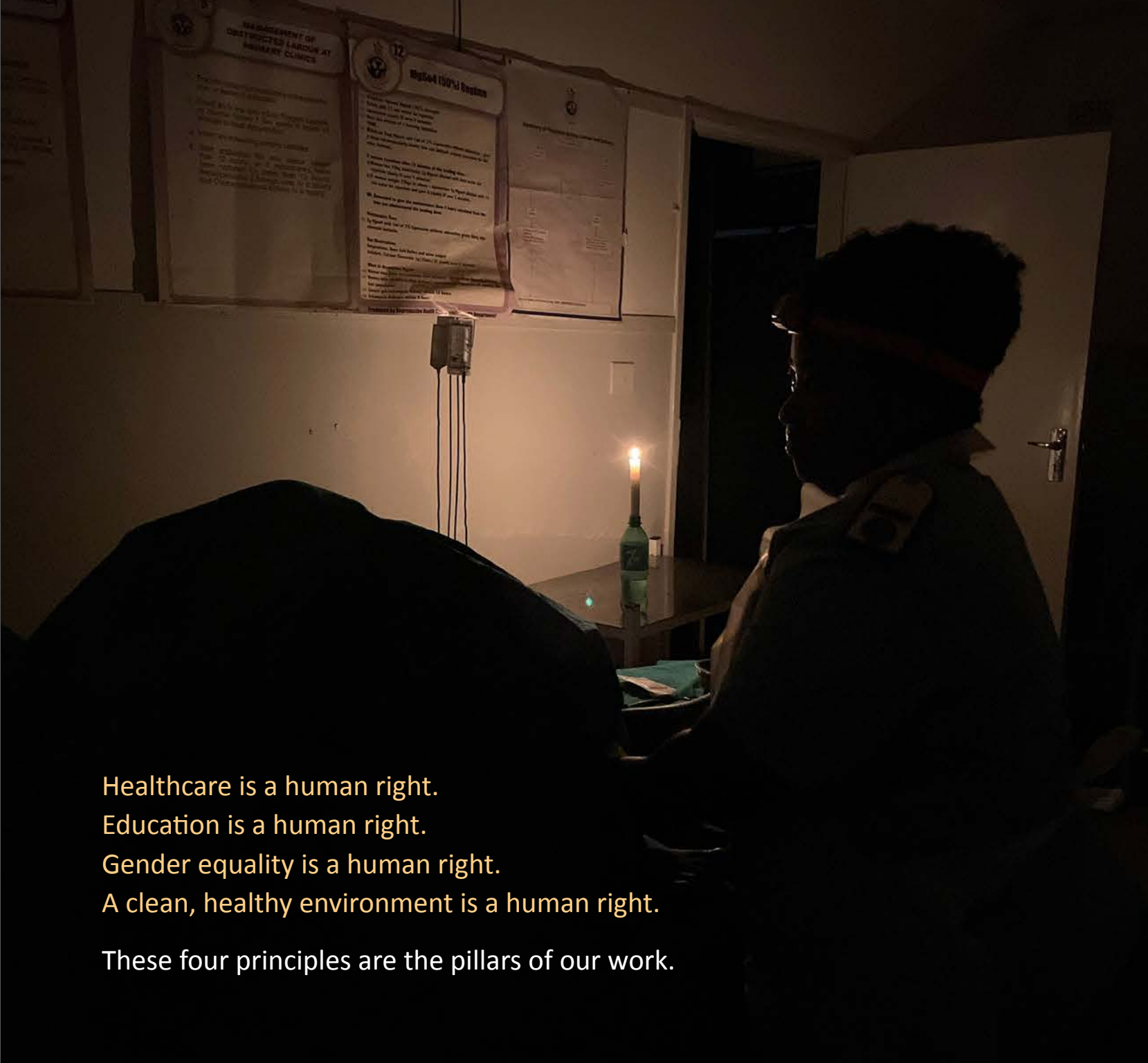




WE CARE SOLAR

Annual Report 2022





Healthcare is a human right.
Education is a human right.
Gender equality is a human right.
A clean, healthy environment is a human right.
These four principles are the pillars of our work.

Dear Friends,

In 2022, as the world reopened and people returned to schools and clinics, We Care Solar doubled down on our efforts to provide safe maternal-newborn care, educate students about solar energy, cultivate women leaders, and promote climate-friendly renewable energy.

Light Every Birth

With your support, our national programs brought light and hope to energy-scarce maternity clinics in Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone. We completed the installation of Solar Suitcases at public health facilities in every district of Zimbabwe, replacing candles with clean solar power.

Women's Empowerment

Our cadre of female technicians in Sierra Leone and Kenya installed hundreds of Solar Suitcases in health facilities and schools, demonstrating that women are the solutionaries as well as the beneficiaries of our programs.

We Share Solar

With schools back in session, our hands-on STEM education program gave youth opportunities to “Learn, Build, and Share,” bringing much-needed light and power to refugee schools in East Africa and remote communities in Samburu County, Kenya.

We expanded partnerships, tested technologies, conducted design research, and began programs in new regions. All of this was made possible with your generous support.

Please enjoy this Annual Report, highlighting our major accomplishments around the world and the people who made them happen.

Thank you for making 2022 such a success!

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

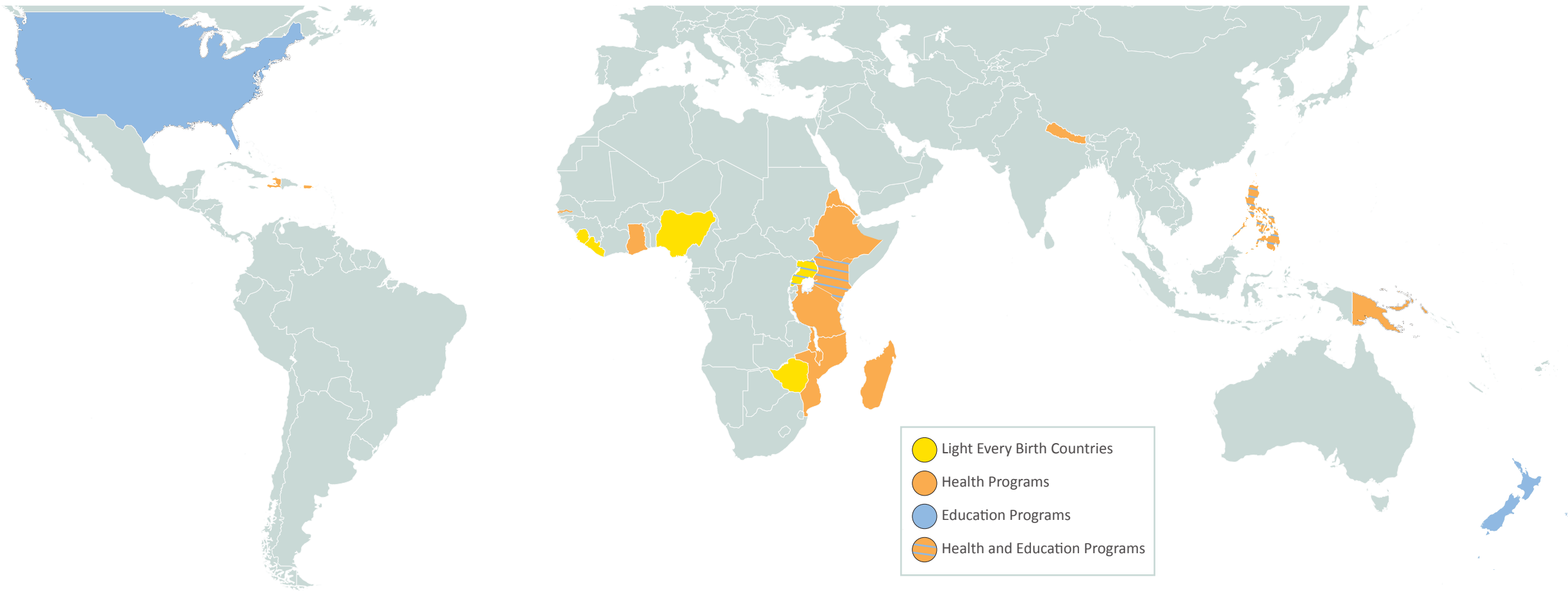
Our reach to date

We Care Solar’s work in healthcare and education extends to dozens of countries, including the ones shown on this map.

Light Every Birth Countries designate national programs designed to equip every eligible public health facility with medical lighting and essential power for safe deliveries. Countrywide initiatives were launched in Liberia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone prior to 2022. This year, Nigeria became our newest Light Every Birth country.

Health Programs refer to regional Solar Suitcase programs in high need areas. This includes our response efforts to regions facing humanitarian crises.

Education Programs describe where we train students to build Solar Suitcases for energy-deficient schools. To date, our U.S. education programs are most active in California, Minnesota, North Carolina and Florida. Our largest international education programs have been in Uganda, Kenya, and the Philippines.



12,860,024 mothers and babies served



49,483 students engaged in solar education



800 technicians, 34,911 health workers, and 552 teachers trained



9,575 Solar Suitcases deployed to health facilities and schools



277,511,406 hours of clean energy for health and education



112,830 tons of CO2 emissions averted

GLOBAL: 30 by 2030

LIGHT EVERY BIRTH

30 million safer births by 2030

In 2015, the United Nations announced its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sharing an ambitious and transformational vision of a world where all life can thrive. The UN called on every country to resolve by 2030 to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

We Care Solar endeavors to help meet UN SDGs, including ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all (Goal 3), inclusive and equitable quality education for all (Goal 4), and access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (Goal 7). To this end, we aim to provide **clean, reliable power to support 30 million safer births by 2030.**

We know that globally, 300,000 mothers and more than 1 million newborns lose their lives from complications of pregnancy and childbirth every year. Through Light Every Birth, We Care Solar and our partners are working country by country to ensure that every maternal public health facility has power and light by 2030.

We made significant progress in 2022. We shipped a record 1,133 Solar Suitcases to four countries, equipping health workers with reliable lighting, mobile communication, and medical devices that empower them to save lives.



"The Solar Suitcase has helped us a lot! The lights allow us to conduct normal deliveries and treat complications that in the past were referred to the district hospital. The number of deliveries each month are increasing. Our patients have confidence that when they come to the clinic, our nursing staff can conduct deliveries without challenges."

— Chipo Kawonera,
Primary Care Nurse at Chikeya Clinic

Photo: Laura Stachel

Full solar coverage in Zimbabwe!

We Care Solar celebrated a major milestone in Zimbabwe during 2022, completing the installation of Solar Suitcases at public health facilities in **every district of the country.**

Our 1,130 Solar Suitcases are bringing life-saving light and power to a country in great need, with a maternal mortality ratio of 458 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Shamiso Moyo, our Senior Country Program Manager, joined us in 2019 to lead the implementation of Light Every Birth Zimbabwe. Shamiso's work, passion and resilience allowed us to stay on schedule, even during the pandemic.

Shamiso tells us, "The impact of Light Every Birth has been immeasurable, improving the working conditions of health workers and midwives. **The program has brought immediate change to the lives of the health workers, pregnant women, and unborn babies.**"

Another person who has been instrumental in the Light Every Birth initiative is Wadson Muchemwa, the CEO of ZimEnergy EcoFoundation and one of our esteemed board members.

Wadson personally introduced Solar Suitcases to Zimbabwe a decade ago with the dream of lighting up obstetric care throughout the country. "I've learned how it feels to work in darkness. I was born where there was no light. The Solar Suitcase brings an automatic change to health facilities. **Some of the babies born in these clinics will be our leaders in the next 18-20 years in Zimbabwe.** When I think about We Care Solar and what I do, I'm so happy."

We are deeply grateful to Shamiso, Wadson, and all the generous supporters who made it possible for every family to access a delivery in a well-lit health center. We are now working closely with the government on a sustainability plan to keep the lights on for years to come.



“Fear would grip us.”

Melody Maremera, like so many health providers in Zimbabwe, used to work in a facility without reliable lighting. **“Fear would grip us,”** she recalled. **“We would fear emergencies that would be waiting at night.”**

Mothers were asked to bring their own candles and torches. “It was difficult because the mothers did not have the finances to purchase these torches and candles, and it was REALLY difficult to conduct a delivery or examine a patient. We had few deliveries, and few people would come to our facilities.”

She remembers the day the Solar Suitcase was installed in 2017 quite vividly. **“Having the Solar Suitcase was quite a relief for us; it was like an angel was coming to save us from darkness.”**

“Deliveries improved from an average of five a month to forty-five,” she continued. “Outpatient visits increased as mothers came to hear their babies with the fetal Doppler. It also boosted our security and the morale of the staff. Our phones can be charged at any time. The clients now feel confident to come at night.”

Melody gave a vivid example of how the Solar Suitcase can be critical for survival. “A 36-year-old mother having her fifth child had a postpartum hemorrhage—excessive bleeding after delivery. Using the Solar Suitcase, we could do a proper examination and managed to find a cervical tear. You cannot examine the cervix without adequate lighting. We could suture the cervix and stop the bleeding. **The Solar Suitcase is a lifesaver.**”



HEALTHCARE LOOKING FORWARD

Nigeria

We Care Solar has expanded our Light Every Birth program to Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, with the goal of illuminating 1,500 primary health facilities by 2025. In 2022, we proudly welcomed Dr. Julie Yemi-Jonathan to our team to lead Light Every Birth in Nigeria. A Nigerian doctor who has been passionate about public health for as long as she can remember, Julie previously worked on programs to prevent HIV and cervical cancer with organizations such as the Hygia Foundation, FHI 360, and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).

Nigeria has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, accounting for 19% of maternal deaths globally. Primary Health Centers (PHCs) provide for the healthcare needs of 70-80% of Nigerians, yet only 20% of the more than 30,000 PHCs are fully functional. Most facilities can only operate safely during daylight hours.

Given the scale and complexity of Nigeria, we are taking a state-level approach to implementing Light Every Birth. By uplifting health care services in five initial target

states, **this program will directly serve four million mothers and newborns** in the first five years and will enhance community health services for a population of 22 million.

Together with local partners, we are ensuring clean solar power is available for safe childbirth in facilities in desperate need of reliable electricity.

Malawi

In 2022, we selected Malawi as our next potential Light Every Birth country because of a high maternal mortality ratio and inadequate access to modern electricity. In Malawi, 349 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth for every 100,000 live births. Power outages and electricity load shedding is a regular part of life. Health workers cope with delivery rooms that are often in near-darkness.

We will be conducting planning meetings with the Malawi Ministry of Health and other partners with the aim of supporting up to 1,000 health centers.





Photo: Laura Stachel

ipsum

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

HEALTHCARE

Keeping the lights on

Program sustainability

Program sustainability has always been a priority for We Care Solar and is an essential component of our Light Every Birth programs. We work closely with governments and partners to co-create and implement sustainability plans tailored to each country.

System upgrades: doubling our long-term impact

To maximize long-term health benefits of our programs, we refurbish early models of Solar Suitcases in need of upgrades. Refurbishment can include adding additional lights, increasing the size of the solar panels, and replacing lead acid batteries with lithium technology. These upgrades can give extra capacity to older Solar Suitcases and increase their lifespan.

Each upgraded system will be able to provide ongoing medical light and power, supporting better health care for thousands of mothers and newborns.

New engineering staff and trainings

In 2022, we welcomed engineer Matt Asher to our team. Matt spent part of his youth learning about solar electricity in Sierra Leone. He was happy to lead an in-depth maintenance and repair training for We Care Solar in his home country. Matt was joined by Morie Kamara, We Care Solar Quality Control Supervisor in Sierra Leone, and Youngor Flomo, a We Care Solar trainer and installer from Liberia who leads Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE).

Matt demonstrated to local technicians how to refurbish early models of Solar Suitcases in health facilities that received our technology more than ten years ago. Training included two days of classroom instruction, five days of hands-on practice in the field, and supervised maintenance visits. The teams collected detailed reports from our installation and maintenance partners and will use this feedback to improve the design of future Solar Suitcases.

Empowering women

Gender equality and climate justice are core to We Care Solar’s mission. We empower women by improving maternal health care and by promoting girls and women as clean energy activists. As a women-led organization, we ensure women and girls have opportunities to excel in STEM learning, workforce development, and solar energy jobs.

Our training programs are designed to overcome common barriers for women entering STEM fields, such as proscribed gender norms, underdeveloped technical skills, and lack of female mentoring.

We address each of these in our program approach. We encourage girls and women to actively participate in STEM learning—leading gender-sensitive educational workshops and promoting solar education in schools for girls. By engaging female trainers, technicians, and solar installers, providing female role models, and pushing societal norms, we encourage more women and girls to consider STEM careers.

One of the first female trainees in Liberia, Youngor Flomo, not only became skilled in solar installation, she started her own organization: Women In Renewable Energy (WiRE). “It is a great opportunity to be a woman solar installer in Liberia. I have shown that solar installation is an opportunity for young women, and I am happy that I can be a role model to many of them. I am glad that I can make such a contribution to the inclusion of women in the industry.”

Photo: Laura Stachel



We Share Solar program overview

Growing our impact at home

The end of pandemic-related school closures and travel restrictions brought significant growth to We Share Solar programs. We welcomed new student cohorts to our existing programs in the United States and introduced our solar education and service-learning program to new school districts in California and Minnesota, training 82 teachers and directly providing 10,849 students with Solar STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education.

Expanding our reach internationally

In 2022, we also renewed our efforts to bring solar power and STEM education to refugee schools in East Africa. In Kenya, we partnered with Women in Sustainable Energy & Entrepreneurship (WISEe) and Resilience Action International to provide STEM training for teachers in the Kakuma Refugee Settlement, with a special emphasis on championing STEM education for girls. Our Uganda partners conducted installations of We Share Solar Suitcases in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, providing clean, renewable light and power for thousands of displaced students.

Our growth in impact reflects our commitment to, and advocacy for, providing solar electricity education and skills to youth around the world.



The power of solar—near and far

Solar STEM education empowers the next generation of scientists and global changemakers to pursue meaningful careers that address environmental challenges and climate change. But well-resourced STEM education is often limited by socioeconomic status in the United States, such as in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) where 72% of the 47,000 students come from low-income families.

A center of solar excellence

In 2022, We Share Solar was proud to add new OUSD schools to our roster of US participating schools. 545 students from five schools engaged in our innovative, hands-on STEM education experience.

High school physics and environmental science teachers and students in OUSD built Solar Suitcases in their classes for international and local deployments, including Solar Suitcases to keep for classroom use and emergency preparedness. To increase the opportunities for meaningful hands-on experiences, teachers have access to a rotating set of Solar Suitcases for use throughout the district. A Solar Suitcase was also installed as part of a solar interpretive display at The Center, OUSD's integrated hub for experiential hands-on learning.

We Share Solar equips students for the future through solar energy education with real world impact. Our projects inspire students because the suitcase is tangible and relevant and can be deployed to solve problems they care about. Thanks to support from Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, and the Clif Family Foundation, students who participate in our STEM programs address energy poverty with meaningful action, cultural connectivity, and humanitarian service.



Bringing power to refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that there are currently over 25 million refugees worldwide—the highest number ever recorded. Refugee camps are often located in remote areas with little or no access to electricity. This can make everyday tasks like charging essential electronic devices, attending school, and receiving health care difficult or even impossible. **Lack of reliable electricity impacts community safety, learning, and quality of life.**

For refugees facing daily uncertainties and challenges, **light is a beacon of hope.**

In 2022, We Share Solar expanded our partnership with the refugee organization Alight to improve community lighting in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Uganda. The 38 We Share Solar Suitcases installed in Rwamwanja bring the protection of community lighting, an improved learning environment, student enrichment through solar education, and opportunities for community members to charge key devices.

Representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and head teachers from the schools expressed special appreciation for the installations as the schools prepared to conduct national exams, noting the historically poor performance of Rwamwanja students due to lack of power. Early results show student scores are improving, especially for those without access to light at home.

Photo: Giovanni Okot



“We used to walk about seven kilometers to the neighboring schools to go and look for a charging system. From right now, I think things will be easier for us. We are going to be conducting our digital classes efficiently now.”

—David Kirui, Teacher at Lepaute Primary School



Location: Lake Magadi, Kenya
Photo: Brian Emmanuel Inganga

Lighting up schools in Samburu Wildlife Conservation Community

Home to several of Kenya’s large wildlife reserves, Samburu County is a world away from population centers like Nairobi. This is the land of species like reticulated giraffes and the rare Grévy's zebra. Access to electricity is limited or non-existent in this sparsely-populated region, particularly in schools, hampering student learning and study time.

Persevering through severe rain and washed out roads, We Share Solar and the all-female installation team, Women in Sustainable Energy and Entrepreneurship (WISEe), brought much-needed light and power to this remote county. The shipment of ten Solar Suitcases, built by students at Hopkins West Junior High School in Minnetonka, Minnesota as part of We Share Solar’s education program, now light up classrooms for hundreds of students.

In addition to lighting up classrooms, one Solar Suitcase was deployed at a lion conservation reserve. The light means added safety for those working with endangered animals.

"We Share Solar is a wonderful way to both increase awareness of the global energy crisis as well as promote clean energy enthusiasm and initiatives for the rising generation."

—High School Science Teacher, Minneapolis

"Building the Solar Suitcase after learning about global energy access allowed me to make an impact in the world."

—High School Student, Charlotte, North Carolina

Flip a switch and change the world

Advocacy through education is a core goal of our We Share Solar programs. Through our district-wide Power2Share programs in the United States, students, teachers, and community members learn that solar power can play an important role in alleviating climate change and addressing shortfalls in global energy access.

We Share Solar increased outreach and improved the user experience of our Power2Share Thinkific online learning platform in 2022. Through Power2Share, individuals and small teams receive a meaningful educational experience with real-world impact, helping low-resource communities build a better future with the flip of a switch.

Online curriculum covers solar power, its applicability in energy-poor areas, and basic electricity and engineering concepts. Assembled Solar Suitcases are returned to We Share Solar and deployed internationally to provide essential electricity for schools or youth centers in energy-scarce areas.

PARTNERS

We Care Solar Partners

All in Trade Ltd. (Uganda)
AVSI Foundation (Uganda)
Babies and Mothers Alive Foundation (Uganda)
CARE (Sierra Leone)
Clinton Health Access Initiative (Uganda)
Doctors with Africa CUAMM
(Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethiopia)
Ekide Investments Ltd. (Uganda)
Engineering World (Zimbabwe)
Feni Certified Installation Team (Uganda)
GOAL (Sierra Leone)
Healthy Child Uganda (Uganda)
Ignite Solar (Sierra Leone)
International Rescue Committee (Sierra Leone)
IntraHealth International (Uganda)
Little Sun Foundation (Ethiopia)
PWRDF/EHALE (Mozambique)
Save the Children (Sierra Leone)
Smart Energy (Liberia)
UN Women (Liberia)
UNFPA (Sierra Leone)
Women in Renewable Energy (Liberia)
ZimEnergy Eco-Foundation (Zimbabwe)

Government Partners

Ministry of Energy, Sierra Leone
Ministry of Health and Child Care, Republic of Zimbabwe
Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
Republic of Liberia
Ministry of Health, Republic of Uganda

We Share Solar Partners

United States

California Science Project
California State University
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Creation Technologies
KQED Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
Minneapolis Public Schools
Navajo Nation
Oakland Unified School District
Remote Energy
Repowering Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Trees, Water & People
Winneman Wintu Tribe

Global

254 Solar (Kenya)
ALIGHT International (Uganda)
Brick by Brick (Uganda)
Kabale University (Uganda)
Kakenya School for Excellence (Kenya)
Kia Kotahi Ako Trust (New Zealand)
LOOMA Education (Nepal)
Resilience Action International (Kenya)
Women in Sustainable Energy and Entrepreneurship (Kenya)
WISER International (Kenya)



Photo: Liz Hale

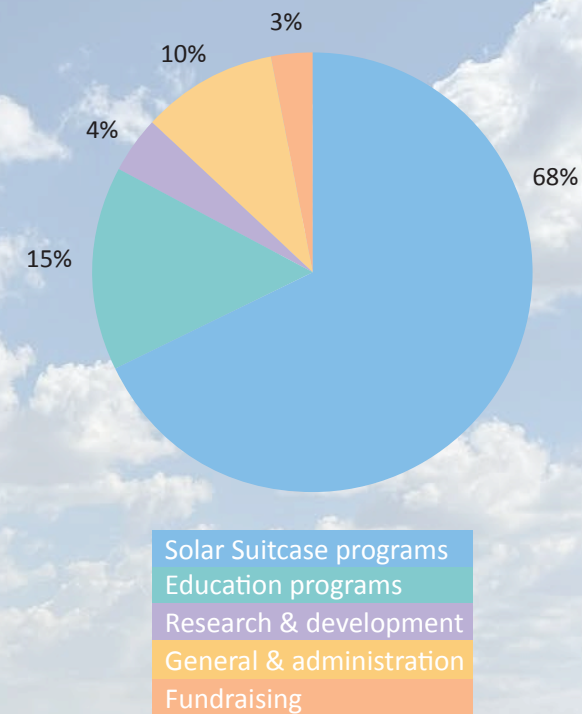
FINANCIALS

Statement of activities for the year ended December 31, 2022 *

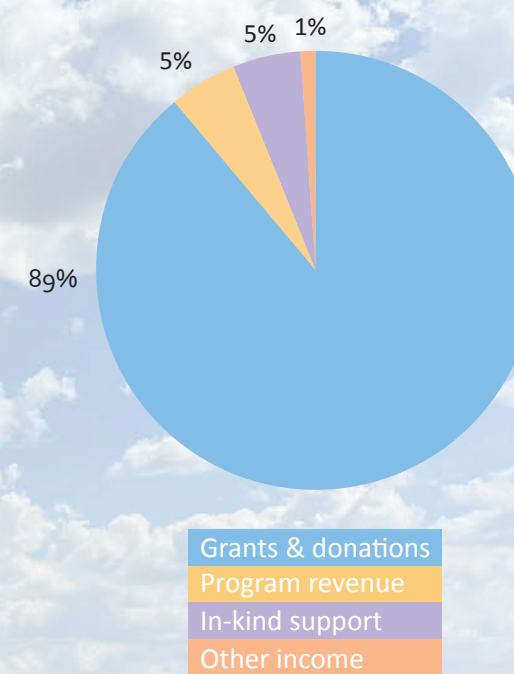
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2022 Total	2021 Total
REVENUE				
Grants and donations	\$312,875	\$3,571,218	\$3,884,093	\$5,290,028
Program revenue	231,153	—	231,153	534,242
In-kind support	214,811	—	214,811	63,875
Other income	21,643	—	21,643	33,510
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	5,314,649	(5,314,649)		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,095,131	(\$1,743,431)	\$4,351,700	\$5,921,655
EXPENSES				
Program services	4,925,166	—	4,925,166	4,464,510
General & administration	575,852	—	575,852	478,912
Fundraising	142,931	—	142,931	132,277
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,643,949	—	\$5,643,949	\$5,075,699
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	451,182	(1,743,431)	(1,292,249)	845,956
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,960,798	8,079,352	10,040,150	9,194,194
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$2,411,980	\$6,335,921	\$8,747,901	\$10,040,150

*Revenue includes multi-year grants

Functional expenses



Revenue by category



RECOGNITION

We Care Solar received recognition and/or awards from the following organizations in 2022.



2022 Energy Globe National Award,
Sierra Leone



2022 MIT Solver,
Equitable Health Systems



2022 Social Impact
Excellence Award



brought to you by GBCHealth

Finalist, Future United Global Health Award

IN MEMORIAM

Jacinta Bouwkamp

We Care Solar lost a very special member of our We Care family, Jacinta Bouwkamp, in 2022. Despite fighting extremely hard against a very difficult disease, she lived her last year still bringing joy to everyone she knew.

For those who did not know her well, she was our beloved Office Manager for seven years. The title is an understatement of the talent and heart she brought to the position. Jacinta cared for our organization and our extended network and made sure things never fell through the cracks.

She gave to others tirelessly, both in her work and in her life. She was there for each of us in a million different ways—from the very small things to the very big. We know she touched the lives of our partners and friends as much as she touched our own.

Jacinta loved with abundance. She was an incredibly creative individual that found joy in sharing her many talents with others. She sang, she played



instruments, she built things, she sewed, she bartended, she engineered, she painted, she danced, she photographed, she cooked exquisitely, and she listened with tenacity. Jacinta was one of the kindest and most generous and giving souls that we ever encountered.

Jacinta would want us to dance like no one is watching, love fiercely, and live each and every day to its absolute fullest. She left an amazing legacy and we are so thankful for what she taught each of us.



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Susan Igladoff
Gail Kendall
Ameeta Martin

We are grateful for the generous support every one of our donors at all giving levels. You help us keep the lights on around the world!

THANK YOU



Photo: Liz Hale

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Every day, We Care Solar and our partners work to improve the lives of women, infants, and children with clean solar power. Our mission has an immediate, life-transforming impact, that is only accomplished **thanks to your kindness.**

Donations gratefully accepted online at: www.wecaresolar.org/donate

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