

The new decade got off to a great start for SolarAid. [The Times Christmas Appeal](#) generated much needed funds as well as huge interest. Our macrosolar installations are meeting an ever-increasing demand in rural areas across our programme countries. In [Zambia](#) alone we have installed 22 solar systems on community centres and schools since the start of the year. Meanwhile, SunnyMoney is bringing clean and affordable power to more homes than ever before with the introduction of our new microsolar product, the Ravi, and our patron, Cherie Blair, has been out to visit our programmes in [Kenya](#) and [Malawi](#)...

UNIVERSAL PHONE CHARGER

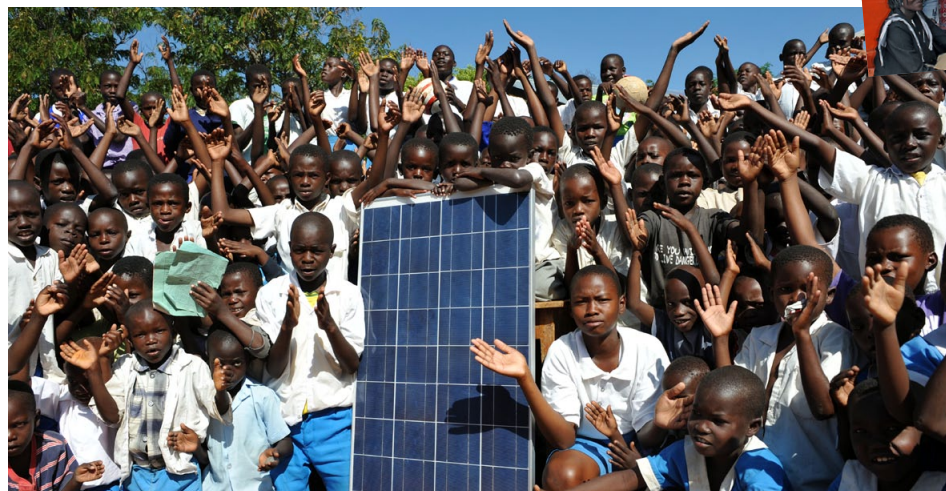
BRIGHT LED BULB



Jeremy Leggett visits Kenya

SolarAid's chairman and founder, Dr Jeremy Leggett, recently visited Syomunu Girls School in the Kitui district of Kenya, to see how power generated from the newly installed solar system has altered the path for the next generation of children in this community:

'Just a few hours out of Nairobi, down a deeply rutted red dirt-track that passes for a main road in Kitui district, the electricity grid—a couple of droopy wires on haphazardly tilted poles—comes to an end. Deep in the bush, 35 kilometres from the nearest town, an improbable scene greets us. One hundred and fifty girls in neat uniforms line the benches in a whitewashed school hall. With them, in multicoloured Sunday best, sit dozens of people from the local community. On a platform, the school's principal sits with a row of teachers and local dignitaries. We are here for the official opening of the school's solar electric panels, recently installed by SolarAid. I have been expecting a small group photo. I am about to get an African festival...' [Read on](#)



STUDENTS AT NYANGWAYO PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KENYA CELEBRATING THEIR MACROSOLAR POWER INSTALLATION

Introducing the Ravi

Bright light-emitting diodes (LEDs) provide 10,000 hours of light and enough illumination for a room in a family home. Made with recyclable components, the Ravi uses environmentally-friendly LEDs and rechargeable batteries with around two years' lifespan, making it a practical, affordable and clean alternative to kerosene.

Cherie Blair meets franchisees

In March SolarAid's patron, Cherie Blair, [visited our teams](#) in Kenya and Malawi to see how [The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women](#) is working with SolarAid to unlock the economic potential of women where the need for access to energy is greatest. Mrs Blair helped with one of the most important aspects of the SunnyMoney recruitment process—interviewing potential franchisees—and left Kibera in Nairobi very aware of the problems facing some of the world's poorest communities, but also greatly encouraged by the achievements of local entrepreneurs.

RIGHT: CHERIE BLAIR VISITS THE NEW KIOSK IN KIBERA, KENYA



Solar cyclists cross finish line

Cyclists Susie Wheeldon and Jamie Vining completed their [epic round-the-world journey](#) in February. After 13,583 miles across 14 countries, battling through the heat of deserts, thigh-punishing mountain roads and gale force winds, the pair cycled over the finish line at London's City Hall on 19 February.

Congratulations to Susie and Jamie on their triumph and for raising thousands for SolarAid.



JAMIE GETS A REFRESHING DOWNHILL RIDE IN THE DESERT

Meanwhile in Africa, [OverlandintheSun](#) fundraiser Gwyn Roberts and his team have reached Kenya on their journey from London to Cape Town. Their part-solar powered Landcruiser is set to arrive into Cape Town in July and they hope to raise £20,000 for SolarAid.

In the UK, geography student Matt Jones is preparing to walk the 1,300 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End in July. This will be the first end-to-end trek not to rely on fossil fuels for navigation, supplies and communication, and to use only energy from the sun. Follow Matt on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as he readies himself for EcoTrek2010.

The arrival of the Ravi

SolarAid's new microsolar product—the Ravi—has [recently arrived in Tanzania](#). With the first delivery of 7000 units now in stock, the Ravi is well placed to reach communities throughout our four programme countries in East Africa.

The Ravi (top of page) is designed to provide reliable and safe power to light homes and charge phones, replacing dangerous kerosene and helping reduce household expenditure.

See your support in action

SolarAid's marketing manager, Anna, spent a busy new year in Kenya and Tanzania meeting entrepreneurs, local communities and beneficiaries. She also worked on a series of films to be featured on our website throughout the year. The [videos](#) follow SolarAid's work in rural Africa and provide a unique insight into how [your support](#) is improving the everyday lives of thousands of people living in poverty.

SolarAid launches Sunny Schools

We're proud to announce the launch of our new education programme, [Sunny Schools](#). This exciting project will involve primary schools in London and addresses the topics of climate change and renewable energy. Sunny Schools is currently in pilot phase, but we will soon be looking for enthusiastic teachers to run the programme from September. More details in our summer newsletter.