



## SHINE

INVESTING IN  
ENERGY ACCESS  
FOR ALL

# WHY ENERGY?

Electricity increases household incomes by giving businesses the power to run machines that boost productivity. It increases literacy by allowing children study after dark. And it saves lives by enabling vaccines to be safely stored. Access to clean energy also accelerates the shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The good news is that, right now, we have the tools, technology and know-how to overcome entrenched poverty and climate change. Advances in technology and the plummeting prices of renewables make energy cleaner, safer, more reliable and more affordable than ever before.

Access to clean energy empowers communities by fueling social and economic development like:

### HEALTH



2.8 billion people still rely on kerosene, wood, crop waste, dung, and other unsafe and heavily polluting forms of biomass to cook and heat their homes. In India alone, 1.8 million people die each year from indoor air pollution – more than half are children under 5. Clean cookstoves can health reduce the epidemic of death and injury from indoor air pollution.

Access to energy also means access to adequate healthcare. Only 26% of health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to reliable electricity. Without electricity, medical staff are forced to treat emergency patients in the dark and can't sterilize medical supplies.

### EDUCATION



Schools with electricity outperform non-electrified schools, have better staff and teacher retention, and generally offer broader social and economic opportunities for communities. Electrification from solar lighting or microgrids alone can increase literacy rates up to as much as 74% in developing economies.

### ECONOMIC GROWTH



Energy access is a key component of economic empowerment. Electricity can increase household per capita income by 39%, businesses can run machines that make them more productive, and farmers can run irrigation systems that improve their yields and their income. Female entrepreneurs reinvest 90% of their income toward their communities and families creating a positive cycle of growth for the entire area.