

Dear Friends:

This is an end of the year note of gratitude and good wishes. Rebecca has expressed her thanks for the entire village: “[Since the day you decided to assist our village region it has been marvelous.](#)”

Because of the last round of donations, the community bought a total of 20 solar units which qualified them for a discount. The installment of these modest solar units has uplifted the families by eliminating their monthly expense on kerosene and costs of charging their cell phones (in town!) totaling approximately 2000 shillings (\$16.23) a month. The benefits are beyond economical: children are able to improve/expand their study and improve their academic performance and the night now has new life to it. Rebecca reports: “[Majority of families rely on casual labour for daily food. now whatever wages and commission received has empowered them economically due to GIFT OF LIGHT.](#)”



The ongoing drought and shortage of food basics due to the Russian war on Ukraine has significantly impacted Africa and the Shitungu villagers have not been spared.

In Rebecca's words-

“[in Africa we are affected by drought, famine is rampant, people are starving to the extent of malnutrition and death. Animals domestic are not spared neither the jungle animals.](#)”

To fight malnutrition and degradation of their farming, the villagers are looking into *green* projects including water pan restoration. For those interested in knowing more about this basic water saving innovation:



Because of and despite these challenges, this community continues to plan projects for a brighter future. Their situation is an extreme version of what we and people around the world are experiencing. The concerns include food security, safety and conservation of water and land and the need for medical care. With all of these challenges, there is a constant focus and emphasis on the importance of education as a key to all solutions.

So I leave you on a discordant note: a mixture of hope and acknowledgment of the growing challenges for us all.

I wish each of you and your loved ones health and good cheer in 2023.

Enormous thanks from me and all Shitungu residents.

Cheers,

Joyce