Mozambique

PWRDF’s Light For Every Birth project ran from May through October 31, 2021 with the goal of bringing solar electricity to more rural healthcare clinics in Mozambique.

The project was a continuation of work that began in 2016 with long-time partner in Mozambique, EHALE, and We Care Solar from California. Thirty “solar suitcases” were installed in rural health clinics. A solar panel is mounted to the roof and then connects to a yellow plastic box on a wall inside the clinic. It opens like a suitcase to reveal a headlamp, phone charging ports and a fetal Doppler, and also powers a ceiling light. Since these suitcases were installed, partners have seen a dramatic increase in healthy births during the night, and greater acceptance of clinic visits to consult with trained birth attendants.

“People, after they see what the solar suitcases have done to other communities and their impact, they call me and say ‘you have to protect us, you have to bring a solar suitcase to us,’” said Olinda Magaia, Executive Director at EHALE. In 2022, solar suitcases will provide electricity at 50 more clinics.