



YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT SERVICES

*Helping Orphaned Youth
Help Themselves*

Physical Address:
YES Hostel/Offices
Kakiiza Road
Booma
Fort Portal Town
Uganda

Postal Address:
Youth Encouragement Services
PO Box 12
Fort Portal Municipality
Uganda

Executive Director: Carol Adams
Website: <http://www.yesuganda.org>

Solar Light for Education Project: Impact Report (Phase 1 & 2)

Under YES Uganda | April 2025-June 2025

1. Introduction

Thanks to the generous support of donors, YES Uganda launched the "Solar Light for Education" project to bring safe, sustainable light to vulnerable households across Uganda. Many of these families had never had access to electricity or could not afford it. The goal: to enable children to study at night and improve overall wellbeing in homes.

2. Project Overview

- **61 households** received solar panels and lighting systems.
 - All households include children, many of whom are:
 - Sponsored under YES Uganda programs
 - HIV-affected
 - Living in single-parent homes or poverty
 - The solar systems were installed by a **local Ugandan team**, providing employment and developing community skills.
 - This is a **two-year project**, and we are currently at the **halfway point (Year One Report)**.
 - The project holds strong potential to scale in the coming year, expanding its impact to more families and further building local capacity.
 - We are excited to see how the second year unfolds and the lasting change it will bring to even more communities.
-

3. Key Impact Highlights

- **100% of systems (61/61)** are still functioning well.
 - Most households have **3-4 children**, and in some cases **up to 6 children** benefiting from evening study.
 - Some homes had as many as **9 family members** benefiting from the solar system.
 - Households with **single parents and multiple children** (e.g. 1 parent with 4 children) saw significant life improvements.
 - In some cases, **5 adults in a household** also benefitted from lighting, especially those engaged in **knitting, sewing, and craftmaking** during the evening hours.
 - Reported benefits include:
 - **Children studying after dark**
 - **Increased household safety**
 - **No longer buying candles or kerosene**
 - **Charging mobile phones using solar**
 - **Adults working productively at night**
-

4. Feedback in Numbers

- **13 families** report 2 or more children now study at night regularly.
 - **25 households** save **more than 5,000 UGX per week** on lighting costs.
 - *(5,000 UGX ≈ \$1.30 USD per week)*
 - Many people in Uganda earn **around 10,000 UGX (≈ \$2.60 USD)** per full day's work, so saving \$1.30 weekly is a **significant impact** on household budgets.
 - Prior to the project:
 - Most families used **kerosene, candles, or battery torches**
 - Some had **no light source at all**
 - Replacing kerosene and candles also reduced **health risks** (e.g. respiratory issues) and **fire hazards** at night.
 - **33 out of 39** households reported no technical issues.
 - 7 had minor issues (including one loose wire) like **bulbs, switches** — being followed up locally
-

5. Financial and Social Impact

- **Weekly savings per household:** 5,000–10,000+ UGX (\$1.30–\$2.60 USD)
- **Annual savings per household:** up to 520,000 UGX (~\$136 USD)
- Some reported even greater savings (>10,000 UGX).
- Considering many earn only **10,000 UGX per workday**, this annual saving could go towards:
 - **School fees**
 - **Health care**
 - **Food and clothing**
- For all 61 families combined, the project has saved an estimated:
 - **18,460,000 UGX - 21,840,000 UGX annually**, or about **\$4,829 USD-\$5,700 USD** in lighting-related expenses

6. Personal Impact: In Their Own Words

Improved Education

- “My children now read every evening without struggle.”
- “We had no light before. Now my child can do homework properly.”
- “The light motivates them to study more because they don’t get sleepy early.”
- “The solar light has made me improve in studying.”
- “Before, we had no light. Now we read together.”
- “I’m happy that my children can study and I can do crafts without straining my eyes.”

Enhanced Safety and Comfort

- “We are no longer worried about fire from candles or kerosene.”
- “The light has brought peace at night—we feel safe.”
- “Our evenings are no longer dark and scary.”
- “We feel safer and we can now charge our phone!”

Economic Relief

- “I no longer buy candles weekly. That money now goes to food.”
- “Before we spent so much on kerosene. This is saving us every week.”
- “Now I can use the saved money to pay school fees.”
- “I used to buy candles every week. Now we save money for food.”

Health and Well-being

- “There is no more smoke in the house from kerosene.”
- “The coughing stopped after we stopped using paraffin lamps.”
- “This changed our lives. No more smoke from kerosene, no more coughing.”

Empowerment and Opportunity

- “I sew clothes at night now—extra money for our home.”
- “I started selling crafts in the evening because I have light.”
- “Charging my phone means I can get customer calls anytime.”
- “With this light, I sew clothes at night and make extra income.”

Community Uplift

- “Neighbours come to study and charge phones here.”
- “We feel proud that we now have something others admire.”
- “This light has brought unity—we gather, talk, read together.”

These stories reinforce the project’s central aim: **restoring dignity, opportunity, and safety** to families living in energy poverty. Each solar panel is more than a source of light—it’s a **step toward a brighter, more secure future.**

7. Community Transformation

- The project is fully managed in Uganda
- Local installers are now equipped to continue solar work with YES Uganda
- Builds community ownership and sustainability

8. Our Thanks To the donors: your gift is lighting more than homes—it's lighting futures. Thank you for investing in the dignity, safety, and potential of Uganda's children.

With gratitude,
YES Uganda