



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



POWER AFRICA

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST
2021

Powering Africa's Health Facilities

Power Africa is working with innovative off-grid energy companies to electrify hundreds of health facilities -- enabling safe vaccine storage and better patient care. At one clinic in rural Lesotho, reliable renewable energy is just what the doctor ordered. [Read the full story here →](#)



Click to watch the videos.....

Watch our short film that explores the challenges of running a clinic without electricity and what it takes to bring electricity to remote villages in sub-Saharan Africa. [→](#)



Don't have the time for a 11-min short film? Grab your coffee and watch the highlights in just 3 minutes. [→](#)



PHOTO: TIA Productions



PHOTO: USAID Rwanda/Martin Tindiwensi

LEADING ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACCESS

UN General Assembly (September 14-30)

Power Africa is preparing recommendations for the **High-Level Dialogue on Energy** through our role on the Technical Working Group on Energy Access

COP26 (November 1-12)

Power Africa is supporting the COP26 Energy Transition Council to drive the shift to clean energy, with special emphasis on Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa

Through Power Africa's Health Facility Electrification grant, Power Africa partner, OffGridBox, installed modular solar energy systems to power six off-grid healthcare facilities in rural Rwanda.

[View more images here →](#)



Read more about how Power Africa is lighting up health clinics in **Mozambique** and **Madagascar**



Power Africa, SforALL to accelerate health facility electrification in sub-Saharan Africa

From the Coordinator



You do not need me to tell you that 2021 continues as a challenging year of transition and perseverance. I hope all is well with you and yours.

Global pandemic notwithstanding, this is an incredibly exciting time for Power Africa. The Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to climate action and our partners' commitment to increase access to clean, reliable electricity at scale positions us to vastly improve human potential in sub-Saharan Africa.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power's leadership, along with new leaders across the Power Africa interagency, are setting a clear path toward a just and carbon-free energy future. We are following suit as part of the UN General Assembly's High-level Dialogue on Energy Access, the first on energy since 1981, and as representative on the COP26 Energy Transition Council.

As we continue to electrify health facilities as a life-saving bulwark in this pandemic we are building large-scale coordination and momentum across our partnership, including work with USAID's Bureau of Global Health. If successful, our collaboration will sustainably improve health outcomes across sectors, from treating and preventing HIV/AIDS and malaria to improving lighting in delivery rooms and enabling telemedicine.

To understand the importance of energy access, specifically to health facilities, I encourage you to [watch this video featuring Meriam](#), a midwife of 30 years who until recently worked in a clinic where the only access to power was a dirty and unreliable diesel generator. Through a USAID grant and private sector innovation, Meriam's clinic is now powered by clean solar ... and as the lights turn on in her clinic she poignantly notes that "silent power is here".

We were honored that the Biden-Harris Administration selected Power Africa's climate-positive Mega Solar project as a major deliverable

from the Leaders Summit on Climate. This partnership between Power Africa and the Governments of the Republic of Botswana and Namibia, the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank to support the development of Southern Africa's largest solar-generation project is estimated to result in 2–5 gigawatts of new, clean power.

The mammoth effort is expected to generate thousands of jobs while averting an estimated 6.5 million tons of CO2 equivalent emissions annually, which is like taking almost 1.5 million cars off the road. This project has the potential to unlock economic growth and human development at an unprecedented scale.

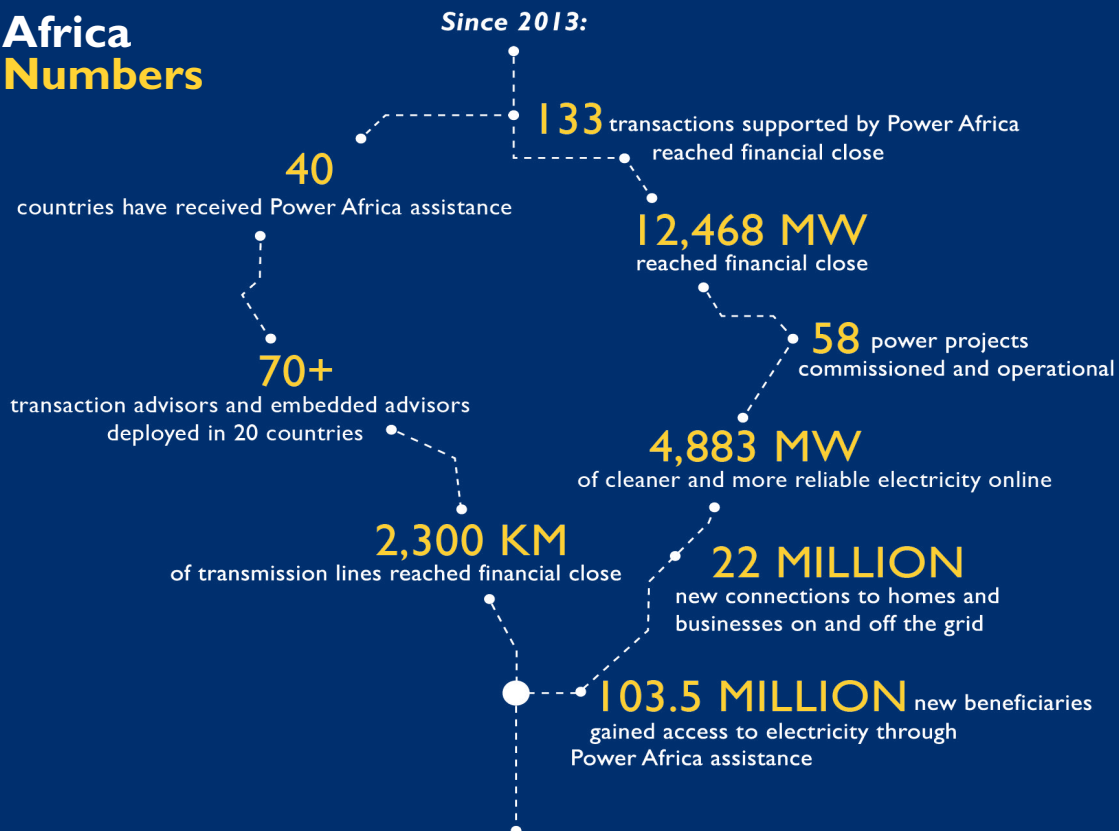
Power Africa Partners Week drew almost 750 registrants representing 48 U.S. companies, 58 international companies, 22 African governments, 29 bilateral and multilateral organizations, 12 U.S. Government Agencies, and 19 African Missions all focused on increasing access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. I had the privilege to speak with partners such as Dr. Rajiv Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Energy and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All, on our shared goals of combating climate change and addressing energy poverty.

I also want to acknowledge the loss of a dear colleague and foundation of the Power Africa Coordinator's Office, Madeline Williams. Madeline was an indomitable force of good in this world. Not only did she make immeasurable contributions to so many areas including energy access and human rights, she did so in a way that brought the power of inclusivity and built up those around her. We will truly miss our friend, colleague, and mentor.



Mark Carrato
Power Africa Coordinator

Power Africa By the Numbers



Lights On!

DID YOU KNOW?

Power Africa is a founding member of the **Global Commission to End Energy Poverty**, coordinated by the Rockefeller Foundation. Together, we're building consensus among leading investors, utilities, and policymakers to accelerate provision of electricity services to hundreds of millions of under-served homes and businesses.

Digital Energy Management and the Leaner, Cleaner Energy Systems of Africa's Future →

PHOTO: SparkMeter

Linking Electricity to Economic Growth and Energy Security: Mozambique's Temane Transmission Project →

PHOTO: Thomas Iwainisky/Adobe Stock

Power Africa Grant Helps Improve Electricity Access for Thousands of Malawians Living Beyond the Grid →

PHOTO: Power Africa

The Kipeto Wind Farm, supported by Power Africa and commissioned into action on July 5, is **Kenya's second-largest wind power project** and will supply clean electricity to power approximately **250,000 Kenyan households.** →

Click to 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. →

PHOTO: Kipeto Energy PLC/Mwangi Kirubi

NEW Tools & Reports

TOOLS



[Financial Modeling Tool for Off-grid Solar Start-ups](#)



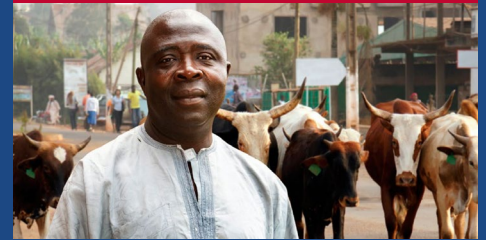
[UPDATED Mozambique Route-to-Market Tool](#)



[Women in African Power's NEW Network Directory](#)



[Off-Grid Productive Use of Energy Catalogs](#)



POWER AFRICA REPORTS

- [Off-grid Solar Market Assessment Report for 14 Underserved Counties of Kenya](#)
- [Assessment of Current and Potential Future Off-Grid Productive Use of Energy Products in Liberia](#)
- [Pro Poor Results-based Financing: Increasing Off-grid Access to Electricity in Rwanda](#)
- [Agricultural Productive Use Stimulation in Nigeria: Value Chain and Mini-Grid Feasibility](#)
- [Unlocking Africa's Mini-Grid Market Study](#)
- [Case Study: Gender Lens Investing](#)

OTHER INTERESTING READS

- [Chilling Prospects: Tracking Sustainable Cooling for All 2021? - SE4ALL](#)
- [Insights from the first Solar E-Waste Challenge - Efficiency for Access](#)
- [A Green Energy Future for Rural Africa - Shell Foundation](#)

Energy Industry News



PHOTO: RMI

Mini-grid business model shows utility & developer can collaborate

ESI AFRICA



PHOTO: Thomas Mukoya / REUTERS

U.S. Push for a Global Clean Energy Transition Can Start in Africa

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

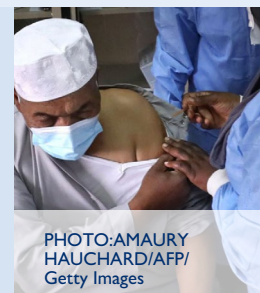


PHOTO: AMAURY HAUCHARD/AFP/ Getty Images

Africa Needs Electricity Now More Than Ever, Especially To Keep COVID-19 Vaccines Cold

FORBES



PHOTO: AMAURY HAUCHARD/AFP/ Getty Image

Energy Access and Health Outcomes

CSIS



PHOTO: Stock

Nigerian solar systems provider commits to recycling batteries

ESI AFRICA



PHOTO: Shutterstock

ESWATINI: Globeleq and Sturdee to build two 30 MWp solar power plants

AFRIK 21

Power of Partnership

Welcome to our new
Private Sector Partners



Partners Week

Watch highlights from Power Africa
Partners Week in just 60 seconds!



In Memory of Madeline Williams



In memory of our colleague and friend, [Madeline Williams](#). Her legacy to raise the voices of those who are too often unheard, continues to inspire all our efforts across Power Africa. →

When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly.
Spaces fill with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.