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ADDRESSING THE AFRICAN ENERGY CHALLENGE



"It really reinforced solidarity and social bonds. Before solar panels, everyone used to go back home at 7.00 P.M., now we can gather and chat together."

Father, Olosho-Oibor, Kenya

Why Akon Lighting Africa ?

Today, 600 million Africans still don't have access to electricity, particularly in rural areas. In far too many parts of Africa, night-time economic activities are practically non-existent, safety is a concern and hospitals cannot fully function. Women cannot make productive use of their time to carry out the most basic household tasks.

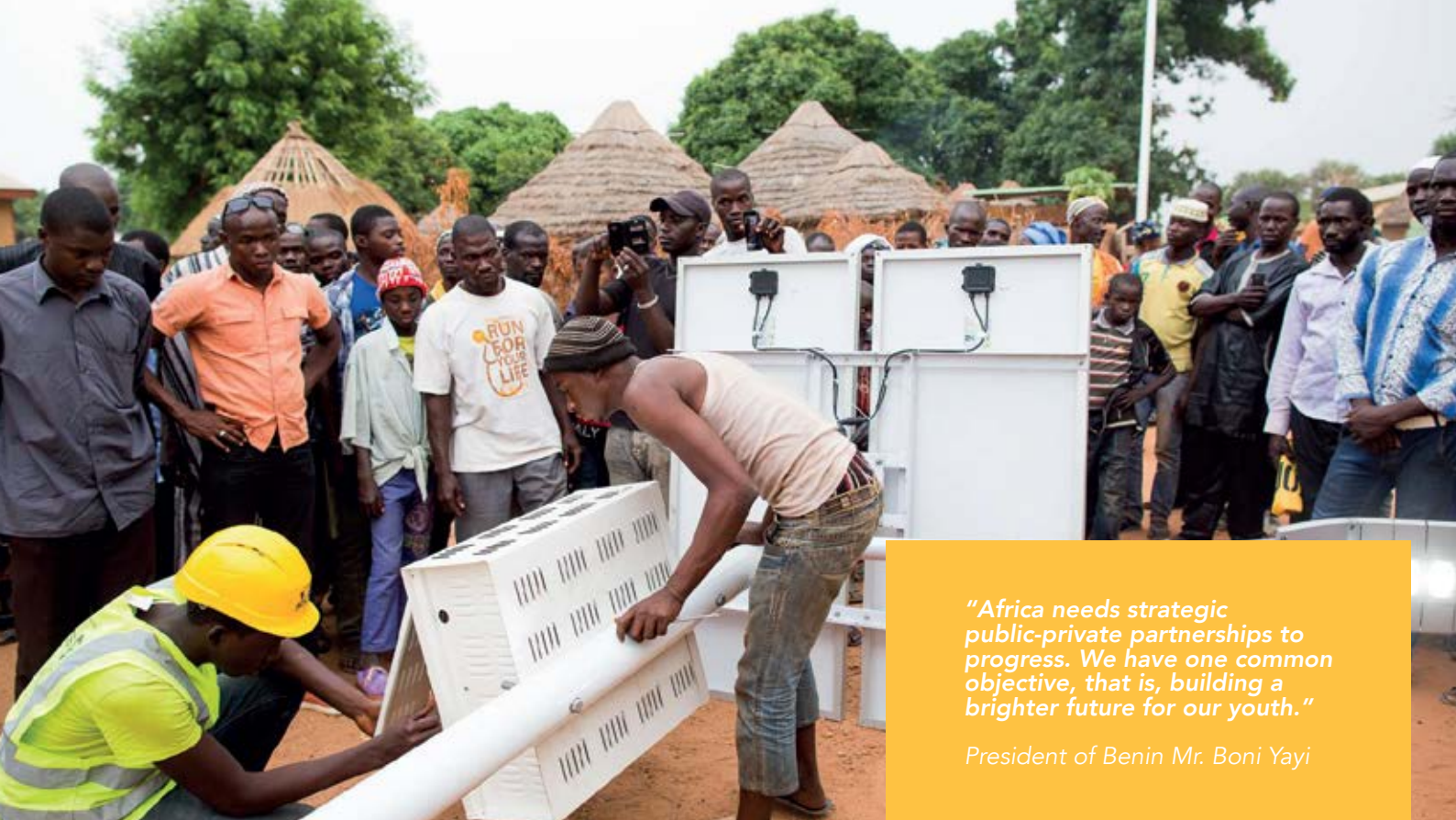
Children who help the women cannot study at night without proper light and complete their homework by candle light, an additional expense for parents. Moreover, without access to electricity, over 3.5 million Africans die every year from harmful pollutants or fires in the home produced by costly and toxic solid fuels.

To meet these challenges, the Akon Lighting Africa initiative was created to bring clean, renewable and affordable energy solutions primarily to rural and off-grid areas in Africa.

Launched in February 2014 by international music star, Akon, entrepreneur Mr. Samba Bathily and youth leader Mr. Thione Niang, the initiative has already successfully impacted communities in 15 countries.

Akon Lighting Africa is an initiative started by Solektra International to bring clean, renewable and affordable energy solutions primarily to rural and off-grid areas in Africa.





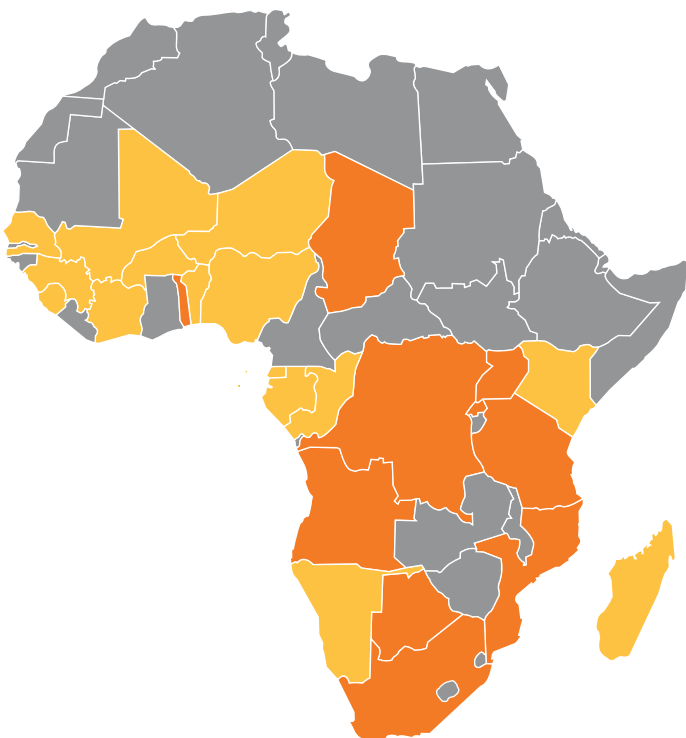
"Africa needs strategic public-private partnerships to progress. We have one common objective, that is, building a brighter future for our youth."

President of Benin Mr. Boni Yayi

What are the objectives of Akon Lighting Africa ?

The goal of the Akon Lighting Africa initiative is to provide solutions to the energy crisis in Africa through innovative, clean and accessible solar solutions – including: street lamps, home-based solar kits, pre-paid micro-grids, lamps and recharge stations.

It took less than a year since early 2014 for Akon Lighting Africa to operate **in 15 African countries**. Akon Lighting Africa is expected to expand in **10 countries** by end 2016.

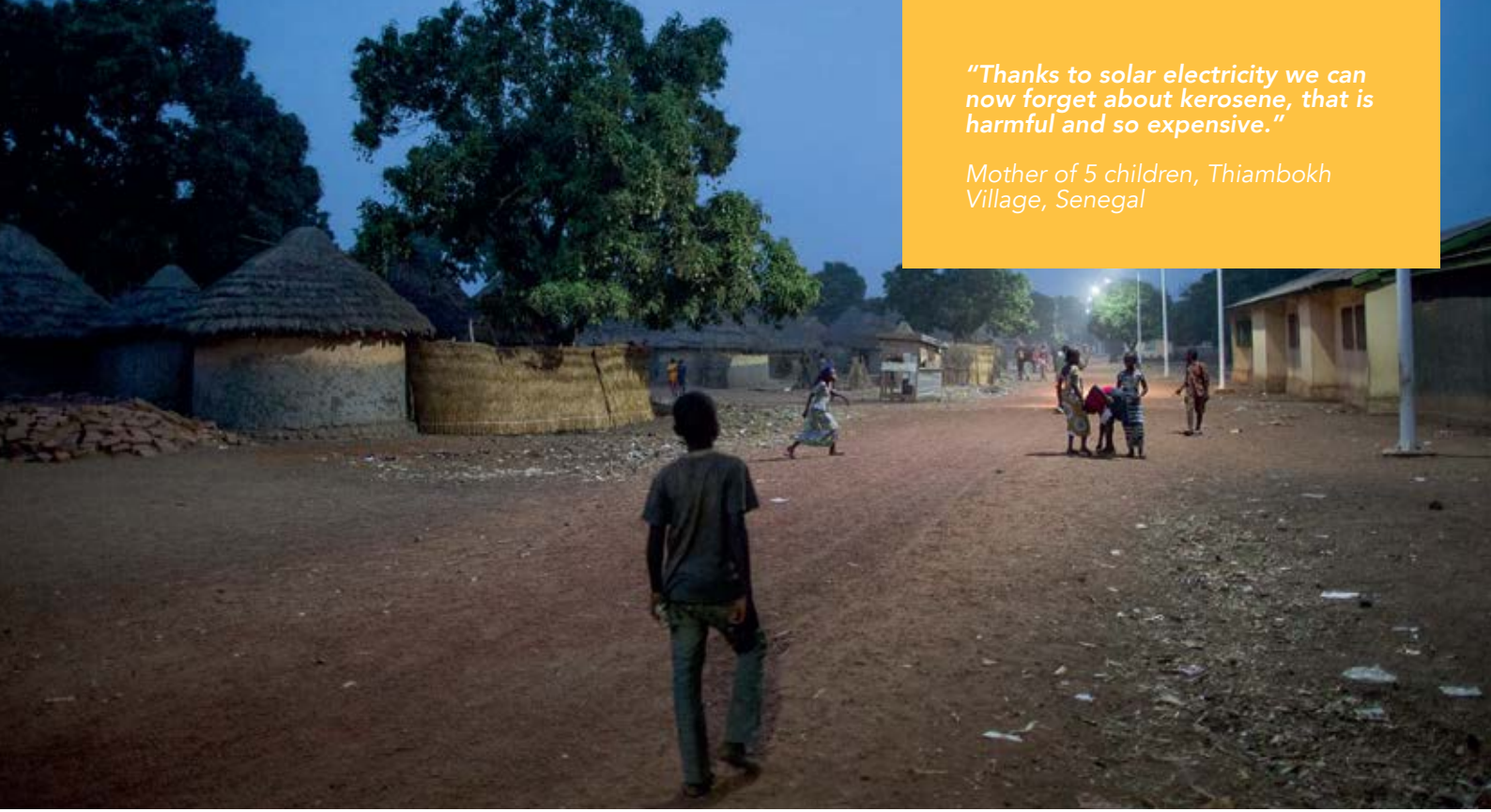


Phase 1

1. Mali 2. Niger 3. Senegal 4. Guinea (Conakry)
5. Burkina Faso 6. Sierra Leone 7. Benin 8. Equatorial Guinea
9. Gabon 10. Ivory Coast 11. Republic of Congo 12. Namibia
13. Madagascar 14. Kenya 15. Nigeria

Phase 2

16. South Africa 17. Angola 18. Mozambique 19. Tanzania
20. Togo 21. Chad 22. Democratic Republic of Congo
23. Rwanda 24. Uganda 25. Botswana



"Thanks to solar electricity we can now forget about kerosene, that is harmful and so expensive."

Mother of 5 children, Thiambokh Village, Senegal

What makes Akon Lighting Africa different ?

What makes the Akon lighting Africa initiative so unique is first and foremost the fact that this project has been developed by children of the continent. Akon, Samba Bathily and Thione Niang know very well, for instance, that many solar projects have failed in the past for lack of maintenance - hence their objective to include it as part of the equation from the very beginning. They also know how energy solutions make a difference in households as they remember how they had to beat the sun every day to do their homework. The Akon Lighting Africa initiative will focus on collective equipment (ie public lighting and kits for use in public areas and schools) as part of a strategy aimed to support economic development within communities. This will allow small businesses to remain open at night and work more effectively with reliable energy sources during the day. Empowerment is the ultimate goal that can be reached through wider energy access.

The founders of Akon Lighting Africa also understand the challenges of governments and households in Africa, who cannot always commit huge sums in advance and therefore, have developed a proven pre-financing model.

Pre-financing:

Thanks to credits from partnering banks, the Akon Lighting Africa initiative can provide prepaid clean energy. Credits can be refunded by governments which can then be paid back through installments.

Affordable energy:

Through the Akon Lighting Africa initiative, Solektra International is also developing a service model that should allow for users to pay less than what is spent collectively on candles - ideally less than \$10 a month per household for access - through home-based kits.

As a result, the Akon Lighting Africa initiative prides itself on fast delivery/speed to market, the transfer of skills to Africa by partnering with world class experts, and providing quality solutions at affordable costs. This model is considered as a best case study and easy to replicate. It changed perceptions about the African energy crisis - as it demonstrated that this crisis could be easily solved. The three partners are now being invited outside of Africa to present their approach to governments in other regions of the world - especially Latin America and India where there is also a critical need for clean energy sources.



"When children have to prepare exams, we gave them a kit to work at night"

Local chief, Gabon

What is the impact of Akon Lighting Africa ?

The Akon Lighting Africa initiative supports technical training, transfer of skills and direct job creation. A network of young professionals will be developed and employed to install and maintain the solar energy solutions.

By lighting up Africa, the Akon Lighting Africa initiative will:

- ▶ Allow school children and students to do their homework and study.
- ▶ Allow small businesses, shopkeepers, tradesmen and cooks, to work efficiently and increase revenues.
- ▶ Make roads safer and improve the structure of public places in Africa.
- ▶ Allow doctors to examine patients after dark.
- ▶ Save the lives of family members who no longer have to use pollutant, toxic and costly domestic fuels such as kerosene.
- ▶ Ensure better access to information through radio, television or computers.
- ▶ Improve communications as people will be able to recharge mobile phones for less cost and faster.
- ▶ Empower the youth of Africa, who account for 70% of the population and who will be responsible for driving growth.
- ▶ In addition, access to energy will also support the creation of indirect jobs in small businesses, cafes, agriculture, evening classes for education, night transportation and more. Everything is possible with electricity and people's lives and communities will be forever changed!

AKON LIGHTING AFRICA - KEY FIGURES

USD 1 billion credit line for launch, from international banks - 15 countries of operation
480 communities covered - 100,000 solar street lamps - 1,200 solar micro-grids
102,000 solar domestic kits - 75,000\$ per village on average - 5,500 indirect jobs created



"Thanks to Akon Lighting Africa, we have launched in 1 year a new dynamic and we have helped raise awareness that solutions are available, ready and that we can address the electrification challenges of Africa - QUICKLY!"

Akon

Why become a partner of Akon Lighting Africa ?

As an Akon Lighting Africa partner you will:

- ▶ Contribute to accelerating access to energy in Africa.
- ▶ Join the commitment to fast track social and economic development solutions in Africa.
- ▶ Be part of a strong network of professionals including well established companies such as Sumec, Nari, Huawei, BYD, Lorenz, GAUFF (Germany), SEL Sustainable Engineering Lab (Columbia University).
- ▶ Benefit from direct access to African solar markets and expertise from local professionals, entrepreneurs and public energy authorities.
- ▶ Be part of a socially responsible brand, dedicated to benefiting the society at large, creating job opportunities for young Africans and maintaining a balance between the economy and the ecosystems.
- ▶ Partner with a brand that is environmentally accountable and concerned with the use of resources and the impact on the natural environment.
- ▶ Join a highly visible project, since Akon Lighting Africa has been honored and supported by the United Nations and the World Bank's Sustainability for All initiative. Thanks to this project, there is now more attention from international stakeholders and multilaterals on the energy access issue and its impact in Africa and globally.

AKON LIGHTING AFRICA C/O SOLEKTRA INTERNATIONAL

Global Headquarters
Empire State Building
350 5th Avenue, 66th Floor
New York, NY 10118
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Phone : +1 (248) 464-4243

Africa Headquarters
Zone industrielle
Porte 117- Rue 935
BP 2337, Bamako
RÉPUBLIQUE DU MALI
Phone : +1 (202) 322-0722

www.akonlightingafrica.com
twitter.com/AkonLighting
facebook.com/AkonLightingAfrica
instme.com/profile/akonlightingafrica