

d.light to Participate in \$750M DARES Subsidy Program in Nigeria to Expand Energy Access to Millions of Local Residents

d.light, a global leader in solar energy solutions for underserved communities, has been named as a key participant in Nigeria's ambitious Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) program, set to launch this month. The \$750 million initiative, backed by the World Bank, aims to transform Nigeria's energy landscape by expanding electrification through decentralized renewable energy solutions, particularly in rural and underserved areas. d.light's inclusion underscores its proven track record in deploying high-quality solar products at scale and its commitment to providing millions with clean, affordable energy solutions.

With over ten years of experience operating in Nigeria and a track record of success in other large-scale energy initiatives—including Uganda's \$148 million UECCC program—d.light is poised to play a pivotal role in DARES. The company's expertise in solar energy solutions for low-income households will contribute significantly to bridging Nigeria's electricity gap. In 2024 alone, d.light positively impacted 24 million people across the markets it serves in Africa and India, allowing the company to surpass 190 million cumulative lives impacted and contributing towards the company's goal to transform 1 billion lives by 2030.

The DARES program represents a bold step toward sustainable energy access in Nigeria. Spearheaded by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and funded by the World Bank, DARES will drive large-scale deployment of solar-powered mini-grids and standalone solar home systems. Of the total \$750 million budget, \$300 million is specifically allocated to distributed solar energy solutions, aligning perfectly with the Federal Government of Nigeria's ambitious Energy Transition Plan and commitment to expanding off-grid electrification and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Valentine Okwara, Managing Director of d.light Nigeria says, *"DARES is a major catalyst in our mission to empower millions with reliable, affordable, and sustainable solar energy solutions. At d.light, we remain steadfast in our commitment to transforming lives through sustainable energy solutions, ensuring that no one is left behind."*

More than just an electrification initiative, DARES is designed to stimulate economic development by creating job opportunities, enhancing access to healthcare and education, and fostering local capacity-building for renewable energy operations and maintenance.

Okwara continues, *"This initiative goes beyond lighting homes. It's about unlocking economic potential, enhancing productivity, and driving inclusive growth across Nigeria. We want to ensure that no child's education is hindered by the lack of light in Kafanchan, that small and micro businesses in Baruten can extend their work hours and boost profitability, and that local health centers in Ohafia can provide better care, ultimately reducing maternal mortality."*

Participation in DARES requires companies to meet strict technical and quality standards, ensuring that only durable, high-performance solar components—including panels, inverters, and batteries—are used. Companies that establish local manufacturing or assembly facilities, create workforce training programs, and prioritize affordability will have a competitive advantage in the bidding process. These high standards align with d.light’s operational model, which prioritizes product quality, accessibility, and economic empowerment.

As DARES prepares for launch, d.light stands ready to contribute to one of Africa’s most ambitious renewable energy initiatives, reinforcing its role as a leader in solar-powered transformation. With a history of delivering innovative off-grid energy solutions, d.light’s participation in DARES is another step toward its overarching mission to bring sustainable, life-changing solar power and appliances to those who need it most.

About d.light

Founded in 2007 at Stanford in California, d.light is a global leader in making transformative products available and affordable to low-income families. d.light has sold 35 million products, including solar lanterns, solar home systems, TVs, radios, and smartphones, impacting the lives of over 190 million people. Our vision is to transform the lives of one billion people with sustainable products by 2030. For further information, visit: <https://www.dlight.com>

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