



Renewable Energy & Just Transition



Health Facility Electrification



Climate Change



Ending Energy Poverty



Lights On!



Partnerships



Enabling Environment



U.S.-Africa Trade



Gender Equality



Transmission and Distribution

CONNECTING

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

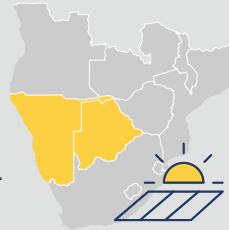


Added

1,329 MW

of new electricity – 95% from renewable sources – from 24 power projects that are turning lights on across the continent.

Pledged commitment to the **Mega Solar initiative**, a partnership between the Governments of Namibia and Botswana to generate up to 5 GW of solar power and reduce reliance on coal in Southern Africa.



Avoided

6.2 MILLION

tons of CO₂ emissions, the equivalent of burning 6.8 billion pounds of coal.



Welcomed Denmark as our **20th Development Partner** and added **18 Private Sector Partners**.



Joined partners and allies to launch the **Energy Access Relief Fund**, a \$100 million initiative to protect energy access for at least 20 million people.

Electrified over 220 health facilities in 9 countries through a **\$2.8 million grant initiative** that rewarded sustainable business models from private sector off-grid energy companies.



Forged a strategic partnership with the **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet** to work with African governments to address energy poverty and climate change.

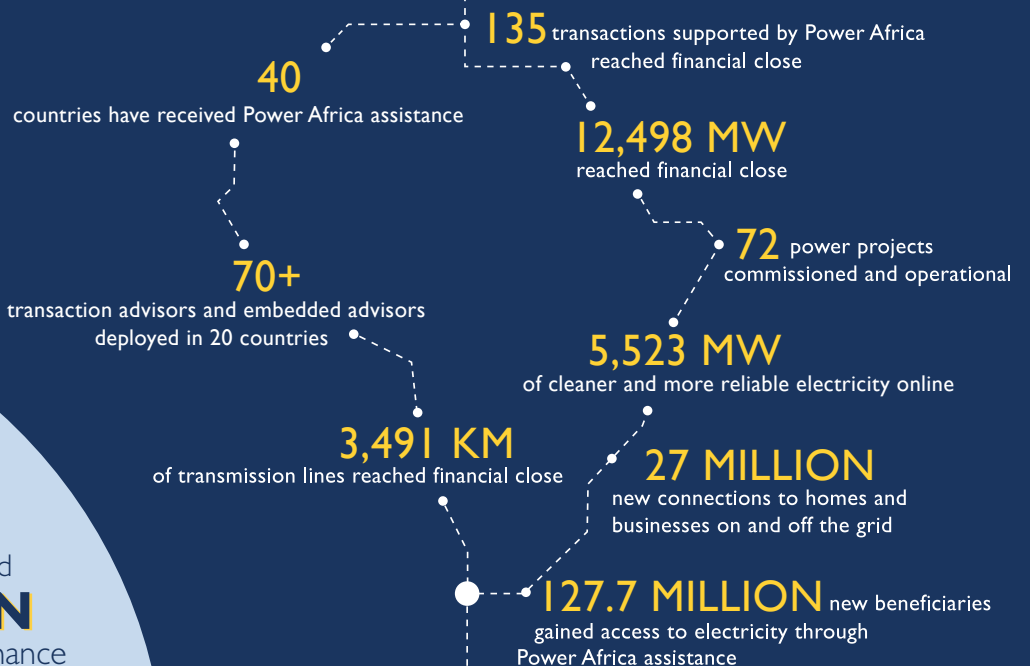


Delivered first-time electricity access to **39.7 MILLION PEOPLE** through 8.1 million new on- and off-grid connections to homes and businesses.

Power Africa

By the Numbers

Since 2013



Since 2013, Power Africa has invested **\$49 MILLION** into 13 clean energy-finance vehicles that have resulted in **\$1.6 billion** in commitments and over **\$780 million** in actual investments.

Lights On!

A MESSAGE FROM POWER AFRICA COORDINATOR MARK CARRATO



This past year was one of promise and challenge. The collective social and economic effects of the pandemic continue to threaten progress on ending energy poverty and prove to be a persistent challenge to supply chains, operations, and morale. Power Africa partners adjusted to the new normal and in 2021 brought **1,329 megawatts (MW)** of new, cleaner electricity online while avoiding **6.2 million metric tons (tCO₂e)** of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – that’s like taking nearly seven billion pounds of burning coal out of the energy mix.

Our work to date has helped more than **127 million people** gain access to cleaner, more reliable electricity, including about 39 million people in the past year. We now have **5,523 MW of new electricity generation online, over half of which comes from renewable sources.**

The aperture for travel opened briefly and I was able to meet staff and partners in person – many for the first time. I joined a delegation to South Africa to help accelerate the nation’s decarbonization pathway and a just and equitable transition from coal to renewable sources. At COP26, I joined our partners to jump-start the clean energy transition that includes more women, youth, and other under-represented groups leading the effort, and incorporates the best of American and African cleantech innovation.

A major highlight of COP26 was the announcement of a strategic partnership between USAID, Power Africa, and the [Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet](#), formalized by USAID Administrator Samantha Power, and Rockefeller Foundation Executive Vice President Elizabeth Yee. This alliance of two dozen public and private sector partners will collaborate with governments across Africa to accelerate and scale equitable energy transitions, while averting carbon emissions, expanding energy access and creating green jobs in the process.

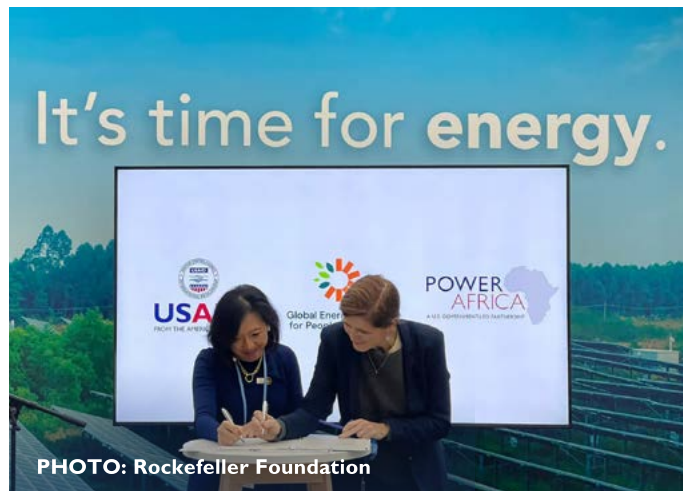


PHOTO: Rockefeller Foundation

I joined Administrator Power to [welcome Denmark as Power Africa’s 20th Development Partner](#). Together, we aim to increase investment in renewable energy projects, provide access to finance and training for African entrepreneurs with a focus on women-led projects, and support the next generation of innovative energy solutions to combat energy poverty and climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. We also renewed our partnerships with the Government of Norway, the International Renewable Energy Agency, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

At the Africa Energy Forum, I met with many private sector partners and remain encouraged by their commitments to climate-smart investment in the African energy sector.

Our ongoing work to support COVID-19 response and recovery includes a significant focus on electrifying health facilities. This year, we **helped connect more than 220 rural clinics to life-saving clean electricity.** We also joined Power Africa partner Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) to announce a [two-year, \\$1 million health facility electrification grant](#) to support coordination between African governments and the donor community.

SEforALL and Power Africa are taking bold steps that will enable investment in health facility electrification in areas where local populations are most at risk. – Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy

At the United Nations General Assembly’s high-level dialogue on energy – the first in more than 40 years – I was honored to represent Power Africa and to announce a [multilateral Energy Compact for Health Facility Electrification](#) that aims to provide 25,000 health facilities with sustainable access to a clean and reliable power source by 2025. Power Africa partners in this critical initiative include USAID, Shell Foundation, SEforALL, the International Renewable Energy Agency, and the Government of Denmark.

Despite the challenges in 2021, it is hard not to be optimistic. The year ushered in **tremendous opportunity with the Biden-Harris Administration focus on clean energy and climate change** efforts gaining traction. Advances in battery storage, the deployment of distributed renewable energy, and a reinvigorated appetite to invest in cleantech promise new opportunities in the region. The power of our partnerships drives this work. Together, we are improving lives and strengthening communities through access to clean, reliable energy.

To more Lights On – and the human and economic potential electricity enables – in 2022!

CELEBRATING CLEAN POWER IN KENYA: THE KIPETO WIND FARM

Commissioned into operation on July 1, 2021, the [Kipeto Wind Farm](#) is Kenya's second-largest wind-power project. Comprising 60 turbines supplied by Power Africa partner General Electric, Kipeto now generates 100 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity to power approximately 250,000 Kenyan households. This new renewable energy source also advances the Government of Kenya's goal to achieve universal electrification by 2022.

The Kipeto Wind Farm's journey from concept to commercial operations demonstrates the breadth of Power Africa support, and showcases the incredible achievements made possible through public-private partnership. Alongside USAID Kenya, and by bringing together partners such as [BTE Renewables](#), [Actis](#) and [African Trade Insurance Agency](#), Power Africa support included:

- Modernizing Kenya's grid to integrate renewable energy;
- Facilitating a \$230 million debt facility from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation;
- Producing a Biodiversity Action Plan to understand, reduce, and compensate for the possible impact of wind turbines on vultures and other raptors at the Kipeto site; and
- Providing critical data on the recovery of power and energy demand in Kenya after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Watch the video



See how Kipeto was built, hear from local residents who benefit from reliable power and long-term jobs, and learn more about U.S. investment in Kenya's clean energy sector. →

Kipeto demonstrates how Power Africa's integrated approach helps partner countries optimize their power supply, increase access to electricity, and attract private sector investment to ensure clean, reliable, and cost-effective electricity to support economic growth and development.

PHOTO: Kipeto Energy PLC/Mwangi Kirubi

BOLSTERING U.S. AND AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

In 2021, Power Africa took the first steps toward creating a **U.S.-Africa Cleantech Energy Network** that will support U.S. firms to increase clean energy exports to Africa. Composed of our interagency partners and the private sector, the Cleantech Energy Network will utilize new and existing U.S. Government programs, funding, and tools to link U.S. cleantech firms to specific deal opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa with the best chances of success.

Since 2013, Power Africa partners USAID, the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have invested nearly **\$600 million in financing and technical assistance for renewable energy projects** in Kenya, supporting 20 percent of Kenya's current clean power generation capacity. **U.S. firms have invested \$570 million into Kenya's off-grid market, creating 40,000 green energy jobs.**

In Nigeria, Power Africa is supporting **16 U.S. companies that are implementing \$3.6 billion of clean energy and electricity access projects.** In 2021, Power Africa technical assistance enabled our partner and U.S. company [PowerGen Renewable Energy](#) to become the first to commission a mini-grid under the Power Africa-supported, private sector-driven Nigeria Electrification Project. We also provided technical advisory to Rensource, a Nigerian off-grid solar company, to raise **\$500,000** in bridge financing from U.S. investor Open Road Alliance and **\$20 million** in equity from CRE Venture Capital and U.S. impact investor Omidyar Network.

U.S. Government support has helped attract an additional \$1.8 BILLION in private investments for clean energy projects in Kenya over the last six years.

ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

In June 2021, President Biden and G7 partners launched the **Build Back Better World** (B3W) initiative, a partnership to help narrow the \$40+ trillion infrastructure need in the developing world. As part of its B3W commitment, the United States announced the **Net Zero World Initiative**, to be led by the U.S. Department of Energy, a Power Africa partner. Through Net Zero World, countries committed to raising their climate ambitions will work with the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories and other U.S. Government agencies to create and implement highly tailored, actionable technology roadmaps and investment strategies that put net zero within reach.

At COP26, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the European Union announced the Just Energy Transition Partnership, collectively pledging **\$8.5 billion to support South Africa's transition away from coal** for power production. During the announcement, President Biden noted that the funding would facilitate, **"equitable, inclusive transitions in South Africa's coal sector"** by helping regions and workers in industries affected by the phaseout.



PHOTO: @POTUS

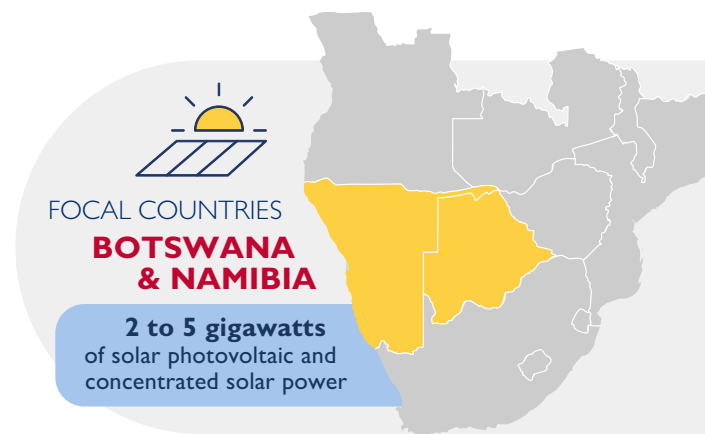
MAKING MEGA SOLAR A REALITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

On Earth Day 2021, at the Leaders' Summit on Climate, the Biden-Harris Administration celebrated a major milestone agreement for the climate-positive Mega Solar initiative in Southern Africa.

Mega Solar is a partnership between the Governments of Namibia and Botswana to achieve 2-5 GW of solar power generation for a region currently dependent on coal. Power Africa is the lead coordinator of an unprecedented multi-donor commitment to Mega Solar that includes our partners the International Finance Corporation, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the African Development Bank, and the African Union's international development organization (AUDA-NEPAD).

Planned as Southern Africa's largest solar power project, Mega Solar will provide large-scale renewable energy from solar photovoltaic and concentrated solar thermal technologies to boost electricity supply and access in the region. Mega Solar's first phase centers on the competitive procurement of 300–500 MW to catalyze additional procurements that can deliver low-cost renewable energy to neighboring countries once regional transmission lines are constructed.

Mega Solar is critical to the Administration's goal of shifting the Southern Africa region away from coal-powered energy to renewable and sustainable resources. By 2030, **Mega Solar is expected to avert an estimated 6.5 million tCO₂e of GHG emissions annually** – comparable to burning over seven billion pounds of coal – and create thousands of clean energy jobs.



John Kerry
Special Presidential
Envoy for Climate
@ClimateEnvoy

"A big congrats to @PowerAfricaUS's Mega Solar Project. Partnerships that create jobs while also avoiding substantial CO₂ emissions align perfectly with the Administration's approach on #ClimateAction. I can't wait to see these efforts come to fruition."

BUILDING MALAWI'S FIRST UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR-PLUS-STORAGE POWER PROJECT



Powered by partnership, **Malawi's Golomoti Solar Project** will catalyze climate-friendly development and set a standard for Southern Africa.

When switched on in 2022, the Golomoti Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Project will feed 20 MW of clean electricity into Malawi's national grid, powering businesses and livelihoods in a country with one of the lowest electricity access rates in Southern Africa.

Co-developed by Power Africa partners, JCM Power and the Private Infrastructure Development Group's (PIDG) InfraCo Africa, and with financial support from Innovate UK, the Golomoti solar plant will be the first utility-scale plant in the region to include a battery energy storage system (BESS). Such systems enable renewables to displace fossil fuels, such as coal and diesel, which contribute significantly to climate change. To inform future BESS projects in the region, PIDG and InfraCo will make performance data from Golomoti publicly available.

Solar-plus-storage power projects will make electricity supply more reliable in Malawi, which currently relies on hydroelectric plants. Prolonged drought reduces river flow and leaves the country vulnerable to frequent power outages. To keep the lights on, the national electricity utility, ESCOM, resorts to expensive, carbon-emitting diesel generators.

Golomoti's battery energy storage system will:

- primarily be charged with excess solar energy (when supply exceeds consumer demand);
- discharge during cloud cover and charge as clouds dissipate to reduce the variability of solar production during the day;
- dispatch available energy to service evening peak demand; and
- provide ancillary services to strengthen the national grid.

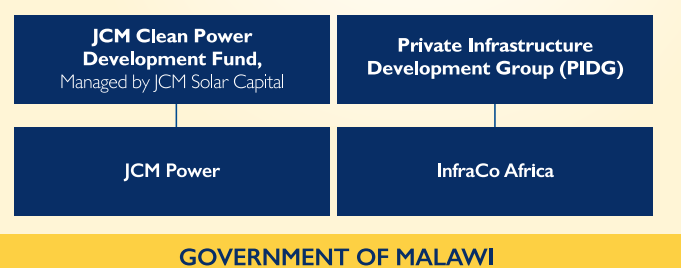
The Golomoti project began in 2018, when the Government of Malawi issued the country's first-ever competitive power sector procurement with support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a Power Africa partner. ESCOM selected JCM Power to develop the Golomoti project as well as the 60 MW Salima Solar project. Power Africa partner USTDA funded a feasibility study to determine suitable project size and assess the possibility of including a BESS. Power Africa also provided technical assistance to integrate BESS functionality into the project's financial model and optimize battery storage capacities.

This solar power plant, and others like it, enable Malawi to demonstrate successful renewable-plus-storage technologies and attract additional private investment.

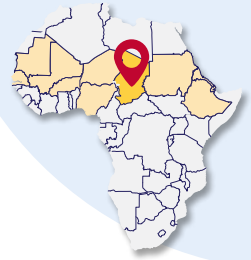
PROJECT FINANCIERS	OTHER SUPPORT
JCM (Equity Investor)	USTDA \$700,000 Feasibility Grant
InfraCo Africa (Equity Investor)	MCC Compact \$350M Funding National Transmission Backbone
Innovate UK's Energy Catalyst \$2.9M BESS funding	U.S. Embassy Lilongwe
Rina Consulting (Italy) BESS Feasibility & Design	African Trade Insurance Agency Regional Liquidity Support Facility

- DEVELOPMENT PARTNER
- PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER
- U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNER

- OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANY
- AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
- OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



PARTNERING TO BRING SOLAR POWER TO THE SAHEL



The Djermaya Solar project in Chad illustrates the power of partnership to pave the way for substantial clean energy investment in Africa.

Power Africa's partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) includes collaboration on AfDB's Desert to Power initiative, focused on the Sahel countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan. Desert to Power aims to connect 250 million people to electricity, generate up to 10 GW of solar energy capacity, and make the Sahel one of the world's largest solar production zones.

PROJECT FINANCIERS		DEVELOPER CONSORTIUM	
AfDB (Loan)	\$20.6M	InfraCo Africa (UK)	
EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust (Loan)	\$7.3M	Smart Energies (France)	
Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (Loan)	\$10.7M	Anergi (on behalf of InfraCo Africa) (UK)	
InfraCo Africa (Equity)	\$2.9M	Denham Capital through Neo Themis (UK)	
PIDG TA (Grant)	\$854,000 \$1.5M (capital grant)		
Proparco (Loan)	\$10.7M		
Renewable Energy Performance Platform (Loan)	\$435,000		

- DEVELOPMENT PARTNER
- PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER
- U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNER
- OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANY
- AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
- OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

In Chad, Power Africa assistance helped secure a \$20.6 million loan to bring the **34 MW Djermaya Solar project** to financial close. Djermaya's generation capacity includes an additional 8 MW - 4 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS), one of the largest in the region. Once online in 2023, **Djermaya will power 60,000 households with clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 38,000 tCO₂ per year.**

Djermaya is the first independent power producer in Chad, as well as the first and largest utility-scale solar PV project in the region to incorporate a utility-scale BESS. Several additional Power Africa partners are key contributors to the Djermaya project:

- Private Infrastructure Development Group (via InfraCo Africa, project sponsor, Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, lender; and PIDG TA, grant provider)
- The European Union (via the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust);
- France (via Proparco, a subsidiary of France's development agency, AFD); and
- UKAid (via Renewable Energy Performance Platform).

Power Africa assistance also secured more than \$2 million in grants from AfDB's Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa, which will fund long-term technical assistance for Chad's national electricity utility to integrate this solar-plus-storage project into the grid.

The success of the project is a testament to political will, resilience, and the ability to convene and sustain numerous stakeholders – including sponsors, government authorities, lenders, and contractors.

We strongly support Power Africa, because without power there can't be progress. Power is crucial, not only for the attainment of health and education outcomes, but also for reducing the cost of doing business and for unlocking economic potential and creating jobs. Our institutions share the same vision regarding power and we are determined to unlock Africa's energy potential so that the people of Africa can unlock theirs.
– Kevin Kanina Kariuki, Vice President (Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth), African Development Bank

POWERING COMMUNITIES IN REMOTE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Communities in the northeast corner of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have struggled with political instability for decades. Just five percent of households here have access to electricity.



Alice Katula lives here. Alice is a business manager at Bboxx, a Power Africa partner company that designs, produces, distributes, and finances innovative solar systems to improve access to electricity.

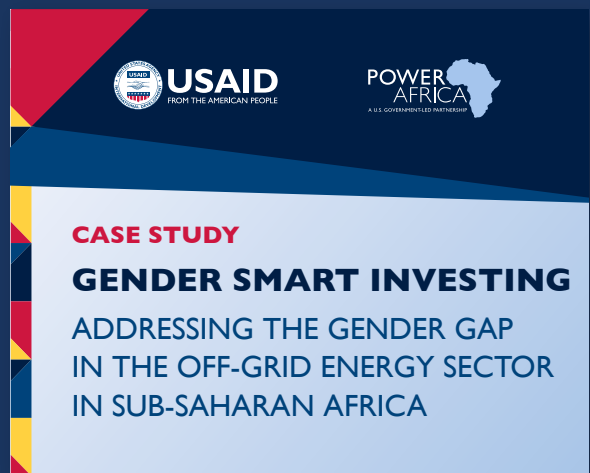
Last year, Power Africa assistance enabled Bboxx to introduce pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) solar energy solutions to Alice's service area – a game changer for people living and working in nearby communities. Prior to Bboxx's arrival, sales of off-grid solar products were almost entirely cash-based, meaning customers with little or no savings were unable to obtain much-needed energy access. The PAYGO model allows customers to purchase off-grid solar kits through monthly installments. Customers can pay via their mobile phones, a safer way to pay for both the customer and the business.

Alice and the Bboxx team offer a range of solar products, from small systems for lighting to larger kits that can power televisions. Through PAYGO plans, nearly 15,000 people now have access to cleaner and more reliable electricity for the first time.

Thanks to the support of Power Africa, we overcame the barrier of potential risks to serve hundreds of families and thousands more to come. – Louis de Muylder, Head of New Products, Bboxx

NEW RESOURCE

Power Africa supports off-grid energy companies like Bboxx to increase sales of solar home systems and life-changing appliances; to meaningfully engage women in staff, sales, and senior roles; and to connect more communities living beyond the grid to reliable electricity.



IMPROVING ELECTRIFICATION PLANNING IN WEST AFRICA

Power Africa is working with utilities and energy ministries in countries across West Africa to build capacity for electrification planning, management, and monitoring. In Senegal, Power Africa is assisting the national utility, SENELEC, to effectively and efficiently reach non-electrified communities by providing the number of households to be connected to the grid, determining potential productive uses of energy, and identifying avenues to lower the upfront cost of connection for those most in need of electricity.



Across the region, Power Africa technical assistance resulted in nearly **420,000** new on-grid connections to homes and businesses.

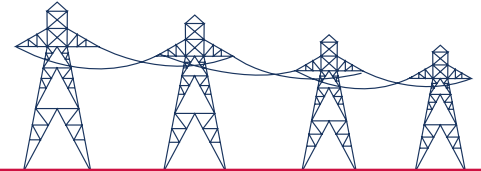
CONNECTING A LIFELINE IN LIBERIA

For more than 50 years, Bong County in central Liberia lacked reliable and affordable power supply. Today, a new electricity distribution line, made possible with technical assistance from Power Africa through USAID, is providing power to light up 2,700 households and several key institutions that anchor the region's economy.

USAID supported the commissioning of the 77-kilometer (km), medium-voltage power line and worked with the Liberia Electricity Cooperation to extend the grid from Ganta in Nimba County to Gbarnga in Bong County.

Already, **the new electricity supply is lighting up schools and health facilities** – including hospitals that previously relied on high-cost, polluting diesel generators – and will enable businesses to take advantage of transformations in digitization and other technical innovations. The power will also provide a lifeline for families to meet their most basic needs, while reducing the relatively large percentage of their income spent on fuel, candles, and other sources of lighting and power.

Power Africa supported Côte d'Ivoire's national utility, CI-Energies, to secure a \$127 million loan from the West African Development Bank to cover the cost of a 70-km transmission line that will connect 645 MW of new power generation to the country's grid.



Understanding
Power Transmission
Financing



NEW RESOURCE

To address the long-standing financing gap for transmission infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa, Power Africa and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program published *Understanding Power Transmission Financing*, the latest handbook in our acclaimed *Understanding series*. This new resource captures the state of African utilities on transmission infrastructure and outlines options for accessing finance, including potential private sector business models.

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: GHANA

Power Africa registered several notable achievements in Ghana this year. Power Africa technical assistance helped Ghana reduce energy sector back payments by **\$4.7 billion** over five years and lowered projected carbon emissions by 10 million cubic tons over ten years (equivalent to burning 11 billion pounds of coal) by switching power plants to cleaner fuel sources and improving operational efficiencies. Additional assistance will enable the Government of Ghana to **electrify 3,000 rural communities** in northern Ghana (225,000 connections) that have never received electricity.

We appreciate the support that USAID has provided and look forward to continuing our strong collaboration to bring Ghana's energy sector into financial balance. – **Professor Kwaku Appiah-Adu, Senior Advisor to the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana**

In collaboration with a private off-grid energy company, Power Africa supported installation of **renewable energy solutions in 23 rural health care facilities** in the Ashanti region, enabling clinics to offer 24-hour maternal and child health care services and to keep vaccines refrigerated, including COVID-19 vaccines.

The U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Power Africa collaborated to support the Bui Power Authority to add **50 MW of solar energy** to a hydroelectric plant in a hybrid arrangement, the first of its type in West Africa.

In 2022, Power Africa will build on these successes by assisting the Bui Power Authority to expand the hybrid solar installation in 50 MW tranches, helping the Government of Ghana continue to extend energy access to the unserved, and working with private renewable energy firms to market products that will improve productive uses of electricity.




SWITCHING ON 'SILENT POWER' FOR CLINICS AND COMMUNITIES



For more than 6,800 people in the mountain village of Manamaneng in rural Lesotho, Meriam Sesiu and a small contingent of nurses at the local clinic are their only source for essential health care. Meriam's passion for delivering quality health care earned her the name "Mamma Thato," meaning "Mother Love."

For years, Meriam's ability to provide consistent quality care was stifled by a lack of clean, reliable energy. Electricity is essential for storing vaccines, treating patients at night, and powering medical equipment, such as ultrasound machines to care for pregnant women who sometimes walk for miles to Meriam's clinic. This clinic is one of more than 60 percent of health facilities in sub-Saharan Africa that do not have access to reliable electricity.

Watch the video



Watch the journey of a containerized off-grid solar system from Cape Town, South Africa, to the mountains of Manamaneng, Lesotho, and see how clean, quiet power is just what the doctor ordered. →

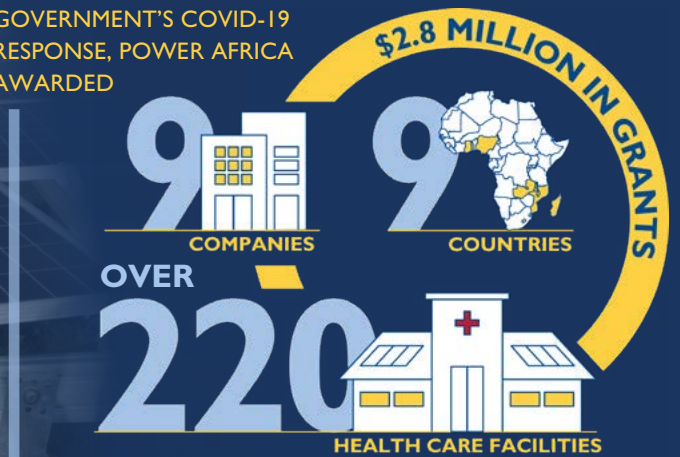
Through a [USAID-funded Power Africa grant](#) and the ingenuity of our grantees, Manamaneng's clinic – and many others like it – now runs on a reliable, cost-effective, and clean source of power, and will continue to do so for years to come.

"My heart is so touched," Meriam said. "Day in, day out, turning the generator on, the diesel level, the sound ... really it was hectic for us. [Silent power is with us now.](#)"



PHOTO: TIA Productions

AS PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 RESPONSE, POWER AFRICA AWARDED



Power Africa selected the U.S. company, **OffGridBox**, to electrify six health facilities in rural Rwanda. Using innovative technology, their all-in-one box solution supplies both clean electricity and clean water to clinics and neighboring communities. In addition, the company employed women to be "box-keepers" or operators of their unique, solar-powered, repurposed shipping containers.

It's really important for us to employ female box-keepers because the primary beneficiaries of our products are women. We find that they are really committed when they get the opportunity and they are really proud to have a job. It's a symbol of status for them and it really empowers them to think to the next level. – Jodie Wu, CEO, OffGridBox



Sarah Nzayituriki is one of six box-keepers employed by OffGridBox through the Power Africa grant
PHOTO: WavemakerCo

BOOSTING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH WITH SOLAR ENERGY

Power Africa's **\$364,000 USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health grant program** is electrifying off-grid and weak-grid maternity wards and health care facilities in Malawi and Uganda. The grantees, Power Control Systems and SustainSolar, are established, Africa-based solar energy companies with experience working in remote areas and deploying innovative off-grid energy technologies. By sustainably electrifying clinics, this grant program aims to support increased access to pre-natal care and immunization, enhanced diagnostic services, expanded hours of service, and improved after-dark emergency care.



Power Africa's maternal and child health grant is dedicated to the memory of USAID Foreign Service Officer Madeline C. Williams.



DE-RISKING FINANCE FOR OFF-GRID SOLUTIONS

In April 2021, Nigeria's vice president, Oluyemi Osinbajo, launched "Solar Power Naija" as a key part of the country's COVID-19 economic response package. The program aims to de-risk commercial bank loans to finance off-grid solar solutions, such as solar home systems and mini-grids, with a goal of providing electricity for 25 million Nigerians and creating 250,000 jobs. **Solar Power Naija** also includes a \$350 million financing facility to provide low-interest loans to businesses operating along the domestic solar industry value chain.

Power Africa assisted Solar Power Naija through financial support from USAID and coordination with Nigeria's Rural Electrification Agency and other stakeholders via collaboration with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. As a result of the initiative, the Niger Delta Power Holding Company partnered with the private company, Asolar Ltd., to roll out **100,000 solar home systems** across the country – a significant step that will serve as a pilot for other electrification partnerships.



PHOTO: Tony Blair Institute for Global Change



PHOTO: Teemore studios

In 2020, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate. Power Africa supported achievement of this goal by providing management, leadership, and professional skills training to talented junior and mid-level women in the energy sector. More than **250 women from 46 renewable energy companies** participated in the program, creating an impressive pipeline of professional women with the skills needed to drive Nigeria's renewable energy sector and meet climate change commitments.

Combined, **Power Africa trained more than 500 aspiring women leaders in Nigeria last year**, representing power utilities, the private sector, and government entities.

II PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MCC

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) partners with developing countries that are committed to good governance, economic freedom, and investing in their citizens. **MCC is investing up to \$1 billion in African power systems** to increase access to electricity, strengthen power utilities and regulators, and create opportunities for private sector participation, which directly supports the goals of Power Africa.

- In the past year, MCC concluded successful partnerships that strengthened the power sector in Liberia and laid a foundation for sustainable energy investment in Sierra Leone.
- In September, MCC launched the \$550 million Senegal Power Compact, bolstered by an additional \$50 million commitment from the Government of Senegal focused on increasing the reliability of electricity to meet growing demand.
- The second MCC compact in Burkina Faso entered into force and will focus on strengthening the electricity sector and national power grid, diversifying electricity supply, and promoting regional integration.*
- MCC is now forging a regional compact centered around construction of a transmission line connecting Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire that will enable additional cross-border power trade and stabilize the interconnected electricity network.

* Activities in Burkina Faso were paused at the time of publication.



POWERING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN REFUGEE HOST COMMUNITIES



The Smart Communities Coalition Innovation Fund (SCCIF) awarded grants to companies that will use renewable energy technologies to increase access to electricity in refugee-hosting areas of Kenya and Uganda. Supported by Power Africa, the awardees will implement activities that **benefit nearly 3,500 displaced and host community households with improved energy and business opportunities**, from solar-powered poultry businesses to e-bikes and solar-powered cargo tricycles.

Implemented by EnDev with Power Africa support, SCCIF is a financing mechanism of the Smart Communities Coalition, a network of more than 60 public and private sector organizations co-chaired by Mastercard and USAID that seeks to improve delivery of essential services to forcibly displaced individuals and host community members through energy, connectivity, and digital tools.



12 INVESTING IN LOCAL INNOVATORS TO 'POWER UP' NIGERIA

More than 100 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria have first-time access to clean, reliable electricity through the intervention of a USADF / All On Nigeria Off-Grid Energy Challenge grant awardee. ICE Commercial Power, a renewable energy company that deploys commercial and residential solar solutions, utilized its \$100,000 award to install distributed solar power systems at 14 shopping centers.

The Nigeria Off-Grid Energy Challenge is implemented by two Power Africa partners, the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and All On, an independent impact investing company in Nigeria seeded with funding from Shell. Additional support for the 2021 Challenge was provided by the Rockefeller Foundation, a Power Africa partner.

The competition awards blended finance packages (half grant capital, half convertible debt) to scale innovative off-grid solutions to power unserved and underserved areas in Nigeria. To date, the Challenge has awarded \$3.7 million to 37 companies.

The ICE Commercial Power project is **benefiting 48 women-led SMEs** by reducing their operating costs and carbon footprint while improving their business productivity. Additionally, this intervention led to jobs and continued training for six young graduates in preparation for careers in the Nigerian off-grid solar industry.

Since last year, the solar power has continued to brighten my shop. My business is booming as more and more people patronize my store due to constant power supply. I have abandoned my fuel-powered generator. – Nkiruka Ekpunobi, Owner, NK Supermarket, Benin City, Nigeria

PHOTO: USADF

HELPING OFF-GRID ENERGY PROVIDERS DELIVER DURING THE PANDEMIC

Power Africa and a host of partners joined together to launch **the Energy Access Relief Fund, a \$90 million initiative to protect energy access for at least 20 million people** in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The fund will provide low-cost loans to viable off-grid energy providers that face liquidity challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Convened by U.S. company and Power Africa partner Acumen, and managed by Social Investment Managers and Advisors, the Energy Access Relief Fund is a collaboration of development institutions, donors, and impact investors including Power Africa partners USAID and DFC representing the U.S. Government; development agencies of the United Kingdom and Sweden; the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation; Rockefeller Foundation; and Shell Foundation. Other key institutions include Green Climate Fund, IKEA Foundation, and development agencies of the Netherlands and Switzerland.

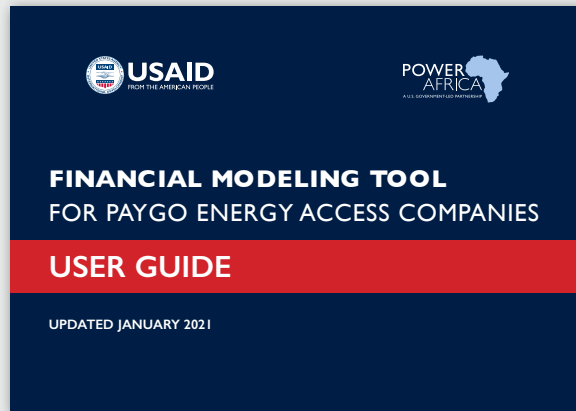
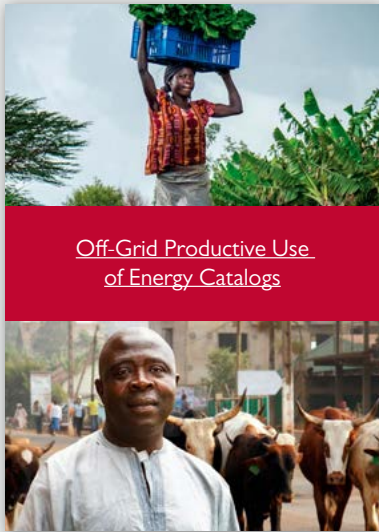
As the only large-scale relief facility that can address the concessional capital needs of off-grid energy companies, which are struggling to maintain liquidity during the economic downturn, the Energy Access Relief Fund will support small and medium businesses that provide essential solutions such as solar home systems, clean cookstoves, and solar-powered irrigation.



PHOTO: DFC

Power Africa is also supporting the AfDB-sponsored \$50 million **COVID-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform**, focused on promoting robust post-crisis recovery.

NEW RESOURCES



NEW PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS



U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY PARTNERS



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



Power Africa is a U.S. Government-led partnership that harnesses the collective resources of over 170 public and private sector partners to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2013, Power Africa-supported projects have added nearly 12,500 megawatts (MW) of cleaner and more reliable electricity and more than 27 million new power connections for homes and businesses. Power Africa's goal is to add at least 30,000 MW and 60 million connections by 2030.

Follow our progress at [usaid.gov/powerafrica](https://www.usaid.gov/powerafrica)

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