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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Programme No.872

Length: 3'19"

UNESCO'S SOLAR VILLAGE IN SWAZILAND

VIDEO

RURAL SCENES (14")

CHILDREN/SOLAR
PANELS/UNESCO SIGN

PIET NKOSI ON CAMERA (12.5")

AUDIO

NARRATION

In rural Africa, most villages are still without electricity. One of them is the village of Mphaphati in the Manzini region in the landlocked Southern African kingdom of Swaziland.

The nearest electricity line is more than five kilometres away from the community and there are no plans to extend it. In cooperation with a number of government agencies including the Ministries of Education and Natural Resources and Energy, in 1998 UNESCO selected Mphaphati for the Solar Village project. Piet Nkosi is from the Renewable Energy Office.

NKOSI:

"The Solar village was the concept of UNESCO. They are the ones who funded the project and asked the Ministry to choose a school that would benefit from the solar power."

NARRATION

CLASSROOM (16")	Through batteries charged by the solar panels, there is enough power to light all classrooms of the primary school in the village for several hours a day. Teachers are also able to use audiovisual materials in their classroom instructions.
SOLAR PANELS/STREET LIGHT/ TEACHERS LOUNGE (16")	The panels also provide enough power to light the school surroundings to discourage break-ins and vandalism. The teachers' lounge and living quarters are also supplied with electricity. Modern communications are now easy to use.
LOCAL SHOP/PUBLIC PHONE	The availability of solar power made it possible for the only shop in the village to install a solar powered pay phone. This important communication service is a blessing for the local population.
COMMUNITY GARDEN (14")	The community vegetable garden is another beneficiary of the solar power. For years, irrigation water had to be carried from the river to the plots. It's hard and time-consuming work.
WOMEN INSTALLING WATER PUMP (20")	A water pump run by power generated by solar panels now pumps water from the river to a storage tank above the garden. The constant availability of irrigation water has increased the garden's yield. Members of the community are pleased with the results says Regina Hleta, Chairman of the group.

HLETA: (in local dialect)

REGINA HLETA ON CAMERA
(15.5")

“With the availability of water, we are able to cultivate more. Now we have a few more vegetables at home to eat and sell the surplus.”

NARRATION

WOMEN INSTALLING PANELS
(13")

To avoid theft and vandalism to the solar panels, the group is provided with a portable system. The panels have to be dismantled and reinstalled when they are used.

MONTAGE OF PANELS (20.5")

Providing basic electricity requirements to rural areas is a step in the right direction for sustainable rural development in one of the poorest countries in Africa. With continued assistance from the international community Swaziland hopes to improve the standard of living of its rural population.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations.