



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Solar Generators in Kenya Protect Water Systems from Fuel Price Increase

Access to clean water helps bolster community resiliency

Kenya (April 7, 2022) – As the war in the Ukraine unfolds, we are seeing extraordinary increases in fuel costs. Solar pumping systems Food for the Hungry (FH) has installed in Kenya are reducing the dependence on the use of fuel, ensuring communities can continue to access safe drinking water.

Communities in Kenya have faced extreme drought conditions for two consecutive years, and many rely on petrol-powered pumps to access water deep in the ground. The increasing fuel prices can make it impossible to run these water pumps, putting communities' ability to access water at dire risk.

Food for the Hungry has been operating in Kenya for several decades, and has focused efforts on providing safe water to communities and schools, repairing strategic water points, and distributing food and emergency supplies to Kenyan families affected by the drought and displaced by conflict. A major priority has been replacing fuel powered pumps with solar powered ones.

The solar pumping system reduces the use of fuel and protects the communities' access to water from fuel price increase shocks. Teso Shashi and her family were among those impacted by FH's efforts.

“Our shallow well was initially equipped with a hand pump, which periodically failed due to over pumping,” says Teso. “When it broke we reverted to using a bucket and rope to draw water. The water source was also prone to contamination, which led to diseases.”

Now that FH has installed a solar pumping system in Teso's community, it solved both the access and sanitary problems with the well, and has protected the community from the surging fuel prices. FH also provided a 10,000-liter PVC tank to store water in order to extend the life of the pump, and provided solar-powered lighting around the well, making it available 24 hours a day.

“Water is a basic human need. If a pump breaks or communities can't afford the fuel to power the pump, they are forced to seek out and drink contaminated water, which often leads to illness and can have catastrophic consequences. The water system we've installed has reduced expenses for Kenyan families, which is especially important in the midst of the rising fuel prices, and provided a reliable, safe access to water, all powered by the sun,” says Alex Mwaura, Kenya program director.

Some communities have been able to plow back savings into projects like infrastructure improvements, agri-nutrition, and community lending.

In 2021, 1.98 million people were positively impacted by Food for the Hungry's development activities. Read the full impact report [here](#).

###

Media Contact

Yulu Public Relations

fh@yulupr.com

About Food for the Hungry

Food for the Hungry (FH) is a Christian humanitarian organization ending all forms of human poverty by providing life-changing development programs, disaster relief, and advocacy. For over 50 years, FH has been working to respond to human suffering and graduate communities from extreme poverty into self-sustainability within a decade. By creating context-specific solutions in education, agriculture, health, livelihood, clean water, and disaster risk reduction, the nonprofit focuses on transformational development, investing in children as the key to lift entire communities out of poverty. With 99% of staff working in their country of origin, FH works side by side with local leaders, churches, and families to implement innovative solutions. The organization currently serves in over 20 countries worldwide. For more information, follow FH on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), or visit www.fh.org



