The Power to Save Lives

The Problem
Each year, over 300,000 women and one million newborns die from pregnancy and childbirth complications. Most of these deaths occur in Africa and Asia.

Obstetric emergencies require prompt, appropriate, reliable care. Unreliable power and communication in health facilities result in:

- Life-threatening delays in care
- Inadequate lighting for obstetric and surgical procedures
- Underutilization of health facilities

The Solution
We Care Solar designs solar-powered systems to meet essential maternity care needs. We Care Solar Suitcases are designed to be safe, robust and efficient in powering:

- Critical obstetric and surgical lighting
- Mobile phones
- Fetal heart rate monitors and essential medical devices

Our portable suitcase-size system is immediately operational. It can be used as a mobile system or mounted permanently for long-term medical care.

We Care Solar Suitcases can make the difference between life and death by:

- Increasing the capacity to care for mothers and newborns
- Increasing the safety of medical and surgical procedures
- Reducing delays in care

Key Impact Data
- 4,100 Solar Suitcases deployed
- 3.9 million mothers and infants served
- 16,000 health workers trained
- 116 million hours of medical light provided
- 44,000 tons of CO2 averted
- 45 partnerships established

2020 Programs
- Liberia
- Sierra Leone
- Uganda
- Ethiopia
- Zimbabwe
- Nepal

Selected Awards
2019
Zayed Sustainability Prize
Time Magazine Best Inventions
Edison Gold Award for Innovation
Ashden Award Finalist

2017
UNFCCC Climate Change Award
Drucker Innovation Prize
Bloomberg New Energy Pioneer
Zayed Future Energy Prize Finalist

2016
National Energy Globe Award, Ethiopia

2015
UN DESA “Powering the Future We Want” Award
UBS Optimus Award

2014
Sustainia Award Finalist

2013
Katerva Gender Equality Award
CNN Top 10 Hero, Dr. Laura Stachel
Our Technology

The Solar Suitcase is a high-quality, portable and easy-to-use solar electric system designed for low-resource medical settings. It comes with solar panels, a long-lasting lithium ferrous phosphate battery, a charge controller, 12V DC and USB outlets, and the hardware needed for installation. The Solar Suitcase features high-efficiency durable LED lighting for medical procedures, rechargeable LED headlamps, cell-phone charging, and a fetal Doppler with rechargeable batteries.

Our Impact

To date, our award-winning Solar Suitcases have brought lighting and essential power to 4,100 health centers in more than 20 countries. We have trained more than 16,000 health workers, ensuring safer deliveries for more than 3.8 million mothers and newborns. Our Solar Suitcases replace candles, kerosene lanterns, and diesel generators, reducing the risk of fire and averting CO2 emissions.

How We Work

Our partnerships with more than 45 leading NGOs and UN Agencies are key to our effectiveness. We collaborate with organizations such as UNICEF, UNFPA, Jhpiego, One Heart Worldwide, and Pathfinder International—organizations that use our Solar Suitcases to augment their existing maternal and child health care programs.

Our training programs, led by our Women Solar Ambassadors, develop local knowledge and capacity in Solar Suitcase installation, maintenance and usage. Classroom trainings are followed by supervised Solar Suitcase installations utilizing a comprehensive multimedia curriculum.

Light Every Birth

We have conducted programs in West Africa, East Africa, Nepal and the Philippines. Our new Light Every Birth initiative is ensuring that all health centers have clean energy for safe childbirth, beginning with Liberia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone. We reached every health center in need in Liberia in 2019.

We Care Solar programs demonstrate the feasibility of providing reliable lighting and electricity to even the most remote health centers in the developing world.