



Dear Supporter,

In the last few months, thanks to your support, SolarAid has grown its operations. We have trained new entrepreneurs and brought power, light and income to many more rural communities.

In the UK, our team is growing, with the recent arrival of four interns and a soon-to-be-appointed Design and Production Officer and an Education Officer.



The Solar Cycle Diaries team Iain, Jamie and Susie (with SolarAid staff), before they left to cycle around the world. City Hall, 15 May 2009. Photo: Andy Bodycombe

In May, three solar campaigners left from London's City Hall to cycle around the world on their '**SolarCycle Diaries**'. Their aim is to raise awareness of solar energy as a means of fighting climate change and they hope to raise £30,000 for SolarAid's work.

Come and chill with SolarAid

We're pleased to announce that SolarAid will be charity partner at the **Big Chill Festival** in August. If you're there do come and say hi at our Sun Hut, where you can meet the team, find out about our projects, learn more about solar energy and even charge your mobile phone from our solar system.

We're also thrilled to announce that SolarAid and Solarcentury have been shortlisted for the National Fundraising Awards under the 'best business-small charity partnership 2009' category. The winner is announced on July 6, so watch this space.

Here's a round-up of news from each country

TANZANIA

Solar for schools

We have installed 18 macrosolar systems, providing light, internet access and IT training possibilities with the aim of improving educational standards. The schools will also be able to generate income from services such as mobile phone charging.

Arizona State University has generously donated 200 solar panels from its Research and Development department to our Tanzania programme. We're now looking for donors and engineers in Tanzania to install panels on health clinics.

MALAWI

Solar sales surge

With the harvesting season, disposable income in Malawi has increased and sales are growing fast. Tayolo, the local tea cooperative, has made a large order of our microsolar products; fantastic news for the salesmen's profits and for SolarAid.

SolarAid's work is having a big impact on the quality of life of many local people. Solar-powered lights we've installed have enabled farmers to process tobacco at night and increase their market sales.

The touching story of a young woman called Edess Mhoni, featured on our **blog**, tells of how Edess found



A community centre in the Northern Region of Nkhata Bay. SolarAid is lighting Malawian homes and communities. Photo: Andy Bodycombe.

us through a pilot programme we're running with the MicroLoan Foundation. Ostracised from her community for being HIV positive, she is now one of our most successful entrepreneurs.

KENYA

New franchisees start

In Kenya, we have eight new franchisees and not only that, but our franchisees have increased their productivity and sales by 50%.



Sunnymoney franchisee Moses Owiti puts his training into practice and demonstrates the neatly packaged Zebedee product to a customer. Muhuru Bay, Kenya. Photo: Andy Bodycombe

We have held follow-up workshops in troubleshooting techniques, helping vendors to keep our one year guarantee. These workshops are improving products and services and giving franchisees greater confidence.

By assisting our franchisees to open bank accounts, we are helping them to secure long-term financial security and qualify for business loans.

ZAMBIA

Community lighting



Children at Tara Basic School in the Choma district of Zambia enjoy extra light, provided on dark, stormy days thanks to the solar-powered lighting system. Photo: Andy Bodycombe.

Since November we have had nine new solar panel installations in Mumbwa and Chanwa and are working towards six more. These will directly improve the lives of 4,500 people in the eastern provinces. The new panels will be installed on schools and community centres, allowing people to continue learning after sundown as well as hold community development meetings, adult literacy classes, church services and much more.

Electrification of schools also helps in our fight against child labour. Children as young as five are often seen working long hours in tobacco fields. We are working with the local organisation HODI to increase access to education, which is key to the mitigation of child labour.

ARGENTINA

Pilot project

We are launching a pilot programme with the **Avina Foundation**, a South American organisation, to remove barriers in the existing solar supply chain and provide locals with uninterrupted power supply.



SolarAid's Enterprise Co-Ordinator Carl van Zand, who has recently relocated from Malawi to Jujuy in Northern Argentina. Photo: Christina Liapi

Our project - which helps establish small scale solar businesses - is moving fast. Our Malawi co-ordinator Carl van Zand has recently relocated to Argentina to share his expertise and oversee developments.

Finally, our Executive Director Nick Sireau has recently returned from a trip to Kenya where he visited our ongoing programmes, and China, where he visited manufacturing facilities:

"I was amazed by the entrepreneurialism and commitment of our franchisees. It was inspiring to see how this project is changing their lives and increasing their income. It's also having a hugely positive impact on customers. After buying a Zebedee (microsolar product), customers no longer have to use kerosene for lighting and see their income go up, as well as improvements in their health."



Some of our first franchisees who have recently had follow-up training at the Sunnymoney manufacturing centre. The team are holding Zebedee lights - which are in high demand. Nakuru, Kenya. Photo: Nick Sireau

Thank you to all our donors, supporters and partners, from all of us at SolarAid.

Would you like to continue your support?

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