

Solar panels light the way in Africa's biggest slum The Times

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Her home is a shack measuring 2sq m on the Kibera slum, an illegal shanty town on the southern edge of Nairobi, where the family of four eat, sleep and spends their time. It is one of Africa's biggest slums with a million permanent residents, roughly 80,000 per sq km. There is no running water, rubbish collection, no source of electricity, and disease is common during the rainy season.

Some homes have access to an illegal electricity supply, but it stops working at 6pm, leaving families like Mrs Anangwe's no choice but to use kerosene for power.

But Mrs Anangwe has taken delivery of a solar light that has been assembled at Kibera by a local youth group helped by SolarAid, one of The Times Christmas charities.

The result is the Kibera solar lamp, which can light a room and be used as a torch. It also generates income for a programme, which provides training and health education for thousands of young people in the area.

Mr Sande says that it is still not straightforward to get the people of Kibera to buy into the idea. "We have to convince people.

They have never seen these sorts of lamps before and we have to keep telling them that once they have bought one they will be free to run as long as they power it up during the day. It is important that they have to buy their own, we don't give them away, so they are looked after properly. They cost about 2,500 shillings, which is a lot of money but a lot of savings in the long run on the cost of kerosene, but we are also trying to work out ways to pay in