

PROJECT: LIGHT UP A LIFE

The aim of the project



The aim of our project is to provide light to the people who are in need of it. Currently in Zimbabwe there have been power cuts that are affecting people nationwide. Electricity only comes back from 10pm till 4 am on a good day, sometimes the electricity does not even come back. Even though the situation is slightly getting better, people are still being affected. We have sympathised with those who are less fortunate than us in rural areas. We have chosen to donate 100 solar lamps to Mazarura High School which is in Rural Nyanga. We aim to help the exam candidates, as they have been disadvantaged.

We understand that their current living conditions are not conducive for their learning environment. They are unable to do their work effectively, as they are too busy doing chores such as fetching firewood, cooking, and waiting in lines to fetch clean water. Most rural areas in Zimbabwe do not have electricity so people usually use fires to do their work as they cannot afford any other alternative source of energy. We decided to donate solar lamps, so it is easier for them to continue with their education without any obstacles, the lamps are easily recharged and do not cause any harm to the planet. The lamps will also benefit those at home as they are efficient and are portable. We also decided to run a stationery drive so that we may be able to provide students with resources they may not be able to afford.

The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 4 ~ Quality Education : By providing exam candidates with the necessary resources to receive a better education.

Goal 7 ~ Affordable and Clean Energy : By providing a clean source of energy which is sustainable.

Goal 10 ~ Reducing Inequalities : Reducing economic inequalities that the poor face in our country by ensuring that exam candidates get a fair chance to write exams without any obstacles.

Goal 13 ~ Climate Action : The lamps are solar powered so this reduces the use of firewood thus resulting in less deforestation and emission of carbon dioxide.



Highlights from our experiences so far

One of the many aspects of creating this project we enjoyed as a team was getting to know the different parts of our Zimbabwean community as we did not think much of in our day to day lives. Realising our privilege and ability to help make a difference is the best highlight of our experience. It was amazing to realise the power we had as a group when we worked together to help the people in our country and create some change that we want to ensure can be carried



on throughout the years. Despite the movie night being an extremely stressful event to plan, the experience made all our work worth it. The experience was one we and many others will never forget. The fact that our peers came out to help us knowing the aim our project was very motivating. Memories were made whether it was eating 10 to many candy flosses, indulging in another bag of popcorn or watching an unforgettable movie with friends. At the end

of the night we made more money than we ever expected to. This made all the hard work worth it and further fuelling our determination to help the students at Mazarura.

The skills you gained throughout the project

Our project is aimed at thinking of those who live outside of our community, so we pushed ourselves outside of our comfort zone which improved our emotional intelligence by learning high levels of self-awareness, empathy, and sensitivity towards others. We learnt the ability to solve problems and as well as adapting to the needs of those are very different from us. Through sharing our different views we learnt the ability to work in a team. We appreciated our different characters because our differences are what made us stronger as a team, even though we are from the same school we are of different ages and social circles so we had to learn to work together and accept each other's flaws. Being in different grades and specialising in different subjects made it difficult to work together but we learnt the ability to effectively communicate with each other and our teachers so we could plan and prioritise our work. Time management was a key skill we thought we already had but through working with each other we had to learn to manage our time well so that we would not fall behind in our studies.



The knowledge/learning you gained



Throughout our experience of working as a group there were many challenges that we faced when it came to the organisation and plans to do with how we were going to execute our project. One of the main aspects that we learnt as a group was good communication. During the beginning of the setting up our project, we faced a lot of misunderstandings because we did not communicate very well with each other, but as we went on we quickly learnt that communication plays a huge part in group work. Our project opened up our eyes to the fact that people are not as privileged as we are, and we should appreciate even the simplest of things that we have because many people in our country are not as lucky to have what we do.

In our case a simple necessity such as light is not as readily available to everyone and we see that when it comes to helping out the people at Mazarura High School. We also learnt to fight for what we believe in and stand strong in our faith because many of the times

Outcomes and impacts of the project successes and failures

We have faced a few problems during the start of the project. Our project was started at the end of the August holidays, the next term was a time for final examinations and 3/5 of the group were examination candidates. Organising meetings and making enough time for the project was quite challenging for us because the other members of the group were on a study leave. Nevertheless, we came up with our first fundraiser which took place on the 14th of February. It was a Valentine's Day movie night to raise the morale for the project. Although that night was very stressful, it was nothing the team could not handle. We raised 1800USD which was way more than we expected proving that the night was a success. With this money we plan to get 100 solar powered lamps which was our initial target. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances of COVID-19 we did not manage to get as much done as we had hoped to, despite the issues of COVID-19 we are trying our best to get as much done as we can. When we hoped to visit Mazarura High School, we were planning on taking a few groceries for them, and getting to know the students and what they needed before we did anything further. Including the weekly 1 hour meetings, the frequent group chat sessions and the time spent during the fundraiser events. We've spent an estimated 170 hours on this project.

