



## LIGHTNING KILLS SAVE A LIFE IN AFRICA

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### Sample - Talking Points on the ECONOMIC BENEFITS of an ACLE National Centre

Draft 25 June 2016 - M.A. Cooper, MD, Director ACLENet

NOTE: ACLENet stands ready to assist those interested in forming a national or regional ACLE centre with up-to-date background papers and proposals targeted to your country.

1. Industry and agriculture – Mining, agriculture and other industry may have to deal with down time from loss of workers (funerals, grieving time, - plus some beliefs would have workers think lightning or other failure was God's or a witch's curse on their work/employer and flee to avoid further application of the curse to them). Also, there can be down time or loss of expensive equipment that could have been protected with advance warning forecasts or better hardening of equipment. I don't know about the worker compensation or safety laws in XXXXX, but in the USA, long and expensive lawsuits over whether the injured person was injured to the extent they claim can take up valuable resources of a company, not to mention the bitterness it engenders between employees and employer.
2. (more) Agriculture – by providing better forecasts of lightning, rain, hail, winds, etc, farmers can better plan their planting and harvest, improve their income, have some left over to send their children to good schools, have enough monetary reserve to provide for better medical care and other expensive episodic needs, avoid human trafficking/debt bondage (which is illegal but often the reality in many other poor areas of many countries).
3. Utilities – damaged utilities stop delivering power downstream, leaving many businesses, small and large, with goods that cannot be preserved by refrigeration, communication deficits for all of industry, lack of lights to carry on night work, lack of electricity to power other equipment necessary for running the business, or require purchase of generators and use of fossil fuels, which, depending on the regulations about emissions for these, may cause the individual, other people in the home, business or community to suffer from the fumes, risk of fire, etc. Economic development of any country is DIRECTLY related to the amount of electricity used and RELIABLE electricity is the first requirement for development (besides lack of war, famine, etc)
4. Data -- Banking, finance and data systems can be harmed by even little surges of power, much less lightning level damage. Visa processing firms are often triple or more hardened to prevent surge-induced errors to accounts, not to mention total loss of data that may take weeks to rebuild. Loss of data (client mailing lists, invoicing,
5. Aviation – no country wants crashes due to poor forecasting (which can be publicized worldwide leading to tourist industry losses and loss of 'status' of the country) or loss of equipment and trained workers from lightning. In busy airports, delays of flights due to storms can be quite costly.