



# Chimpanje Rural Health Centre Solar Mini-Grid (Nyimba District, 2025)

Part of **Engineering Brighter Tomorrows (EBT)** program, electrifying 12 rural clinics and schools in Zambia.

## BACKGROUND

Chimpanje Rural Health Centre in Eastern Province operated for years without electricity. The lack of power left maternity services unsafe at night, with births delivered using phone torches. Additionally, without energy, vaccines were difficult to store and essential medical devices were unusable. The absence of reliable services also reduced community trust in the facility. Poor living conditions in staff houses further made it hard to retain qualified personnel. These challenges highlighted the urgent need for a sustainable energy solution to strengthen healthcare delivery.



	<b>12 kW</b> solar mini-grid installed	<b>24/7</b> emergency response by staff
	<b>300+</b> safe deliveries every month	<b>ZMW 800,000</b> invested (approx. \$40,000 USD)

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In March 2025, Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Zambia, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and EWB Canada, installed a 12 kW off-grid solar mini-grid at Chimpanje Rural Health Centre. The system powers the clinic and staff houses through solar panels, battery storage, and a distribution network. It was officially handed over on 28 March during a public ceremony with government representatives, traditional leaders, district officials, health workers, and community members. The project contributes directly to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, by ensuring reliable healthcare services for Chimpanje Rural Health Centre.

## BUDGET & IMPLEMENTATION

The project cost ZMW 800,000, funded by EWB Canada and the *Engineering Brighter Tomorrows* (EBT) program. It covered system design, procurement, installation of solar panels and batteries, commissioning, and training in operations and maintenance. Implementation emphasized durability, low maintenance, and compliance with Ministry of Health standards. The system now enables safer childbirth at night, reliable vaccine storage, and functioning medical equipment. Improved staff housing encourages staff to remain and is restoring community confidence. With ownership transferred to the Ministry, the project ensures sustainability and serves as a model for upcoming installations.

**Project executed 2024–2025**

**2024**  
August  
Chimphanje Rural Health Centre selected as the first pilot site in the EBT program

**2025**  
March  
Solar mini-grid installed.

**March 28**  
Project handed over to Ministry of Health.

For additional project information, email: [programs@ewbzambia.org](mailto:programs@ewbzambia.org)

Explore **Engineering Brighter Tomorrows** further: watch our [webinar](#) or download the [PDF](#).

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