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VC4AFRICA TO FEATURE GCP SOLAR

VC4Africa are set to feature GCP Solar as a leading company in their 'Trending Ventures, Edition 101'. VC4Africa focuses on promoting venture capital for Africa and connecting people and networks on a global scale. The community currently supports over +1,000 ventures in more than 30 African countries.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Only 14% of Ghanaians are concerned about the health effects of kerosene.
- 60% of traders in Ghana do not operate after dark due to poor lighting.

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400 LIGHTS FOR LIFE SOLD TO OFF-GRID LIGHTING COMMUNITIES IN GHANA

In conjunction with Just Shea, GCP Solar distributed 400 solar lanterns to two off-grid lighting communities in Northern Ghana. These are rural areas with no current access to safe light or electricity.

GCP Solar is a distributor of the market leading Nokero® suite of solar products, such as hand-held solar lights and mobile phone chargers. Up to 90% of the population do not have access to the main power grid. At the moment only 0.1% are using solar lanterns, GCP Solar endeavours to change this. A majority of the population currently use candles or kerosene to produce light, these can have detrimental effects to their health as well as the environment.

Sidney Yankson (CEO, GCP Solar) ran one-to-one or group sessions teaching the Shea women, with an interpreter, about how to use their purchased solar lanterns. The solar lanterns were a part of their safety kit provided by *Just Shea*. After returning at nightfall, the feedback was already highly positive. Not only does this provide a safer and sustainable solution to bad lighting, the women actually saved extra money



BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES \$5M IMPACT INVESTMENT INTO LITTLE SUN, CREATORS OF SOLAR-POWERED LAMPS

The former New York Mayor, Mike Bloomberg announced Bloomberg Philanthropies would make its first ever impact investment of \$US5m into Little Sun, creators of solar lanterns in the off-grid lighting population in Africa. The 'Little Sun', is a solar-powered LED lamp developed by Danish artist Olafur Eliasson and created by engineer Frederik Ottesen, it provides safe and affordable light and hopes to replace kerosene as the favoured light source in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The impact investment will be by way of a low interest loan to enable Little Sun to expand its efforts to distribute its portable solar-powered lamps.

The Little Sun lamp is currently available to be purchased in Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Bloomberg Philanthropies' mission is to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organisation focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Public Health, Environment, Education, Government Innovation and the Arts. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving.

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through buying the product. Many of them were pleased that their children could now do their homework after sunset.

The shea women collect shea nuts in remote areas in Northern Ghana. Shea butter is a popular type of moisturiser exported all over the world. 1 million women a year get bitten by snakes when picking the nuts, however now, thanks to their safety kit and solar lanterns, this figure may now be curbed. The Government of Ghana is hoping for 5GW of total power in the country in the years to come. Furthermore, they anticipate that a high proportion of this will come from renewable energy sources.

SIDNEY YANKSON (CEO) WILL SPEAK AT THE SOLAR & OFF-GRID RENEWABLES AFRICA CONFERENCE IN ACCRA, GHANA

Sidney Yankson (CEO, GCP Solar) has been invited to speak at the Solar & Off-Grid Renewables Africa Conference in Ghana on 16-17 September 2014, a high-level conference with an elite panel of over thirty-five other international expert speakers.

This conference intends to explore the vast opportunities in the renewable energy market in both on and off-grid areas in West Africa. The Solar & Off-grid Renewables Africa hopes to repeat similar success of their sell-out conference in March 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speakers include government and policy experts, utility scale project developers, international market experts, financiers and off-grid experts in solar for mines, heavy industry and communities. Sidney Yankson commented that, "the West Africa conference will provide a great showcase for a growing market in Africa. It should be a great opportunity for the established players to meet with new investors and get projects moved forward. For Africa's development, renewable technologies are a key component of aiding growth in the sub-region."



Photos by Sidney Yankson and Greg Lee