

Practical Action

AFRICA

A woman with a joyful expression, wearing a black and white patterned dress and a headscarf, stands in a field of green plants with brown seed pods. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and a cloudy sky. A yellow brushstroke underline is positioned below the word 'AFRICA'.

Practical
ACTION

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AFRICA

**Practical
ACTION**

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Director's FOREWORD



“Together, we can move beyond adaptation to acceleration, ensuring that Africa is not only prepared for the future but is defining it.”

Africa is at a critical juncture. The continent faces escalating climate challenges, rapid urbanization, and widening socio-economic disparities. Yet, within these challenges lies an extraordinary opportunity to reimagine development in a way that is locally driven, climate-resilient, and inclusive. With a youthful population, abundant natural resources, and a deep well of innovation, Africa is not just adapting to global transitions; it is shaping them.

At Practical Action Africa, we believe that lasting change happens when communities lead their own transformation. Across the region, we work with partners to strengthen climate-resilient food systems, expand access to renewable energy, and improve urban services. Our approach integrates systems thinking, technology, and local expertise to shift power, challenge inequalities, and create scalable solutions that work for both people and the planet.

From enabling smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change through regenerative agriculture to advancing clean energy solutions that power livelihoods, our work proves that development must go beyond short-term fixes to drive systemic change. Our initiatives in displaced settings demonstrate that even in fragile contexts, resilience can be built. This is not just about mitigating risks but about fostering opportunities for communities to thrive.

As we look ahead, the call to action is clear. The time for incremental progress has passed. Africa must lead a bold transformation that prioritizes climate justice, inclusive economies, and sustainable growth. This will require innovation, partnership, and a steadfast commitment to rethinking how we shape the future.

Roselyn Akinyi Walender
Africa Director, Practical Action

WHO WE ARE

Practical Action is a global development charity, building sustainable lives and livelihoods on the frontlines of poverty and climate change.

We believe where there's action, there's hope. That societies and economies can work for the benefit of all. That we can live within the planet's means. That innovation and cooperation can conquer any challenge.

Working together with communities and our global partners, we're developing innovative real-world solutions to build sustainable lives and livelihoods for people living on the frontlines of poverty and climate change. We're turning surviving into thriving and overcoming injustice, especially for women and vulnerable groups.

Our focus in AFRICA

In Africa, we focus on four critical areas where practical solutions can shift systems and unlock opportunity:

- **Agriculture:** Supporting smallholder farmers with regenerative practices, inclusive markets, and climate information.
- **Climate resilience:** Helping communities anticipate and respond to risks with early warning systems and nature-based solutions.
- **Energy access:** Expanding clean, affordable energy for homes, businesses, and public services—especially in last-mile and displaced settings.
- **Waste management:** Improving waste and sanitation systems through circular economy models and community-driven solutions.

Our approach is rooted in collaboration, systems thinking, and inclusion. We:

- Use participatory market systems development (PMSD) to connect people to fairer, greener economies.
- Apply systems thinking to address root causes, not just symptoms.
- Prioritise gender equality and social inclusion, placing women, youth, and marginalised groups at the centre of our work.
- Partner with governments, businesses, and civil society to influence policy and scale solutions.
- Invest in evidence, learning, and adaptive programming to ensure impact is lasting.

We currently work in:
**Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan,
Zimbabwe, and West Africa**

Esperence, 23, is a solar technician from the host community near Nyabiheke camp. After training in electronics, she now installs and maintains solar lighting systems and runs her own grocery shop. As the only woman on her team, she's inspiring other girls to pursue technical careers and build independent futures.

OUR IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA

2023-2024



1.64M PEOPLE

reached through our work in agriculture, clean energy, climate resilience, and waste management.

1.08M PEOPLE

now have access to clean, reliable energy solutions that power homes, businesses, and services.

OVER 36,000 PEOPLE

benefited from regenerative agriculture, improving food security and income.

**958,730 WOMEN
AND GIRLS**

empowered through inclusive, locally led solutions.

KENYA


Locally Led. System Changing. Future Facing.

Since 1988, we've worked with Kenyan communities to address some of the most pressing challenges in agriculture, energy, water, and waste. What began with small-scale, grassroots initiatives has evolved into a systems-focused approach—designed to tackle poverty, environmental degradation, and climate change at their roots.

We bring deep local knowledge and technical expertise to develop practical, scalable solutions. From equipping smallholder farmers and agripreneurs with regenerative agriculture practices that enhance food security and restore ecosystems, to improving access to clean energy through inclusive planning and policy engagement, our work strengthens livelihoods and builds resilience from the ground up.

A future of Possibilities

We are exploring emerging opportunities in e-mobility, circular economy, and carbon credits while scaling proven interventions in agriculture and energy. By leveraging lessons from our past, fostering partnerships, and aligning with Kenya's development goals, we aim to build innovative, long-term solutions that drive transformative change.



Lilian is a clean energy entrepreneur producing and distributing improved cookstoves, while mentoring other women to build sustainable, local energy businesses.

In Kenya, nearly
80,000

people already have access to clean energy solutions through a new project that aims to reach nearly 300,000 people.

Featured Projects

Resilient Agriculture that Works for Young People (RAY)

Location: Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Vihiga, Busia, Bungoma, and Nyamira Counties
Timeline: November 2022 – October 2027
Focus Areas: Agriculture
Partners: Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFEADO)
Donor: Mastercard Foundation
Budget: \$10,000,000

RAY empowers 100,000 young people—70% women and 5% persons with disabilities—to thrive in agribusiness through regenerative agriculture, mentorship, access to Youth Savings and Loans Associations, and market systems development. The project increases productivity, expands opportunities in targeted value chains, and supports entrepreneurship in roles such as aggregation and transport. Behaviour change campaigns promote gender inclusion and shift social norms to enable more young people to succeed in agriculture.

Kenya Improved Cook Stoves Last Mile Energy Entrepreneurs Accelerating Program (KILMEAP)

Location: Kericho, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Baringo, Bomet, and Narok Counties
Timeline: July 2021 – December 2024
Focus Areas: Energy
Partners: Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK)
Donor: GIZ
Budget: \$1,527,559

Expanding access to clean cooking in rural Kenya, this project trains Last Mile Entrepreneurs to distribute Improved Cookstoves (ICS) while addressing key barriers such as limited supply chains and low awareness. Implemented with CCAK and funded by GIZ, it has enabled the sale of 137,700 ICS, reaching over 590,000 people, reducing emissions, and helping 151,470 households transition to sustainable energy in line with Kenya's climate goals.

Circular Economy for Household Organic Waste (CE4HOW)

Location: Kakamega County
Timeline: June 2024 – September 2028
Focus Areas: Waste Management
Partners: Sanergy Inc. (Regen Organics)
Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA – DGBP)
Budget: \$3,484,174

In Kakamega county, CE4HOW promotes a circular economy model by improving household waste collection, training informal waste workers, and supporting waste separation. In partnership with Sanergy Inc., the project established a recycling plant that converts organic waste into fertiliser, reducing environmental pollution and generating social, economic, and climate benefits—including carbon credit monetisation. CE4HOW improves livelihoods, strengthens policies, and demonstrates a scalable green business model for waste management.

Women in Energy Enterprises in Kenya (WEEK 3)

Location: Meru, Tharaka Nithi, and Embu Counties
Timeline: October 2022 – June 2026
Focus Areas: Energy
Partners: County Governments, Renewable Energy Companies, CCAK
Donor: SIDA / ENERGIA
Budget: \$797,672

WEEK 3 empowers 300 Women Energy Entrepreneurs to lead clean energy businesses, expanding access to solar, biogas, LPG, ethanol, and electricity for household and productive use. Through Participatory Market Systems Development, policy advocacy, mentorship, and financial support, the project strengthens energy markets and promotes inclusive participation. To date, it has reached over 1 million people and trained 120 youth for employment in the renewable energy sector.

Collaboration is how we scale impact. By working with government, businesses, NGOs, and global partners, we've shaped policy, driven innovation, and advanced inclusive development nationwide.

RWANDA

Powering progress in displacement settings

Since 2017, we've worked alongside communities in Rwanda to expand sustainable energy access and build climate resilience—especially for marginalised groups. Our approach centres on co-creating practical solutions through deep community engagement, continuous learning, and adaptive implementation.

In partnership with UNHCR, MINEMA, and local private sector actors, we've influenced decision-making at national, regional, and camp levels. Using systems thinking and participatory market systems development, we've delivered bold, sustainable interventions in humanitarian and last-mile settings.

We're now broadening our focus to address urban resilience and climate adaptation—advancing Rwanda's development priorities while scaling impact where it matters most.

Gentile, a mother of eight in Nyabiheke refugee camp, now cooks faster and spends half as much on fuel thanks to an improved cookstove. With fewer health risks and more reliable meals, clean cooking has made life safer and more affordable for her family.



Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4RII)

Location: Kigeme, Nyabiheke, Mahama, Mugombwa, and Kiziba refugee camps
Timeline: August 2022 – April 2027
Focus Areas: Energy
Partners: Solektra Rwanda Ltd, Be telecom, Ecogreen Solutions Ltd, MC Green Co Ltd, Agroplast Ltd, Umurage Development
Donor: Sida
Budget: \$6,422,013

Building on the success of RE4R Phase I, this project delivers affordable renewable energy to refugees and host communities in Rwanda. It supports clean electricity, improved cooking, and productive energy use for households, businesses, and institutions. With strong private-sector engagement, RE4RII is reaching 70% of households, supporting 300 enterprises, installing 815 solar streetlights, and creating 200 energy-sector jobs.

Together with our partners, we're scaling impact across Rwanda to:

Deliver low-carbon energy to 150,000 last-mile community members and 1.5 million system users

Boost incomes for 400 people through productive energy use and clean cooking

Support 50,000 farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture—benefiting 1 million people and restoring 100 hectares

Featured Projects

Result-Based Financing for Refugees (RBF4R)

Location: Kigeme, Nyabiheke, Mahama, Mugombwa, and Kiziba refugee camps
Timeline: July 2023 – June 2025
Focus Areas: Energy
Partners: EnDev / GIZ Rwanda
Donor: EnDev / GIZ Rwanda
Budget: \$600,430

RBF4R tackles energy access challenges in refugee camps by providing clean cooking solutions to the most vulnerable households and supporting productive energy use for women entrepreneurs. Using a results-based financing model, the project strengthens market systems to improve affordability and long-term impact. So far, 6,700 households have accessed low-carbon cooking technologies, and 50 women-led businesses have improved their livelihoods through energy access and market linkages.

Farm to Market for Refugee Youth (F2MARY)

Location: Mugombwa Refugee Camp and Gisagara District, Rwanda
Timeline: July 2024 – December 2026
Focus Areas: Agriculture
Donor: AGRA
Budget: \$460,000

F2MARY strengthens opportunities for 2,000 refugee and host community youth—40% of them women—by improving production, productivity, and market access in chilli and poultry value chains. The project provides technical and business training, solar-powered irrigation, and market linkages to create jobs and promote inclusive, climate-resilient agriculture. So far, 30 hectares have been improved, and young people are actively engaged across the value chain.

Empowering Refugee and Host Communities through Modern Energy Services

Location: Mahama, Kiziba, and Nyabiheke Refugee Camps
Timeline: August 2024 – September 2026
Focus Areas: Energy
Partners: Energy Saving Trust, PURE distributors/companies
Donor: FCDO (via Energy Saving Trust)
Budget: £517,848

Supporting refugee and host community entrepreneurs, this project addresses barriers to the productive use of renewable energy (PURE) appliances. Building on our RE4R experience and delivered under the LEIA programme, it deploys off-grid solar appliances to power micro-enterprises, boost incomes, and strengthen local markets. 250 appliances have supported 200 small businesses—half women-owned—while expanding public and private sector engagement in sustainable energy access.

SUNNY

Location: Mahama Refugee Camp, Rwanda, and Bidibidi Refugee Camp, Uganda
Timeline: June 2024 – June 2028
Focus Areas: Energy
Partners: Technische Universität Berlin, University of Rwanda, Makerere University, Great Lakes Energy LTD, Solhyd
Donor: EU
Budget: \$358,762 (for Practical Action)

SUNNY delivers renewable energy solutions for refugee and host communities in Rwanda and Uganda, piloting technologies such as solar home systems, biogas, clean hydrogen, solar irrigation, and refrigerated food storage. The project supports food security, economic opportunity, and circular economy practices, while advancing policy, training, and replicable models across Africa and the EU.

SUDAN

Supporting communities through conflict and climate change

We've worked with communities in Sudan since the 1970s, starting with small-scale innovations like boat-making and brick manufacturing. Since formally establishing our presence in 1990, we've partnered with local stakeholders to tackle the intersecting challenges of conflict, displacement, and climate change.

From Kassala to Darfur and Eastern Sudan, our work focuses on supporting conflict-affected populations and those most at risk. By combining technology with local knowledge, we've strengthened livelihoods, backed small enterprises, and helped communities adapt to change. Through a strong focus on capacity building, we ensure that solutions reflect the priorities of the people we serve—and are built to last.

In partnership with ILRI, we're supporting communities in Kassala to restore degraded grazing land along migratory routes. In response to rising fodder costs, we've broadcasted resilient seed mixes across 1,000 feddans of rangeland—improving pasture quality, easing pressure on herders, and supporting long-term livestock and land health.



Featured Projects

Agri-Business in Eastern Sudan

Location: Kassala & Gadarif
Timeline: August 2020 – December 2025
Budget: \$2.47M (Donor: EU)
Focus Area: Climate Resilience, Agriculture, Energy Access
Partner: Green Peace Association (GPA)

This project improves livelihoods for refugees and host communities in Kassala and Gadarif by tackling barriers to entrepreneurship and boosting agricultural productivity. Through policy engagement, advocacy, and capacity building—with a focus on gender equality and inclusion—it supports systemic change. To date, 12,500 people have benefited, with 45% of businesses led by women and marginalised groups, crop yields up 35%, and 150 businesses and 30 producer associations established.

Sustainable Agrifood Systems Approach for Sudan (SASAS) – Livestock-Food Systems Development (LFS)

Location: Kassala State
Timeline: February 2024– December 2024
Budget: \$800,000 (Donor: ILRI)
Focus Area: Agriculture & Livestock
Partners: Kassala Women Development Network (KWDAN), Green Peace Organisation

This project strengthens dairy, red meat, and poultry value chains in Kassala to improve productivity, livelihoods, and food security. It promotes contract farming, integrated services, and stronger producer organisations to build inclusive markets and resilience. Women and youth are actively engaged in value chains and decision-making, with a 10% increase in milk sales and 20% growth in livestock sales value.

Building Climate & Conflict Resilience in North Darfur

Location: North Darfur (Elfashir rural)
Timeline: October 2020 – September 2023
Budget: \$2M (Donor: FCDO)
Focus Area: Climate Resilience, Agriculture
Partner: Rural Development Network

This project enhanced resilience to climate and conflict in North Darfur by improving agriculture, livestock management, and water access for over 34,000 people. Using integrated water resource management and inclusive leadership training, it fostered collaboration among farmers, pastoralists, and local authorities. Sorghum yields increased by 79%, and communities improved nutrition and cooperation.

Building Resilience for Food-Vulnerable Households through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

Location: Kassala and Gedarif States
Timeline: 1 November – February 2025, project extension 1st May 2025– August 2025
Budget: \$2.4 M (Donor: WFP)
Focus Area: Water Access
Partners: Kassala: Women Development Network (KWDAN), Gedarif: Friends for peace and development Green Peace Organisation (FPDO)

This project will support over 21,000 HH with critical water infrastructure, improve agricultural productivity, and promote long-term resilience by addressing the root causes of food insecurity. Furthermore, the project will support households' and communities' assets, building and developing human capital while facilitating their access to income in exchange for their labour through this process to improve short-term food security and nutrition.

Sustainable Agrifood Systems Approach for Sudan (SASAS) – Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes

Location: Kassala & Blue Nile
Timeline: June 2023 – August 2024
Budget: \$900,000 (Donor: CIP)
Focus Area: Agriculture
Partner: Kassala Women Development Network (KWDAN)

Improving food security and climate resilience in Kassala and Blue Nile, this project supports 18,807 farmers in potato and sweet potato production. It integrates inclusive decision-making and participatory market systems development, with women and marginalised groups actively involved. Through training and Farmers Field Schools, productivity rose by 43%, and 93 producer groups are enhancing market access.

Vegetables for Income, Nutrition, and Employment in Sudan (VINES)

Location: Kassala & Blue Nile
Timeline: November 2023 – December 2024
Budget: \$824,747 (Donor: World Vegetable Centre)
Focus Area: Agriculture
Partner: Rural Development Network

VINES supports 7,000 farmers in Kassala and Blue Nile to improve productivity, food security, and incomes through better access to seeds, training, and markets. With over 4,300 women involved, the project promotes sustainable farming and post-harvest solutions. A 43% increase in productivity and 93 producer groups are strengthening collaboration and market access.

Innovating for Impact Across
WEST AFRICA

Since 2014, Practical Action West Africa has been working with communities, governments, and partners to expand clean energy access, build resilience to climate change, and strengthen sustainable livelihoods. Based in Dakar, our regional office leads work across Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso—where we support communities to adapt, reduce disaster risks, and scale climate-smart agriculture powered by renewable energy.

Beyond our core countries, we contribute to sustainable development across all 15 ECOWAS nations and the wider Sahel, including Mauritania, Chad, and Cameroon. Our work is rooted in local knowledge and co-created solutions that reflect community priorities and drive systemic change.

We're focused on scaling what works—solutions that transform systems and deliver lasting impact. This includes expanding clean energy access for homes, schools, and businesses, strengthening resilience with people-centred early warning systems, promoting agriculture powered by renewable energy, and shaping policies for inclusive, climate-smart development.



Christine Semporé is a farmer and member of the women-led cooperative Wend Songda in Bogdin, Burkina Faso.

Featured Projects

Promoting Community Resilience to Flooding in Thiès Nord (PRECIT)

Location: Thiès, Senegal
Timeline: January 2021 – December 2023
Focus Areas: Climate Resilience
Partners: IED Afrique
Donor: Foundation Z Zurich
Budget: \$509,946

PRECIT strengthens flood resilience in Thiès Nord through a multi-sectoral approach that combines nature-based solutions, early warning systems, and participatory governance. As the first project in West Africa to apply the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) tool, it has improved water management infrastructure, trained local disaster response teams, and supported national policy advocacy. Over 6,000 people now benefit from accessible climate alerts, and a new CHF 1.2 million phase is set to scale impact further.

Strengthening Flood Resilience in Senegal and Niger (ResAlert)

Location: Thiès, Senegal
Timeline: September 2023 – September 2025
Focus Areas: Climate Resilience
Partners: Jokalante, Agrhymet
Donor: Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance
Budget: \$253,762

ResAlert strengthens flood resilience in Senegal and Niger by improving early warning systems through inclusive, community-led approaches. The project engages local authorities, technical partners, and communities to address gaps in governance and communication. Tools like the Missing Voices Approach ensure women and marginalised groups are heard, while digital platforms and accessible messaging enhance the reach of alerts. So far, over 30,000 people in Thiès have received timely flood warnings through co-produced systems.

REAL-BF project earned the Most Innovative Sustainable Energy Project of the Year 2022-2023 award at the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) 2023 Awards.

Early Warning and Action for Food Security (EWAC)

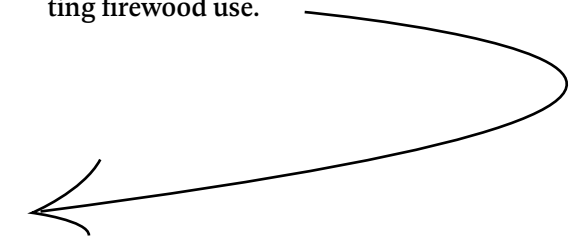
Location: Kaffrine, Senegal
Timeline: October 2023 – November 2025
Focus Areas: Climate Resilience
Partners: Chatham House
Donor: Citi Foundation
Budget: \$500,000

EWAC builds resilience to interconnected risks like climate shocks and food insecurity by enhancing early warning systems and promoting anticipatory action. In partnership with Chatham House, the project combines participatory planning with multi-risk forecasting to ensure inclusive, timely responses. With input from over 1,200 community members—especially women and marginalised groups—EWAC is strengthening local capacity to act early and protect food security.

Renewable Energy for Agricultural Livelihoods (REAL-BF)

Location: Burkina Faso
Timeline: July 2022 – December 2024
Focus Areas: Energy, Agriculture
Partners: ProValaB 2, Beoog-Puuto, Weoog-Paani
Donor: Embassy of Sweden in Ouagadougou (SIDA)
Budget: \$1,318,000

REAL-BF supports smallholder farmers in Burkina Faso to boost productivity and resilience by integrating renewable energy into five key agricultural value chains—rice, horticulture, poultry, fish, and non-timber forest products. The project combines improved technologies, market linkages, and access to finance to drive impact. So far, it has installed 136 energy systems reaching over 7,100 farmers (80% women), reduced CO2 emissions by 1,437 tons annually, and increased farmers' incomes by at least 50,000 CFA per year. A new digital platform, YIRIWALI, helps guide renewable energy investment, while 135 hectares of forest have been preserved by cutting firewood use.



ZIMBABWE

Pioneering resilience where it's needed most

Since 1989, Practical Action has worked with communities in Zimbabwe's marginal rainfed regions to tackle the challenges of recurring droughts, climate extremes, and economic instability. Through practical, locally led solutions in agriculture and energy, we've pioneered conservation agriculture, solar-powered irrigation, and gender-responsive seed systems—transforming livelihoods, strengthening resilience to climate shocks, and improving food security in vulnerable areas.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand Climate Information Services, scale renewable energy access, and address urban waste challenges. Our focus includes advancing solar-powered irrigation and cold chains to reduce food waste, promoting clean cooking through market-driven models, and restoring biodiversity in degraded ecosystems. By collaborating with communities, government, and the private sector, we are building resilient systems that improve food, energy, and environmental health.



Ophias's farm in Zimbabwe is flourishing, using techniques like solar-powered irrigation that not only improve his yields but also conserve the local ecosystem for future generations.

In 2013, Practical Action became the first organisation in Zimbabwe to pilot solar-powered irrigation systems. These innovations now power business centres, schools, and health facilities, and are managed by communities as sustainable enterprises. Today, more than 50 solar gardens are providing food, income, and better nutrition—and have been recognised by the Ministry of Energy and local authorities as a scalable model for climate-smart agriculture.

Featured Projects

Resilience Building for Chimanimani Communities (RBCC)

Location: Chimanimani District
Timeline: October 2022 – December 2023
Focus Area: Climate Resilience
Donor: USAID
Budget: \$1,712,769

The RBCC project supported 32,000 people across 11 wards in Chimanimani to recover from climate shocks and rebuild resilient livelihoods. Through participatory disaster risk reduction, agroecology, and savings and lending groups, the project restored food and nutrition security while strengthening financial resilience. Gender-transformative approaches, including Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS), promoted inclusive decision-making and helped reduce domestic violence. Outcomes include a 68% uptake of improved farming practices, six new solar-powered gardens that doubled household incomes, expanded irrigation plot sizes, and a rise in indigenous poultry ownership—all contributing to stronger food systems and community wellbeing.

Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP)

Location: Mutare, Mutasa, and Makoni Districts
Timeline: February 2015 – May 2021
Focus Area: Agriculture
Implementing Partners: Sustainable Agriculture Technologies (SAT)
Donor: FCDO
Budget: \$8,785,727

The LFSP–INSPIRE project supported 80,000 rural households in Mutare, Mutasa, and Makoni to improve food security, nutrition, and incomes. By promoting biofortified crops, strengthening market access, and increasing agricultural productivity, the project boosted household income from farming by 58% and generated \$324.9 million in output. Conservation agriculture, piloted through Pfumvudza, influenced national policy. The programme also empowered farmers through 1,926 savings groups, which grew into 21 SACCOs and 36 group enterprises, while 60% of participants adopted improved crop technologies.

OUR PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

At Practical Action Africa, we believe that development must be driven by those who know their contexts best: local communities, African leaders, African Academia and Research Institutions, and African-led organizations. Our role is to facilitate and enable this leadership and ownership, ensuring African voices guide our work rather than being mere recipients of external solutions.

We forge equitable partnerships to co-create impactful innovations that address systemic poverty, particularly in the face of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. By placing local actors and civil society at the heart of our initiatives, we aim to foster sustainable, scalable solutions that reflect local priorities and deliver long-term, transformative change.

To achieve this, we embrace a robust multi-stakeholder engagement approach, collaborating both vertically across different levels of governance, society and institutions and horizontally with peers, private sector, academia and civil society organizations (both national and international). This inclusive, cross-sector and multistakeholder collaboration helps us combine diverse expertise, amplify shared values, and keep our work grounded in local realities. By championing locally led development, we strive to catalyze resilient livelihoods, thriving economies, and meaningful progress for those most at stake in Africa's development journey.



“

My accident didn't stop me. I just found a new way to work—and my customers stayed with me.”



Jecinta began her business journey in 2011, selling improved cookstoves and solar lights in rural Kenya. After a life-altering road accident in 2018, many expected her to step back—but her determination only grew stronger. With support from Practical Action, she adapted her business, continued serving her loyal customers, and became a voice for inclusion.

Today, Jecinta runs a thriving clean energy business that helps families access affordable, smokeless cooking solutions and reliable lighting—especially in off-grid areas. She also produces briquette charcoal using waste materials, offering a sustainable alternative to traditional fuels.

As a woman with a disability, Jecinta is not only earning a living—she's changing mindsets, encouraging others to embrace clean energy, and showing fellow women that resilience is power.

BIG CHANGE

starts small

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