

# Solar Sister and LivelyHoods Announce Merger to Bring Clean Energy to Millions of People in Sub-Saharan Africa

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, May 17, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Solar Sister, Inc. and LivelyHoods Kenya announce their merger to bring economic opportunity and clean energy to millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. The merger of these two award-winning social enterprises is effective immediately and combines Solar Sister's operations in Nigeria and Tanzania, with LivelyHoods' network in Kenya. The move, rare in the social enterprise sector, builds on the successes of the two organizations to drive impact in the three [most important issues](#) of our time: gender equity, climate justice, and energy access.



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*Katherine Lucey, Founder, and  
CEO of Solar Sister*

Solar Sister and LivelyHoods bring life-transforming clean energy products to underserved households in low resource communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Using market-based social enterprise models that deliver energy access, economic opportunity, and climate solutions, both organizations have carved out leadership positions in their respective markets. Founded in 2009 and 2011 respectively, the two organizations share a mission of ensuring that no one is left behind in the clean energy transition.

"This merger represents the kind of collaboration and unity of effort that it will take to address the world's greatest

challenges, such as job creation, economic empowerment, and access to clean and affordable energy, that both of our organizations have been working on for more than a decade,” said Tania Laden, Co-Founder and Executive Director LivelyHoods.

This merger validates an innovative approach that translates and scales across cultures and contexts. Expanding into the Kenyan market accelerates Solar Sister's commitment to expand impact across sub-Saharan Africa building on the strength of its model of women entrepreneurs selling solar lights and clean cookstoves to family, friends, and neighbors.

“Bringing these two organizations together is a massive leap forward in scaling up a proven energy access solution that improves human well-being, boosts equity, and helps usher in prosperity for people in sub-Saharan Africa,” said Katherine Lucey, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Solar Sister. “Our mission, vision, and values are in complete alignment, giving us a solid foundation for our combined efforts. We bring different geographic and market segment expertise to the table that will enable us to grow in size as well as strength. We are better together, and that benefits our customers, our communities, our partners, and our funders.”

This merger delivers a [climate solution](#) that addresses the fact that over 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity, and over 700 million depend on harmful fuels such as firewood and charcoal for cooking. Globally, smoke from cookstoves causes 2.6 million premature deaths and dangerous health conditions, including respiratory and vision problems. Lack of access to power locks people into poverty and affects all areas of life. Energy poverty has many direct and indirect negative consequences on the health, education, and incomes of women in particular and off-grid communities in general—people who experience energy poverty use higher-cost fuels like kerosene lamps and firewood. When more



Solar Sister Logo



Solar Sister Entrepreneur Hawa Ibrahim Chora with her tree saplings in Tanzania. Hawa wants to live in a community with lots of trees, breathe fresh air, reduce drought and fight climate change.

people have access to clean energy, they are healthier, children can study longer, and communities are more stable. The use of clean energy prevents harmful emissions, reduces deforestation, and climate change.

#### About Solar Sister:

Solar Sister drives impact by investing in women's clean energy businesses in off-grid communities in Africa. Solar Sister eradicates extreme energy poverty by empowering African women with economic opportunity, providing essential services and training that enable women entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses. Solar Sister is a climate solution that also improves human well-being, boosts equity, and helps usher in prosperity for people in sub-Saharan Africa who are least responsible for the climate crisis. To date, over 7,000 Solar Sister Entrepreneurs have reached over [three million people](https://www.solarsister.org) with clean energy access. Products sold by Solar Sister Entrepreneurs have eliminated over 946,763 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions. [www.solarsister.org](https://www.solarsister.org)

#### About LivelyHoods:

Launched in 2011 LivelyHoods has created a youth empowered sales network that trains and employs disadvantaged women and youth in Kenyan slums to distribute life-improving products in hard-to-reach markets, providing both income opportunities and access to energy. LivelyHoods has impacted the lives of over 300,000 people by providing them with cleaner, safer access to cookstoves and light. LivelyHoods trained 5,753 women and youth and have created 2,568 jobs including 1,360 for women. [www.livelyhoods.org](https://www.livelyhoods.org)

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