



– Invitation to Apply for a Women's Training Program – Become a Certified Solar Suitcase Installation and Maintenance Technician

Who Can Apply

Women based in Sierra Leone are strongly encouraged to apply. We will accept applications from organizations or groups of individuals.

Location

The training will take place in Freetown but the applicants can reside anywhere within Sierra Leone.

Timeframe

May-June 2021. A two-part training over 3-5 weeks with an approximate weekly commitment time of 20-30 hours. We will be flexible based on the availability of qualified applicants and program needs.



Ideal candidates for this training program will have:

- Technical competence and experience in solar electric (photovoltaic) system installation
- The ability and willingness to train others on use and maintenance of equipment, and interest in building capacity of health workers and government officials
- Access to the resources required to conduct installations, including vehicles and means of communication, such as phones/computers (installation tools are provided)
- Demonstrated ability to effectively work with NGO and government partners
- Excellent teamwork, interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to communicate globally via email and other means (e.g. WhatsApp) with We Care Solar headquarter staff; access to a reliable, strong internet connection
- Passion for our mission and improving the lives of mothers and newborns

Background

[We Care Solar](#) addresses a critical aspect of global maternal and neonatal health care by providing reliable electricity for essential lighting, emergency communication, and medical services. Since our founding in 2010, we have equipped over 6,000 health facilities in more than 50 countries with our compact, rugged [Solar Suitcases](#), enabling health workers to provide critical medical care in well-lit maternal health rooms.

In 2017, We Care Solar launched the Light Every Birth initiative, calling upon governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and solar companies to uplift maternal-newborn care by making a commitment to

ensure that every public health facility has medical lighting and continuous power for safe deliveries. This is the first time that energy access has been prioritized for all health care institutions at the national level. In 2020, Sierra Leone joined the initiative and made a commitment to Light Every Birth.

Since 2012, We Care Solar has worked closely with several partners in Sierra Leone to provide reliable lighting and electricity to support maternal health. To date, a total of 274 Solar Suitcases have been installed in health facilities throughout Sierra Leone. In 2021 we aim to launch Light Every Birth in Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and NGO partners. Our goal is to refurbish or upgrade all of our previously installed systems and install a total of 650 new Solar Suitcases in Sierra Leone by 2022, with the ultimate goal of ensuring reliable lighting and electricity is available for every institutional birth throughout Sierra Leone.

We are pursuing this exciting pilot program to advance women's empowerment with the belief that women have an important role to play in the expanding renewable energy sector and that their participation will have a significant impact across communities.

Training and Career Opportunity

As part of our mission to promote women's empowerment, especially in the fast-growing renewable energy sector, we are seeking a group of female technicians with solar installation experience to participate in a women-focused training program to become a We Care Solar Certified Installation and Maintenance Technician.

Selected organizations/groups will participate in a 3-5 week training that is comprised of two parts. The exact timing and duration will depend on the participants' skill level and availability, with part-time options available.



The first part of the training will take approximately 3 weeks to complete and will consist of an expert-led remote technical training through a combination of independent learning, comprehension assessments, hands-on practice with the Solar Suitcase, remote one-on-one mentoring with U.S.-based solar professionals, remote group sessions, video practice of health worker teaching, and a possible in-person session (following strict guidelines on COVID-19 precautions).

The second part of the training will allow the participants to take what they have learned and apply it during real on-site installations. Over a period of approximately 1-2 weeks, participants will conduct solar system installations at health facilities under the supervision of We Care Solar's Quality Control Supervisor.

Technicians who successfully demonstrate key skills and competencies at the completion of the training program will receive a certification and be offered paid sub-contract work to support the Light Every Birth initiative in Sierra Leone.

Once hired, We Care Solar Certified Solar Suitcase Technicians will undertake the following activities:

- Coordinate with government, partners, and We Care Solar staff.

- Assist with logistics and transportation of Solar Suitcases and equipment.
- Test functionality of Solar Suitcases prior to heading out to the field to install them.
- Verify of information collected on health facilities to ensure suitability for Solar Suitcase installation.
- Meet with District Health Management Teams prior to installations.
- Confirm that facility staff are available on the scheduled day of installation.
- Install Solar Suitcases, panels, and lights in health facilities. Work with health workers on finding optimal location of the solar panel, Solar Suitcase, and lights.
- Teach and verify comprehension of health workers and government technicians on use and maintenance.
- Provide photos and reports to We Care Solar as needed for quality assurance.
- Report any issues with Solar Suitcases electronically using We Care Solar's Incident Report.
- Conduct follow-up visits to health facilities with previously installed Solar Suitcases to perform maintenance, refurbishment, and/or replacement of their Solar Suitcase.
- Collect data electronically (with a cell phone, tablet, or computer) using We Care Solar's Health Facility Assessment, Installation, and Follow Up forms.

Compensation

Participants will receive a competitive stipend for attending the training. Participants who excel at the training and are selected by We Care Solar to become Certified Technicians will have the opportunity to become a We Care Solar contractor hired to conduct Solar Suitcase installations. All installation tools and equipment will be provided. Contractors must have the ability to receive international wires in USD.

How to Apply

Please complete the following application form below and send to fatmata@wecaresolar.org by **5pm GMT on April 18th 2021**. Kindly specify the position applied for in the subject line of the email.



**Light Every Birth (LEB) Sierra Leone:
Application for the All-Female Certified Solar Suitcase Installation & Maintenance Training**

PLEASE NOTE:

- We are only accepting applications from companies or groups of female individuals based in Sierra Leone.
- If you are applying as individuals, your application must include at least three (3) people and you are responsible for arranging all of your own transportation to/from the training site.

Name of Company or Organization	Address in Sierra Leone	Email	Phone Contact	Type of Registration (Profit or Not for Profit)

Provide the following information for all the team members would be involved in installations:

Name	Location	Technical/Education Background	Years of Experience	Languages spoken

1. Please provide a short description of how you intend to complete the above work including who will do the work, what resources you have to conduct the work, and how your background and experience suits you for the work.
2. Describe your experience with solar installations. Please include details on the size of the systems and location type (e.g. school, home, etc.).
3. Describe your experience with trainings/teachings.
4. Describe your experience working with government and/or other partners.
5. How many vehicles do you have available? If none, how do you intend to transport staff and equipment to health facilities?
6. Where would you recommend to store Solar Suitcases safely and securely in a district prior to installation? (The quantity varies could be as few as 5 and as many as 25.)
7. List districts you **are** and **are not** able to work in in Sierra Leone.
8. Please provide three references of previous clients that we may contact (include names, emails, phone numbers, how you know them, how long you've known them).