WeLight Africa Impact Report 2024

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CEO’S MESSAGE

Romain de Villeneuve
CEO WeLight Africa

We are pleased to reveal WeLight Africa 2024 Impact Report.

Over the past year, WeLight has remained steadfast in its commitment to accelerating socio-economic development across sub-Saharan Africa by enabling access to clean energy, particularly for underserved rural populations. This report highlights WeLight’s positive and lasting impact on the communities served.

The deployment of 86 sites throughout 2024—an unprecedented expansion—has increased the total number of electrified villages to 186, making it possible to impact more than 800,000 people. This access to electricity has triggered significant socio-economic progress by enhancing nighttime security, fostering entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities, and improving education and healthcare. Meanwhile, rising household energy consumption reinforces the effectiveness of WeLight’s approach and its support for local sustainable growth.

These milestones would not have been possible without the unwavering involvement of WeLight’s teams, the consistent support of shareholders and partners, and the close collaboration with national governments as well as their affiliated institutions.

WeLight is positioned as a key partner to the Mission 300, a vital initiative led by the World Bank Group (WBG) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to connect 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa to electricity by 2030.

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KEY FIGURES

4 countries :

Active operations : **Madagascar** **Mali**

Under development : **Nigeria** **DRC**

186
electrified villages

6,150
powered businesses

800,000
people positively impacted

19,200
powered jobs

39,100
connections

3,300
streetlights installed

IDENTITY

Founded in 2018 by Axian, Sagemcom, and Norfund. WeLight Africa is an-impact driven company and a pioneering force in rural electrification across sub-Saharan Africa. Its model, based on solar mini-grid systems in the villages, strives to enhance lives and livelihoods, stimulate local economic activities, and foster community development.

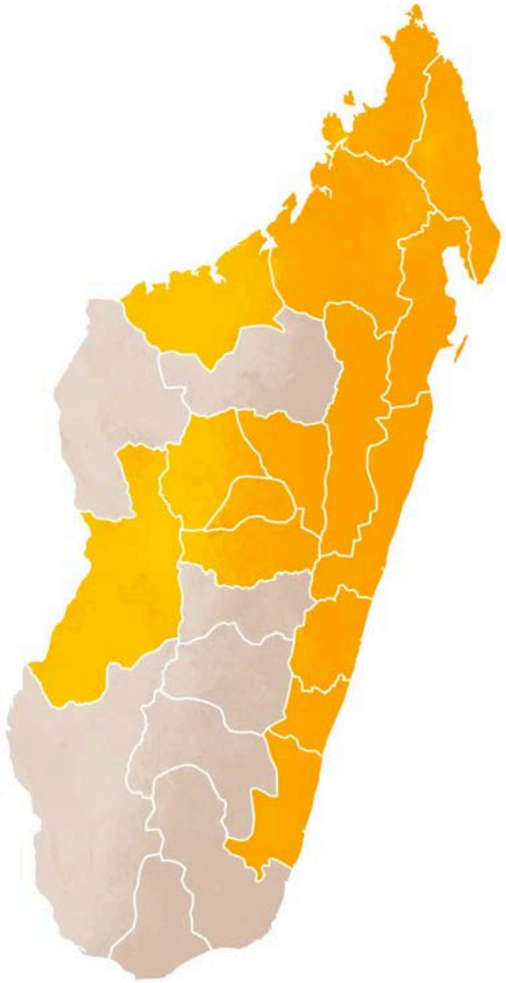
WeLight's B Corp certification stands as proof of its compliance with the highest standards of social and environmental performance within its entire ecosystem. It also underscores its dedication to using business as a force for good—leveraging rural electrification as a catalyst to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WeLight main partners

Scheme of WeLight's service offer

WELIGHT MADAGASCAR

In 2024, WeLight's activities span 15 regions in Madagascar.



172
electrified villages

16,000
powered jobs

720,000
people positively impacted

3,100
streetlights installed

35,900
connected households

4,116 MWh
of clean energy generated

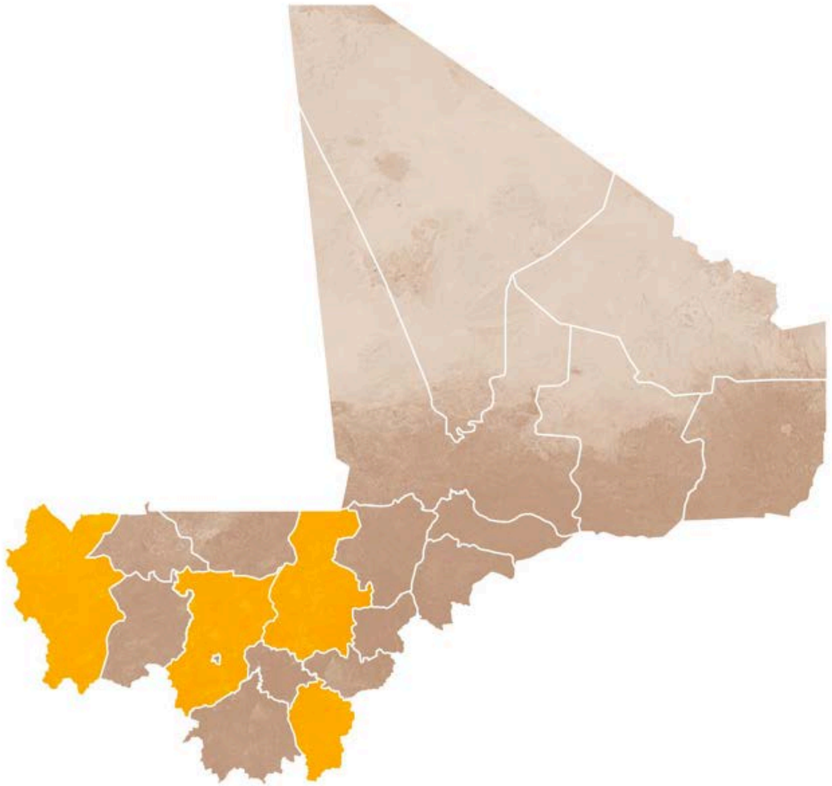
179,500
users with daily access to energy

3,431 tCO_2eq
of emissions avoided

5,350
powered businesses

WELIGHT MALI

In 2024, WeLight's activities span 4 regions in Mali.



14
electrified villages

3,200
powered jobs

80,000
people positively impacted

200
streetlights installed

3,200
connected households

452 MWh
of clean energy generated

22,400
users with daily access to energy

1,111 tCO_2eq
of emissions avoided

800
powered businesses

SOCIAL IMPACTS

With 3,300 streetlights installed, nighttime safety has significantly improved, encouraging community activities after dark, and enhancing the overall sense of security and openness in villages

1,050 connected public facilities (town halls, schools and health centers), enhancing the efficiency and quality of essential public services delivered to the local population

100% of residential customers report feeling safer and acknowledge electricity as a driver of social connection within the communities

54% of mayors note a rise in population, reflecting the increased attractiveness of these localities

78% of mayors confirm the availability of IT equipment for administrative tasks in town halls

« Public lighting has made our neighborhood much safer, with a noticeable drop in theft and break-ins. This improved safety has strengthened community bonds—we've even created a space to watch football together and socialize. The positive impact is evident, as more people from nearby villages are moving here. »

ARMAND Velo, Mayor of Nosiarina - Madagascar

« Theft cases have decreased in our village, as all areas are now accessible and safe at night thanks to public lighting. Socially, electrification has enabled friendly gatherings around television and events such as dance nights, strengthening community cohesion. »

DAOU Salif, Mayor of Dougouolo - Mali

EDUCATION

135 private and public schools connected

50,000+ students reached in 2024

100% of the sampled schools **equipped with computers and printers**, improving learning materials, education quality and student motivation

An average increase of **+36% in pass rates** for official exams at the primary, secondary, and high school levels compared to the pre-electrification period

« Since electrification, significant changes have occurred with the use of computers and printers. Printed materials are now provided during exams, and young children have access to educational videos such as cartoons. Student enrollment has risen, with attendance and engagement levels significantly increasing. »

ANDRIAMANJATOSOA Roberto
Public Primary School Director, Ambatojoby - Madagascar

HEALTH

100 health centers connected

30,000+ patients consulted in 2024

12,000+ night births
assisted in connected health facilities in 2024

100% of health center managers highlight significant progress : **use of electric medical equipment** (e.g. sterilizer, x-ray machine, oxygen concentrator), ability to **store vaccines and temperature-sensitive medicines** and capacity to **receive and treat patients at night**

These advancements have strengthened patient trust and drawn more residents from neighboring villages to seek care there.

« With access to electricity, healthcare at our center has improved a lot. Vaccines are safely stored, lab tests are easier to perform, and we can now treat patients at night thanks to reliable lighting. People feel more comfortable coming here—even from nearby villages. Before, women had to bring solar lamps for night deliveries. Now, conditions are much safer, and mortality rates have gone down. »

MALE Youssouf,
President of CSCOM (Community Health Center), Ntossoni - Mali

HOUSEHOLDS DAILY LIFE

97% of households report **better access to information** through television and various media, including the internet

+1,950 households have freezers mainly used for business activities

97% also confirm that use of appliances (e.g. pressure cookers, irons) help **save time on chores**

38% experience **improved nutrition** thanks to the convenience of food storage

« Children now benefit from studying at night with proper lighting, instead of relying on unhealthy kerosene lamps as before. »

RAZAKATIANA Aristide, Antsenavolo - Madagascar

« We now have two freezers at home. We produce ice and juice both for personal consumption and for selling, particularly during the hot season. »

SOGOBA Souleymane, Dougouolo - Mali

« Thanks to electrification, we stay informed about national news through television and the internet. »

BOUAKARY Coulibaly, Sirakorola - Mali

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

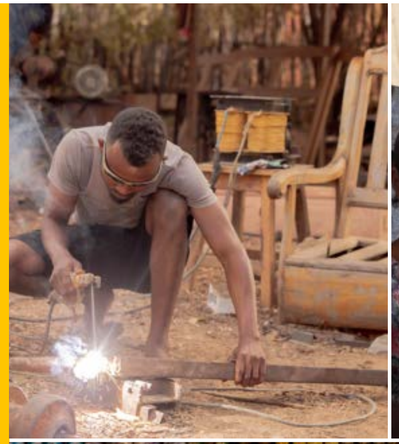
98% of mayors emphasize that electrification has contributed to income and job generation, notably for women, making a considerable difference in their empowerment and in advancing gender equality.

6,150+ powered businesses, including 1,700+ small industries connected with three-phase energy. On average, each employs 5 people

2,000+ businesses headed by women

New economic activities : welding, wood carpentry, food processing, multi-services, tailoring, hairdressing, fishmongering, and shops selling frozen products

19,200+ powered jobs



« Electrification has allowed me to modernize my bakery. I can now use electric equipment like a dough mixer, which improves both productivity and bread quality. With lighting, I'm also able to work earlier in the morning or later in the evening, helping me better meet customer demand. »

DIARRA Bamé, Baker, Sirakorola - Mali

«Many new jobs have been created—such as yogurt makers, hairdressers, and multi-service providers—boosting the local economy. There are also small street vendors operating in the evenings. »

RABEARIVONY Justin, Mayor of Firaisantsoa Imanga - Madagascar

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2021, in partnership with the German international cooperation agency (GIZ), WeLight Africa has been implementing an integrated program to promote productive uses of energy and accelerate local entrepreneurship in the 172 electrified villages in Madagascar by :

- providing technical and entrepreneurial training with sector-specific modules, complemented by personalized support
- partially subsidizing the purchase of electric equipment adapted to local value chains

166 entrepreneurs trained by WeLight, among them 30% of women

Impact of the program

An average of 2 jobs created per entrepreneur, consolidating 300+ jobs

An increase in electricity consumption of +40%

88% of training satisfaction rate

77% state **enhanced financial, commercial, and customer relation skills**

96% report **increased income up to 30%**

68% are willing and able **to invest in higher-energy equipment**

ENTREPRENEURS' TESTIMONIES

« I used to sell second-hand clothes. Today, as a seamstress, I offer families the chance to wear custom-made outfits, especially during festive periods. Thanks to the training, I've gained new clients and increased my income by 26 to 30%. »

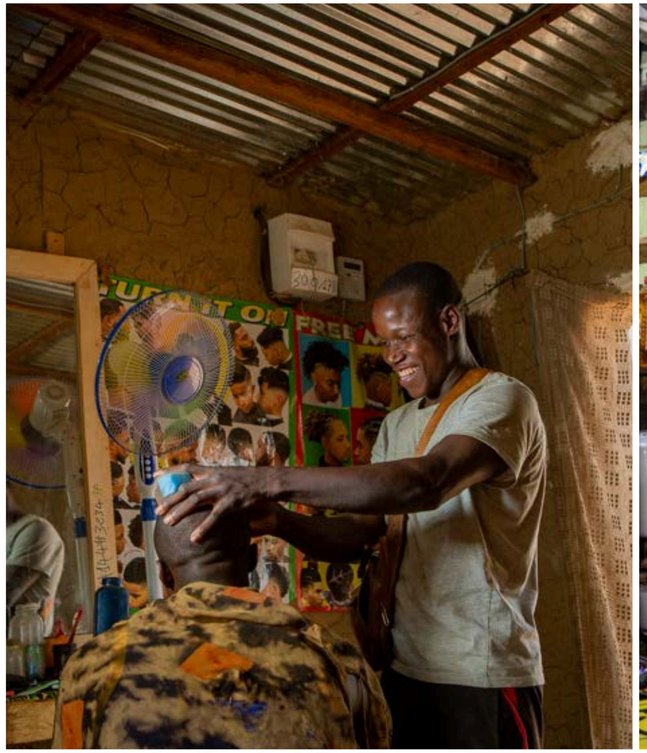
RAHAINGONIRINA Laurencine, Seamstress, Belambo - Madagascar

« I'm very satisfied with the training. Since then, my income has grown by 26 to 30%, and my team has expanded from 3 to 5. With my rice milling unit, locals no longer need to travel long distances. I'm also able to save money to invest in a Kubota to support rice transport. »

RAVAOARIMANANA Harilanto, Husker, Andilanatoby - Madagascar

« I opened the first hair salon in the village in 2023. Before that, people had to travel nearly 40 kilometers to Vatomandry. The training helped me strengthen my entrepreneurial skills, and I now employ 2 people. »

NAMBININTSOA Yva, Hairdresser, Ilaka Est - Madagascar



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

WeLight Africa remains committed to developing innovative and sustainable energy solutions that address the needs of local populations while minimizing environmental impact.

4,800 trees planted through the national annual reforestation program, carried out in collaboration with local authorities and communities. This action supports both ecosystem regeneration and climate resilience.

75% of approached mayors observe **a decline in the use of firewood and other polluting energy sources**, leading to tangible environmental benefits such as: reduced smoke emissions, improved air quality, lower pressure on forest resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

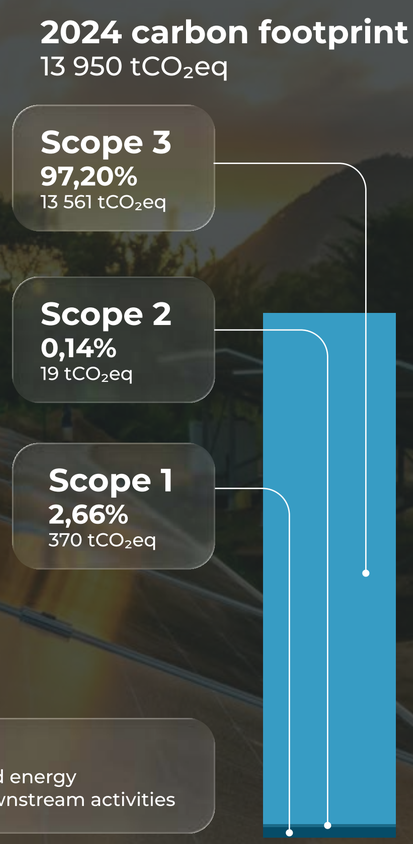
Avoided carbon emissions

In 2024, WeLight generated a total of **4,568 MWh of clean energy** in Madagascar and Mali, reinforcing its efforts to promote a low-carbon energy transition.

This production represented **4,542 tCO2eq of avoided emissions**, demonstrating its contribution to climate change mitigation.

Carbon footprint

Compared to 2023, emissions across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 have increased respectively by 13%, 27%, and 168%, mainly due to strong operational growth and, to a lesser extent, improved carbon accounting, including land use change.



Scope 1 : Direct emissions from operations
Scope 2 : Indirect emissions from purchased energy
Scope 3 : Emissions from upstream and downstream activities

11x
more avoided emissions than company-owned or controlled emissions

FURTHER OPERATIONS INDICATORS

450 employees

47% of managerial positions held by women

82% of procurements benefit local economy

98% **Service Availability (SA)**

92% **Customer Satisfaction Score (CSAT)**

95% **Net Promoter Score (NPS)**

CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS

In 2024, WeLight Africa reinforced its alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), incorporating them further in into its core activity and social impact approach.

12 out of the 17 SDGs are directly impacted.

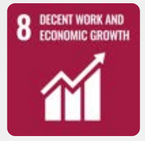
- Accelerating energy inclusion to improve access to basic services and economic resources in rural areas

- Leveraging energy access to improve rural health centers and services, particularly for women and children

- Using energy as a driver to enhance educational infrastructure and quality in rural areas, notably through access to digital learning tools

- Empowering rural women through productive uses of energy, advancing gender equality

- Contributing to universal access to reliable and modern energy services, with a focus on rural communities
- Supporting the growth of renewable energy within the global energy mix



- Promoting productive activities, entrepreneurship, and jobs creation through rural electrification
- Stimulating the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in rural areas through training and personalized support

- Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrialization to drive economic development and improve the well-being of rural communities

- Enabling the integration of rural micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into value chains and markets
- Driving increased household and business income in rural areas

- Promoting sustainable resource management and efficient use of natural assets

- Strengthening rural communities' resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related risks and natural disasters

- Protecting and restoring forests through strategic reforestation programs
- Safeguarding ecosystems and implementing energy measures to avoid or limit environmental and biodiversity degradation

- Developing international cooperation and public-private partnerships to advance the electrification goals of the Mission 300 initiative across the African continent

METHODOLOGY

As part of the assessment methodology, socio-economic impact studies were carried out in Madagascar and Mali, through structured interviews with a diverse range of stakeholders, including mayors, business owners, entrepreneurs, local residents, school directors, and health center managers — using random sampling techniques. A representative sample of 195 individuals were interviewed, among them 31 mayors. These in-depth interviews provided valuable insights into the tangible impacts of energy access across both countries.

For carbon accounting, WeLight Africa complies with the GHG Protocol and uses the Tennaxia platform to centralize and analyze emissions-related data. The results are audited and validated by the specialist consultancy UTOPIES.

Disclaimer

This report is shared for informational purposes and has not undergone review or validation by an independent third parties. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented, please note that, as a self-reported document it may contain inherent limitations. For any inquiries or to explore the contents further, stakeholders are invited to reach out to us directly.

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