

# Solar Schools Rwanda: 1 Year With Little Sun

## Impact Report

---

February 2018 - April 2019

**Little Sun**  
Foundation

# Background:

In February 2018, 1681 students and 131 teachers at Nyamirama Primary and Secondary School and Gisizi Primary School received Little Sun solar lamps and chargers, respectively. In April 2018, SaferRwanda interviewed 20 students and 18 teachers who received solar lamps during the February distribution. In April 2019, a year later, the same students and teachers were surveyed, here is what they had to say about the impact of Little Sun lamps on their daily lives and education. Furthermore, focus group discussions were held at both school with students, teachers, and parents.

# Student Feedback:

Of the 20 students interviewed, 16 were still in possession of their lamps a year later. Three students reported that the lamps had stopped working and one student reported theft. All of the students were satisfied with their solar lamp, with the most important factors being economic savings, comfort, continuous access to light, and improvement in health. On average, the students use their lamps for two hours a day.



“The kerosene light was making my eyes feel tired, but this light does not make my eyes hurt.”

- Gerald Barekebayavuge, 20, student at Nyamirama

60%

score better on exams

100%

said their families are no longer using candles

95% reported using their lamp for studying

50% reported using their lamp to help with household chores

10% reported using their lamp to check for spiders before bed

100%  
have seen an improvement in their overall health

“My performance has improved. I used to score 59% and now I score 67%. I am sure I will pass because I have enough time”

- Josiane Manishimwe, 13, student at Nyamirama



# Teacher Feedback:

Of the 18 teachers interviewed, 15 were still in possession of their chargers. The three that weren't all reported theft. All teachers reported economic savings since they no longer have to travel long distances and pay to charge their devices. This savings was estimated to be between 500-2000 RWF per week (0.50-2 USD). All of the teachers have noticed the positive impact of the solar lamps on their students' school performance, health, and overall well-being.

89%

noticed better exam performance among their students

4hr

average daily use

"I no longer have to walk long distances looking for where to charge my telephone."

- Seraphine Ayinkamiya, 27, teacher at Nyamirama



89% reported using the light for lesson planning

78% reported using their device for charging

50% reported using the light for home activities

"There is more motivation among the students. They like coming to school and start coming more regularly."

- Risiane Dusabe, 29, teacher at Nyamirama

72%

reported a better overall quality of life through improved social welfare

## What parents have to say:

"I am Nyirahabimana Marie Rose and I am a member of the committee of the Parents Teachers Association. The lamps have contributed towards the improvement of the children's performance. The lamp gives them the opportunity to do homework in the evening and the lamp offers them a chance to concentrate. It has improved their academic performance and quality of education."

"The lamp has helped to save money formerly spent on buying candles. Each child was formerly using at least 5 candles per week equivalent to a total expense of 250 RWF. On the family level the lamp on average saves 1,400 RWF which formerly would have been spent on candles."

## About us

The Little Sun Foundation was founded by artist Olafur Eliasson to deliver solar energy to the most vulnerable communities worldwide. The charitable entity works with qualified partners such as Oxfam, Save the Children, UN-HCR, and IOM to bring high-quality, durable, long-lasting solar products to displaced people and school children who would otherwise not have access to clean energy at all. The Foundation's solar-education programmes aim to provide children with tools and knowledge that empower them to shape a sustainable future for themselves and for the planet.

[info@littlesunfoundation.org](mailto:info@littlesunfoundation.org)

Little Sun Foundation e.V.  
Christinenstr. 18/19  
10119 Berlin  
Germany

The logo consists of a white circle containing the text "Little Sun Foundation" in a bold, sans-serif font. The words "Little Sun" are stacked above "Foundation".

**Little Sun**  
Foundation