



March 2018: East Africa Progress Report 2



Progress

The launch of Phase 2 of the East Africa SolarSPELL initiative, March 2018, saw successful implementation of SolarSPELL digital libraries into 5 Rwandan pilot schools, visits to South Sudanese pilot schools to begin impact evaluation, continued assessment of the needs of Biomedical Engineer Technicians, strengthened in-country partnerships, and began a fruitful internship for 10 Bridge2Rwanda scholars. During the implementation trip, the SolarSPELL team conducted Teacher Trainings at 5 pilot schools the Rwanda Education Board (REB) selected, one in each province of Rwanda. The team trained 73 teachers, school administrators, and Peace Corps Volunteers on how to use the SolarSPELL digital library. The teachers consisted of both primary and secondary teachers from a variety of subjects, such as ICT, English, Creative Arts, Math, and Science. The size of the pilot schools varied from serving a couple hundred to 3,000+ students. All the schools had electricity, but no internet or REB school server, which had prevented the schools from being able to use the One Laptop Per Child XO Laptops (OLPC) to access educational content. These OLPC laptops can now connect to the SolarSPELL digital library's offline website, and freely access its localized educational information.

Milestones

5

SolarSPELL Digital Libraries distributed to schools

6

Partners involved in Phase 2

10

B2R Interns continuing to work with SolarSPELL

73

Teachers and School Administrators Trained

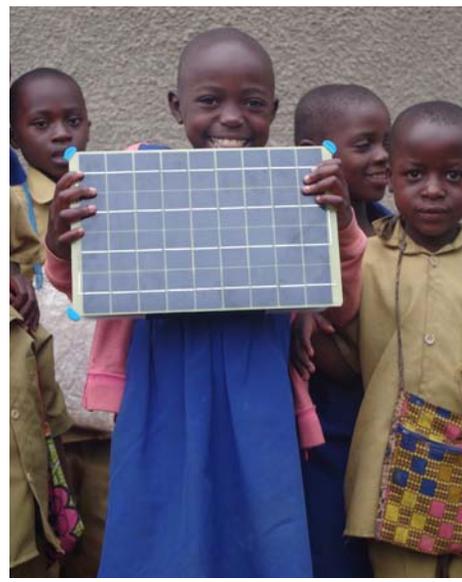
Throughout conducting the Teacher Trainings, the SolarSPELL team's goals were continuously met. Before each Teacher Training day, the team had a pre-training site visit to the school. During this site visit, an overview of SolarSPELL would be given to the Headmaster or Headmistress, the Peace Corps Volunteer, and their teacher counterpart. In each case, the head administrators were so impressed with the SolarSPELL digital library, they would increase the number of teachers who would attend the training the following day. Furthermore, they would request for secondary teachers to also be permitted to attend, even though the target audience was primary teachers



The school trainings covered a detailed technology demonstration of the SolarSPELL and the OLPC laptops, navigating and exploring the library, and how to utilize the content in their teaching. The teachers who attended the trainings came from a variety of different subjects, ages, and technology literacy skills. In fact, most of the teachers had never used the OLPC laptops before. However, regardless of their previous experience with technology, all the teachers were proficient in using the Laptops and navigating the library by the end of the training. Once the teachers began to master these Laptops and navigating the library, their excitement for the type of resources the library contained was evident. Every teacher found resources they could use to further their own knowledge of a subject and in the classroom with their students through the usage of OLPC laptops. Furthermore, all the attendees provided great insight into what additional resources and aspects of the digital library would be beneficial.



The SolarSPELL for Biomedical Engineering Technicians project is developing a digital library of repair manuals for medical equipment lacking maintenance documentation that have been donated to resource-constrained hospitals. The two interns dedicated to this project, Audrey and Adhel, have visited hospitals in almost every region of Rwanda. They have been collecting research in the form of interviews and surveys to garner the needs of biomedical engineers in Rwanda. SolarSPELL is partnering with Engineering World Health (ewh.org) to pilot the digital library in 12 hospitals in Rwanda and 11 hospitals in Tanzania starting in June.



While the SolarSPELL team was in Rwanda, our partners, Africa Educational Trust, was in South Sudan. During their visit, they conducted impact evaluation, launching the measurement and evaluation phase at our three pilot schools in South Sudan.

This report covers the launch of Phase 2 of the project. Our partners who are involved in this phase are Bridge2Rwanda, Rwanda Education Board, Peace Corps Rwanda, Empower Kids South Sudan, Africa Educational Trust, and Engineering World Health. Phase 3 will focus on impact evaluation and continuing to work with the ten Bridge2Rwanda Scholar Interns on the implementation of the SolarSPELL at the 5 pilot schools in Rwanda and the 4 schools in South Sudan.

We look forward to implementing the next stage of this project!

