

## GLOBAL SOCIAL LEADERS - PROJECT REPORT

“LIGHT ☀️ FOR HOPE” project in Namibia

Team: **SOLAR REFORMERS** from Windhoek International School

Members: (from left to right in the photo) Sara Hoyer, Angela Huang, Kauthara Nassuna, Iuze Limbo, Helena Jeremia, Rafael Shilengitha and Hulda Kastoor

Teacher: Rose Githinji

Aim of the Project: give students a better education through solar energy and promote climate action



### Our Journey



We started off by gathering ideas on how to organize the project and which SDGs to focus on. From plans of solar systems in individual households we came to the decision of working with a school, and eventually chose to provide students with solar lamps to use for studying at home. The school we work with is Fidel Castro Primary School in Katutura. Many of the students don't have electricity at home, which makes it difficult for them to do their homework.

We searched for a suitable solar lamp, and eventually found one that was practical and low-priced. We received funds from our sponsor - thank you! The highlight of our journey was the meeting with the 30 students who received the lamps.



We were all very excited to hand over the lamps. We explained how to use them and asked the students to meet us again in some time to give us feedback on how the solar lamp has impacted their lives. We handed out questionnaires to measure the impact of our project. Sadly, we are still waiting for a time to meet since Namibia is under lockdown and schools are closed, but we were able to get some feedback through phone calls and the lamps seem to significantly improve the students' education.

## **The Impact**

We talked to some of the students and they all seem to agree that their solar lamp has helped them a lot in studying and in everyday chores. On average, they use their lamp for 2 hours a day for schoolwork, lighting the house and daily chores. All agree that the lamp proved helpful for them and their family, and some noted an improvement in their work ethic and studies. There were some issues encountered, for example one of the lamps' brightness faded over time, but overall they were quite easy to use. The solar lamps impacted the 30 students who received them and their families. We spend maybe 700 hours on the project, but it could help them for years.



Here are some examples of feedback we have gotten: *Ericks spends about 2-3 hours per day using the solar lamp for his schoolwork, for lighting and for going to sleep. He didn't find any difficulty in using the lamp, he confidently agreed that the lamp will continue to help him improve on his studies. Erick's father expressed huge gratitude and happiness to see his son motivated in spending extra time on his schoolwork.*



*Marco believes the solar lamp has improved a lot of his work ethic as he had been using candles which was dangerous and he was required to do homework in a rushed manner to prevent accidents. He believes the lamp will continue to help in the future as there is no electricity where he currently lives.*

*The solar lamp has become a treasure in Ndaitavela's home as everyone gets to use it to their benefit and as her parents are not employed, they do not get money to have electricity in the house.*

## **What we learned**

*"The project has helped me develop an understanding of the SDGs, I have become better at working in a team and more organised, and I am also more confident when speaking with sponsors or partners in a project. I am very glad we were able to help the students." - Sara*

*"I have learnt how a team should be cohesive. Everybody should have the same intentions and goals and open up their own set of ideas. It's not all about getting somewhere, but building something from those set of ideas. Moreover communication and determination plays a pivotal role in shaping and completing a team's goal" - Helena*

*"Through this experience, I was met with a more patient and determined side of myself. After all, it had not been an easy journey, but it was all worth the smile on the children's faces whilst receiving the solar lamps. I am thankful for all I have as many are not allowed the wealth of turning on the lights today. I am, as well, very grateful for having an opportunity to make a change (even though the slightest) in my community" -Iuze*

*"I have learnt to value and appreciate what I have in life because not everyone is privileged to have the essential things that they need. Helping others is something that has to be part of us. That it is not always easy to accomplish a certain goal but through hard work, determination and teamwork we can do it" - Hulda*



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**Thank you to our sponsor for financing the solar lamps and making this project possible!**