

11.18.2022

Dear Friends:

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to improving the lives of the families in Shitungu, Kenya. This update is longer than usual because there is much to share. Most importantly here is this heartfelt update and thank you directly from Rebecca:

Good morning family. Great greetings from my village members of shitungu. (Once the supplier delivers a set we distribute to a member.) This picture shows the 5th BENEFICIARY FOR SOLAR LIGHTS SYSTEM all gratitude to members who valued our case and decided to uplift us.

ALL FAMILIES THAT RECEIVED.

1. Their experience for light was uplifted once they received the gift. No more fear of darkness and threat from unseen by passers because of light able to view them.



2. Are able to have children study and do their homework without difficulties as previous .

Used to buy kerosene for light and each week could cost ksh 220 of which was not easy to come by that's average cost of ksh 1000 per month. Due to other basic needs of food one could opt to buy kerosene for ksh 30 equivalent to 2 spoons and couldn't take them for more than 1 hour. Yet they rely on daily casual jobs of which not grant to grab one for the day. At least the expenditure was cut down by the GIFT in the house.

3. As they can be able to charge their phones and not pay at nearest center that has power for every session they used to pay ksh. 30. This an average cost of ksh 1200 per month on button phone. This cost was cut down on arrival of the GIFT IN THE HOUSE, we really appreciate.

EXPECTATION

1. By the end of the school term school going children will have increased their ability in class performance and improve self esteem. Parental happiness in positive development of children.



2. Parents have reduced expenditure for the cut cost on their budget.
3. Improve their diet because the money received from the day job will go to purchase food or vary diet.
4. Building of bond in our village. Members have a feeling they are grateful to our FAMILY ABROAD.
5. More of light system will be delivered we have to update you all moment we received new set. As we distribute to members.* (the delivery men are pictured)

THANK YOU GREAT NATION FOR STANDING WITH OUR VILLAGE YOU ARE ALL WELCOMED LET YOU ACCEPT KENYA AS YOUR SECOND HOME AND WE ARE THE YOUR FAMILY HERE.

*Please note that Rebecca has ordered more solar sets and has to wait for a delivery from Nairobi which is about 225 miles by road.



The changes brought about by introducing solar are significant and the ramifications deep and broad. It is so gratifying to learn about the economic benefits. I was surprised to learn about the high cost of kerosene and a fee for charging one's phone!!!!

Not until I asked, did I learn about the impact of the drought. Rebecca shared that animals are dying and I still want to learn about the impact on crops and the level of the newly installed well. I alerted Rebecca and one of my other students, Achuti, who lives near Nairobi about a symposium sponsored by africa.com with Bill Gates at the University of Nairobi, "Innovating for Food Security & Climate Change in Africa". We were among the 10,000 people who attended virtually!!! The growing problems are being addressed by scientific research in developing heartier seeds and chickens among other innovations. Still, too much depends on the wealthier nations making a commitment to cut back on our dependence on oil and gas which greatly contributes to pollution and the climate crisis.



And the last bit of news is **so sweet** that it must be shared with you. A while ago Rebecca sent me photos of a small celebration in a neighboring village. She shared photos of students dancing around an older woman sitting on the ground and then a photo of them carrying her in their arms. Clarification was needed and the event was explained: the older woman was unable to walk due to 'weak legs' and had no family. The students joined together and helped her by cleaning her home and grounds, honoring her worth in the community and celebrating her life. Several months have passed and just three

days ago, Rebecca sent the photo showing that an organization has gifted this woman with a wheel chair. I hope that you too can feel the joy and generosity of spirit and community as you read this. Attached are videos that really capture the joy.



Expect a shorter update soon.

Many thanks to each of you from Rebecca, the entire village and me!

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Joyce