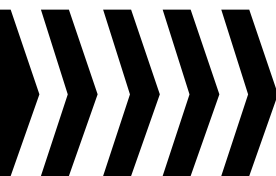




innovation: africa

from the press





ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY DOESN'T NECESSARILY START WITH 'WWW'

Technology has the potential to change lives across Africa. But for the continent to achieve its full potential, its people must be empowered with cost effective, readily available energy. Sivan Yaari, Founder & CEO of Innovation: Africa discusses the impact new innovative technologies can have across a number of sectors and how easily accessible these technologies can be.

<https://www.africa.com/access-to-technology-doesnt-necessarily-start-with-www/>



ELECTRIFYING AFRICA: THE PROCUREMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IS CRITICAL TO CLOSE THE WIDENING POWER GAP

Access to clean water and electricity are basic human rights and it is unacceptable that still today, millions of Africans live without these necessities

<https://www.africa.com/electrifying-africa-the-procurement-of-renewable-energy-is-critical-to-close-the-widening-power-gap/>



THE BATTLE FOR REFRIGERATION OF VACCINES IN AFRICA

The recent release of vaccination statistics for Africa reinforces just how far behind the rest of the world the continent is in the fight against the global pandemic. There are many reasons for the severity of this lag, but Sivan Yaari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, is adamant that access to electricity should not be one of them.

<https://www.esi-africa.com/solar/op-ed-the-battle-for-refrigeration-of-vaccines-in-africa/>



ERDAN HOSTS 25 AFRICAN UN ENVOYS IN EVENT TO BOOST ISRAEL-AFRICAN TIES

United Nations ambassadors from 25 different African countries took part in an event to help strengthen Israel-Africa ties.

The event took place with the participation of Sivan Ya'ari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, and Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan, as part of Erdan's initiative to boost Israeli relations with different African countries and maintain the Jewish state's observer status in the African Union.

"Through Israeli solar, water and agricultural technologies, Innovation: Africa has already improved the lives of over three million people – and through the partnerships established tonight, we will continue, together, to help millions more." – Sivan Ya'ari

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/erdan-hosts-25-african-un-envoys-in-event-to-boost-israel-african-ties-684557>



INNOVATION AFRICA BRINGS CLEAN WATER: SOCIAL TV

Just a few solar panels are enough to power a solar pump and Innovation: Africa recently celebrated bringing solar power to its 500th African village. This incredible achievement is transforming the lives of over 3 million people across the African continent.

“It is essential that we focus on this easily accessible resource as the solution to enabling progress”, says Sivan Ya’ari, Founder & CEO of Innovation: Africa. “Providing 500 villages with access to solar energy and clean water is truly life-changing and sometimes difficult to quantify. More than 3 million people can now change their circumstances, and pass a legacy of empowerment down to future generations.”

<https://social-tv.co.za/africa-brings-clean-water-and-solar-energy-to-500-villages-across-africa/>



RUNNING WATER BRINGS NEW INCOME STREAMS TO MANDELA VILLAGE IN TANZANIA

“The potential that is unleashed when we are able to turn on the taps and provide clean water to rural communities can create ripple effects that are life changing,” says Sivan Ya’ari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa. Access to clean water is a basic human right, but according to the World Economic Forum one in four people do not have access to safe drinking water – predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa.

<https://malawi24.com/2021/08/13/running-water-brings-new-income-streams-to-mandela-village-in-tanzania/>



WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

While Covid-19 remains one of humanity's greatest challenges to date, climate change continues unabated, affecting the most vulnerable communities, the bulk of whom live in Africa. For the past decade, numerous nations across the continent have experienced persistent drought as a result of climate change, displacing millions of people and leading to increased hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

In 2017, Karamoja in Uganda was in the throes of the worst drought experienced in living memory, with many regional governments unable to deal with the crisis. Innovation: Africa constructed and installed six boreholes, providing more than 15 000 people with access to clean water in Karamoja. This had a life-changing impact on these communities as not only did they now have

<https://mg.co.za/special-reports/2021-06-18-world-day-to-combat-desertification-and-drought-thursday-17-june-2021>



ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS AIMS TO 'HEAL THE WORLD,' BOOK STATES

"Tikkun olam is a Jewish concept to help the others. It essentially means 'healing the world,'" she said. "In this perspective, I want to mention an organization called Innovation: Africa (iA), which is bringing access to water in rural villages across the continent.

"We keep on hearing about the importance of washing our hands to fight the virus, which is very complicated without running water," Cohen said. "In the light of the pandemic, it could have been easier to just go home, but iA chose to do the opposite, doubling their work."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israels-response-to-coronavirus-aims-to-heal-the-world-book-states-633946>



COVID-19: THE SITUATION IN AFRICA IS WORSE THAN IT SEEMS

COVID-19 has put one-third of the world's population on lockdown, but what happens when the pandemic reaches developing nations and rural African villages whose health systems and basic infrastructure are insufficient, even without a global pandemic? How will they prevent the spread of the virus by washing their hands with clean water and soap, when they have no access to either? Millions across Africa spend an average of six hours each day collecting contaminated water. The lack of access to clean water and basic hygiene puts these communities at the greatest risk if COVID-19 reaches their villages.

But the situation in Africa is not hopeless – there is plenty of clean water beneath their feet in the aquifer. All that is lacking is the energy required to pump the water up to the ground. By installing just a few solar panels, it is possible to power a solar water pump to pump clean water up and distribute it to thousands of people throughout the villages. The solution can be simple. Innovation: Africa has brought clean water and light to over 1.8 million people across 10 African countries, using Israeli solar and water technologies, but there are still over 450 million people in Africa relying on contaminated open sources of water for drinking, cooking, and washing.

<https://www.jpost.com/Jerusalem-Report/COVID-19-the-situation-in-Africa-is-worse-than-it-seems-623291>



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC INSPIRES ISRAELI GROUP TO DOUBLE ITS HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

Clean water, electricity is urgent
mission for Innovation: Africa.

One thing we've learned in the past month is the importance of washing our hands as a way to combat the spread of the coronavirus. But what about those who don't have access to clean water? That exact question has been on the mind of Sivan Yaari, a Tel Aviv-based mother of three. She is the founder of **Innovation: Africa**, a humanitarian group that has spent the past decade helping bring clean water to impoverished villages in Africa. But none of the group's prior successes could prepare them for the current global pandemic. "I've never felt more concerned than I am today," Yaari told From The Grapevine. "I've been in Africa for 20 years. I've never felt so concerned, stress – I don't even know what's the right word." We're trying to do everything remotely and we're very lucky that we have strong local teams on the ground," she said, adding that they have already hired local contractors and engineers to expedite the hundreds of projects they were already working on. "Many of them have been trained in Israel."

<https://www.fromthegrapevine.com/videos/innovation/israeli-humanitarian-group-doubles-efforts-bring-clean-water-africa-amidst-coronavirus-outbreak>



ISRAELI TECH HELPS AFRICAN VILLAGES PROTECT AGAINST CORONA

Innovation: Africa is doubling its efforts to pump clean water and provide medical equipment to remote villages across 10 African countries.

Israeli nonprofit organization **Innovation: Africa** (iA) – which installs **Israeli solar and water technologies** in remote villages in Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Cameroon and South Africa — is ramping up its efforts to prevent mass infections. “How can we tell these communities to wash their hands when there is no clean water? Their medical facilities do not have proper equipment, refrigeration or even light to work at night,” says Sivan Ya’ari, CEO and founder of the award-winning Innovation: Africa. “We operate in areas where COVID-19 could wipe out entire villages. I feel a greater sense of urgency than ever to bring them access to clean water and electricity.” Over the past decade, Innovation: Africa has delivered light, clean water, drip-irrigation technology, education, maternal healthcare and more to about 1.7 million people across 300 villages and 10 countries.

<https://www.israel21c.org/israeli-tech-helps-african-villages-protect-against-corona>

the algemeiner



THE TOP 100 PEOPLE POSITIVELY INFLUENCING JEWISH LIFE, 2019

It's for these reasons that we found the compilation of this year's 'J100' list to be a particularly inspiring exercise. Contained within the list are many individuals whose efforts are vital to pushing back the tide of hate and charting a path to a brighter Jewish future. We hope you find it as encouraging as we did. We also seek to inspire and motivate our young and the next generation, our future emerging leaders, in rising to the occasion and perpetuating the highest standards of our proud tradition and legacy – in serving and championing the cause of Jews and Israel. Because, as we know, when the quality of Jewish life is raised, the quality of all lives is raised. Sivan Ya'ari is the founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, a New York-based nonprofit that brings Israeli solar, agricultural and water technologies to rural African villages. Through her work, more than 1 million lives in the most remote villages on the African continent have been impacted, thanks to Israeli innovation. "We are committed to bring water where there is drought, to bring light where there is darkness, to bring hope and dignity where there is despair."

<https://www.algemeiner.com/the-top-100-people-positively-influencing-jewish-life-2019/>



HOPE IN SOLAR

Simple solar panels mean hospitals can heal and people can flourish. When you think about the scale of human suffering, you'd probably believe that it's impossible to change millions of lives. But apparently, it's not. "People are suffering and there's no reason for it. With a drilling machine and a few solar panels, we can change everything, we can change their destinies" says Sivan Ya'ari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, a non-profit that brings Israeli solar, agricultural and water tech to rural African villages.

<http://development.turnercommercialproductions.com/dev-israel-2019/#/article/4>



NEW PERSPECTIVES

Influencing circumstances through
human connection

Looking back on the first village she worked to bring solar energy to, she reflects on her first success, which she describes as, “in many ways—her first failure.” She shares that she has, “failed many times,” since beginning these efforts, each time offering new insight. For example, after introducing the solution of solar energy as light to a village, she noticed children still didn’t attend school, and people were still very sick. Being newly equipped with solar refrigerators and medical equipment allowed for consistent medical care and lit the homes of quality doctors who could now live in the rural villages, but people still lacked access to a key necessity for quality of life—water. Identifying first the issue: lack of technology in providing electricity, her scope expanded as she realized the root cause of low quality of life—while still tied to the lack of technology—was actually the access to water. A new perspective allowed Ya’ari to lead an organization that has electrified over 300 schools and medical centers, and pump clean water for over 1.7 million people across ten African countries.

<https://www.alumni.pace.edu/s/1655/02-alumni/social.aspx?sid=1655&gid=2&pgid=2383>



8 ISRAELI WOMEN WHO ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

In honor of International Women's Day, we salute the women who teach and inspire us every day.

In observance of International Women's Day, we handpicked some of our most notable, admirable and unstoppable women from Israel who inspire, awaken and teach us all. When she was 20, Sivan Ya'ari took a trip to Madagascar, and the trajectory of her life changed from there. She developed a passion for the people of Africa, millions of whom lived with no electricity or clean water. After earning her master's degree in International Energy Management from Columbia University, Ya'ari returned to the continent, installing the first solar system in a Tanzanian village, and in 2008, she launched Innovation: Africa. "It makes me happier when I'm in the villages," she told us. "That's where I feel best. Seeing the joy in the faces of the children and the hope in the eyes of the mothers, it's so rewarding."

<https://www.fromthegrapevine.com/innovation/israeli-women-who-are-changing-world>



LISTEN: Israeli tech brings clean water and electricity to African villages

Innovation Africa, whose Israeli-made solar panels power schools, clinics and water pumps in 10 African countries, has changed the lives of 1.7 million people. Innovation Africa raises funds through private donors to bring solar panels to African villages. The organization has targeted three purposes for its projects: to light up schools so that pupils can study for longer, as well as the homes of teachers and principals; to power clinics to function 24/7 and to operate a variety of electricity-dependent machines, and to pump water up from underground aquifers and filter it before directing it along pipes to village faucets. This year, Innovation Africa wants to complete 30 new projects in Uganda, 20 of them to bring water and electricity to villages in the impoverished, famine-stricken Karamoja region in the north. Inaccessible until recently, this is probably one of the poorest areas in Africa, Ya'ari says. Across Africa, the organization is planning to establish a total of 200 projects this year, almost doubling what it has achieved so far. This translates into 70 projects in South Africa, 30 each in Uganda, Malawi, and Tanzania, 25 in Zambia, and 15 in Cameroon. It costs \$18,000 to bring electricity to a school, orphanage or medical center, and \$50,000 to pump and provide clean drinking water.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/listen-israeli-tech-brings-clean-water-and-electricity-to-african-villages/>



INSPIRING ISRAELIS WE MET THIS DECADE

From showstopping celebrities to tech disrupters,
these are the Israelis who moved us in the 2010s.

They awed us with their brilliance, they wowed us with their beauty, they inspired us with their struggles. For the better part of the past decade, we at From The Grapevine and the Israeli Kitchen have been following these 14 impressive Israelis. And now, as new decade dawns, we're taking a look back at the heroes, humanitarians, scholars, showstoppers, and groundbreakers who have shaped the 2010s. Sivan Yaari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa makes our list. When she was 20, Sivan Ya'ari developed a passion for the people of Africa, millions of whom lived with no electricity or clean water.

<https://www.fromthegrapevine.com/lifestyle/most-inspiring-israelis-we-met-decade-2010-2019>



HOW ISRAEL IS BRINGING WATER AND ENERGY TO AFRICA

In honor of International Women's Day, we salute the women who teach and inspire us every day.

Innovation: Africa, an American-Israeli organization that brings Israeli solar, water, and agricultural technologies to rural African villages, is one of the three winners of the 2019 InnoDip Award for innovative diplomacy. The award, established by the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy at the interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, will be presented at the Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Conference on Thursday, November 21 in Jerusalem. The public committee chaired by Amb. Ron Prosor chose Innovation: Africa Makers as a winner because it “exemplifies people to people diplomacy. They distribute Israeli innovation directly to where it is needed the most. It has a great scale of impact and impressive positive influence on people’s lives in the most neglected areas of the world.” Ya’ari explains that African governments value Innovation: Africa’s work. “They want to learn from Israel, and we are always welcomed. It has helped to strengthen relations with Israel.” She adds that when the residents experience clean water, they say that God has answered their prayers from Israel and Jerusalem. “It is a win-win situation,” she says.

<https://www.jpost.com/Jpost-Tech/How-Israel-is-bringing-water-and-energy-to-Africa-608412>



FOR THE PAST DECADE, INNOVATION: AFRICA HAS TAUGHT DEVELOPING NATIONS HOW TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

For nearly 10 years, the New York-based Innovation: Africa has demonstrated that a little can go a long way. With simple Israeli technology, it is teaching developing nations in the continent how to create self-sufficient infrastructure and bring access to clean water, education, refrigeration for vaccines and medicines, and food security to the region. To date, the organization installed Israeli solar, water and agricultural technologies in more than 200 villages in 10 African countries that has impacted the lives of some 1.3 million people. But most importantly, its program teaches local community leaders, project managers and engineers how to maintain the technologies given to them so they can be self-reliant. "We are using Israeli innovations to empower and transform the lives of others," said its founder and CEO, Sivan Ya'ari, at a Dec. 18 ceremony at the Peres Center for Peace & Innovation on honoring several milestones: a 10-year anniversary for IA, 60 for MASHAV and, of course, Israel's 70th.

<https://www.jns.org/for-the-past-decade-innovation-africa-has-taught-developing-nations-how-to-improve-their-lives/>



INNOVATION: AFRICA ENTERS A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WITH BAYPORT MANAGEMENT LTD TO BRING SOLAR AND WATER SOLUTIONS TO TANZANIA

Africa (iA), a non-profit organisation, and Bayport Management Ltd (www.BayportFinance.com), a multinational financial services provider with a strong presence in Tanzania, are proud to announce that they have formed a partnership to help communities across Africa to improve their living conditions through access to clean water and lighting.

iA has already implemented 18 solar systems in Tanzania, 16 of them powering schools and medical clinics in the Bagamoyo and Chalinze regions. Now, with the support of Bayport's network in Dodoma, iA's work in the country will be extended.

Bayport Tanzania, through the provision of a vehicle and other logistical support have enabled iA to commence a project in the Dodoma region of Tanzania to install a solar system at the Bumbuta Health Center, as well as a pump system to supply Iyoli village with clean water.

https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/457159040/innovation-africa-enters-a-global-partnership-with-bayport-management-ltd-to-bring-solar-and-water-solutions-to-tanzania



ISRAELI UN MISSION CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD

BY SARUTZ SHEVA STAFF

Israel's Mission to the United Nations hosted a special forum celebrating seventy years of Israeli civil society innovation and their contributions to the world. Ambassador Danny Danon opened the event with celebratory remarks.

The forum featured presentations from four Israeli NGOs that are bettering the world. Among the participating organizations were Save a Child's Heart, an NGO dedicated to improving pediatric cardiac care for children in developing countries; ZAKA, which provides lifesaving search and rescue assistance to mass casualty emergencies worldwide; Innovation Africa, a non-profit using solar energy to provide clean water, light and refrigeration for vaccines and medication to schools, orphanages and medical clinics; and ISRAID, Israel's life-saving disaster relief organization that offers long-term support for refugees.

"As we mark seventy years since the founding of the State of Israel, we recall with great pride our country's commitment to helping others live a better life. We have committed ourselves to this cause since the birth of our state," Ambassador Danon said in opening the event. "We recognize these organizations valuable contribution to the work of the UN and the realization of its 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals," Ambassador Danon said.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/246433>



Africa gains from Israel's solar system

BY STEPHEN ORYSZCZUK

Sivan Yaari of Innovation Africa has just been speaking at Manchester Grammar School and explains how one student tugged her heartstrings when he said: "Things like this make me proud to be Jewish and proud of Israel." What is it that has just made this youngster so proud? Yaari was telling her audience how her charity installs solar, water and irrigation systems in poor villages in Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Senegal and Cameroon. The mission, Yaari says, is to help Africans beat the poverty trap. "Africa is still in poverty because of the lack of energy. And because there is no energy, people are still searching for water, because there is no energy to pump water." Today the charity offers Jewish philanthropic families the chance to "adopt" schools, orphanages, medical centres or even whole villages in much the same way Yaari did. It costs £13,000 to bring solar panels to a school or centre, £35,000 to bring water. Some families see it as a bar or bat mitzvah project, others team up as part of a larger organisations, be they synagogues or companies. Some donors are Jewish, others are Christian. Yaari says: "We know how much energy our projects are producing and consuming, so we can predict problems before they start and protect the investments of our donors, keeping our systems strong and ensuring they provide our communities with the energy they need and deserve."

<http://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/africa-gains-from-israels-solar-system/>



Harvard's First-Ever Summit On Israel Brings Amar'e Stoudemire, Good News To Campus

BY PENNY SCHWARTZ

Sivan Ya'ari used her personal journey in founding Innovation: Africa to highlight the possibilities in bringing Israeli solar, agricultural and water technology to transform the lives of people lacking basic resources. Born in Israel and raised in France, Ya'ari ran a chain of nail salons in Israel while bringing Israeli know-how to rural Africa. Ya'ari's story resonated with many students who lined up to speak with her after the conference. "For me, [Ya'ari's] work was eye opening," said Gaelle Pierre-Louis, a student from Brooklyn studying at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Pierre-Louis, whose parents are Haitian, was unaware of Israel's role in developing technology for solar energy. She admired Ya'ari for sharing technology from more developed countries to improve the lives of the others. "The reason why I came was because many of the students here are the future leaders," Ya'ari told JTA. "I was a student when I started, and I hope that some of what I said will inspire them to do the same."

<http://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/harvard-comes-out-for-israel/>

Medium

Mar 22, 2018



Water, Watts and Women's Empowerment

BY MEDIUM / POWER AFRICA

Working at the water-energy nexus to improve the lives of women and girls. Power Africa Celebrates World Water Day: Recognizing Power Africa's strategic partnerships at the intersection of water and energy that are actively improving the lives of women and girls. The water-energy nexus refers to both the use of water for energy generation, and the use of energy to deliver water. On both sides of this nexus, Power Africa is supporting efforts to ensure that women and girls benefit from new investments.

The non-profit Innovation: Africa supports the delivery of water and solar technologies to more than 170 different projects across eight African countries, recognizing that alleviating the task of water collection opens up new opportunities for women and girls. Their vision is to reach 1,000 villages by 2025, building solar powered water pumping systems so the villages can have clean water at centrally located taps. By alleviating the time spent on collecting water, more girls are enrolled in school and women are pursuing endeavors such as community gardens to improve nutrition and provide additional income. Innovation: Africa's work is aligned with Power Africa and the Government of Israel's strategic partnership to reduce energy poverty and increase energy access on the continent.

<https://medium.com/@PowerAfrica/water-watts-and-womens-empowerment-c8de59054fd7>

How Israel is innovating Cameroon through solar systems

By Francis Ajumane

This is the outcome of a fruitful cooperation between the Israeli NGO « Innovation Africa », UNICEF and support from the Embassy of Israel in Cameroon to help rural areas gain access to basic facilities.

The project that is principally out to power rural areas with solar energy has so far successfully carried out at least four projects in three village in the East Region

of Cameroon, Mercy Tayim, the representative of « Innovation Africa » in Cameroon said at a gallery to officially present their activities to the public.

"Close to 50.000 people now enjoy acces to potable water, and health and electricity due to the solar panels that have been installed in the hospitals," Mercy Tayim said.

<https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/israel-innovating-cameroon-solar-systems>

Helping the African People Is Right and Will Also Help Israel

By Dov Lipman

Sivan created Innovation: Africa ten years ago — in order to use Israeli technologies to bring electricity to schools and medical centers in African villages — and to help provide them with access to clean, fresh water. Innovation: Africa now works in eight African countries, and — to date — has helped over one million people in 170 villages. Thanks to Innovation: Africa, solar panels are installed on

the rooftops of schools and medical centers, and solar-powered pumps draw water from underground aquifers and bring water to the center of villages. Some 350,000 children have been vaccinated thanks to the organization's efforts, and many villages are flourishing with education, health and commerce — especially after the introduction of Israeli drip irrigation.

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2018/02/25/helping-the-african-people-is-right-and-will-also-help-israel>



Top 10 Most Influential Israelis in International Business, Science and Culture in 2017

BY SIMONA SHEMER, NOCAMELS

“The Israeli Heart and Mind Just Transformed the Lives of 1 Million Africans Forever,” read the headline beneath a YouTube video on Sivan Ya’ari, the founder of Innovation: Africa, a non-profit organization that brings Israeli solar power, water, and agricultural innovations to rural African villages. Ya’ari, a Tel Aviv-based mother of three, was born in Israel, raised in France and educated in the United States. The story goes that Ya’ari visited Africa at a very young age when she was working for an international clothing company. She established Innovation: Africa in 2008, headquartered in NY, but moved back to Israel in 2009, where she heads the company’s office in Herzliya Pituach. Ya’ari has worked in Africa for over 20 years and changed the lives of many with her efforts. Innovation: Africa has received an Innovation Award from the United Nations and Ya’ari herself has found her name on atop many “Influential Israeli women” lists, including this one.

<https://www.israel21c.org/light-and-water-flow-to-rural-africa-due-to-israeli-tech/>



Light and water flow to rural Africa due to Israeli techs

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN

Sivan Ya'ari believes that using Israeli knowhow to harness energy from the abundant sun in Africa is the key to freeing rural villagers from poverty and food insecurity. Electricity allows them to pump water for drip irrigation, refrigerate lifesaving medications and vaccines, and light up classrooms.

Now iA is positioned to do even more, since Israel became an official partner in the USAID Power Africa initiative for sub-Saharan Africa, where two out of three residents lack access to electricity. Ya'ari was on a panel with other solar-energy champions — including Yosef “Kaptain Sunshine” Abramowitz of Energiya Global and Power Africa Coordinator Andrew M. Herscowitz — at the December 4, 2017 ceremony in Jerusalem marking this opportunity for many Israeli companies to take part in electrifying Africa. “When I am approached by private-sector companies showing me different products, I am always telling them ‘keep it simple.’ Because if it is not simple it will not be sustainable in the villages,” she said at the ceremony. “Sometimes small-scale solutions are usually the best ones. So, keep it simple, keep it affordable, keep it sustainable. This is really the key.”

<https://www.israel21c.org/light-and-water-flow-to-rural-africa-due-to-israeli-tech/>

11/30/17



From Conan to Gadot, our favorite quotes of 2017

"Seeing the joy in the faces of the children and the hope in the eyes of the mothers, it's so rewarding." (Sivan Yaari on her humanitarian work in Africa)

<https://www.fromthegrapevine.com/lifestyle/best-quotes-year-2017>

11/13/17



Meet Eytan Kramer

Israeli boy's Bar Mitzvah gift to an African village

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/238003>



Israeli NGO installs sustainable tech for thousands of African refugees

BY DANIEL K. EISENBUD

NGO **“Innovation: Africa”** is teaming with UNICEF of Cameroon to provide solar power, clean water and healthcare to tens of thousands of refugees living in the neighboring war-torn Central African Republic. According to the Israeli NGO, the collaboration with UNICEF was initiated last year by Ambassador to Cameroon Ran Gidor, who sought to create sustainable partnerships that would engender “generational change” within Africa’s rural communities.

<http://www.jpost.com/Business-and-Innovation/Tech/Israeli-NGO-installs-sustainable-tech-for-thousands-of-African-refugees-508674>



Israeli 8 year old girl travels to Africa and is shocked to see what her mother has done

This story highlights the differences between children raised in Israel and children in sub-Saharan African villages through the eyes of an 8 year-old girl based in North Tel Aviv. The focal point of the video will be through the lens of Emily Yaari, the daughter of Sivan Yaari, Founder and CEO of **Innovation: Africa**, an NGO whose mission has brought clean water, energy, healthcare, education, food and more to over 1 million people in Africa using Israeli technologies.

<https://www.israelvideonetwork.com/israeli-8-year-old-girl-travels-to-africa-and-is-shocked-to-see-what-her-mother-has-done/?omhide=true>



Sivan Yaari presenting the work of Innovation: Africa in front of UNSG Guterres and Israeli PM Netanyahu.

UN Chief: Remember Jews' "enormous contribution" to the world

BY World Israel News

"It is important to remember the enormous contribution of the Jewish people to world culture, to world science, to world philosophy, to world civilization," Guterres said in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres participated on Monday in an innovation event at the Israel Museum showcasing Israeli revolutionary technology. The innovative technologies exhibited were in the fields of energy, water and economics, with an emphasis on humanitarian and lifesaving developments.

Israel's Global Revolutionary Technologies

Some of the innovations presented to Guterres included "Water-Gen," a technology that provides an inexpensive, available and renewable source of clean

fresh drinking water by directly extracting it from the atmosphere. Water-Gen has built partnerships around the globe with the objective of maximizing the use of this technology in areas, particularly where power supply does not exist or is insufficient, by searching for alternative energy sources. **"Innovation: Africa" is an Israeli association that works to bring solar, water and agricultural technologies from Israel to rural communities in Africa. Since its establishment in 2008, it has completed the construction of 150 solar facilities providing lighting, access to clean water, improved education, refrigerated storage of vaccines and medicines, and food security for more than a million people in the most remote villages in Africa.**

<https://worldisraelnews.com/un-chief-remember-jews-enormous-contribution-world/>

Israeli Solar Power: A Literal Light Unto the Nations

KAYLA STEINBERG

Bringing drip irrigation and solar power technologies to villages in eight African countries and lifting millions of people out of extreme poverty, an Israeli nonprofit organization called "Innovation: Africa" is literally a light unto the nations. The organization was founded in 2008 by Sivan Ya'ari, who says she was motivated by the poverty she saw during her first trip to parts of Africa at age 20, where she worked for a company that manufactured jeans. "The more time I spent in the

villages, the more I realized that the main challenge, and the reason Africa is in poverty, is the lack of [access to] energy," she said of that trip. Some 620 million people across the African continent do not have access to electricity or running water. This means unlit homes, no refrigerators, and no fancy medical appliances. Ya'ari said she realized that "if we bring energy, we can solve many of the challenges" that Africans are facing and improve education, health, and access to water.

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Israeli-solar-power-A-literal-light-onto-the-nations-501735>

11 Things I Learned in South Africa

BY ARTHUR LENK

Africa and Israel have so much in common and have much to share with each other. The concerns of so many people: food security independence, successful water management and a government capacity to protect us from the dangers of uncertain, often dangerous neighborhoods, have all brought Israel and Africa closer in recent years.

I am astoundingly privileged on a personal level. The South African conversation on responsibility, privilege and transformation has been a meaningful learning experience when it is respectful and builds bridges instead of abused for political score-keeping, recrimination and laying blame. The Jewish tradition

of "tikkun olam", repairing the world, is an important response to this conversation. Mashav, Israel's Agency for International Development Co-operation, concentrates on skills development and knowledge transfer programmes, and government-to-government co-operation. Amazing civil society programmes such as Project Ten ("Ten" means "give" in Hebrew) sends young Israeli volunteers to do grassroots community work in Ghana, Uganda and in South Africa's KZN province. **Innovation: Africa has provided one million rural Africans access to vaccines, light and water via Israeli solar and water technologies.**

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2017-07-03-11-things-i-learned-in-south-africa/#.WdtDfROCzVp>



M'bwetu & Shire Urban

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2pXYQM4hKXV1VyTnJLaTZhU1k/view>



Water stressed areas in Karamoja and Bugisu to adopt Israeli solar powered pumps

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2017-07-03-11-things-i-learned-in-south-africa/#.WdtDfROCzVp>

Sivan Ya'ari Founder and CEO, Innovation: Africa



"50 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF 2016"

"Let there be light: the entrepreneur that brings electricity and clean water to villages in seven African countries"

"It's very simple, very cheap, and it's life changing". Those are the words that Sivan Ya'ari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, choose to summarize the activity of the organization she founded eight years ago, which brings Israeli technologies to Africa in order to provide electricity and clean water access.

The article appears in the July issue of Forbes Israel

<http://www.forbes.co.il/news/new.aspx?Pn6VQ=M&0r9VQ=EHLKL>



10 ways Israel's water expertise is helping the world

BY Abigail Klein Leichman

Using ingenuity to overcome its serious water challenges, Israel has become the go-to expert for a world facing an impending water crisis...On World Water Day, which is celebrated on March 22nd, ISRAEL21c salutes the Israeli governmental and non-governmental organizations that share advanced homegrown water technologies for irrigation, purification, filtering, desalination, conservation, monitoring and recycling.

Here are 10 recent examples.

The nonprofit group Innovation: Africa won a UN award for transforming lives in seven African countries using Israeli technologies such as Netafim irrigation systems enabling farmers to grow more crops with less water; and solar energy systems that pump water from aquifers, saving villagers (mostly women and children) countless hours previously spent finding

<https://www.israel21c.org/10-ways-israels-water-expertise-is-helping-the-world/>

Africa and the revitalization of the Zionist dream

By Sheldon Gellar

During his recent four-day whirlwind visit to four East African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia) Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proudly proclaimed that Israel was “coming back to Africa and that Africa was coming back to Israel.”

Israel's return to Africa can also support altruistic policies whereby a) growing numbers of Israeli

youth volunteer to serve in Africa; b) development NGOs like Innovation Africa bring solar energy, drip irrigation and other low-cost technologies to improve services and raise the incomes of rural Africans, and humanitarian organizations like ISRAID help Africans deal with natural disasters;

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Africa-and-the-revitalization-of-the-Zionist-dream-462252>

Newsweek

7/8/16

What was Bibi doing in Africa?

By J. Peter Pham

Israeli official development agencies as well as private charities have also ramped up their activities in Africa. Since it was founded eight years ago, the Israeli nonprofit Innovation: Africa has used Israeli solar and water technologies to deliver clean water

to nearly 1 million rural villagers in seven African countries (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda).

<https://europe.newsweek.com/what-was-bibi-doing-africa-478953>



innovation: africa

The Life-Saving Solar Panel

Seven out of ten people living in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to electricity. Only 34% of health facilities in those countries have reliable electricity access. 900 children per day, or one child every two minutes, dies from water-borne diseases; and only 35% of pupils have electricity in their classroom. In the light of those facts, **Sivan Ya'ari** (37) explains why she chose to export Israeli technologies to African countries.

"Our goal is to bring solar energy to villages in Africa, but also to change the health and education system in those areas, and provide them with tools to rise above their poor starting point", says Ya'ari. She has founded **Innovation: Africa** eight years ago, a nonprofit organization which aims to bring Israeli technologies to Africa.

<http://www.themarker.com/themarker-women/1.2998657>



Turning on The Light in Africa

“Only when I first visited Africa I understood the meaning of true poverty,” explains Ya’ari, the founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, a Non Profit Organization that brings Israeli innovations such as solar powered electricity and clean water to African villages. However, despite the technology, Innovation: Africa strives to bring light to the people in the form of hope – a hope for a better, happier life.

“One day I walked to the nearest infirmary, which was eight kilometers away from the village. Upon my arrival I discovered a long line of people waiting to be treated, including a woman who had just given birth a few days earlier. I asked to see the doctor and was told he was not there. I approached the nurse and asked her about the long line of people waiting for treatment and vaccinations. ‘There are no vaccines because we do not have a refrigerator because there is no electricity,’ the nurse explained. On my way back from the clinic it was nighttime and the darkness covered the entire village. I had given birth twice in a C-section procedure because of the location of the baby’s head. Had I lived in Africa, I would not have survived. Actually, many women lose their lives while giving birth due to the severe understaffing. It was difficult for me to remain indifferent to their hardships”.





The Young Israeli Woman Who Lights Africa

This is a story of a woman with a vision, faith and a lot of will, who lights the life of millions of Africans – as she brings into their villages the most basic things - electricity and water, while using Israeli technologies. **Sivan Yaari** on the life between Africa and Tel-Aviv

<http://innoafrica.org/sivan-yaari-channel-2.html>



February 2016



Africa: Is Good Good Enough?

Sivan Ya'ari, TEDxTelAvivUniversity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfgAexR5Z2w&feature=youtu.be>

CBN



CBN Documentaries

<https://vimeo.com/159286425>

Community ON BuzzFeed

Mar. 7, 2016



20 Incredible Israeli Women
You Need To Know

9. Sivan Ya'ari

Sivan Ya'ari is the Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, an incredible organization that utilizes Israeli technology to provide better, cleaner, safer, and more reliable resources to the people of Africa. In the past 8 years, Innovation: Africa has brought Israeli solar and agricultural technologies to African villages and has improved the lives of nearly 1 million people. This is an Israeli woman truly making the world a better place for all.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/standwithusisrael/20-incredible-israeli-women-you-need-to-know-11pnl>



Israeli women - and tech - connect African villages to water, electricity

Innovation Africa, founded by Sivan Ya'ari, has brought solar energy, improved irrigation and cleaner water to as many as 1 million people

BY TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF

Innovation Africa, the Israeli organization founded by Sivan Ya'ari, has sought to better the lives of rural villagers in Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa and elsewhere by mining Israeli technological innovation for solutions that fit the needs of hard-to-reach places across the vast continent. Its work was highlighted in a report on Israel's Channel 2 on Saturday night.

In places with no electrical power, and thus no means for refrigerating medicine or food, or for turning on the lights in schools, **Ya'ari's organization turned to the solar panels that are a ubiquitous feature of Israeli rooftops.**

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-women-and-tech-connect-african-villages-to-water-electricity/>



Innovation: Africa, a women-led initiative lighting up rural Africa

An Israeli-women led organisation, Innovation: Africa, has deployed clean power technology to African communities living off-grid, with over one million people connected to a reliable supply of power and water to date.

Innovation: Africa improving community living

Founded by Sivan Ya'ari, the organisation has delivered Israeli solar technology and agricultural equipment to communities in Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa, Ethiopia, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The installed solar power systems are contributing to the key functioning of many communities, making refrigeration possible for healthcare facilities and grocers; learners are able to study at night and charge their mobile phones—expanding their scope for learning.

Ya'ari told Channel 2 media in a televised interview: “When I was in the villages for the first time and witnessed the poverty and the children, I always thought of myself as a child. And even though I didn't have much – they have nothing at all.”

<http://www.esi-africa.com/news/innovation-africa-women-led-initiative-lights-up-rural-africa/>



Leading by Example

We've highlighted several local women who exemplify top achievements, inspiration, and strength, and who are shaping Israel's future in a whole new way

BY: DEBORAH DANAN, JUDITH GOLDSTEIN, MARIANNE GROS

Sivan Ya'ari is Israel's original Sunshine Girl. She earned the moniker ostensibly as a result of her work bringing Israeli solar technology to rural Africa, but perhaps no less because of her stellar personality. Armed with state-of-the-art solar systems and an infectious energy, Ya'ari brings new meaning to the term "lighting up a room." A graduate of Columbia University, she founded her company, Innovation: Africa, when she realized the tremendous need – and potential – for sustainable energy solutions in Africa. Eight years later, **Innovation: Africa operates in seven African countries and has provided light, clean water, food, and proper medical care to more than 750,000 people.**

Ya'ari, a mother of three including 6-year-old twins, received a prestigious award from the United Nations

in recognition of her efforts helping rural Africans lead better and healthier lives. **One of the significant byproducts of the systems was affording local children an education. Whereas in the past children would spend their days hunting for clean water with their mothers, the installations now allow children to spend those valuable hours in a classroom learning to read and write.**

As a result, graduation rates tripled. "Women are the solution," she says. "They are the opportunity. Thanks to Innovation: Africa's Israeli technologies, we are impacting the lives of so many women and young girls across Sub-Saharan Africa. Women and girls truly are the agents of change."

<http://timeout.co.il/en/leading-by-example1>



TV Presenter Raul De Molina in Africa

We had the privilege of bringing along Emmy Award-winning TV Personality, Raul De Molina, of El Gordo y La Flaca. "Accompanied by this young Israeli, **Sivan Ya'ari**, some call her the 'Mother Teresa of Africa'", while visiting some of the most remote villages in the world - without water or electricity - De Molina said, "these people never lost their joy for life and this unique experience, now more than ever, lives in my heart."

<http://www.innoafrica.org/raul-demolina.html>

He also visited remote Ugandan villages with Innovation Africa

We spent two days on safari and then went to a village with the organisation, **Innovation Africa run by founder and president Sivan Ya'ari. For the last seven years Sivan has been working to get electricity and water supplies to many of the poorest villages in different countries in Africa. She brings water by building wells and electricity through solar panels. Our visits to the remote villages were extremely eye opening and really touched my heart.**

The children were so happy to see us (and the soccer balls we brought which were donated by my Univision show, El Gordo y La Flaca). There wasn't electricity in many of the villages and they are just building schools -- and you could build the schools for approximately 15 to 20 thousand dollars, which is nothing compared to what it will provide for these kids.

Every time we came to a new village, the people were so happy and there was always dancing and delicious food.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-3227690/Up-close-personal-TV-presenter-Raul-Molina-encounters-endangered-mountain-gorillas-Uganda-explores-country-s-remote-villages.html>



"40 UNDER 40 MOST PROMISING ISRAELIS"

"My Husband Said to Me: Our
Children Are OK, Go Help Kids
Who Are Not"

Sivan Ya'ari, Founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa

Sivan Ya'ari cannot look today at a pair of jeans without remembering the sights that shook her world years ago. She was 20, French- Israeli, and a volunteer in Kibbutz Kinneret when the business man, Ralph Nakasch, owner of Jordache and today a Real Estate Empire, but then a jeans company, asked her to work in Quality Control in his factories in Madagascar. "I saw kids without shoes, with swollen stomachs, who walked kilometers every day to find water", she remembers. "I started asking myself why there is no water in Africa. It appeared to me later on, that there is a lot of water under the soil, it just needs to be pumped up. For that, you need energy.

Electricity

"Exactly. And that is one of the biggest problems in Africa. When you look at Africa from a satellite at night, it's almost completely dark. In 54 countries in Africa, when you walk out of the airport and the capital, it's all dark. "

So what did you do?

"I have spent a year and a half in Africa -- New York, where the Jordasch headquarter is, and that's also where I did my studies -- BA in Finance and MA in Energy, as a result of my experience in Africa. I worked in NY at Morgan Stanley, and at one point I went to Tanzania. I was in a remote village, and after intense research, I understood that in order to light their health clinic with solar energy, I needed \$4,270. "

That's a very precise amount.

"Yes. When I got back to NY I found a donor: a Jewish guy I was dating, and he was the first donor of "Jewish Heart for Africa", which is "Innovation: Africa" today. Till today, this guy sits on our board. Later on, I came to Israel, met engineers from "Interden" who specialize in solar energy, and started to plan with them how to bring solar energy to Africa. I've started to connect specific donors to specific villages in order to bring

CBN



Clean Water is Changing Lives in the Congo

CBN and Innovation Africa bring Israeli technology to a rural orphanage. A solar powered pump provides water for drinking and drip irrigation.

<http://www1.cbn.com/video/clean-water-is-changing-lives-in-the-congo>

ISRAELI VIDEO NETWORK



Superman's got nothing on Israel!

<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/supermans-got-nothing-on-israel/>



Jewish organizations vigilant about Ebola in Africa

Development, volunteer and service programs mostly unaffected, but are calmly keeping an eye on the deadly outbreak's spread

BY RENEE GHERT-ZAND

... That fear is not going to keep **Sivan Ya'ari**, founder and president of Innovation: Africa from traveling to Senegal in September, however. **Innovation Africa uses Israeli solar power technology to bring light, clean water, food, and medical care to African communities. In the last six years, the organization has helped 81 villages and 675,000 people in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Next**

month it will launch a new project in six villages in Senegal.

While Innovation: Africa does not bring volunteers to Africa, it does host American b'nai mitzvah and their families and members of teen philanthropy boards who want to see first-hand the fruits of their donations. So far, there has been no concerns expressed or cancellations of trips by families.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-organizations-vigilant-about-ebola-in-africa/>



Israeli energy powers rural Africa

Sivan Ya'ari's non-profit Innovation: Africa brings sustainable Israeli technologies to power rural African villages.

BY RUTHIE BLUM

Picture a remote African village where women and children spend hours every day finding, collecting and carrying water and wood back to their homes. Envisage these villagers standing in long lines for the privilege of digging into muddy holes with their hands to scoop dirty water into Jerry cans, and later, searching for twigs and branches with which to build fires.

It was just such a sight that **Sivan Ya'ari** could not get out of her mind after visiting Africa as part of her job at an international clothing company.

A few years later, her master's degree in international energy management and policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs led her to an internship at the United Nations Development Program.

From here, it was not a far leap to establish Innovation: Africa (originally called "Jewish Heart for Africa"), a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring sustainable Israeli technologies to rural African villages.

In summer 2012, the organization was granted special

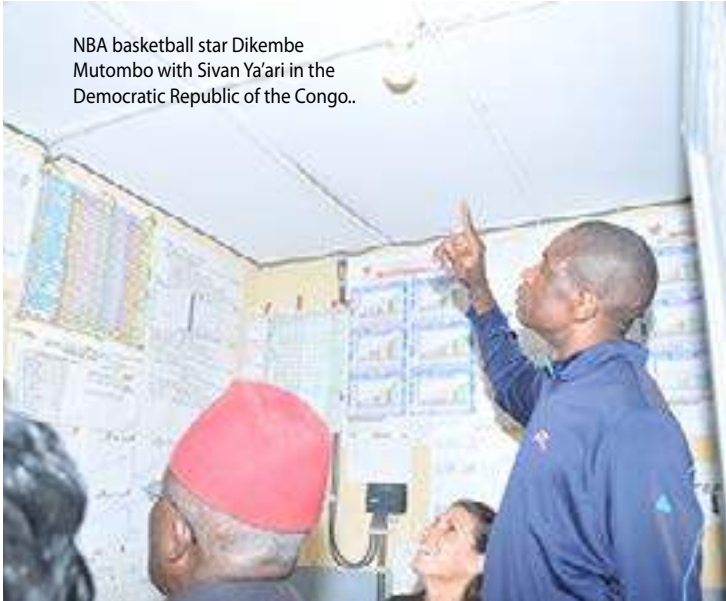
consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. On November 1, 2013, it won the Innovation Award at the UN Global South-South Development Expo in Nairobi.

Since its establishment in New York in 2008 with funding from foundations, philanthropies and individuals, Innovation: Africa has transformed 71 famine-ridden villages in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda and South Africa into budding communities with hope for the future.

Picture a remote African village where women and children spend hours every day finding, collecting and carrying water and wood back to their homes. Envisage these villagers standing in long lines for the privilege of digging into muddy holes with their hands to scoop dirty water into Jerry cans, and later, searching for twigs and branches with which to build fires.

<http://www.israel21c.org/israeli-energy-powers-rural-africa/>

NBA basketball star Dikembe Mutombo with Sivan Ya'ari in the Democratic Republic of the Congo..



Sivan Ya'ari is providing solar panels to remote African villages, granting much-needed electricity and access to water using Israeli technology.

MAGAZINE BY YOAV SCHWARTZ, ASAF FINKELSTEIN

It is a story that spans the African continent – with all its heartbreaking poverty and destitution – has a warm Jewish heart at its center, features some egocentric witches and overall is a lesson in ingenuity, courage and hope.

Sivan Ya'ari is a young Jewish woman, in her early 30s, married, with three children.

But she is also the founder of Innovation: Africa, one of the most enterprising ventures taking place in the developing world. While many world superpowers and social organizations claim to come to the aid of the struggling continent, Ya'ari and her team are succeeding in lighting up entire areas with solar energy and providing access to water in more than 80 of the most remote and isolated villages.

You can call it tikkun olam (“repairing the world through

good deeds”) or simple compassion, but above all, Ya'ari can give the Western World an important lesson in care for other human beings. We are betting on her winning a Nobel Prize for Peace, and don't forget where you heard about it first.

What motivated you to establish Innovation: Africa? I think that my background and the way I grew up in Israel motivated me to begin helping others. I was born in Rishon Lezion, to a middle class/poor family. My father lost his job at El Al when I was young and could not find a new position for two years. Finances were extremely tight so we moved to France where he and my mother opened a pizzeria. When I was 20 years old, I decided I wanted to learn English, so I traveled to America, where I worked as a waitress while pursuing my studies.

<http://www.jpost.com/Magazine/Wine-Therapy-A-most-illuminating-meal-380982>