



WE CARE SOLAR

Annual Report 2024

Dear Friends,

At the heart of We Care Solar’s mission is a simple, powerful belief: light changes lives. Clean, reliable energy transforms underserved communities—strengthening healthcare, enhancing education, and building resilience in times of crisis. Every Solar Suitcase we deploy delivers more than electricity—it brings hope and opportunity to communities struggling with energy scarcity. This year’s Annual Report highlights how our solar solutions are powering possibilities across the globe.

Powering Possibility in Healthcare

In 2024, we expanded our *Light Every Birth* initiative in Malawi, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. In Malawi, dozens of maternity wards now benefit from solar power, supporting safer deliveries for thousands of women and infants. In Nigeria, hundreds of maternal health facilities received Solar Suitcases to counter the country’s high maternal-infant mortality rates. In Sierra Leone, we reached our national goal—installing over 1,200 Solar Suitcases in labor and delivery wards, vastly improving safe childbirth. We also strengthened our focus on sustainability in Uganda by launching maintenance and servicing programs to ensure long-term impact.

Powering Possibility in Education

Our education program, We Share Solar, continued to grow in 2024. Students in Illinois, Minnesota and New Jersey participated in hands-on learning while gaining awareness of global energy issues. In South Sudan, a new initiative equipped young adults with practical solar skills, empowering them with career pathways and technical knowledge. And we piloted an innovative Solar Suitcase Learning Kit to enhance STEM education.

From lighting health centers to sparking student curiosity, our work is rooted in the belief that sustainable energy can create lasting change.

We invite you to explore our 2024 Annual Report and witness how together, we are powering healthier families, inspired youth, and more resilient communities—one Solar Suitcase at a time.



Laura Stachel, MD MPH DrPH

Photo: Laura Stachel

Healthcare is a human right.

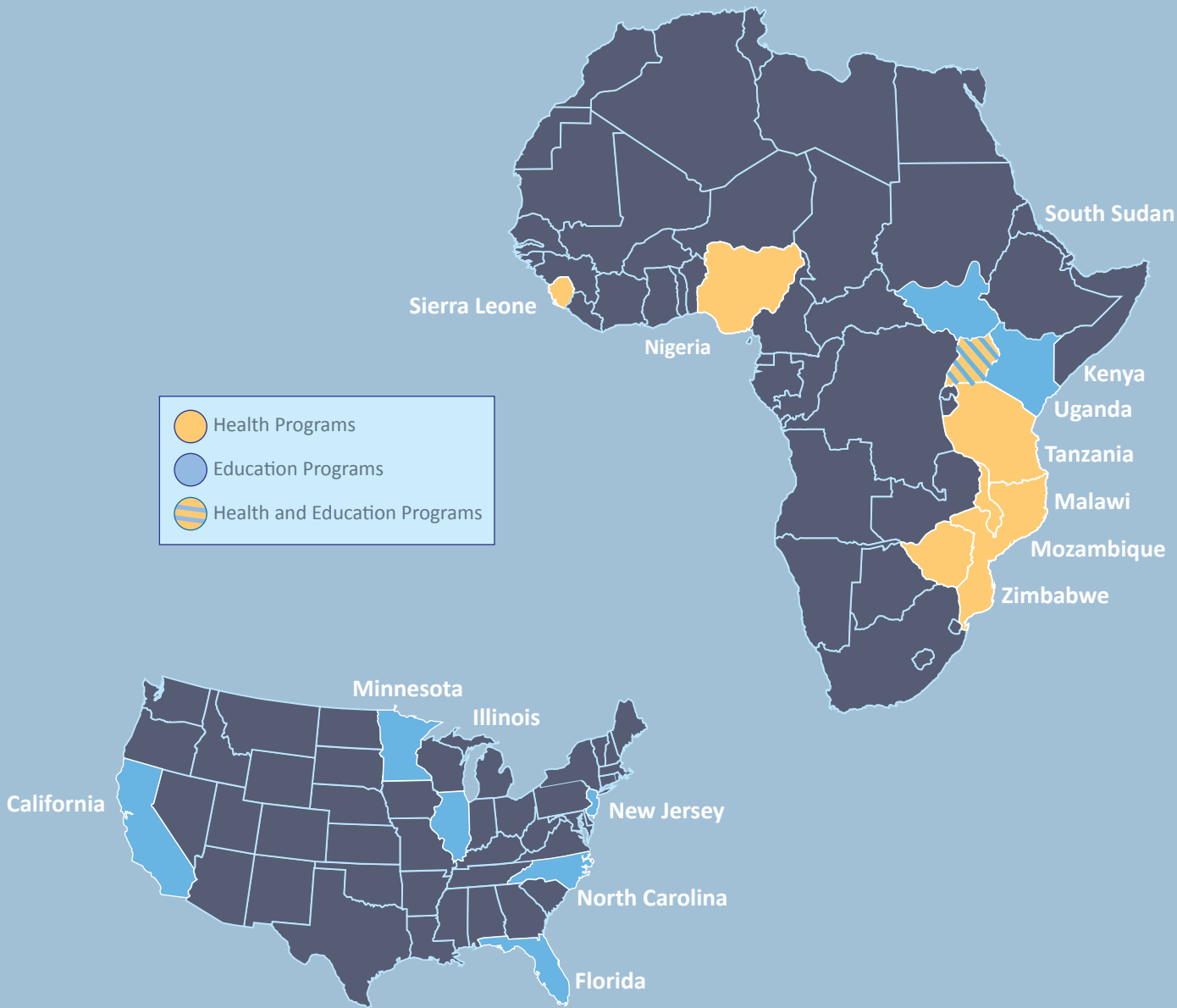
Education is a human right.

Gender equality is a human right.

A clean, healthy environment is a human right.

These four principles are the pillars of our work.

WHERE WE WORKED IN 2024



OUR IMPACT TO DATE

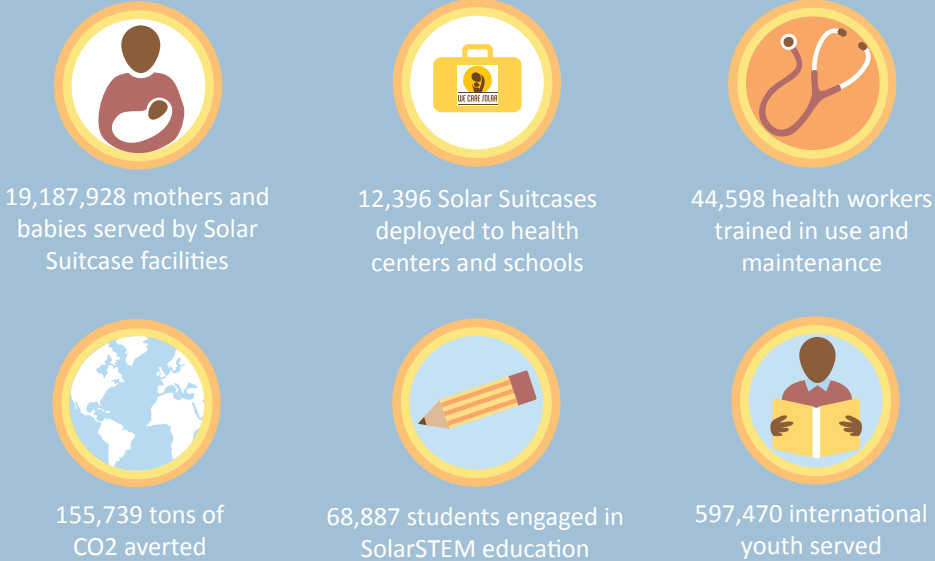


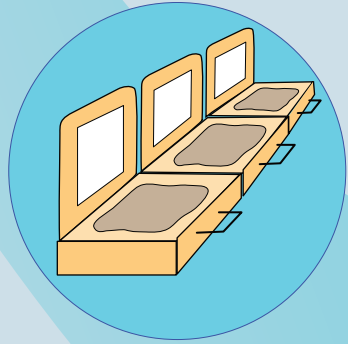
Photo: Amy Livingston

THE JOURNEY OF A SOLAR SUITCASE



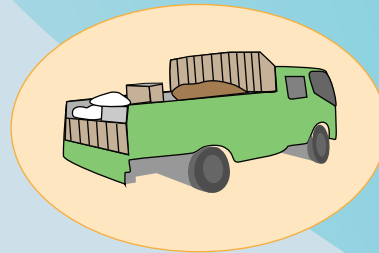
Engineering

Guided by user-centered design research, our engineers develop rugged Solar Suitcases, prioritizing reliability, durability and ease of use.



Manufacturing

Solar Suitcases are manufactured with precision and care in the United States.



Shipping and Transport

Solar Suitcases are carefully packaged on pallets and shipped by air or sea to Africa, then transported by truck to their final destination.

The Solar Suitcase is a lifeline designed to deliver reliable light and power to frontline health facilities and classrooms worldwide.

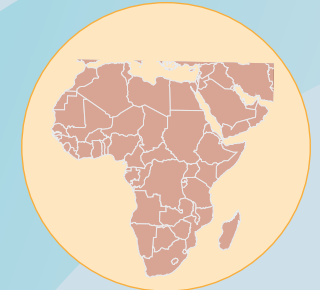


Installation and Impact

Solar Suitcases are installed in health facilities and schools. Health workers gain access to reliable light and power, enabling mothers and newborns to deliver safely. Educators use lights and power to enhance student learning.

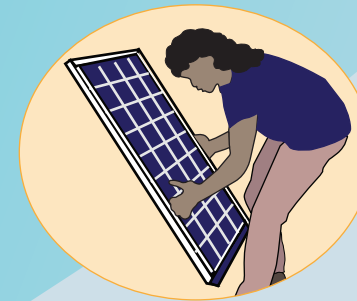
Partnerships

We collaborate with government ministries and implementing partners to align with national priorities and set shared goals.



Country Selection

We assess local needs and government priorities to select countries where our programs will have the greatest impact.



Training

We Care Solar leads gender-inclusive technical training programs to build local capacity in Solar Suitcase installation, operation, and maintenance.



Monitoring and Evaluation:

We conduct site visits, collect user feedback, and assess system performance to measure long-term effectiveness. This continuous improvement loop ensures that Solar Suitcases remain functional, impactful, and sustainable for years to come.

Light Every Birth

We Care Solar's *Light Every Birth* initiative lies at the core of our mission: ensuring women deliver safely in well-lit public health facilities.

In communities around the world, the absence of light during childbirth can mean the difference between life and death. We are changing that grim reality by equipping public health centers with medical lighting, medical devices, and essential power. From brightly lit delivery rooms where mothers can see their newborns for the first time, to operating rooms prepared for emergencies, *Light Every Birth* turns light into a force for survival, dignity, and hope. *Light Every Birth* is also about the power of partnerships, the strength of communities, and the possibilities we create together. We work hand-in-hand with governments, health ministries, and local organizations to ensure our impact is both sustainable and far-reaching. We create gender-inclusive training programs to support women as solar installers, opening new doors to employment in the renewable energy sector.

To date, we've created national programs with lasting impact in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. More recently, we expanded *Light Every Birth* to Nigeria and Malawi, and soon, we will launch in Tanzania. Together with our global network of partners and communities, we are not just lighting up health facilities—we are powering possibilities for healthy and sustainable futures.

Photo: Laura Stachel



HEALTHCARE MALAWI

In August 2024, We Care Solar and the Ministry of Health in Malawi celebrated the national launch of *Light Every Birth*, a program to bring clean energy to every qualifying public health facility in Malawi. The initiative aims to equip up to 800 remote health centers with Solar Suitcases, enhancing maternal and newborn care for an estimated two million people over five years—while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

The festive launch event brought together government officials, council members, local leaders, and community members, who honored the importance of Solar Suitcases for safe motherhood through song, poetry, dance, and dramatizations. The guest of honor, Deputy Minister of Health Halima Alima Daudi, delivered the keynote address. *"We cannot talk of quality maternal and newborn care without good infrastructure, including electricity. Malawi is proud to join other countries benefiting from We Care Solar Suitcases. What a great milestone!"*

Mothers shared how the lack of reliable light affected past childbirth experience. Lucy Lufeyo recalled delivering in darkness. *"I couldn't see my baby until morning. We had to bring candles, which were costly and sometimes unavailable at night. How can midwives perform well in darkness?"* Rosita Alick described the dangers of such conditions. *"Wax spilled on my thighs as I gave birth."*

Midwives also reflected on the impact of the Solar Suitcase. At Area 18 Health Center, midwife Francis Kachipira described his dread of working without light. *"I am filled with fear. What is going to happen to the woman? What if this woman dies, what will happen to my life?"* With the Solar Suitcase, his outlook has changed. *"The problem with light has become now a thing of the past. We come to work knowing that we have no problem with power anymore. We feel good and know we can do our work without any troubles concerning light."*



Photos: Asodzi Photography

HEALTHCARE NIGERIA

Nigeria, home to over 230 million, faces one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world. Although Primary Health Centers serve 70–80% of Nigerians, only 20% are fully functional.

In 2024, We Care Solar strengthened maternal and newborn services in rural health facilities in two northern states, where health indicators fall below national averages. As Solar Suitcase installations in Kebbi State neared completion, we expanded *Light Every Birth* to Bauchi State in partnership with the Bauchi Primary Health Care Board. Plans are underway to extend this life-saving intervention to other vulnerable regions in Northern Nigeria.

At Pegin Doka Primary Health Center in Bauchi, two midwives gathered eagerly around a small device they had never seen before. Mohammed Hajara Adamu, a We Care Solar installer, had just introduced the fetal Doppler—a technology that allows providers to hear the baby’s heart rate before birth.

“They were so interested in hearing the heartbeat,” Hajara recalled. “They called a pregnant woman from home because they wanted to try it right away.” With the Doppler, clinicians can assess the wellbeing of the baby during labor—and take action if distress is detected.

Before the arrival of the Solar Suitcase, nighttime deliveries were often conducted in darkness. One midwife described arriving without a functioning flashlight, unable to afford new batteries or charge her phone. The risk was high—and care was compromised.

With bright solar lighting headlamps and essential medical tools, midwives can work safely and confidently at any hour. More women are choosing to give birth at the facility, drawn by the promise of improved care.

“That is their joy, that is their happiness,” said Hajara. “The midwives can see clearly, deliver safely, and use tools like the Doppler to care for mothers in ways they never could before.”



Photo: Mark Faeren Hirekaan



Lorem ipsum

Photo: Tolu Jethro Bade

SIERRA LEONE HEALTHCARE

In 2024, We Care Solar reached an important milestone in our *Light Every Birth* initiative—equipping every qualifying health facility in Sierra Leone with a Solar Suitcase! Through close collaboration with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation, local implementing partners, and dedicated health workers, We Care Solar successfully installed 1,283 Solar Suitcases. As a result, over 421,344 mothers and newborns now benefit from safe, well-lit deliveries each year.

Health workers report significant improvements in care. Joe Mende, a Community Health Officer at Tungie Community Health Center (CHC) in Kenema, oversees prenatal, delivery and postpartum care. He reports that having a Solar Suitcase reduced hospital referrals, saved costs, and increased community trust of the facility.

“We are far from the big city. We are in a remote community, 1-2 kilometers from the hospital. The village has no

electricity. We really suffered. We were straining for light. It was very strenuous doing deliveries because there was no light in the labor and postnatal ward. We used rechargeable solar lights, but these handheld lights were not bright enough for the quality of care.”

With the Solar Suitcase, Joe and his colleagues report feeling more confident in examining patients, diagnosing complications, and conducting procedures.

In addition to the lights, midwife assistant Neimatu Aleinu at Baojibu CHC is enthusiastic about using the fetal Doppler to assess fetal well being and the LED headlamps for suturing. She proudly introduces the Solar Suitcase to expectant mothers.

“When mothers come for prenatal care, we show them the Solar Suitcase. They are so excited to see that there is light in the facility through the night. We make sure that all of the patients know that we have light from the Solar Suitcase.”

Strengthening sustainability

As part of our comprehensive sustainability strategy, We Care Solar successfully completed the Solar Suitcase Maintenance Hub Pilot Project in Uganda. We established a centralized maintenance hub in Kampala and provided advanced training to certified technicians in servicing and repair. These highly skilled technicians provide timely, effective support to government technicians across Uganda who monitor Solar Suitcase performance and report technical issues. This program is integral to our mission to “keep the lights on,” extending the lifespan of Solar Suitcases and ensuring mothers continue to give birth more safely.

This successful pilot has laid the foundation for a scalable, sustainable model. By integrating technical expertise, robust data collection, and continuous process evaluation, we aim to ensure that Solar Suitcases consistently deliver life-saving energy solutions in challenging environments for years to come. In addition to strengthening Uganda’s Solar Suitcase program, this project also serves as a blueprint for sustainability and growth across other *Light Every Birth* countries.

In the coming years, We Care Solar will expand this approach by launching additional Maintenance Hubs in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe, as well as in our newest program countries, Malawi and Tanzania. Through these efforts, we will empower government technicians, solar installers, and healthcare providers to maintain Solar Suitcases effectively, securing the long-term impact of our work.

Photo: Liz Hale



GLOBAL WOMEN IN SOLAR



Photo: Mark Faeren Hirekaan

Across Nigeria, South Sudan, and beyond, We Care Solar is helping to shift gender norms in STEM. In Bauchi, Nigeria, engineer and lecturer Gloria Jola Ngozi leads an all-female solar installation team, challenging long-held assumptions about women's roles in technical fields.

"We Care Solar has brought joy and laughter to the community. Seeing us work like men,

with so much confidence, has begun to dismantle the idea that the solar workforce is a male domain."

Gloria, pictured above on the right, shared how community members react when they encounter an all-female installation team. *"When they see the light on, they forget we are women. It has not only changed their perspective, it changed their mindset."*

In South Sudan, Anne Mwangi and Ruth Nzioka, solar installers from Women in Sustainable Energy and Entrepreneurship (WISEe), partnered with us to lead solar trainings, fostering gender-inclusive learning environments.

Anne, pictured on the left, recalls disrupting gendered dynamics in solar trainings held by our education program: *"The boys would connect wires, and the girls would read*

manuals. We had to intervene to make sure everyone got hands-on experience." That shift built confidence. *"By the time we energized the system, they were transformed,"* she shared.

For Ruth, pictured on the right, solar power is personal. *"Growing up off-grid, light gave me time to study—and hope. Today, I'm proud to help other girls feel that same empowerment."*



Photo: Phionah Abaho

Powering possibilities for students

At We Care Solar, we are committed to inspiring a generation of Solar Solutionaries™. Our We Share Solar program provides transformative STEM learning experiences, combining hands-on solar power engineering with humanitarian service. Through building and sharing our 12-volt DC stand-alone solar electric system—the We Share Solar Suitcase—students connect classroom learning to real-world impact.

We Share Solar trains middle school, high school, and college-level educators in the principles of solar electricity. We provide an adaptable, student-centered curriculum and support teachers in implementing our “Learn, Build, Share” education model. Student projects foster critical thinking about global energy disparities and inspire innovative solutions to climate change. Students build Solar Suitcases that are deployed to rural schools, community centers, and refugee settlements in energy-scarce regions, providing essential lighting and small device charging. Students are empowered with a sense of agency, knowing their work addresses real-world challenges.

In 2024, We Share Solar expanded its reach. In addition to education programs in Minnesota, we launched new teacher trainings in Illinois and New Jersey. We continued leading youth solar STEM workshops in Kenya and created a unique solar energy education program in South Sudan. Our newest innovation is a Solar Suitcase Learning Kit, optimized for in-depth classroom learning.

Since 2013, We Share Solar has trained over 68,900 students, assembled 3,376 Solar Suitcases, and supported 1,313 international deployments—impacting more than 597,470 youth worldwide.



Photo: Brian Inganga

Empowering youth through solar in South Sudan

In South Sudan, where only 8.4% of the population has access to electricity, We Share Solar partnered with Women in Sustainable Energy and Entrepreneurship (WISEe) and the Education Development Center (EDC) to deliver vital solar training to South Sudanese youth. In addition to addressing energy scarcity, this initiative aimed to build technical skills and confidence among students, teachers and administrators.

Many participants initially felt intimidated by the solar technology, unsure of their abilities. However, hands-on learning and supportive instruction helped them overcome their fears and develop a sense of empowerment.

One standout participant, 25-year-old mother Ruth Nunu Alfred, started the program with hesitation. *“When I first began the installation of the Solar Suitcase, I was the most scared person,”* she admitted. But as her skills developed, so did her confidence. By the end of the training, Ruth was climbing rooftops to install solar panels and tackling technical challenges with determination. Ruth’s new skills had a profound impact beyond the classroom. When her own solar system at home malfunctioned, Ruth diagnosed and fixed the problem herself. *“It was exciting. I saved money I would have given a technician. It felt empowering to know I could take care of it myself.”*

By the end of the year, the program had reached 162 youth, who assembled and installed a total of 40 Solar Suitcases in community spaces across Juba, including schools and meeting halls. By providing hours of reliable lighting and charging, the suitcases turned these spaces into vibrant hubs for education, community gatherings, and growth.



Photo: Phionah Abaho

WE SHARE SOLAR UNITED STATES

In 2024, We Share Solar expanded its U.S. programming to reach new regions through dynamic partnerships and educator training initiatives.

Illinois

In Illinois, with support from Cultivate Power, we brought hands-on solar learning to a new network of teachers. In July, educators from 13 schools participated in a Solar Suitcase training, gaining technical and pedagogical skills to lead students through our clean energy curriculum. A highlight of the program was a live virtual exchange with our team in Uganda, giving teachers a global perspective on how Solar Suitcases are transforming healthcare and education in energy-scarce communities.

Minnesota

In Minnesota, more than 20 educators gathered in Rochester for a Solar Suitcase build workshop hosted with STEM Forward/Southeast Service Cooperative and supported by the WEM Foundation. Teachers explored solar technology in and out of the classroom, sparking excitement they could carry back to their students.

New Jersey

In New Jersey, we launched a new partnership with Rutgers University–Newark, training 12 educators and partners from Newark and Orange school districts. Participating schools received curriculum and equipment to launch solar education programs, with six student-built Solar Suitcases set for deployment in Belize through Rutgers Global. This program is expected to reach 250 students this school year—and over 1,600 in five years.

These exciting new efforts build on our continued programs in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, and North Carolina, expanding the We Share Solar community nationwide.

Photo: Alli Pernerl



EAST AFRICA

WE SHARE SOLAR



Photo: Angeliah Atukunda

Uganda: Kabale District and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement

In 2024, We Share Solar expanded clean energy access to schools across Uganda, reaching nearly 16,000 students and teachers.

In Kabale, 10 student-built Solar Suitcases were installed in four schools, lighting classrooms, libraries, offices, and main halls. In Rwamwanja, home to over 73,000 residents, an additional 52 Solar Suitcases were deployed across 16 schools, illuminating 130 classrooms.

Across both regions, solar energy is improving safety, extending study hours, and giving teachers more flexibility to prepare lessons and charge devices on-site. In Kabale, the initiative highlighted the power of student-led solutions to address infrastructure needs. In Rwamwanja, it provided a critical boost to educational access for refugee communities—ensuring that learning continues long after sunset.

Kenya: Meru and Kilifi Counties

Across Meru and Kilifi Counties, 23 Solar Suitcases were installed—bringing reliable solar energy to over 50 classrooms and reaching more than 3,900 students and teachers. Together, these efforts are expanding access to clean energy and creating brighter educational futures in Kenya.

In Meru, hands-on STEM workshops gave students practical experience with solar technology. Solar Suitcases now serve as both lighting solutions and teaching tools, extending study hours and deepening student understanding of renewable energy.

In Kilifi, solar power addressed ongoing challenges, like frequent blackouts and high electricity costs. With consistent lighting, teachers can now prepare lessons and hold early morning or evening classes, and students have more time to study. Schools are also integrating solar-powered devices to strengthen digital literacy. The improvements create more secure, supportive environments and have sparked new ideas, like boarding programs, to maximize learning opportunities.



Photo: Brian Inganga

THE PATH FORWARD

WE SHARE SOLAR



Photo: Tidiani Sanogo

The We Share Solar Suitcase Learning Kit

As We Care Solar looks ahead, we are uniting our *Light Every Birth* and We Share Solar programs under a shared strategy that connects health, education, and clean energy. This integrated approach will deepen our impact across sectors—supporting frontline health workers and vulnerable mothers while empowering the next generation of clean energy leaders. Together, these efforts create a sustainable foundation for lasting, systemic change.

In our ongoing commitment to education and sustainability, We Share Solar is proud to introduce the **Solar Suitcase Learning Kit**, an innovative classroom tool designed to inspire and educate the next generation of Solar Solutionaries™. This hands-on kit offers students an in-depth understanding of solar energy, the mechanics of Solar Suitcases, global health, and sustainability while building circuits and replicating the technology used in health facilities.

The kit will help students understand the impact of both our Education and Health Solar Suitcases. Through We Share Solar, classroom learning is linked to real-world outcomes—enhancing our *Light Every Birth* initiative by showing how solar technology can save lives. The curriculum features case studies from *Light Every Birth* clinics, giving students a tangible connection to the power of innovation in action.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

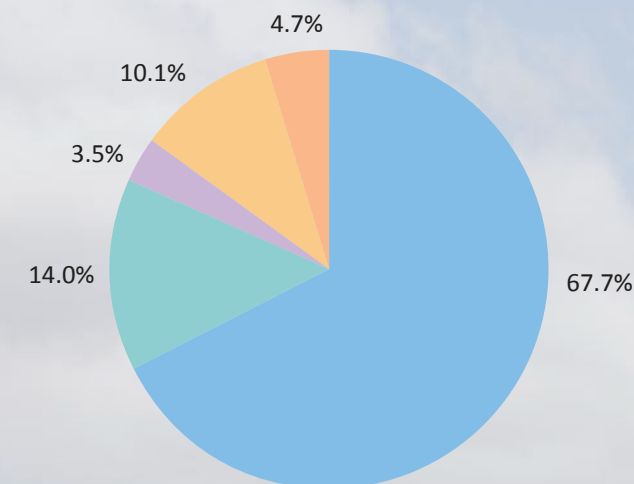
Statement of Activities

For the year ended December 31, 2024

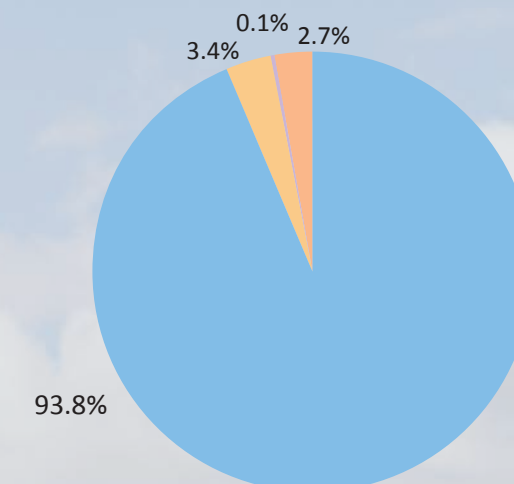
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2024 Total	2023 Total
REVENUE				
Grants and donations*	\$6,665,113	\$5,498,199	\$12,163,312	\$7,991,285
Program revenue	435,535	—	435,535	464,730
In-kind support	8,613	—	8,613	85,016
Other income	350,824	—	350,824	132,212
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	5,059,445	(5,059,445)	—	—
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,519,530	\$438,754	\$12,958,284	\$8,673,243
EXPENSES				
Program services	7,641,938	—	7,641,938	3,558,291
General & administration	901,759	—	901,759	755,858
Fundraising	421,022	—	421,022	269,299
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,964,719	—	\$8,964,719	\$4,583,448
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	3,554,811	438,754	3,993,565	4,089,795
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,872,526	6,651,904	12,524,430	8,434,635
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$9,427,337	\$7,090,658	\$16,517,995	\$12,524,430

*Revenue includes multi-year grants

Functional expenses



Revenue by category



Solar Suitcase programs
Education programs
Research & development
General & administration
Fundraising

Grants & donations
Program revenue
In-kind support
Other income

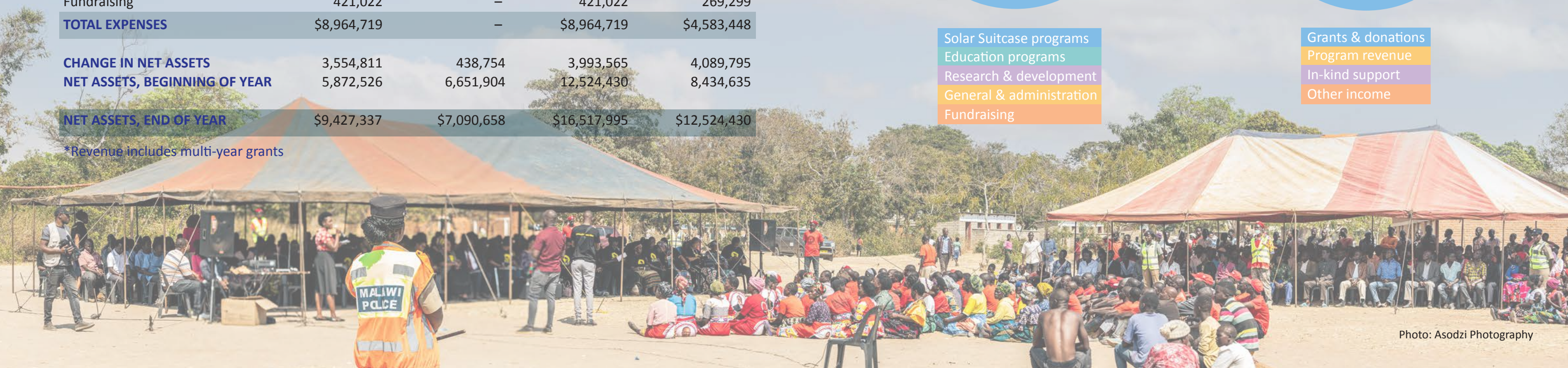




Photo: Asodzi Photography

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Government Partners

Ministry of Energy, Sierra Leone
Ministry of Health, Malawi
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
Bauchi State Primary Health Care Development Association
Kebbi State Primary Health Board

We Care Solar Health Partners

All in Trade Ltd. (Uganda)
AMREF Health Africa (Malawi)
Annajat Standard Electrical Company (Nigeria)
AVSI Foundation (Uganda)
Babies and Mothers Alive (Uganda)
CARE (Sierra Leone)
Clinton Health Access Initiative (Uganda)
Doctors with Africa CUAMM
(Sierra Leone, Uganda, Ethiopia)
Ekide Investments Ltd. (Uganda)
Eletech Investments, Ltd. (Zimbabwe)
Engineering World (Zimbabwe)
Feni Certified Installation Team (Uganda)
GOAL (Sierra Leone)
Halimatu & Hawanatu Technician Group (Sierra Leone)
IntraHealth International (Uganda)
Muss'ab Global Concept (Nigeria)
Ned Solar Company (Nigeria)
Oak I & G Consult (Nigeria)
Pathfinder International (Tanzania)
Sonlite Electrical Contractors (Malawi)

UNFPA (Sierra Leone)
USAID Integrated Health Program (IHP)
(Nigeria)
USAID Momentum
White Ribbon Alliance (Uganda)
ZimEnergy Eco-Foundation (Zimbabwe)

We Share Solar Partners

United States

California State University
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Creation Technologies
Los Angeles Unified School District
Minneapolis Public Schools
Oakland Unified School District
Remote Energy
Repowering Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Southeast Service Cooperative - STEM Forward
St. Paul Public Schools

Global

254 Solar (Kenya)
ALIGHT International (Uganda)
Kabale University (Uganda)
Kakenya School for Excellence (Kenya)
Kia Kotahi Ako Trust (New Zealand/Aotearoa)
Women in Sustainable Energy and
Entrepreneurship (Kenya)
WISER International (Kenya)



Photo: Liz Hale

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the generous support of all of our funders, including the following donors who have contributed \$5,000 or more.

Principal benefactors

Abt Associates, Inc.
AEL General Trading, Inc.
Anonymous Foundation
Cultivate Power
Energias de Portugal
Education Development Center
Essex Avenue Foundation
Joyful Noise Charitable Foundation
Marks Family Foundation
Meadow Fund
Osprey Foundation
The PG&E Corporation Foundation
Puma Energy Foundation
Rippleworks, Inc.
Starr International Foundation
Tejemos Foundation

Lead funders

All Points North Foundation
Mary Anne (M.A.) Rogers
The Montei Foundation
WAM Foundation

Key supporters

Anonymous Foundation
Church Of Christ at Dartmouth College, Inc.
The Godley Family Foundation
Health Partners International of Canada
James and Sharon Maida Foundation
Risk Pool Fund
Patrick Thompson
Subbarao and Lakshmi Chalavadi
Voltaico LLC
Wells Fargo
Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation

Champions

Anonymous, in loving memory of Henry
Asiff Hirji and Sarah Wigglesworth
Barry Neal and Cheryl Finley
Erik Christian Schutter
Generac Foundation, Inc.
Gigi and Jim Goldman
GroundWork Renewables
Hadi Hallouche
Jeff Dekko
Matt Rinaldi and Cara Corbett Rinaldi
Nancy Milliken
Nina Richardson and Doug Condon
Pam and Dennis Joyce
Patricia Callahan
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
SOLV Energy
Susan and Robert Greig
The Ascienzo Family Foundation
The Hayes Foundation
Wong Family Foundation



Every day, We Care Solar and our partners work to improve the lives of women, infants, and students 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



Contact us:
We Care Solar
2550 Ninth Street, Suite 113A
Berkeley, CA 94710
+1 (510) 766-0206
info@wecaresolar.org