PRESS RELEASES

- USAID/Power Africa Announces $2.6 Million in Healthcare Electrification Grants to Solar Energy Companies in Nine Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa
- U.S. Government Lights Up 92 Health Facilities in Sofala Province with a $320,000 Investment in Solar Power
- U.S. Government Electrifies 10 Rural Health Clinics; 25 More Underway
- PEG Ghana Ltd. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Dawia CHPS Compound—Ambassador Stephanie Sullivan’s As-prepared Remarks
- Power Africa and USAID Rwanda Electrify Six Off-grid Healthcare Facilities in Rural Rwanda

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