



RURAL BRIGHT HORIZONS

Annual Report 2024

Empowering Communities, Illuminating Futures

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A Message from Our Director

The year 2024 was a culmination of our efforts and a beacon of what lies ahead for Rural Bright Horizons LLC. Guided by the theme "Empowering Communities, Illuminating Futures," we focused on consolidating our successes, fostering deeper community ownership, and scaling our impact through replicable models. It is with immense pride and a profound sense of accomplishment that we share the narrative of this remarkable year—a story of empowered individuals, thriving communities, and the enduring light of sustainable energy shaping brighter tomorrows.

Building on the innovative foundations laid in previous years, 2024 saw us expand successful initiatives like "Project Horizon" by launching its second phase, bringing our advanced micro-grid solutions to even more villages. A cornerstone of this year was the establishment of a central operations and maintenance hub for the Valley of Blooms grid, managed by trained local youth—a testament to our commitment to local capacity building and long-term sustainability. Furthermore, the launch of our "Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Program (REEP)" marked a significant step in directly linking energy access to economic empowerment, particularly for women, by fostering local businesses centered around energy services.

Our journey in 2024 was also characterized by a dedicated effort to disseminate knowledge. The "Knowledge Spark Initiative" developed and distributed educational materials on energy conservation and productive energy use in multiple local languages, ensuring that communities could

maximize the benefits of their newfound access to power. These initiatives, while ambitious, were met with the characteristic resilience and ingenuity of our team and partner communities. We navigated the challenges of scaling programs while maintaining quality, addressing regulatory nuances, and ensuring the long-term viability of community-managed systems.

The unwavering support of our funders, including a significant multi-year grant from the International Development Agency for Energy Access, and the continued collaboration with partners like Helios Solar Solutions Inc. and the TechForGood Foundation, were crucial to these achievements. This report details the milestones of 2024: the expanded reach of our projects, the new enterprises sparked, the knowledge shared, and the international recognition received for our contributions to sustainable development. It reflects our holistic approach to rural electrification—one that views energy not as an end in itself, but as a catalyst for comprehensive community empowerment.

As we look back on 2024, we are inspired by the tangible transformations we have witnessed and the powerful potential that has been unlocked. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has journeyed with us.

Together, we are Rural Bright Horizons.

Sincerely,

Zakaria BOUCHBOUK

Director, Rural Bright Horizons LLC

Our Enduring Mission and Vision

Mission

To help remote villages access power through electrification projects.

Vision

A world where every remote community is empowered by sustainable energy, fostering brighter futures and equitable opportunities.

Core Values

- **Community-Centric:** We place the needs and aspirations of the communities we serve at the heart of our work.
- **Sustainability:** We are committed to providing environmentally sound and economically viable energy solutions.
- **Integrity:** We operate with transparency, accountability, and the highest ethical standards.
- **Innovation:** We continuously seek and implement creative solutions to overcome challenges in rural electrification.
- **Empowerment:** We strive to build local capacity and foster self-reliance within the communities.



2024: Scaling Impact, Fostering Ownership – Projects and Impact

The year 2024 was a period of significant scaling and deepening of community empowerment for Rural Bright Horizons LLC, driven by our theme, "Empowering Communities, Illuminating Futures." We focused on expanding our proven models, fostering local ownership, and creating sustainable ecosystems around energy access. Key initiatives included the ambitious "Project Horizon - Phase II," the launch of the transformative "Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Program (REEP)," and the widespread dissemination of knowledge through the "Knowledge Spark Initiative." These efforts directly brought electricity to an additional 250+ households (impacting over 1250 individuals directly with new household connections, bringing our cumulative direct household impact to over 660 households and 3300 individuals across all years) and catalyzed significant economic empowerment and capacity building across all our project areas.

250+

New Households Electrified in 2024

10

New Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Supported (REEP)

1

Local O&M Hub Established (Project Horizon)

Project Horizon - Phase II: Expanding the Circle of Light and Local Management

Building on the resounding success of the interconnected micro-grid in the Valley of Blooms, "Project Horizon - Phase II" was launched in 2024. This phase extended the existing grid infrastructure to two additional, previously un-electrified villages adjacent to the initial cluster. This expansion brought reliable, 24/7 solar power to an additional 100 households, directly benefiting approximately 500 more individuals. The technological model, including smart metering, was replicated, ensuring consistency and efficiency.

A crucial innovation within Phase II was the establishment of a central operations and maintenance (O&M) hub for the entire Valley of Blooms micro-grid network. This hub was staffed and managed by a team of local youth, including young women, who had undergone intensive training. This development was a major step towards ensuring the long-term sustainability and community ownership of the energy infrastructure.

Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Program (REEP): Sparking Local Enterprise

A highlight of 2024 was the official launch of the "Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Program (REEP)." This

initiative identified, trained, and provided initial support to 10 individuals, with a strong focus on empowering women, to establish small businesses centered around energy access. Enterprises included solar lantern sales and repair, mobile phone charging stations, small-scale cold storage, and a solar-powered tailoring unit. REEP provided technical, business, and financial literacy training, creating sustainable livelihoods and a vibrant local energy economy.

Knowledge Spark Initiative: Illuminating Minds for Sustainable Energy Use

To ensure communities could maximize the benefits of their new energy access, Rural Bright Horizons launched the "Knowledge Spark Initiative." This program focused on developing and distributing educational materials on energy conservation, efficient appliance use, and the productive applications of electricity. Materials were created in simple, accessible formats and translated into multiple local languages. Workshops and community awareness sessions were also conducted, empowering users with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their energy consumption and to explore income-generating activities powered by electricity.

The initiatives of 2024 firmly embedded Rural Bright Horizons LLC's work within the communities, fostering local leadership, economic independence, and a sustainable energy culture.

Voices from the Community: Stories of Empowerment

The empowerment focus of 2024 yielded inspiring stories. Ms. Priya Sharma, one of the first entrepreneurs supported by REEP, shared her journey.

"I always wanted to start my own tailoring business, but the lack of reliable electricity made it impossible to use an electric sewing machine. With the REEP program, I not only got training but also support to set up a solar-powered unit. Now, I can work longer hours, take more orders, and my income has tripled. I can support my family and even hire another woman from the village. This program has given me independence and a future."

- Ms. Priya Sharma, REEP Entrepreneur



Mr. Arjun Kumar, a member of the newly formed O&M Hub team for Project Horizon, expressed his pride:

"Being part of the O&M Hub means a lot to me and my family. I have learned new skills, and now I am helping to keep the lights on for my entire community. It's a responsible job, and it feels good to be contributing to something so important. We are not just consumers of energy anymore; we are managers of it."

- Mr. Arjun Kumar, O&M Hub Technician

Sustaining Growth: Challenges Encountered in 2024

Scaling operations and fostering deep community ownership in 2024 presented its own set of challenges, requiring strategic adaptation.

Ensuring Quality Control in Scaled Programs

As we expanded initiatives like REEP and the O&M Hub training, maintaining consistent quality across different locations and cohorts became a key challenge. This required developing standardized training modules, robust monitoring systems, and continuous mentorship for local teams and entrepreneurs.

Navigating Regulatory Nuances for Community Grids

The increasing scale and formalization of our community-managed micro-grids brought new regulatory considerations. Working closely with local and regional authorities to ensure compliance and advocate for supportive policies for decentralized renewable energy systems was an ongoing effort.

Long-term Financial Viability of O&M Hubs

While the O&M Hub model was designed for sustainability, ensuring its long-term financial viability through efficient tariff collection, cost management, and potentially developing additional revenue streams (e.g., appliance repair services) required ongoing support and strategic planning with the community committees.

Addressing these challenges was crucial for the long-term success and replicability of our empowerment-focused models.

Milestones of Empowerment: Key Achievements in 2024

The year 2024 was defined by significant milestones in community empowerment and sustainable impact for Rural Bright Horizons LLC.

- **Successful launch and expansion of "Project Horizon - Phase II,"** extending our interconnected micro-grid to two new villages.
- **Establishment of the first community-managed Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Hub** for the Valley of Blooms grid network, staffed by trained local youth.
- **Launched the "Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Program (REEP),"** successfully supporting 10 new micro-enterprises, with a focus on women entrepreneurs.
- **Developed and disseminated educational materials** through the "Knowledge Spark Initiative" in multiple local languages, promoting energy literacy.
- **Received international recognition with the "Global Sustainable Energy Prize"** for our holistic approach to rural electrification and community empowerment.
- **Secured a significant multi-year grant from the International Development Agency for Energy Access,** ensuring financial stability for future scaling.

These achievements underscored our commitment to creating lasting change by placing communities at the center of their energy futures.

Investing in Empowerment: 2024 Financial Overview

In 2024, Rural Bright Horizons LLC leveraged increased funding to significantly scale its programs and invest in long-term community empowerment structures.

Category	Amount
Income	
International Development Agency for Energy Access (Year 1 of Multi-year Grant)	\$250,000
Continued Partnership with Helios Solar Solutions Inc. (Cash & In-kind)	\$50,000
TechForGood Foundation (Support for REEP & Knowledge Spark)	\$20,000
Total Income	\$320,000
Expenditure	
Project Horizon - Phase II (Grid Expansion)	\$120,000
O&M Hub Setup and Initial Operational Support	\$40,000
Rural Energy Entrepreneurs Program (REEP - Grants, Training)	\$50,000
Knowledge Spark Initiative (Material Dev., Workshops)	\$25,000
Advanced Training & Capacity Building (Internal & Community)	\$30,000
Operational & Administrative Costs (Scaled Operations)	\$45,000
Total Expenditure	\$310,000
Net Balance Carried Forward	\$10,000

We are immensely grateful for the trust and substantial support from our funding partners, which enabled this year of impactful growth.

The Path Ahead: Future Outlook at the Close of 2024

As Rural Bright Horizons LLC concluded 2024, a year defined by empowering communities and illuminating futures, our gaze turned towards a horizon filled with even greater potential. The successes in scaling our models, fostering local ownership, and securing long-term support have positioned us for a new chapter of deeper and wider impact.

Our strategic priorities for the coming years will focus on **replicating the successful Project Horizon and REEP models** in new regions, adapting them to diverse local contexts while maintaining core principles of sustainability and community leadership.

We aim to **strengthen and expand the network of community-managed O&M hubs**, creating a peer-learning network and exploring federated models for shared services and expertise.

A key focus will be on **enhancing the economic impact of energy access** by integrating REEP with

agricultural value chains, digital financial services, and market linkages.

Internally, we will continue to invest in **our team's capacity, research into climate-resilient energy solutions, and robust M&E frameworks** that capture both quantitative and qualitative aspects of empowerment.

Advocacy will also play a larger role, as we leverage our field experience to contribute to policy discussions on decentralized renewable energy and inclusive rural development at national and international levels.

The journey of Rural Bright Horizons LLC is one of continuous learning and evolution. With the steadfast support of our partners and the inspiring resilience of the communities we serve, we are confident in our ability to illuminate many more futures in the years to come.

Acknowledgements

Rural Bright Horizons LLC extends its deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the successes of 2024, a year of profound community empowerment.

We are profoundly thankful to the **International Development Agency for Energy Access** for their landmark multi-year grant. Your commitment provides us with the stability to plan and execute long-term, impactful programs.

Our enduring partners, **Helios Solar Solutions Inc.** and the **TechForGood Foundation**, continue to be pillars of support. Your contributions of resources, expertise, and technology are invaluable.

To the **communities across all our project areas, especially in the Valley of Blooms and the newly connected villages**, your active participation, leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit are the true engines of change. We are honored to work alongside you.

We commend the newly trained **O&M Hub technicians and the pioneering Rural Energy Entrepreneurs**. You are the living proof of our mission to empower.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the **local and regional government bodies** for their continued collaboration and support in navigating the path to sustainable energy access.

And finally, to the dedicated and passionate **Rural Bright Horizons team and our network of volunteers**, your unwavering commitment to illuminating futures is the heart of our organization.

Thank you all for making 2024 a year where empowerment shone brightly.