



# Power Africa

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Power Africa, along with USAID Nigeria and Prosper Africa, partnered with Chapel Hill Denham to increase the amount of private capital flowing into critical infrastructure, strengthening the capacity of Nigerian institutional investors like pension funds to invest in priority sectors.

In this OpEd, Power Coordinator, Richard Nelson, and Senior Energy Specialist, Samson Masebinu, unpack how sub-Saharan Africa can meet its energy demand and supply needs by increasing cross-border trade and leveraging regional power pools.

Power Africa through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded a \$1.4 million grant to the National Business Initiative (NBI) to support the Just Energy Transition (JET) Skilling for Employment Program (SEP). This funding will accelerate efforts to equip South Africa's workforce with critical skills for the green economy essential for the country's ambitious energy transition.

Power Africa announced an investment of \$250,000 in two renewable energy companies to increase access to productive use of energy technologies in East Africa. Simusolar and SureChill will distribute solar-powered irrigation and refrigeration solutions to underserved regions in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to boost productive use of energy.

Approximately 53 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's population lives without access to electricity. Power Africa was launched in 2013 to harness the collective resources of the public and private sectors to improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Power Africa model is based on effective partnerships that link public and private sector goals and resources, and connect investors and entrepreneurs to business opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa. With U.S. agencies, African governments, private sector actors, and other stakeholders serving as partners in the enterprise -- Power Africa uses collective problem solving to support African leaders to pave their own future.

**On-the-Ground Support:** Power Africa's in-country advisors identify the technical, financial, and political solutions needed to facilitate faster access to power for local communities, major cities, and regional power pools. They work closely with our partners to provide and implement these solutions.

**Transaction Focus:** Power Africa addresses the critical impediments that hinder progress of a particular deal, creating a ripple effect that assists other deals facing similar issues in the country. Our approach to reforming Africa's energy sector is to work with governments and the private sector to strengthen an enabling environment with laws and policies that attract investment.

**Working Beyond the Grid:** Power Africa partners with investors and companies to implement small-scale and



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off-grid energy solutions, such as solar home systems, micro-grids, and mini-grid connections, to increase people's access to electricity in remote communities.

**Bridging the Financing Gap:** Power Africa works through partners, including the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, using tools such as credit guarantees and first-loss capital, to de-risk investments so that public and private investors can fund projects that drive more electricity generation and connections.

**Empowering and Powering Women:** Recognizing that men and women experience energy poverty differently, and historically have had unequal access to energy-related opportunities, Power Africa supports projects, programs, and policies that value women as energy consumers and that promote women's participation and leadership in the energy sector workforce.

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