

Solar Energy for



African Women

CEO'S PERSONAL MESSAGE 2026



Dear Friends of SEAW,

We have left behind the year 2025 and entered the year 2026. It is time to briefly reflect on what happened in the old year and what is in store in the new year.

Personal reflections

My mother was a single woman with two young babies, my sister and I. She struggled to cope for a long time until someone decided to support her to get back on her feet. I found similar patterns in rural Ghana and Ethiopia where women struggle to be more independent and to build a foundation for themselves by which they could have a say in their future rather than be bound and limited by traditions and social norms. I hate seeing strong and highly capable women fighting for betterment for themselves and their children and wider families in a world where the odds are stacked against them. I simply wanted to do something to contribute to their empowerment both economically and socially. Driven by my personal history and first hand observations of women in Ghana and Ethiopia I had worked on the idea of SEAW for over 3 years before registration. During that time I put in a lot of personal time and financial resources while working full time in a busy job. I realised that I chose the hard way by pursuing this without proper financial backing first but I also knew that this couldn't wait, that this was far too important an issue for me to wait until all was perfectly in place. So I said a prayer, putting it in God's hands and gave it a go. Through faith, a strong belief in doing the right thing, perseverance and most importantly, the Lord's blessing we are where we are today.

2025 - Recap

2025 was a year of building the foundations for future operations. I was able to attract people of standing in the Ethiopian professional community to back SEAW as Members of the Board. Tigist Mekonnen (Chair), Dr. Fasikaw Atanaw (Deputy Chair), Nadia Ahmed, Dr. Winta Mekonnen and Sahilu Tagele are our five board members who

deserve a shout out for their unwavering support. Our accountant Tinsae Amsalu, who also works full time in another organisation and supporting us voluntarily, has been instrumental in reaching where we are now. After our registration in December 2024 we started in earnest the physical establishment and operation of SEAW. We established our operational office in Bahir Dar, set up our internal systems, and start building our network we signed MOUs and agreements with Hawassa University, ARA, GoDesign, AWEA, EthioTelecom, Ethioden and recently AEID. Further, we are part of the UNICEF Amhara WASH Cluster group. We were blessed to receive generous donations from a private supporter from the UK and Ethioden which allowed us to function administratively. We also built a website at www.seawafrika.net, have social media presence on LinkedIn and Facebook and operate a private telegram channel. We are now in a position to plan for and undertake the implementation of our vision and mission.

2026 – Way forward

This year we want to build on what we achieved in the previous year. Firstly, we want to strengthen our existing partnerships to make our MOUs real life documents instead of just pieces of paper in the filing cabinet. This means designing and implementing projects in collaboration with our partners, primarily in Amhara and Afar but not exclusively. Our target this year is to thus achieve 2-3 project funding and our priority thematic areas will be (1) WASH, (2) Education/Training, (3) Entrepreneurship/Business development, and (4) Solar Energy/Climate Mitigation. We also wish to expand our network within Ethiopia and internationally to increase our horizon. Moreover, we are planning to encourage more private philanthropists to invest in SEAW's social agenda of helping rural women to take control of their own destiny. Lastly, we will endeavour to build a full time operational team that can and will make SEAW a powerful and reliable ally of the rural women in Ethiopia and Africa on the whole. After all, Women Matter.

Best Regards

Lloyd Milliner, CEO
Solar Energy for African Women