

Solar Electric Light Fund

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



A Letter From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Over the past year, SELF has provided modern energy access to some of the world's most impoverished and disadvantaged communities. In Ghana and Uganda, we delivered on-site, solar electric system maintenance and training support for the solar systems that SELF had installed in 62 health centers. In Benin, we brought nine solar-powered water stations to villages that did not have clean water, and in Haiti, we partnered with a school to create a community solar power system that will sustain itself through a series of income-generating activities. Also, in Haiti, we began restoration of a micro-grid in the southern part of the country that was nearly destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

To truly convey the value of these accomplishments, we need to put them in the context of the people whose lives we have helped to change. Born in a part of the world that lacks electricity, they are discovering that, with solar power, they no longer need to suffer hardships that were once considered unavoidable. For the first time, they are emboldened to imagine a better life for themselves and their children. Turn the pages to meet some of these individuals.

Warm Regards,

Bob

Robert A. Freling



Organization

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Lynn Johnson, Ripple Effect Images: Pg 7

Darren Anderson: Pg 2, 11

United Nations: Pg 5, 8, 9, Back Cover



Providing Clean Water

Building Water Stations in Kalalé Commune

In Benin’s Kalalé Commune, as in many parts of Africa, the lack of potable water is a fundamental problem. According to UNESCO, 45% of Benin’s residents consume unsafe water. Because most of the population lives in the tropical south where clean water is plentiful, UNESCO’s 45% statistic is disproportionately assigned to remote, northern semi-arid regions like Kalalé. It has a dry season lasting half of the year which limits the amount of water found in shallow wells—including many of those served by existing hand- or foot-powered pumps. With an estimated 180,000 people, Kalalé Commune contains about 120 water sources that are considered to be sanitary. On average, each source serves 1,500 people.

However, people do not just rely on the sanitary sources for water. Whether out of convenience or desperation, unsanitary streams, watering holes intended for livestock, or open wells are also relied upon to draw water. Consequently, 19% of deaths are caused by water-borne illness. Beyond these needlessly lost lives is the constant misery of diseases such as malaria, bilharzia, cholera and a host of diarrheal diseases.

SELF is committed to making clean water accessible throughout Kalalé. In 2019, with the support of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), SELF installed nine new water stations in the Kalalé Commune, bringing the total number to 20.

Kouri Beïtou, a mother of six, lives in the Gnel-Uakan area of Kalalé. At least three times a day, she and her daughters, 11 and 13, fetch water, often contaminated with water-borne diseases, from the Hilowel River, four kilometers round trip from their home. Kouri has been relieved and excited for her daughters ever since SELF installed a solar-powered water station in her village. Not only will they be spared from such back-breaking work, they will be able to go to school, and Kouri can devote her newly found time to other endeavors.



Electrifying Health Clinics

Powering Health Clinics in Rural Uganda and Ghana

SELF, with support from the United Nations Foundation, installed solar systems in 62 primary healthcare facilities in Ghana and Uganda in 2018. Until then, these facilities were either un-electrified or under-electrified, leaving patients without access to many modern healthcare services. The solar installations, totaling 242 kWp, have significantly upgraded medical care for local populations, especially for women and children. The project installations were funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) under its “Sustainable Energy for Women and Girls” program.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has collected data from the newly electrified health centers to demonstrate their dramatic changes in quality of healthcare since the advent of the new solar installations. In 2019, SELF provided solar operations and maintenance training to the health centers’ on-site managers, empowering them to properly maintain their new solar systems to assure sustainability as well as reliability.

Having installed solar electric systems in more than 150 rural clinics in the last 30 years, SELF has witnessed the critical role they play in maintaining personal and community public health. But, as evidenced by COVID-19’s rapid spread throughout the world, these solar electrified health centers are also critical to helping protect global health. SELF is committed to seek more projects like this one to continue building a global line of defense in the rural areas of some of the most remote places in the world.





College Marie Reine Immaculée

Turning a School Into A Model of Sustainability



College Marie Reine Immaculée in Port au Prince is a parochial school, community refuge for children, and sewing center for the Peace Quilts project that helps local women earn an income by making artistic quilts. Until 2019, the facility had nearly no access to electricity. With support from the Dunn Family Charitable Foundation, SELF installed a solar system that expanded learning and revenue opportunities for the school.

The goal for this project was to incubate a model for a totally sustainable system to keep the solar installation running indefinitely. The project was designed to ensure that it could generate enough money to maintain itself while providing light and Internet connectivity for the students and electricity for irons, lights, and sewing machines for the quilters. Among its new revenue streams—all powered by solar electricity—are cell phone charging stations, water pumps for selling clean water, a computer café for communication, and refrigerators for selling cold drinks—all benefiting the school as well as its neighborhood patrons. The school has created a business plan that saves enough money from its revenues to maintain and repair the system when needed. So far, clean water is the leading seller.



Repairing Hurricane Matthew Damage

Coming Back Stronger

In 2018, with support from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), SELF made preliminary repairs to the PV systems of 12 health centers and a micro-grid servicing Chardonnières, Port a Piment, and Coteaux, three towns in the south of Haiti that were damaged by Hurricane Matthew in late 2016. However, major funding was needed to complete the job. Long delayed, an IDB grant was finalized in December 2018 for SELF to complete the job of repairing and building the damaged solar infrastructure in 2019. The new solar equipment arrived in Port-au-Prince at the height of the civil unrest. SELF's dedicated Haiti staff, with the help of local friends, created a plan to safely drive the large solar shipment to southern Haiti in the middle of the night. The new design, engineered to withstand category four hurricanes, is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.



Stories of Empowerment from Uganda

Working with the Rape Hurts Foundation

Working in partnership with the Rape Hurts Foundation (RHF) in Bukyerimba, Uganda, SELF is committed to helping reduce incidents of sexual assault against women and girls in rural areas of the country where they must leave their villages in search of water and firewood for their families.

The attacks take place in remote areas where predators lie in wait for victims. By installing solar-powered streetlights and a solar water pump, as well as introducing solar cookers for food preparation in indivual homes, the women and girls will no longer have to venture beyond their village to isolated areas for water and wood, greatly reducing the risk of assault.

So far, with major support from the Ruth and Hal Launders Charitable Trust and the Boye Foundation, SELF has installed 10 streetlights, a new bore hole, a solar-powered water pump, and a water distribution system. The remainder of the project installation is slated for 2020.

While focused on the safety of women and girls, the project provides benefits to everyone, based upon the large groups of people who are drawn to the solar-powered streetlights. Among them:

At eight years old, **Dorcas Olupo** was brutally raped when she was returning home from a trip to buy kerosene. She remains permanently disfigured from some of her injuries. At 12, she was sold to her rapist to become his fifth wife, and her brutal ordeal continued. The Rape Hurts Foundation came to Dorcas' rescue when she was 21 and guided her toward recovery. What stood in the way was a crippling fear of darkness that began after the first attack and never left. It made it impossible for her to help care for the children in the orphanage after sundown. She refused to go to sleep without lighting a lamp that would burn all night. Life turned around

for her the day that SELF installed a streetlight next to her window at the Rape Hurts Foundation compound.

Dorcas says, "I can't forget the excitement I had, the increased love for my job, the renewed energy, and the ability to work longer hours. The light came with the added advantage that I can now even supervise the bathing of the children and escort them to the kitchen to get their dinner. This improved sense of security is not just for me, but the children, staff, and volunteers. We can now sleep in peace. For me, light is life."

Andrew Mukisa, 15, lives with his 78-year-old grandmother who counts on him to help her with chores. In addition, Andrew walks five kilometers each way to school. He devotes his remaining waking hours to his studies. This was problematic, because it was difficult to read by the light of his grandmother's small oil lamp and his grades reflected his lack of preparation. Then, he learned from many excited neighbors that there was a solar streetlight at the Rape Hurts Foundation Center in Bukyerimba which is about 2 kms from his home.

He sheepishly remembers asking if he could use the light. "I asked for permission to use it, to which I was told I didn't need to as long as I left the property before midnight. I was surprised that it wasn't only me; already several high school students had started using the streetlights for their reading sessions.

"I walk to RHF and read textbooks for about three or four hours. "I want to be a medical doctor. I pray to God that my Granny is kept alive until I graduate. I want to make her proud and happy. She is all I have."



Meet Hellen Tanyinga

Founder of the Rape Hurts Foundation

At 11 years old, **Hellen Tanyinga** was raped in a remote area of Uganda. With strong encouragement from her mother, she refused to become a victim. After receiving a university education, she returned to her home in Bukyerimba to establish the Rape Hurts Foundation (RHF) in 2008. The organization was founded to educate Ugandans about sexual violence, speak out against rape, care for and educate the children conceived through violence, and protect and employ women seeking sanctuary. Hellen says, “With God’s help, I have been able to create a sanctuary for the women and girls as well their children conceived through violence and banished from their families and community.” On any one day, you will see as many as 120 smiling people eating at RHF’s family table—a testament to how Hellen has turned sorrow into joy.



Hellen Tanyinga

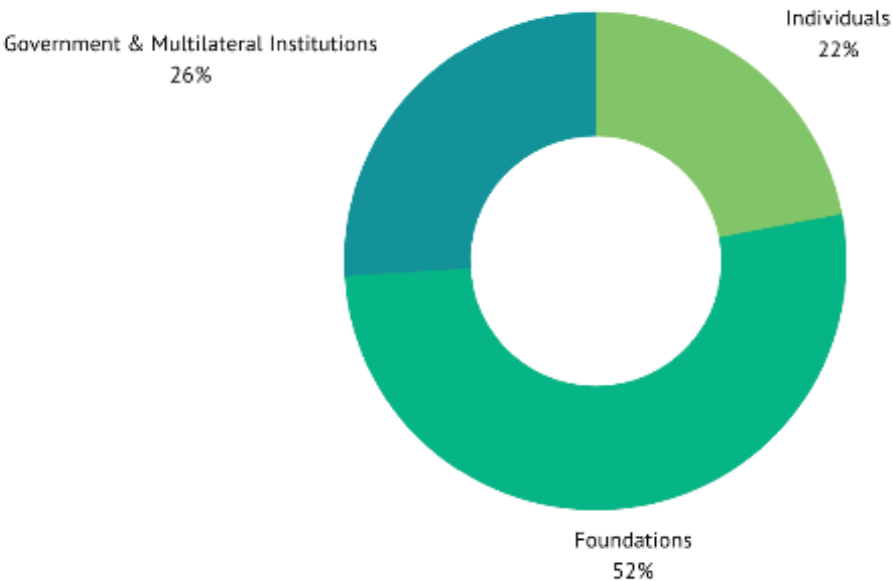


Financial Summary

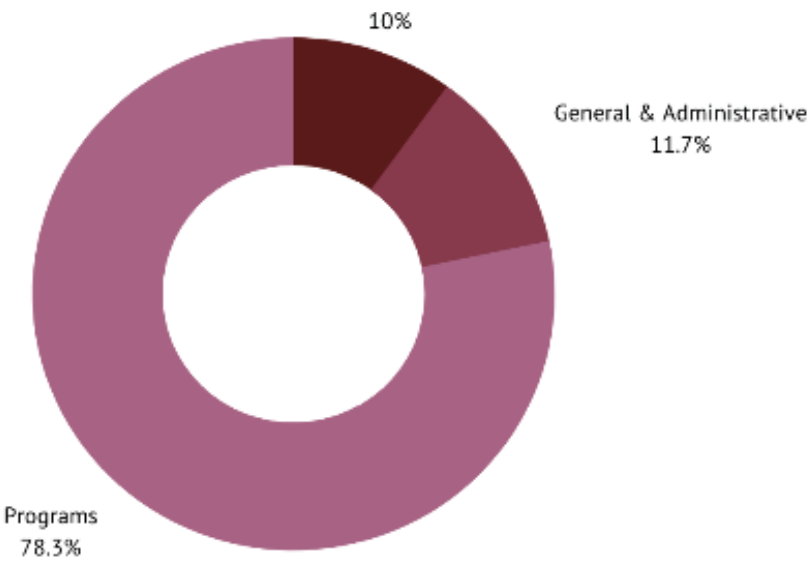
During 2019, SELF focused on providing clean water in Benin, Haiti, and Uganda and prepared for the reinstallation of a solar electric power grid in three towns in Southern Haiti. Revenue and expenses dropped in 2019 due to the delay of the final installation of the Haiti power grid until early 2020, as well as SELF’s focus on high-impact projects that were funded after the end of 2019. We expect that these efforts will result in a revenue increase for 2020.

The financial results depicted on the next page are derived from the SELF audited December 31, 2019 consolidated financial statements, which received an unqualified opinion. SELF’s complete, audited financial statements can be found on our website www.self.org.

Revenue



Expenses



Financial Highlights

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Period Ended December 31, 2019

(With Summarized Financial Information
for the Year Ended December 31, 2018)

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Grants and Donations	\$ 1,330,169	\$ 352,720	\$ 1,682,889	\$ 2,176,626
In-kind Revenue	-	-	-	16,384
Interest and Other Income	484	-	484	(3,337)
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of time restrictions	400,000	(400,000)	-	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	357,704	(357,704)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	2,088,357	(404,984)	1,683,373	2,189,673
EXPENSES				
Program Services	1,514,974	-	1,514,974	1,939,980
Management and general	226,232	-	226,232	191,203
Fundraising	195,958	-	195,958	225,521
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,937,164	-	1,937,164	2,356,704
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	151,193	(404,984)	(253,791)	(167,031)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,290	680,179	684,469	851,550
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$155,483	\$275,195	\$430,678	\$684,469





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