



# WE CARE SOLAR

*The Power to Save Lives*

## Key Impact Data

- 9,271 health facilities equipped with Solar Suitcases
- 16.9million mothers and infants served
- 39,038 health workers trained
- 119,522 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> averted
- 89 partnerships established

## Light Every Birth Programs

- Liberia
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

## Selected Awards

**2023**  
AARP Purpose Prize

**2022**  
Energy Globe Award, Sierra Leone

**2021**  
Energy Globe Award, Zimbabwe

**2020**  
Alliance for Rural Electrification  
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

**2013**  
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.

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*

*Samantha Parsons  
Managing Director*

*Brent Moellenberg  
Director of Engineering*

*Amy Donhauser, MA  
Director of Global Programs*

*Kim Gordon, MA  
Director of Program Operations*

*Ambrose Katungi Muhwezi, MD  
Africa Regional Director*

*Sarah Judd  
Director of Development*

### Board Members:

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*If you would like to support our efforts, please visit our website at [www.wecaresolar.org/donate/](http://www.wecaresolar.org/donate/)*

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*We Care Solar is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, EIN 30-0627106*



## 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, cellphone 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 9,271 health centers in 49 countries. We have trained more than 39,000 health workers, ensuring safer deliveries for more than 15.6 million mothers and newborns. Our Solar Suitcases replace candles, kerosene lanterns, and diesel generators, reducing the risk of fire and averting CO<sub>2</sub> 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 facilities throughout a nation have clean energy for safe childbirth, beginning with Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. We reached every health facility in need in Liberia in 2019, Zimbabwe in 2022 and expect to reach all health facilities in need in Uganda and Sierra Leone in 2024.

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