Solar Kids School Programme

What is the SaferRwanda Solar Kids schools programme about?

The schools programme is an innovative package tailored to foster learning by providing pupils access to light and the opportunity to study for longer, in the comfort of modern light. Extensive studies by the British NGO Solar Aid have shown that access to clean and safe light help students to do their homework for an extra hour a night which results in better grades and better health by completely eliminating emission of bad gases from kerosene. The lamps are provided to your pupils through either Model 1 or 2:

Model 1 - parents funded:
Parents may buy lamps for the school's pupils. This can be done either with the normal payment of school fees or through another flexible payment method arranged between the parents and the school management.

Following a commitment from parents the school management orders for Little Sun solar powered lamps through SaferRwanda.

Parents may also buy additional lamps for the lighting needs of their family through this school system. This guarantees the students and their family all the light they need.

Model 2 - funded through grants:
Schools participating in a school partnership programme are given support to fundraise and purchase lamps for all pupils from a sister school in Germany or elsewhere. To achieve this the Rwandan school will apply to partner with a school and the sister school would pay for the lamps or a share the costs. For example a school of 2,000 pupils would require a donation of 14,000 € to provide 1 lamp for each pupil or 2,000 Little Suns for free.

What are the other elements of the schools programme?

SaferRwanda works with the school management and the school's Green Club (if available) to deliver training to pupils on:

- Lamp usage and maintenance
- Climate change and environmental protection
- Sustainable management of energy resources
- Solar technology basics
- Design and art of light

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SaferRwanda develops teaching material and will either support the teacher or hold classes on the above topics at the day of lamp distribution.

Benefits for pupils:

• Unrestricted access to light – usually children do not have priority access to the family kerosene lamp/candle.

• Longer study hours and comfort leading to better grades:

“When children gain additional hours of light and spend that time studying, they improve their grades and develop higher self-confidence, which plays a role in their desire to continue their education, seek higher-paying jobs, and develop higher expectations for the future.”

• Better health as exposure to hazardous fumes from kerosene or wax candles are avoided

• Avoidance of eye diseases due to hazardous light and fumes

• Avoided risk of burns that are often the result from kerosene lamps and candles

• Increased personal safety at night by using the lamp as a torch

Benefits for the school:

• Free environmental protection training to pupils by SaferRwanda to groom change agents for a responsible future generation

• By joining the SaferRwanda Little Sun schools project, you demonstrate your School’s commitment to:

  ° Achieving better overall grades
  ° Improving the health of your pupils
  ° Support sustainable and renewable energy use contributing to the global goal of fighting climate change
  ° With the Little Sun schools programme, your school will be associated with quality, innovation and style.
  ° The average school grades will improve

• Considerable cash contribution to the school’s Green Club (100 RWF for each lamp bought)

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Benefits for parents:

- The economic development of the household – the Little Sun lamp saves money compared to kerosene, candles and batteries
- Durable lamp – Little Sun is sturdy with young people in mind, the lamp comes with a 2 year warranty including the battery
- Parents also have the opportunity to buy additional lamps at the subsidised school price.

What are the benefits to the environment?

- Every lamp which is replacing kerosene lamp or candles is helping to prevent climate change
- Educated pupils will work towards living in a greener environment
- Reduced waste - no more batteries need to be bought

How much is paid per lamp?

Through working together with Urwego Opportunity Bank and GIZ under the EnDev programme, SaferRwanda secured a grant for the Little Sun lamps so that they can be sold at a subsidised price. Therefore each lamp will be sold at 5500RwF (7.40usd) instead of 6800RwF (9.20usd). For every lamp purchased, SaferRwanda will donate 100RwF to the school’s Green Club to support its activities.

How does our school participate?

- Step 1: You sign a partnership MOU with SaferRwanda and agree on the details of the financing model.
- Step 2: SaferRwanda provides you with information related to the lamp, for sharing with the parents and pupils.
- Step 3: You start registering students whose parents have agreed to buy their pupils lamps and collect funds (as agreed between the school management and the parents).
- Step 4: You place orders with SaferRwanda and make payment to SaferRwanda
- Step 5: SaferRwanda will arrange for delivery of the lamps to the school and provide training material for the pupils on lamp usage, maintenance and environmental protection topics

If model 2 is chosen, instead of collecting fees you apply for funding from a sister school or school partnership programme.
About the Little Sun lamp

Little Sun lamp is unique and already regarded very highly all around Africa, Asia, Europe and America. This is not only because of the perfect clean lighting solution it provides for both rural and urban communities, but also because it is:

- High quality: developed and engineered in Germany
- Affordable: best value for money, cheaper than kerosene lanterns, candles, or batteries
- Durable: UV, impact, and weather resistant and dust proof
- Healthy and safe: emits no toxic smoke and has zero risk of fire - unlike kerosene or candles
- Guaranteed: each lamp comes with a two-year warranty
- 5 hours of charging in the sun = 10 hours of soft light or 4 hours of bright light

About SaferRwanda

SaferRwanda, an independent non-state actor and non-for-profit organization established under the ministerial order no 110/08.11 of 12/10/2010 granting legal status to SaferRwanda. It was established in 2000 and is engaged in several environmental protection projects such as solar energy, tree planting, and energy saving cook stoves. SaferRwanda is located at Bumbogo sector, near Industrial Zone-Next to Azam factory, Akagari-Kinyaga, Umudugudu-Ryakigogo, Kigali-

Rwanda. For information please contact our Chairlady Christine Muhongerwa at christine@saferrwanda.org Telephone +250 788594704 or +250789099605.

About the Little Sun Company

Little Sun is a social business based in Berlin, Germany whose mission is to deliver clean, reliable, affordable solar light to off-grid African regions. In these areas we work with local African entrepreneurs to distribute lamps and are happy to offer our solar light very close to the cost of production. We are able to do this because we sell our lights in Europe for a higher price, which allows us to keep the light as affordable as possible elsewhere! For information please contact our Rwanda representative Mr Xaver Kitzinger at xaver@littlesun.com telephone +49 151 6642 3180.