

Impact Report

To December 2024

Sub Saharan Africa



Seeds of Impact

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

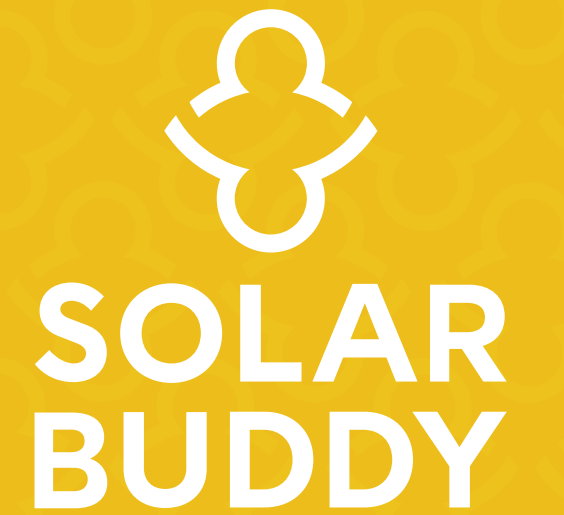
Imagine a world where nightfall doesn't mean darkness, where every child can study, every family can feel safe, and every community has the power to thrive.

Yet, for millions, energy poverty remains a daily struggle—limiting opportunity, safety, and hope.

By standing with us, you are not just providing light; you are igniting dreams, unlocking potential, and changing lives in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Together, we are illuminating the path to a brighter, fairer future.

Join us in uncovering the stories driving this impact in 2024



**WE WILL NEVER
STOP CREATING
NEW WAYS TO
FIGHT ENERGY
POVERTY.**



SolarBuddy is an impact organisation uniting a global community to illuminate the futures of all children.



We maximise impact by working towards achieving two goals:

- **GIFTING** solar solutions to millions of children living in energy poverty
- **EDUCATING** and inspiring others to become agents of change to end energy poverty

“Energy poverty condemns billions in the developing world to darkness, ill health, unfulfilled futures and repeated cycles of poverty.”
– *UN Foundation*

JUNIORBUDDY impact in **Sub-Saharan Africa** up to December 2024

(Impact calculated over ten years)

DEVICES DISTRIBUTED

66,333

LIVES IMPACTED

331,665

EXTRA STUDY HOURS CREATED AFTER DARK

484,230,900

EQUIVALENT SEEDLINGS PLANTED OVER TEN YEARS

1,412,893

TONNES OF CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCED

84,906



STUDENTBUDDY impact in **Sub-Saharan Africa** up to December 2024

(Impact calculated over fifteen years)

DEVICES DISTRIBUTED

455

LIVES IMPACTED

78,260

EDUCATION & DIGITAL ACCESS

19,929,000

EXTRA STUDY HOURS
& VITAL DIGITAL ACCESS

NUMBER OF CHARGES FOR ESSENTIAL USB DEVICES

54,804,750

TONNES OF CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCED

3,744

That's a reduction in emissions saved equal to 6,825 standard short-haul journeys from LA to NY



Caledonia Informal Settlement,
Goromonzi, Mashonaland East, Zimbabwe



Measurable Impact

\$7.34

Social impact value for every \$1 invested*

**Social Return on Investment (SROI)*

That means for every \$10,000 of support, you are creating \$73,400 of social impact.

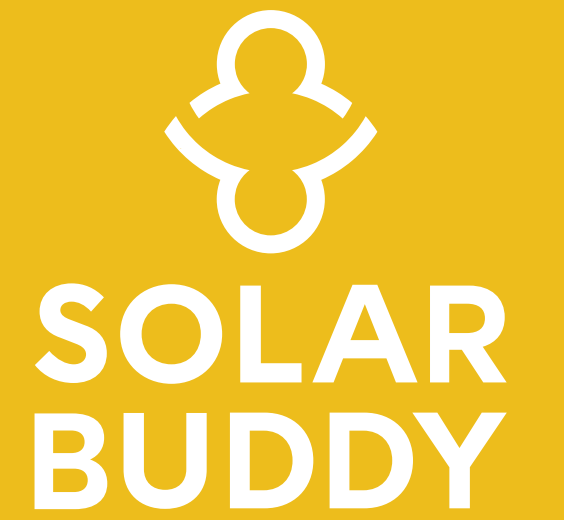
With an increasing range of solutions, we aim to undertake further assessments to ensure our transformational impact is fully comprehended.

“Measuring impact is key to effectively tackling energy poverty and understanding what more we can do as a global community to illuminate lives.” – *Simon Doble*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE IMPACT GLOBALLY

“ Energy is the **golden thread** that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive. Development is not possible without energy, and sustainable development is not possible without sustainable energy.



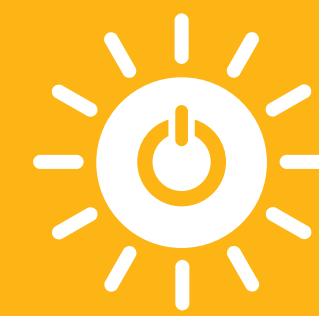
SDG

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



To learn more about our ongoing commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) click [here](#).

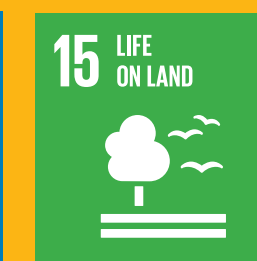
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



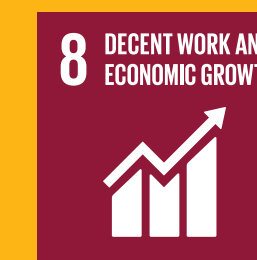
PEOPLE



PLANET



PROSPERITY



Sub-Saharan Africa: an overview

Sub-Saharan Africa includes 46 of Africa's 54 countries, spanning from the Sahel in West Africa to the Cape of Good Hope in the South Africa. Bordered by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, the region features diverse landscapes, including savannas, rainforests, and deserts.

Home to approximately 1.2 billion people, Sub-Saharan Africa is culturally rich, with over 3,000 ethnic groups and 2,000 languages. Urban centres blend indigenous traditions with modern influences.

Economically, the region faces significant challenges, including poverty, weak infrastructure, and reliance on commodity exports. Many nations struggle with unemployment, corruption, and limited industrialization.

The region is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing extreme weather, droughts, and food insecurity. These threats demand urgent climate adaptation, sustainable energy solutions, and international cooperation to ensure long-term resilience.





Why we work in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor, with an estimated 40% of its population living below the poverty line, particularly in rural areas.

With the lowest electricity access rates globally, many rely on unsafe, costly kerosene lamps. SolarBuddy provides clean, reliable lighting, improving education, safety, and productivity. Students can study after dark, families save money, and fire hazards decrease.

The abundant sunlight makes solar power a practical, sustainable solution, reducing reliance on harmful fuels. By offering an affordable, renewable energy source, SolarBuddy enhances quality of life, health, and economic opportunities, empowering communities with safe, long-term lighting solutions that support education and overall well-being.

Sub-Saharan Africa: the impact of energy poverty

WOMEN WITH NO
FORMAL EDUCATION

16.7m

girls do not go to school in
Sub-Saharan Africa.
(UNESCO Gender Report 2022)

LITERACY

33%

of the region's population
are illiterate.
(Statista, 2020)

ELECTRICITY ACCESS

600m

people have no access to electricity.
(The Economist, 2019)





**WE ACHIEVE IMPACT BY BUILDING
COMMUNITIES OF CHANGE. OUR LOCAL
PARTNERS ARE A KEY TO THIS STORY.**



A student from Ikotos State in South Sudan receives a JuniorBuddy light.

HOW WE CREATE **IMPACT**

We partner with multiple in-country distribution partners to maximise our impact. 2024 saw our reach expand across the region with distributions in South Sudan, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Zambia.

Partner Snapshots:

Edupower – South Sudan

Founded in 2021 by a group of young Africans, Edupower Youth Foundation aims to reduce educational inequalities and support youth development in South Sudan by offering educational programs, resources, and leadership training.

The organisation has already reached over 2,500 youth and established several libraries to help students realize their potential and become leaders in their communities. In 2024 their dedicated team of volunteers distributed JuniorBuddy lights to remote communities in Jonglei State.

Regain 37 – Zimbabwe

Operating in remote, off-grid and underserved communities, Regain37's ZimbosAbantu Healthcare on wheels program distributed 300 birthing kits to expectant mothers and village healthcare workers. Each kit included a StudentBuddy and rechargeable headtorch to provide vital, reliable and cost-effective source of lighting. Ensuring the safe delivery and care of babies at night.



“Children are able to study at night and having light at their homes boosts their self-esteem drastically.

The smiles raised on each child’s face was too magical and we are sure this will boost their education and learning immensely”

Headmaster, Ewaso Primary School, Kenya



Illuminating lives together

UNITING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

This year has been transformative. We distributed over 50,000 solar solutions, reaching 300,000 people affected by energy poverty, creating millions of study hours, and forging new partnerships.

I'm incredibly proud of the SolarBuddy team and our partners for this record-breaking impact.

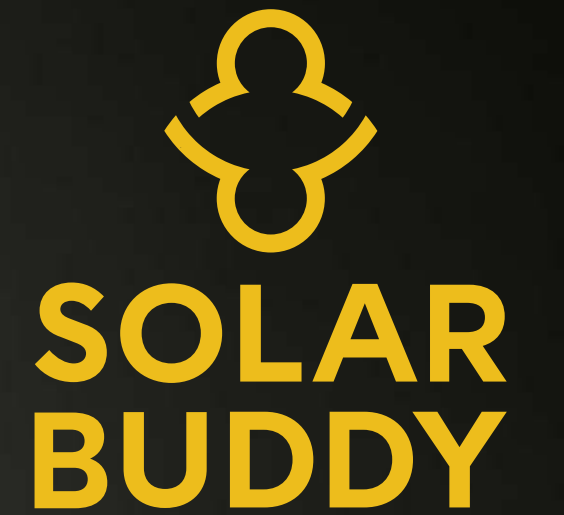
Your support has illuminated the lives of families in Sub-Saharan Africa, and their stories fill me with gratitude. However, there's still much to be done. Nearly 10% of the global population remains trapped in poverty, lacking access to energy, education, healthcare, and a sustainable future.

Our efforts are making a real difference, but we must not slow down. Rising inequality and the climate crisis threaten to reverse our progress. That's why we're doubling down on partnerships, expanding our scope, and focusing on sustainability.

Thank you for standing with us—let's keep moving forward.

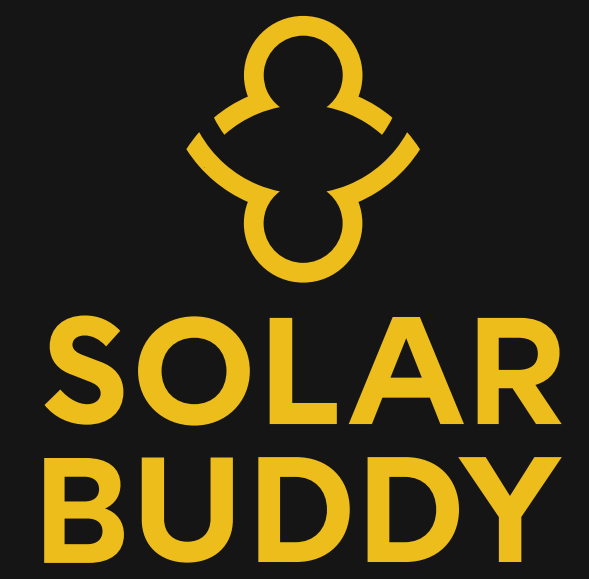


Simon Doble
Founder and Chair, SolarBuddy



THANK YOU!





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