On February 27th, the Nasenyi Jewish community in Uganda inaugurated a new synagogue. If you have been to Kahal Kadosh She'erit Yisrael (KKSY) before now, you can better understand what tremendous change it got, dismantling the old building and putting up a magnificent piece. Thanks to the significant support from SJUA (Sephardi Jews of Uganda Assistance) and a couple of other individuals solidly behind the Nasenyi community. It was a wonderful gathering on that day as visitors from across the globe stormed the venue to officially open up the new shul.

A few yards away from the solar-powered synagogue building, a farmland extends about 6 hectares for the community's food security efforts. Then about another one and a half kilometers away, there is a solar-lit mikveh built in 2023. Despite being small and remote, the Nasenyi community is deeply committed to Jewish practices. On this basis, Innovation Africa happily installed solar lighting in the mikveh, an essential ritual bath for family purity and conversion, enabling it to operate at night.

Generally, what sets Innovation Africa apart is its holistic, sustainable model. A transparent system equipped with remote monitoring, allowing managers to track energy usage, water flow, and maintenance in real time. One of their success secrets is maintaining a dedicated workforce made up of engineers, field officers, managers, and experts. They train technicians on the site to handle repairs, ensuring that the community maintains the systems instead of abandoning them. This empowerment model transforms beneficiaries into caretakers, thereby reducing dependency and fostering resilience.

Inspiring founder of Innovation Africa Sivan Yaari —who also doubles as CEO of the tech organization—expressed her enduring motivation and the mission ahead while recently commissioning a new solar-powered water tank in a Malawian village. Another project of a similar nature is currently underway in neighboring Zambia and is scheduled to launch later in August.

> "We're proud to bring the light of Israeli innovation to Jewish and non-Jewish communities alike—powering synagogues, mikvehs, farms, and futures. When the lights turn on or clean water flows, it's not just technology—it's dignity, opportunity, and hope."

The mikveh at the KKSY Synagogue, powered by solar energy

Moreover, the inclusion of Jewish and non-Jewish communities alike reinforces a shared humanity— proving that Israeli technology can serve as a bridge for cross-cultural cooperation and understanding. Looking ahead, the success stories of these solar-powered Ugandan Jewish communities point toward a compelling future. And as Innovation Africa expands its reach, more Jewish communities across Sub-Saharan Africa could gain access to electricity, clean water, and agricultural solutions.

In a world facing both climatic and economic crises, solar energy offers a path that is clean, renewable, and adaptable. To see African Jewish communities leveraging technology— which offers continuity— the ability to pass on the tradition, educate the next generation, and live Jewishly with pride. According to Jewish literature, Israel is referred to as the "light unto the nations." Through the work of Innovation Africa, this calling is being fulfilled in the most literal sense. Light is entering homes, synagogues, mikvehs, schools, and fields — nourishing both body and soul.

No doubt, this growing collaboration between Israeli innovation and African Jewish communities is more than a humanitarian effort. It is a profound statement that even the most remote and marginalized communities can be empowered, dignified, and included in the global Jewish narratives.