



WE CARE SOLAR

The Power to Save Lives

Key Impact Data

- 7,163 health facilities equipped with Solar Suitcases
- 10 million mothers and infants served
- 30,606 health workers trained
- 76,000 tons of CO₂ averted
- 83 partnerships established

Light Every Birth Programs

- Liberia
- Sierra Leone
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

Selected Awards

2022

Miller Center Social Impact Excellence Award

2021

*National Energy Globe Award, Zimbabwe
Kirby Impact Prize, Finalist*

2020

*Alliance for Rural Electrification Rodenberry Award Finalist
Million Lives Club*

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*

2016

National Energy Globe Award, Ethiopia

2015

*UN DESA Powering the Future Award
UBS Optimus Award*

2013

*Katerva Gender Equality Award
CNN Top 10 Hero, Dr. Laura Stachel*

The Problem

Each year, almost 300,000 women and one million newborns die from pregnancy and childbirth complications. Most of these deaths occur in Africa and Asia. COVID-19 has exacerbated these problems.

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 compact suitcase-sized system is immediately operational. It was designed to support timely and efficient emergency obstetric care, but can be used in a range of medical and humanitarian settings.

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





Leadership Team:

*Laura Stachel, MD MPH DrPH
Co-Founder and Executive Director*

*Hal Aronson, PhD
Co-Founder and Director of Education*

*Samantha Parsons
Chief Operating Officer*

*Brent Moellenberg
Director of Engineering*

*Amy Donhauser, MA
Director of Global Programs*

*Kim Gordon, MA
Director of Program Operations*

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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 and infrared thermometer with rechargeable batteries.

Our Impact

To date, our award-winning Solar Suitcases have brought lighting and essential power to 7,163 health centers in more than 49 countries. We have trained more than 30,000 health workers, ensuring safer deliveries for more than 10 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 work is only possible through our partnerships. We partner with Governments, UN Agencies, and local and international NGOs in both the health and energy sectors. Our partners co-lead implementation to improve maternal health outcomes through the provision of reliable lighting and electricity.

We build local capacity in Solar Suitcase installation, use, and maintenance with in-depth training for installers and government technicians to create effective, sustainable programs. On-site training of health workers is a necessary component of our program model.

Light Every Birth

We believe that every mother has the right to safe childbirth in a clean, well-lit facility. Our *Light Every Birth* initiative is ensuring that public health centers throughout a nation 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 and expect to reach all health centers in need in Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone by 2023.

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