



UNITED STATES  
AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION

Igniting  
**Energy** Access 

## Creating Pathways to Prosperity for Underserved Communities in Africa

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) is an independent U.S. government agency established by Congress to invest in African grassroots organizations, entrepreneurs, and SMEs. USADF's investments promote local economic development by increasing incomes, revenues, and jobs. Utilizing a community-led development approach, USADF provides seed capital and local project management assistance to African-owned and -led enterprises addressing some of Africa's biggest challenges around food insecurity, insufficient energy access, and unemployment—particularly among women and youth. Between 2017 and 2021, USADF invested more than US\$120 million directly into over 1,000 African-owned and -operated entities and impacted over 7 million lives.

On average, for every US\$10K in USADF grant funding in Africa, 25 workers are hired in the agriculture sector and 19 by youth-led enterprises, while 79 people are connected to electricity.

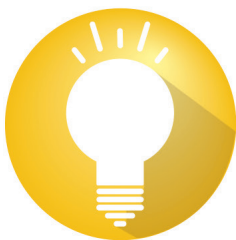
### Beyond the Grid

USADF's off-grid energy portfolio is a key element of the Beyond the Grid program of Power Africa, a U.S. government-led initiative that seeks to create 60 million new energy connections in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. In partnership with Power Africa, USADF has launched several funding programs including the Women in Energy Off-Grid Energy Challenge and the Smart Communities Coalition Off-Grid Energy Challenge, focused on refugee settlements.

### USADF's Impact Since 2014

USADF began investing in off-grid energy at the inception of the Power Africa initiative in 2014, focusing on unserved and underserved communities in Africa. Since then, we have made more than 161 off-grid energy investments. The portfolio has spanned energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro, biomass, biogas, and hybrid combinations. USADF funds projects across the technology spectrum including mini-grids, solar home systems, stand-alone systems, technologies with a productive use focus, and innovations such as smart meters and energy storage (batteries).

Since 2014, the total value of obligated funds is approximately US\$13 million. Additionally, USADF off-grid energy grantees, on their own, have secured at least US\$12.8 million in follow-on financing and brought in US\$4.5 million in leveraged (or alongside) funding.



**161**

Off-Grid Energy  
Enterprises



**18**

African  
Countries



**US\$13M**

Invested  
in enterprises creating access to  
energy using solar, wind, hydro,  
biomass, and biogas technologies

[www.usadf.gov](http://www.usadf.gov)



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# Investments in Off-Grid Energy

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) supports African-led development in off-grid energy by investing in African-owned enterprises that utilize renewable energy solutions that reach communities not served by existing power grids.



## ICE Commercial — Nigeria

Through the USADF–All On Nigeria Off-Grid Energy Challenge, a blended finance initiative, ICE Commercial Power, a renewable energy company that deploys stand-alone solar solutions for commercial and residential customers, deployed over 70-kWp of distributed solar across 14 commercial plaza sites in targeted locations, an intervention that led to the connection of 107 SMEs to clean, reliable pay-as-you-go solar energy for productive use.



## Deevabits Green Energy — Kenya

In rural Machakos and Makeni counties in Kenya, 80 to 90 percent of residents don't have access to electricity. Utilizing a US\$175K grant from USADF, Deevabits partnered with Village Social Entrepreneurs (VSEs) to sell solar home systems to customers on a pay-as-you-go basis. As a result, families now save 15 to 30 percent on home energy costs. Deevabits has reached more than 8,000 households and businesses to date and secured a loan from Kiva, a non-profit organization headquartered in San Francisco, California, that allows people to lend money via the Internet to low-income entrepreneurs and students in 77 countries.



## Compagnie Générale des Energies Renouvelables — Mauritania

USADF grantee Ould Lebatt founded Compagnie Générale des Energies Renouvelables (COGER) in 2001 at a time when just 22 percent of Mauritians had energy access. With a US\$100K grant from USADF in 2019, COGER supplied an estimated 2.5 MW of solar energy to urban dwellers and trained more than 80 solar technicians. COGER's efforts expanded energy access, boosted the country's clean energy economy, and contributed to more than 40 percent of Mauritians having access to electricity today.



## Sosai Renewable Energies Company — Nigeria

Sosai Renewable Energy is a woman-owned enterprise in northern Nigeria. Habiba Ali, its founder, is working to reduce rural women's use of kerosene lamps and cookstoves by leasing and selling affordable solar lamps and clean-energy cookstoves. In 2016, USADF awarded Sosai Renewable Energy a US\$100K grant to purchase capital assets, including solar-powered drying equipment. Over the last decade, it impacted an estimated 650,000 people by installing lamps, cookstoves, solar home kits, solar dryers, and community-wide mini-grid infrastructure.

## USADF's Partnerships in the Energy Sector



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