

©signify foundation

2025

Annual report



Reclaiming the night

For many, light is a quiet constant in daily life. It meets us in the morning and follows us through our day. It lines the streets we walk, signals that a store is open, and marks the arrival of dusk. We shape light to suit our needs: brightening it for focus, dimming it for warmth and comfort. When we step into a dark hallway or search for something tucked away, we instinctively reach for light, rarely questioning whether it will be there. We only truly notice light in its absence.

For 666 million people around the world, darkness is not a temporary inconvenience¹. It is a daily condition. When night falls without reliable light, the world becomes smaller. Paths become uncertain, study ends early, the quality of care is compromised, and movement becomes risky. In this context, opportunities fade with the setting sun.

1 Tracking SDG 7, The Energy Progress Report, 2025

Light is more than visibility. It is safety and dignity. It is the confidence to step outside after dark, to continue learning, to gather in community spaces, and to remain rooted in one's home and land. At the Signify Foundation, we believe access to light is foundational to resilience and hope. In the pages that follow, you will find stories of communities reclaiming the night, and with it, new possibilities for connection, growth, and brighter futures.



LED lighting in Kenyan boarding schools.

About the Signify Foundation

Our mission

The Signify Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization primarily funded by Signify NV.

Our mission is to enable access to the benefits of sustainable lighting solutions for underserved communities.

We believe that everyone should benefit from the power of light. Our work is focused on supplying energy-efficient lighting in places where access to the grid is either limited or non-existent.

How we work

This is achieved through our Brighter communities program, which focuses on enabling access to light within three pillars: Brighter learning, Brighter health, and Brighter living. Within these pillars, we provide lighting solutions while actively supporting capacity building and education around energy efficiency, system installation, and maintenance. These projects aim to directly contribute to the United Nations'

Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on goals 3 (Good Health & Well-Being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). The Signify Foundation employs Signify's expertise to help develop and provide accessible sustainable lighting systems that have a meaningful impact on people's lives.

Collaboration

Signify employees around the world support the Foundation in project scouting, design, and execution, as well as in core functions such as finance, accounting, legal, audit, and communications. The Signify Foundation collaborates with implementation and advocacy partners globally, harnessing shared expertise and dedication to advance our mission and amplify our reach. We actively seek out and welcome new shared value partnerships, recognizing that collective action yields greater impact. Together, we can strive to create meaningful change and improve lives worldwide.

Registered charity in the Netherlands (ANBI),
RSIN number 857684553

Aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals



Light installation in Jujuy, Argentina



Table of contents

Message from the board	<u>6</u>
Key highlights 2025	<u>7</u>
Brighter communities	<u>8</u>
Foreword from a community member	<u>9</u>
Project map	<u>10</u>
Brighter learning	<u>11</u>
Brighter health	<u>17</u>
Brighter living	<u>22</u>
Message from the Foundation Director	<u>28</u>
Financial statements	<u>29</u>
Colophon	<u>32</u>

Message from the board

The global development landscape continues to evolve. Funding dynamics are shifting and expectations around long-term impact are rising. In this environment, development-sector organisations must remain focused on where they can contribute most effectively and responsibly.

In 2025, the Signify Foundation supported initiatives that demonstrate the social, environmental, and economic value of enabling access to light. Across multiple contexts, projects delivered tangible improvements in safety, extended productive hours, reduced energy consumption, and lowered emissions. These outcomes reaffirm that access to reliable, energy-efficient lighting is not merely a technical upgrade; it is enabling infrastructure for communities.

At the same time, the year offered important insights. While grant-funded community lighting interventions can deliver immediate benefits, long-term resilience depends on institutional ownership, viable maintenance structures, and alignment with local development frameworks. Infrastructure that is not embedded within governance and financing systems risks becoming fragile over time.

These lessons have informed ongoing discussions within the Board about the Foundation's future direction.

We see increasing importance in approaches that strengthen local capacity, integrate long-term operation and maintenance from the outset, and explore financing structures that can attract complementary public and private investment. While our core mission remains unchanged, we are actively examining how our work can contribute more effectively to scalable and sustainable models.

Our ambition remains clear: to support lighting solutions that improve quality of life, contribute to climate mitigation, and strengthen community resilience. We believe lighting can serve as a catalyst, improving public space, enabling economic participation, and reducing emissions, while also encouraging stronger institutional frameworks around infrastructure delivery.

Achieving this ambition will require deeper partnerships across governments, communities, development organisations, and the private sector. By strengthening collaboration and aligning resources, we can help ensure that lighting solutions are embedded within broader systems that support long-term, inclusive, and resilient development.

As the Foundation continues to evolve, so does its leadership. In 2025, after six years of exceptional leadership, Harry Verhaar stepped down as Chair of the Signify Foundation Board. We want to thank Harry for his dedication and leadership over the years. This year, we also

welcomed Mario Giordano, Global Head of Public & Government Affairs at Signify, as Chair and Paul Peeters, CEO of Conventional Business at Signify, as a new Board member. Their experience and perspectives will help guide the Foundation as it enters its next chapter and continues to advance its mission of improving lives through access to light.

Yours faithfully,
The Signify Foundation Board



Mario Giordano,
Chair of the board



Stanley Anyetee,
Board member



Maloe de Reuver,
Board member



Verali von Meijenfeldt,
Board member

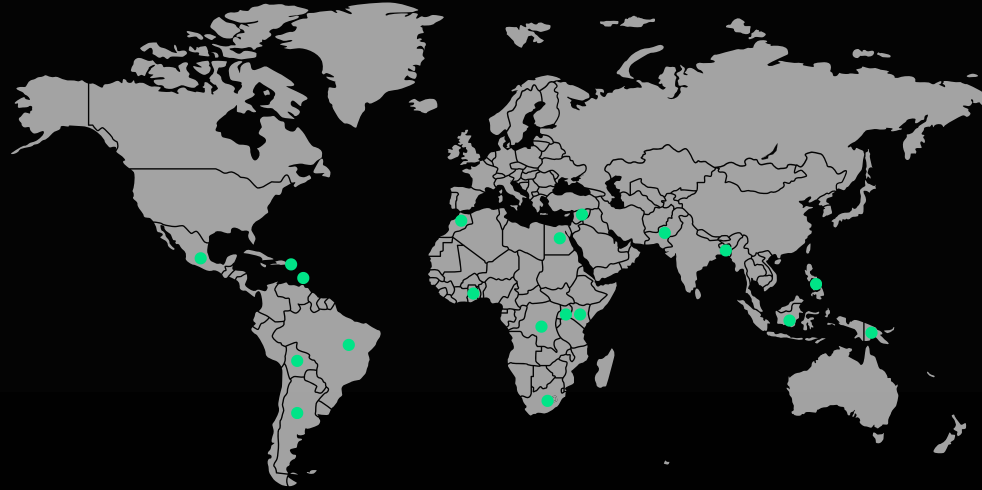


Paul Peeters,
Board member

Key highlights in 2025

14.8 million
lives lit since 2017

22 projects in
19 countries



52%
women beneficiaries on
average per project



1107

Schools, children's homes, and
playgrounds lit under **Brighter learning**



161

Hospitals, health centers, and clinics
lit under **Brighter health**



152

Villages and informal settlements
lit under **Brighter living**



Brighter communities

Our program focus for 2024–2030

1. Lighting gap



(Semi)–public spaces in remote and/or underserved areas lack lighting for community infrastructure and essential services

2. Our focus



Community-centered lighting interventions



Targeting shared spaces

3. Thematic areas



Brighter learning

- Schools
- Playgrounds
- Sports fields



Brighter health

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Health centers



Brighter living

- Informal settlements
- Refugee settlements
- Remote villages
- Disaster and conflict affected communities

4. Leveraging strengths



Solar & LED lighting solutions



Technical know-how

5. To enable



Safety & security



Community development & resilience



Productivity & livelihoods



School lighting in Cochabamba, Bolivia



Emiliana installing a solar floodlight.

Foreword from a community member

Emiliana Chaparro played a key role in our village lighting project in Puna, Argentina, by training community members to install and maintain solar lighting.

My name is Emiliana Chaparro. I became a part of the people of Abra Laite. I was a community leader here working in defence of the territory and participating in meetings. In these spaces, life crossed me with Clemente Flores who had spoken with the organization EKHOS. It was Clemente who proposed for me to be a part of this program: attending a school for women from all over the world to strengthen their learning in social energy, based mainly on the empowerment of women so that when we returned to our communities, we would do the same with them. This was how I became educated as a Solar Mama in India.

India turned my life around. One thinks that at the age of 40 one's life has been resolved, but India has given me a clarity that I had not found in even one quarter of my life. It has totally changed my thoughts, especially the one about giving value to life itself. I came back from India a different me. More authentic, more human, more understanding and, above all, ready to give priority to the things that should really be part of our daily lives. It was painful for all of us who left and stayed. But this trip strengthened and united the family. It equipped my children with wings from my absence. Now, they can choose what they want, follow what they want to be, and make their own decisions. Today, I am leading the implementation of solar lighting for our community spaces.

Every time that little light goes on, I feel that we have achieved what we were missing. I feel that we can somehow give a solution to this group of families that even after 30 years in these territories have not had this opportunity. It is gratifying that they feel empowered and know that this is going to benefit them so that they can stay in these territories more effectively, put down more roots and not end up leaving.

Light is life. We have our dark, light, and bright moments. The same thing is happening today in the villages.

We are coming out from the hidden, from the darkness.

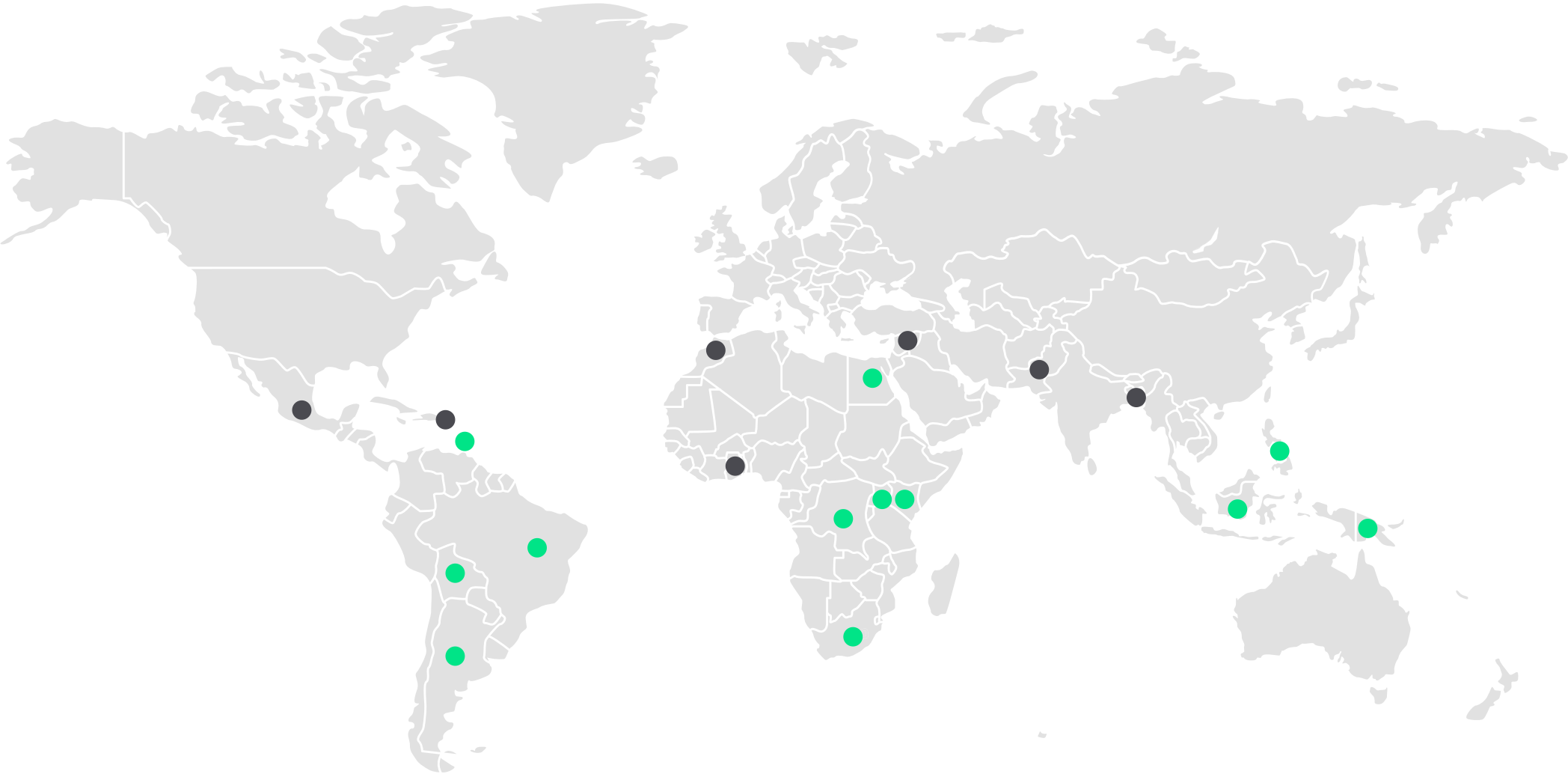
When we get together, when we take advantage of that public night space for meetings and celebrations, that will be the real meaning of the light that we are leaving today in the rural villages.

I would like to thank all those who have been joining us on this route. The warmth of the people transformed into a desire to empower ourselves, and to encourage us that from nothingness, from only our will as human beings, we can all contribute to improving the world.

Find out more about this project on page 26.

Project map

Countries where we carried out projects in 2025



Green pointers are clickable and redirect to the projects featured in this report

Brighter learning

Light for schools, playgrounds, and children's homes

A quarter of schools worldwide lack access to electricity, meaning over 230 million children learn without reliable lighting.¹ Research shows that with energy and lighting access, student school attendance increases, educational outcomes are improved, and quality of learning rises. In addition, higher teacher retention and increased hours for operating and remote learning outside of daylight hours have been proven to increase quality of learning.²



Solar outdoor lighting in Palabek refugee settlement, Uganda

1 UNICEF, 2022

2 A brighter life for every child with sustainable energy report, UNICEF, 2022

A quiet catalyst for a curious mind

Growing minds are endlessly curious. A familiar image: a child with a torch in hand under their blanket, sneaking in one more page before bed. Or when books aren't within reach, holding that same small beam toward the wall, shaping animals and stories with their hands, learning and imagining long after sunset.

Light allows ideas to stretch a little further, pages to turn a little longer, and stories to unfold beyond sunset. In many schools around the world, the barrier to learning is not curiosity, it is light.

Sparking a love of learning, Bolivia

Project in/visible invites the people of Signify to nominate initiatives close to their hearts. Signify employee Giovana saw an opportunity to give back a school that shaped her family's story.

Before light.

Before the project began, the school's lighting reflected the reality of many rural public schools in Bolivia, where infrastructure is often outdated, inefficient, and in some cases, non-functional. The basic conditions required for effective learning were not fully in place. During winter months, classrooms grew dim, making it difficult for students to focus and sustain their energy throughout the day. Lessons depended heavily on available daylight.

Beyond the classroom, the absence of adequate lighting narrowed the school's role in children's development. The theater had fallen out of use. Sporting and social activities were restricted to daylight hours. When light faded, so did opportunities for play, rehearsal, and creative expression. The school did not have a dedicated library where children could explore books beyond lesson time or develop personal interests.

After light.

Through the realization of Giovana's proposal, 105 luminaires were installed across the school campus. Students can now focus without straining in dim conditions, and lessons are no longer dictated by the position of the sun.

"Lighting is a transformative tool in education" Giovana explains. "It creates the optimal biological conditions for children to learn and focus.

It also extends the productive day, ensuring that a student's opportunity to succeed is no longer dictated by a lack of infrastructure or electricity access"

Outside of the classrooms, the theater was relit and returned to use, outdoor lighting was installed to allow sporting and social activities to continue safely beyond daylight hours, and a new children's library created a welcoming space for reading and exploration, built through book donations and volunteer support from the wider community. For the inauguration of the library, a well-known children's author visited the school and read one of her books to the students, leaving them inspired and eager to discover stories of their own.

Today, the upgraded lighting benefits 200 students and around 20 teachers, restoring not only visibility but the school's role as a vibrant center for learning and community life. In fact, the school has now become a hub for sports and cultural events for children across the region. So far, an additional 100 children from nearby schools have been able to make use of the theater for performances and community events. After visiting the bright classrooms and seeing the library filled with students, Giovana reflected that the project had truly come to life. Due to the success of this first phase, she plans to scale the project up, aiming to support three additional schools in the region.

[Click to return to project map](#)

Project partner: Eufronio Viscarra Elementary School

Luminaires installed:

105

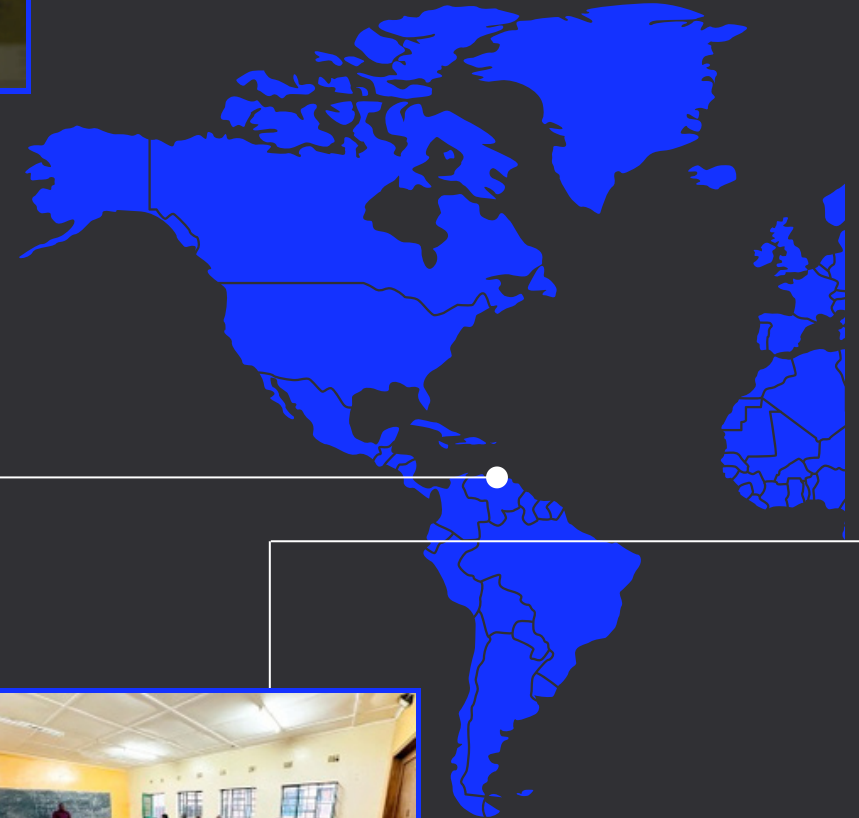
Lives reached with the power of light:

320

Curaçao

In collaboration with Johan Cruyff Foundation, solar outdoor lighting has been installed at the Jurriën Timber court in Curaçao.

The illuminated courts now enable over 900 people a week to play football after sunset. Located near the community center, the court lights also spill over to a nearby square and playground, promoting greater community safety and integration.



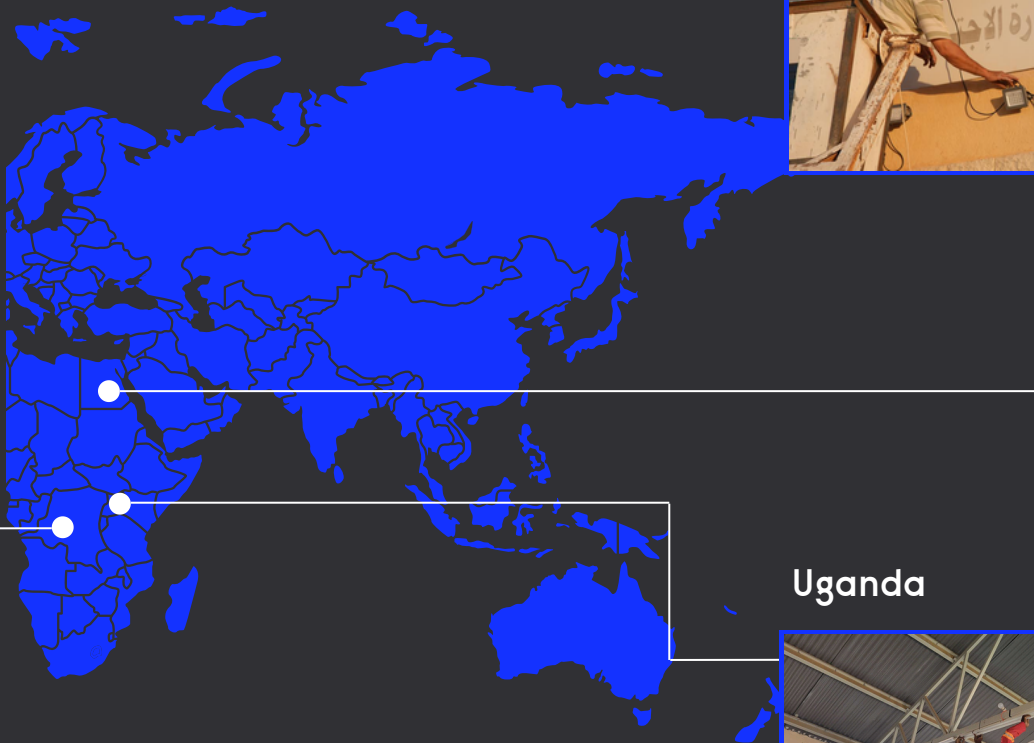
DRC

In Lubumbashi, where electricity outages are frequent and prolonged, a social high school offering evening classes for adults faced constant disruptions to learning. Power breakdowns regularly interrupted lessons, limiting opportunities for working students seeking to continue their education after dark.

Through the installation of solar lighting, professors and students can now continue evening classes without interruption, even during electricity outages. The impact has been immediate. Both teachers and students report a renewed sense of stability and confidence, knowing that lessons can proceed without sudden darkness. For adult learners balancing work and study, uninterrupted evening education opens up future opportunities that were once out of reach.



[Click to return to project map](#)



Egypt



In a second phase of partnership with Misr El-Kheir (MEK) Foundation, large-scale solar lighting was delivered across remote and border areas of North Sinai Governorate. The project installed 8,150 solar-powered units, including 3,775 floodlights and 4,375 bulbs, to improve safety and service delivery in underserved communities. In total, 40,750 lives were positively impacted.

The illumination of schools has made them safer, more reliable environments, enabling education to continue after dark using sustainable, clean energy. Youth centers and playgrounds also now provide safe spaces for sports and social interaction in the evenings, strengthening community cohesion and well-being.

Uganda



In the Gomba and Kalunga Districts of Central Uganda, reliable lighting access was expanded across 10 schools in 8 villages. A total of 2,000 energy-efficient LED batten lights were installed, directly benefiting more than 7,000 students and teachers. The project enables extended study hours in the evenings and early mornings, creating safer, well-lit learning environments. Schools report more consistent and reliable lighting, with significantly fewer outages due to the transition to solar power.



Solar outdoor lighting for a football pitch, Curacao

Brighter health

Light for health centers and clinics

Nearly one billion people globally are served by healthcare facilities with absent or unreliable electricity access. When it comes to complex procedures that need to be performed by day or night, proper lighting can mean the difference between life and death. Without reliable grid connection, health providers are never assured of lighting in emergency wards, in-patient rooms, outside on the clinic premises, or for safe and secure access to outside latrines.



One bulb to illuminate an entire ward

“

The corridors are dark, the compound is dark. You think that someone will jump from somewhere and get a hold of you”

If your entire home had only one working light bulb, where would you position it? Perhaps in the hallway, leaving every door open, hoping the light would spill into as many rooms as possible. In some Kenyan rural health facilities, that is the reality. One bulb to illuminate an entire ward.

Scaling light for rural healthcare, Kenya

Building on a multi-year partnership with Bright Dada, we expanded access to reliable lighting in rural Kenyan healthcare facilities in 2025, strengthening essential services and improving patient outcomes.

Before light.

When you picture a hospital, the image that comes to mind is often a bright space: white walls, cool light, high visibility. In Kenya, many rural health facilities do not fit this image. Across the regions included in this project, facilities often appeared as dark inactive buildings at night, discouraging families from seeking care after sunset.

Within the walls, the limitations of darkness were even more apparent. In one labor ward designed with eight light points, only one was working. In the postnatal ward, six beds were served by a single dim incandescent light bulb, and in the antenatal ward, there were no functioning lights at all.

Staff did what they could to extend the reach of the little illumination they had. Doors between rooms were left open so light could spill from one ward to another. Resourcefulness went even further than that. Babies were delivered using phone torches, often held in nurse's mouths to keep their hands free. At times, the watchman had to be asked to hold the light steady, leaving the compound unmanned and infringing on the privacy of mothers at their most vulnerable.

Darkness also instilled fear and hindered service provision. At night, moving through the facility felt unsafe for healthcare workers. If someone arrived at the gates at night, it was difficult to assess their intentions. Darkness reduced both the ability of staff to provide services and the willingness of patients to seek care. As the staff reflected:

"It was just a dark compound."

After light.

When the lights were installed, the wards, corridors, and compounds were illuminated consistently for the first time. Nurses reported safer deliveries and improved precision during medical procedures. They could clearly see veins and insert IV lines, which was especially difficult in infants. Suturing and emergency interventions could also be performed with confidence rather than strain. It was not just easier to see, it strengthened the overall quality of care.

Healthcare workers also felt more secure moving through the facility at night. Staff on call could respond to emergencies without fear, moving from nursing quarters to the wards without fearing for their safety. Outside of the compounds, facilities now appear active after dark. Community members feel safer approaching the gates at night, and facilities have reported increased night-time attendance, particularly for maternal care.

In earlier phases, the project focused on lighting priority wards. In this phase, entire facilities have been illuminated, strengthening not just specific services, but the healthcare environment as a whole.

"Now when they look, they see a hospital because of the lighting that has been provided."

Project partner: [Bright Dada](#)

Luminaires installed:

4794

Lives reached with the power of light:

1.2m

[Click to return to project map](#)



Lighting supports care, but it is the dedication and commitment of healthcare workers that ensures the facilities function every day. Pictured above are nurses, doctors, cooks, security officers, and other workers from hospitals and health centers impacted by the Bright Dada project, who have testified on the impact of lighting on their jobs and their ability to serve their communities.

Brazil



At Hemorio Hospital in Rio de Janeiro, 186 luminaires were installed to improve lighting quality, patient comfort, and the overall environment for healthcare provision. Delivered in collaboration with Instituto Desiderata, BEBO Arquitetura, and Signify lighting designer Marcelo Castillo, the project focused on enhancing both functionality and emotional wellbeing within the pediatric hospital environment. The upgraded lighting supports medical staff in delivering high-quality care while creating a calmer, more reassuring space for young patients and their families.

Papua New Guinea



Nominated by Signify colleague Owen Lewis, this project, in collaboration with Papua New Guinea (PNG) Foundation, brought light to the hospital of Kanabea village. Previously, on cloudy days, the hospital could only operate for two hours a day as existing lights were no longer functional. In combination with PNG Foundation's donation of an off-grid energy solution, the hospital lights now serve Kanabea's 1000 residents as well as up to 30,000 others in the region who travel there for healthcare.

[Click to return to project map](#)



Brighter living

Light for informal settlements, refugee settlements, remote villages, and disaster and conflict affected communities

Lighting plays a vital role in livelihood opportunities and increasing safety and security for community members by reducing the risk of accidents, crimes, and violence. Adequate lighting is particularly important for the protection of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly, by providing better visibility and a sense of safety. The focus of Brighter living projects is on remote public spaces and communal areas to enhance livelihood opportunities, safety, security, (re) building community infrastructure and resilience. In 2024, over 122 million people were displaced for various reasons ranging from conflict to climate crises.¹ Displaced people are forced to build a new life away from the place they used to call home, or rebuild homes that were once there. Lighting up these communities adds comfort to routines in daily life and the general feeling of being safe. With a focus on sustainable (re)building and development, we participate in making these communities more resilient and better prepared for the future.

1 UNHCR, 2024



Solar outdoor lighting installation in Palabek refugee settlement, Uganda

At dawn, the lights are already on

“

Light is like oxygen. You don't think about it when it's there... you only realise how important it is when it's gone.”

In many parts of the world, the day begins under streetlights. At 5 a.m., they illuminate bus stops and pavements as commuters make their way to work, parents walk their children to school, and vendors unlock their shops. When dusk returns, the lights do too, making evening errands, late shifts, and the journey home feel routine and safe. It is infrastructure we rarely think about, until it isn't there. In Alexandra Township, the lights do not always come on. When they don't, daily routines begin and end in darkness.

Illuminating public life in Alexandra Township, South Africa

Now in its third phase, our collaboration with Wakanda has progressed from small-scale solar bulb distribution to street-level lighting, strengthening safety, supporting informal commerce, and expanding access to secure public space.

Before light.

South Africa has experienced scheduled power cuts, known as load shedding, since 2007. While electricity supply has stabilized in many formal suburban neighbourhoods, some township communities, including Alexandra, continue to face “load reduction,” limiting electricity availability. Though the name has changed, the outcome remains similar: when power is reduced, streets fall dark.

In Alexandra, many residents begin their day before sunrise. Informal food vendors set up as early as 4:30 a.m. Commuters walk to taxi ranks in the early hours. Without reliable public lighting, these journeys take place with limited visibility. Daily routes become harder to navigate, and open areas feel less secure.

At the women’s hostel, home to approximately 6,000 women, shared spaces and hallways would lose light completely during outages. Children were kept indoors once the sun had set. Returning home after dark meant moving cautiously through spaces where visibility was limited. Light was not a guaranteed part of the infrastructure. It was something to work around every single day.

After light.

In the first phase of this project, 40 solar street lights were installed across the women’s hostel compound, particularly in entranceways, internal walk ways, and common space where children play. These areas are now illuminated regardless of the grid conditions, due to the 100% off-grid functionality of the solar-powered street lighting, making the availability of light a constant rather than a question.

Residents could leave for work in the early morning without navigating dark passageways, children were able to spend time outside after sunset, and shared areas that were previously inactive at night became usable public space.

A few days after installation, residents shared a video from the hostel. In it, a group of children were dancing beneath the newly installed lights in one of the common areas. There had been no formal event organised. The moment was spontaneous. The children were celebrating simply because, as one of them said, “we have lights now.” Beyond improved visibility, the installation changed how the compound is experienced. It is now active after dark, movement is more assured, and the space has become a vibrant setting for connection and socialization after the sun has set.

The installation at the women’s hostel marks an important milestone, but it is not the endpoint. The broader street-level rollout requires formal approvals from multiple municipal departments and the local utility. While progress has been made, final sign-off is the critical next step for this project. Once secured, the remaining lights can be deployed at scale across existing streetlight infrastructure in Alexandra. While working through municipal structures and utility partners has taken time, it is central to long-term sustainability of this project. Maintenance plans, technical alignment, and formal documentation ensure that installations are not temporary interventions, but embedded infrastructure.

“The upside is that when you follow the rules and regulations, no one can come back tomorrow and say, take these things off. We gave you the permission, all the paperwork.”

Project partner: Wakanda

Luminaires donated:

700

Lives reached with the power of light so far:

6k+

[Click to return to project map](#)

Uganda

In partnership with UNHCR, off-grid solar lighting is being installed across Palabek and Kyangwali refugee settlements in Uganda, illuminating public spaces, pathways, and essential service areas for approximately 250,000 refugees and host community members.

In Palabek Refugee Settlement, home to predominantly women and children from South Sudan, 550 solar streetlights were installed in 2025. In Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, hosting over 155,000 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 472 of 650 planned solar streetlights have been installed.

The project has also strengthened local ownership and technical capacity. 85 refugee leaders in Kyangwali were engaged in paid installation activities, alongside 30 youth graduates from Don Bosco and 549 community members who supported excavation works. All systems are fully solar powered and off grid, eliminating electricity costs while ensuring continued operation in remote areas.



Argentina

In the remote Puna region of Jujuy, where many communities have little or no access to the power grid, the “Ruta de la Luz” initiative brought clean, reliable solar lighting to isolated rural settlements. The project installed 145 outdoor solar luminaires across 18 communities, lighting up plazas, streets, community centers, sports clubs, homes, animal pens, and productive areas. In total, 3,535 people directly benefit from the installations, with an additional 4,147 indirect beneficiaries who regularly return to these communities for family gatherings and local celebrations.

Beyond infrastructure, the project strengthened local women’s technical capacity and leadership. Twenty women were trained as “Guardians of the Luminaires,” overseeing installation, maintenance, and reporting. Women trained in solar technology coordinated deployments across the region, so the lights became a source of safety, pride, and long-term community ownership.



[Click to return to project map](#)

[Click to return to project map](#)

The Philippines



Through a project nomination from Signify colleague Dwight Alexis Agosila, and in partnership with Caritas Philippines, 431 solar outdoor lights were installed in secluded and vulnerable communities regularly affected by typhoons and earthquakes. The project currently benefits approximately 70,000 people, including 10,000 students who now gain an average of two additional study hours each evening at school and at home. By replacing candles and kerosene lamps with reliable solar lighting, households are safer, more productive, and less exposed to fire hazards and accidents.

“My grandchildren are no longer afraid to go down to the well at night because the path is now bright.”

– Josephine Malinis, whose home sits above a road and is accessed by ladder (pictured to the left).

Indonesia



Delivered in partnership with Prosus, Signify Foundation, Aruna, and Yayasan Maritim Nusantara Lestari, the Light for All program combines distribution, community training, and post-installation monitoring to expand reliable access to light in areas with limited or no electricity: Papua, Southeast Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, and East Kalimantan.

A total of 2,370 solar lights have been distributed across 30 coastal villages, supporting households that previously relied on fuel-powered generators or had no lighting at all. The initiative enables safer nighttime movement, supports education, and reduces dependence on costly and polluting fuel-based lighting.

Message from the Foundation Director

At the Signify Foundation, we believe that lasting impact depends on more than technology alone. It requires agency, participation, and a sense of ownership among the people whom a project is designed to serve.

That belief was reinforced two years ago, when our team visited the Palabek Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda together with colleagues from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Along the main pathways, we saw the remains of earlier solar streetlights. Some panels were cracked, batteries missing, and poles were no longer firmly in place. We learned that fewer than 20 percent of the lights across the settlement were still functioning.

Rather than drawing conclusions, we chose to listen. Through discussions with community members, valuable insights emerged. The conversations highlighted opportunities to further align lighting placement and use with how residents move through and interact with shared spaces.

Building on these learnings, we reflected with UNHCR on how future initiatives could be shaped. The need for safe and reliable lighting remained clear, as did the

opportunity to deepen community involvement in the process. We recognized that strengthening community ownership from the outset supports the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the solutions.

With this in mind, we refined our approach. The next phase began with a stronger emphasis on listening to and working alongside community members.

In parallel, we connected with a group of young women and men at a nearby vocational school who had recently completed electrician training. With the support of their teachers and a local company, they took part in installing the lights, reinforcing poles, and improving resistance to tampering. Their involvement helped ensure quality installation while building the community's skills to keep the lights on well into the future.

This year, UNHCR confirmed that all 550 lights are fully operational.

The lesson is simple. Infrastructure endures when communities see themselves reflected in it.

Consultation builds understanding. Participation builds ownership. Ownership fosters care and protection.

When young electricians can point to a streetlight and say, "We installed that," the project becomes part of the community rather than an external intervention.

For the Signify Foundation, this project in partnership with UNHCR represents more than a successful installation. It is a shared learning experience that underscores the importance of partnership, trust, and continuous reflection.

These are principles that continue to guide our collaboration with partners and inform how we approach every new engagement.

Sincerely,
Yue Cui



Financial statements

Balance sheet as at December 31 (in euros after result appropriation)

	Note	2024	2025
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	2,296,884	1,540,986
Total current assets		2,296,884	1,540,986
Total assets			
		2,296,884	1,540,986
Equity			
Other reserves	2	1,427,861	729,705
Total equity		1,427,861	729,705
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	3	869,023	811,281
Total current liabilities		869,023	811,281
Total equity and liabilities			
		2,296,884	1,540,986

Statement of contributions and expenses (in euros)

	Note	2024	2025
Contribution from Signify	4	1,000,000	1,000,000
Other contributions		27,615	106,406
Total contributions		1,027,615	1,106,406
Donations	5	(868,051)	(1,691,123)
Other expenses	6	(127,450)	(109,977)
Financial expenses	7	(1,693)	(3,462)
Total expenses		(997,194)	(1,804,562)
Result		30,421	(698,156)

Notes to the Balance sheet and the Statement of contributions and expenses

General

Stichting Signify Foundation is registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce with number 69001464 as a foundation under Dutch law. Its legal address is Basisweg 10, 1034 AP Amsterdam.

Financial reporting period

These financial statements cover the year 2025 which ended December 31, 2025. The comparative figures cover the year 2024, which started on January 1, 2024 and ended December 31, 2024.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 'Non-profit organizations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board (RJ640).

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the going concern assumption.

Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis. Unless stated otherwise, assets and liabilities are shown at nominal value. Valuation takes place at nominal value less any provision deemed necessary.

Accounting policies

General

An asset is recognized in the balance sheet when it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. A liability is recognized in the balance sheet when it is expected to result in an outflow of the entity's own resources and the amount of the liability can be measured reliably.

Contributions are recognized in the Statement of contributions and expenses when the amount can be determined in a reliable manner and collection of the related contribution to be received is probable. Contributions and expenses are allocated to the period to which they relate.

Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the Board of Signify Foundation to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting principles and reported amounts of assets, liabilities and contributions and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are continuously reviewed. The impact of revised estimates is reflected in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in euros, which is the Foundation's functional currency, and have been rounded to the nearest euros. Transactions denominated in foreign currency are translated into euros at the exchange rate applying on the transaction date. Exchange differences resulting from the settlement of monetary items or resulting from the translation of monetary items denominated in foreign currency are recognized in the Statement of contributions and expenses in the period in which they arise.

Due to rounding, amounts may not add up to totals provided.

Receivables

Receivables are measured at initial recognition at fair value. After initial recognition, the assets are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method, less a value allowance. The allowance is determined by individual assessment of the receivables by applying the expected loss model, which utilizes historical collection data and forward-looking estimates.

Current liabilities

At initial recognition, accrued expenses are measured at fair value. After initial recognition, the liabilities are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

Other reserves

Other reserves consist of the results of the previous years as well as the current year.

Notes to the Balance sheet

1. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents relate to the current account balances and are available without restrictions.

2. Equity

The movements in Other reserves are shown below:

	2024	2025
Opening balance	1,397,440	1,427,861
Result	30,421	(698,156)
Other reserves	1,427,861	729,705

3. Accrued expenses

Accrued expenses reflect the amounts related to projects that have been approved by the Board and communicated to the beneficiary but for which payments will materialize in the following year(s).

Accruals related to:	2024	2025
Brighter living	565,568	691,476
Brighter learning	45,613	32,965
Brighter health	257,842	86,840
Total	869,023	811,281

The accruals are mainly due to the Foundation's payment approach to disperse most donations in tranches based on milestones.

The accrual for Brighter living projects in 2025 was EUR 691,476 (2024: EUR 565,568), mostly related to projects in Indonesia, Vietnam, Mexico, Uganda, Kenya, amongst other countries.

Notes to the Statement of contributions and expenses

4. Contributions

In 2025, the Signify Foundation received a contribution of EUR 1,000,000 from Signify, the same amount as received in 2024 (EUR 1,000,000). The funding was made in two installments received in April and July. In December 2025, Signify agreed to contribute to Signify Foundation an amount of EUR 1,000,000 in 2026.

5. Donations

Donations are recognized as an expense in the year the commitment has been approved by the Board and communicated to the beneficiary of the donation. There were no donations that could potentially be recovered by Signify Foundation included in 2025 (2024: nil).

In 2025, an amount of EUR 14,349 (2024: EUR 34,295) was repaid to the Foundation related to recoverable donations issued in previous years after the beneficiaries were able to meet certain conditions.

Donations related to:	2024	2025
Brighter living	141,556	1,288,210
Brighter learning	346,479	307,386
Brighter health	380,017	95,527
Total	868,051	1,691,123

In 2025, donations were made for 36 projects that aligned with our Brighter Communities focus areas, reaching countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

6. Other expenses

In 2025, Other expenses decreased to EUR 109,977 (2024: EUR 127,450) relating to personnel, membership fees, and travel costs associated with project visits. Refer to note 8. Personnel for further details.

7. Financial expenses

Financial expenses in 2025 of EUR 3,462 (2024: EUR 1,693) relate to bank and interest costs and the cost of foreign currency conversion.

8. Personnel

In 2025, Signify Foundation employed one full-time project manager based in Kenya (co-funded by the Dutch Young Expert Programs), and one part-time contingent worker based in the Netherlands.

In addition, Signify Foundation's operations team consists of employees of Signify who are seconded to the Foundation. Their salaries and expenses are paid by Signify.

The Board members of Signify Foundation receive no remuneration for their duties, any expenses incurred are reimbursed by the Foundation or Signify.

Signify Foundation also receives human resource functional support from Signify, mainly in the areas of legal, finance, internal audit, communications, in-country Foundation ambassadors, and skill-based volunteers on specific projects.

9. Subsequent events

There are no subsequent events to report.

May 16, 2026.

Board of Management

Mario Giordano
Stanley Anyetei
Maloe de Reuver
Verali von Meijenfheldt
Paul Peeters

Colophon

The Signify Foundation operations team 2025: Yue Cui, Aninda Eijkens, Natalie Cru, Eric Otieno, and Çiçek Dalek.

Financial section supported by Signify accounting team: Dwight Alexis Agosila and Sharon Underwood.

Registered charity in the Netherlands (ANBI), RSIN number 857684553. Copyright 2023. Signify Foundation. All rights reserved.

Signify Foundation Basisweg 10, 1043 AP, Amsterdam, the Netherlands



Laundry hanging at the newly lit women's hostel in Alexandra Township, South Africa

