



## Solar cooker for refugee camp Nyarugusu – Western-Tanzania

In June Klaus Strasser contacted us from Tanzania. Klaus, a former pupil of our school, worked for EG-Solar in 2009 as a "Weltwärts volunteer" in our partner workshop in Döbra / Namibia.



Klaus Strasser in Namibia 2009

He is now an Associate Renewable Energy Officer for UNHCR Kasulu, Tanzania. His job is to switch the electrification in the refugee camp stations in western Tanzania from diesel generators to renewable energies.

The Nyarugusu refugee camp was opened in November 1996 to accommodate people fleeing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Before April 2015, the camp housed around 65,000 Congolese. In 2015, many refugees from Burundi came to Tanzania after political unrest, and two further refugee camps were opened in Tanzania, Nduta and Mtendeli. 235,700 people currently live in the Tanzanian refugee camps. The largest refugee camp is Nyarugusu with around 150,000 residents. 80% of the residents are women and children.



<https://www.dw.com/de/hunger-and-desperation-in-ostafrika-refugee-camps>

Camp	District	Population	Households
Nyarugusu	Kasulu	150.302	30,06
Nduta	Kibondo	89.225	17,845
Mtendeli	Kakonko	36.036	7,207

UNHCR 06.2019

The UNHCR as a mandate advocates

- the protection of refugees and people in the host villages,
- integration into local society,
- the relocation of refugees to third countries
- accompanying volunteer repatriation to their home countries.

Within the political and financial framework, the UNHCR, together with its "Operational Partners" and "Implementing Partners", guarantees the following areas:

- Registration and protection of refugees
- Living expenses
- School education and further education
- Health care
- water supply and sanitary facilities,
- Basic supplies and food, clothing etc.

The basic supply is very limited and, for example, it is not possible to provide the refugees with cooking energy. Only people in need of protection in Nyarugusu are currently getting organic coal briquettes for cooking. This corresponds to approximately 2% of the residents of Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. The economic opportunities for refugees living in Tanzania are very limited. For this reason, the majority of the refugees depend on collecting firewood.



The result of this is that people from Nyarugusu collect firewood on average three times a week, about 10 km away. In addition to the great effort for women, men and children to collect wood, people are also at risk from conflicts with the host villages.

Another consequence is an enormous deforestation rate in the region. Around 120 million tons of firewood or more than 2,200 ha of forest are used up every year. Afforestation programs are carried out by the UNHCR, but they cannot keep pace with deforestation.







Tree nursery UNHCR

Klaus has undertaken the following project steps for the introduction of solar cooking:

1. Import of 4 test solar cookers. After months of preparation, 4 SK14 kits have now been sent duty-free to Kisumu via the UNHCR.
  2. Testing the solar cookers in the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp and in the host communities with implementation partner
  3. Project description for workshops in host communities with a financing structure
  4. Presentation of the solar cooker solution at various UNHCR decision levels as part of an energy mix for Nyarugusu and the surrounding area
- In order to give the refugees in Nyarugusu an alternative to firewood, solar cookers which have been donated by EG Solar are now being tested.



Resident Nyarugusu, UNHCR

EG-Solar e.V. 22.12.2019



Klaus Strasser with sample cooker

Families selected by the refugees use the solar cookers to get to know cooking with the sun and to point out any difficulties.

The idea of solar cooking should thereby be conveyed to the residents and the organizations can adapt the cookers to the local conditions, taking into account the information from the families.

If you want to support us with the introduction of solar cooking in the refugee camp, please use the keyword Nyarugusu when making a transfer. Thanks a lot!

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