

We! Connect

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Directors Note

Dear WeTu Team,

As we reflect on the transformative journey we've undertaken in 2023, it's with immense pride and gratitude that I share the remarkable strides we've made together. From the inception of our operations in Kisegi in January to the full transition to Mpay in April, and the digitalization of our WeWater payment process, each step has been a testament to our commitment to positive impact.

The installation of new WeWater ATMs in Katito, Sori, and Sindo has not only enhanced our operational efficiency but has also strengthened our roots in these communities. We're especially excited about the launch of our first 3-tap WeWater ATM in Katito market, revolutionizing accessibility with the ability to dispense 1 litre of water.

Our venture into household connections in Sori marks the beginning of an exciting chapter, as it unfolds as our inaugural WeWater household connection project. This, coupled with the significant milestone of achieving a remarkable 10 million liters of WeWater sales in September, speaks volumes about the tangible impact we've had on the communities we work in.

The expansion of our operations Litare in September was a crowning achievement, aligning seamlessly with our mission to provide affordable potable water and clean fishing energy solutions to communities we work in.

Beyond WeWater and WePower, we've embarked on ventures into new horizons. The pilot phase of our solar Agriculture, (WeAgriculture) project and the implementation of the WeLearn project in partnership with Siemens Stiftung underscore our commitment to innovation and holistic community development.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, it brings us immense joy to share the remarkable news of increased revenue from our



lanterns - a true testament to the unwavering commitment of our hubstaff.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every member of the team at the hubs, whose tireless dedication and hard work have played a pivotal role in surpassing our targets and achieving our goals. Your relentless efforts have not only driven our success but have also exemplified the spirit of teamwork and excellence that defines us.

Our WeCollect project collected 10 metric tons of E-Waste a significant stride to our commitment to the principles of reuse, reduce and recycling of electronic waste. We extend our appreciation to the E-Waste team for this milestone.

Our growth isn't just numerical; it's reflected in the expansion of our team from 46 in January to 56 in December 2023. Each member has played a pivotal role in our collective success, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to everyone for the dedication and effort invested in 2023.

As we step into 2024, let's carry forward the lessons learned, the achievements celebrated, and the challenges overcome. With our limitless potential, I am confident that together, we will continue to make waves and create a lasting impact.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a very good start in a healthy and successful 2024.

Director

Tilmann Straub

WeTu Expands it's Reach; Litare Hub joins WeTu Family

Sharon Otieno

In an exciting development, WeTu is proud to announce the commencement of operations in Litare, a picturesque community nestled within the Kamasengre sub-location of Mbita Sub County in Homa Bay County. This vibrant hub officially became a part of our network on September 18, 2023, marking a significant milestone in our mission to make clean energy and safe water accessible and affordable.

Litare, with its population of approximately 3,000 people, will now have access to these essential resources, ensuring the well-being and health of its residents. We firmly believe that access to clean water is a fundamental human right, and we are delighted to extend this privilege to the people of Litare.

But that's not all – our operations in Litare encompass more than just water access. We recognize the critical role that fishing plays in the livelihoods of local fishermen. To support their fishing practices, we will be leasing our eco-friendly fishing lanterns and offering eco-friendly fishing floaters for sale. By providing these tools, we aim to promote responsible fishing practices that protect the delicate aquatic ecosystem.

The warm welcome we've received from the Litare community has been nothing short of inspiring. The support and enthusiasm we've encountered in our first week of operations have fueled our commitment to making a positive impact in this beautiful region.

As part of our commitment to accessibility, Litare now boasts two water ATMs. One is conveniently located at our Litare hub, while the other can be found at Nyamalungu, ensuring that clean and safe water is never too far away. We are passionate about making clean and safe water, as well as clean energy, affordable and accessible to local communities.

Speaking of clean energy, WeTu is proud to be a champion of sustainable power solutions. In line with our commitment to eco-friendliness, our Litare hub, like our other hubs, relies on solar energy for illumination. This eco-conscious approach not only reduces our carbon footprint but also exemplifies our dedication to sustainable practices.

We invite you to stay tuned for the official launch date of the Litare hub. We anticipate that it will be a momentous occasion, and we look forward to celebrating with the Litare community as we continue our journey toward a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future. With Litare joining our ranks, we take another step forward in fulfilling this mission, one sustainable initiative at a time.

Picture Speak

WeTu Expands it's Reach; Litare Hub joins WeTu Family



WeLearn Training of Trainers at our Mbita Hub

Sharon Otieno

On October 2023 we commenced the WeLearn project, a collaborative initiative between WeTu and Siemens Stiftung. WeLearn is not just a project; it's a visionary endeavor aimed at empowering Kenyan youth to embrace STEM disciplines and pave the way for a sustainable future.

Designed with precision, WeLearn seeks to introduce rural youth to technical skills, focusing on key areas of operation such as renewable energy for production, electrical mobility, and water technology. The project is strategically crafted to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in school and the practical application of technical skills.

Our commitment to providing a holistic learning experience is evident in the hands-on, minds-on training that the youth enrolled in WeLearn will receive. Beyond theoretical understanding, they will have the invaluable opportunity to gain technical skills crucial for the evolving green force economy.

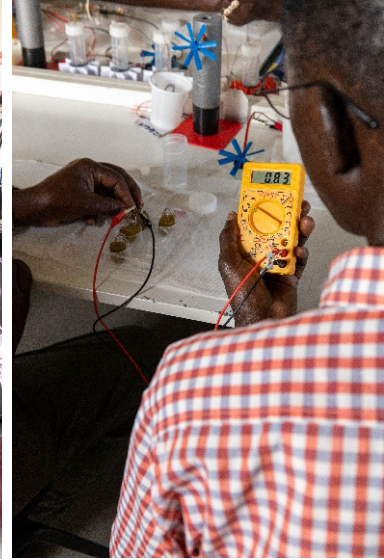
In preparation for the enrollment of our inaugural cohort in early 2024, we recently conducted the Training of Trainers at our Mbita hub in October, ensuring that our educators are equipped to guide and inspire the next generation of STEM enthusiasts.

To facilitate a dynamic learning environment, WeLearn will span across multiple WeTu hubs strategically chosen to serve as real-life learning labs. These hubs will be dynamic environments, offering students the chance to gain hands-on and technical experience that goes beyond traditional classroom settings.

As we eagerly look forward to the commencement of our program in 2024, we are confident that WeLearn will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our youth, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the green force economy. Together with Siemens Stiftung, we are dedicated to empowering the youth and fostering a community of learners ready to make a lasting impact.

Picture Speak

WeLearn Training of Trainers at our Mbita Hub



Empowering Farmers through Solar Irrigation: Siprosa Opiyo's Success Story

At Kanyada Kothidha, Got Kokech, Homa Bay County, Siprosa Opiyo, a diligent farmer, once faced challenges watering her nightshade crops. Nightshade, known for its nutritional value and demand in the local market, requires constant attention and regular watering, especially during dry spells. Siprosa's daily struggle involved fetching water from the nearby lake using a bucket. However, her life took a remarkable turn when she embraced WeTu's solar irrigation project, supported by Smart Energy Solutions in Africa (sesa). This project has not only simplified her farming endeavors but also transformed her life in various ways.

Siprosa's journey with solar irrigation began in early September 2023, and it has been a game-changer for her ever since. The solar irrigation project, a part of WeTu's sustainable agriculture initiatives, harnesses the power of the sun to pump water from nearby sources such as lakes and rivers, providing a consistent and reliable water supply for farms.

Nightshade, scientifically known as *Solanum scabrum* and locally known as "managu", is a popular vegetable in Homa Bay County and has become a significant source of income for many farmers like Siprosa. However, it presents a unique challenge for farmers due to its high water requirements. Nightshade plants need consistent watering throughout their growth cycle, which typically lasts for one month before the first harvest. Even after the initial harvest, they continue to demand weekly watering to ensure steady growth and production. Additionally, weeding, locally referred to as "doyo," is required every two to three weeks to maintain crop health and yield.

Before embracing the solar irrigation project, Siprosa's daily routine was physically demanding and time-consuming. To meet the water needs of her nightshade crops, she had to trek to a river and manually fetch water using a bucket. This laborious task not only consumed a significant portion of her day but also took a toll on her physical well-being. The irregularity of rainfall in the region made her dependent on this time-consuming process.

The introduction of solar irrigation in Siprosa's farming

practices has brought about a profound transformation in her life and farming venture. Here are some of the ways in which this project has empowered her:

1. **Efficiency and Convenience:** Solar irrigation has eliminated the need for manual water fetching, significantly reducing the time and effort required for watering her crops. With the solar-powered pump, Siprosa can effortlessly provide her night shade plants with the consistent moisture they need.

2. **Increased Yield:** By ensuring regular and adequate watering, the solar irrigation project has led to improved crop health and increased yield. Siprosa can now harvest night shade crops every week after the initial month of growth, maximizing her income.

3. **Economic Empowerment:** The consistent production of night shade has boosted Siprosa's income, allowing her to better support her family's needs and invest in her farm's expansion.

4. **Time for Diversification:** With the reduction in manual labor, Siprosa now has more time to diversify her crops and explore other income-generating agricultural activities.

5. **Environmental Impact:** Solar irrigation is an environmentally friendly approach to farming that relies on renewable energy, reducing the carbon footprint associated with traditional farming methods.

Siprosa Opiyo's journey from laborious manual irrigation to the efficiency of solar-powered irrigation is a testament to the transformative power of sustainable agriculture initiatives like WeTu's solar irrigation project. With the support of sesa project, Siprosa has not only improved her crop yields but also enhanced her overall quality of life. Her success story serves as an inspiration for other farmers in Kanyada Kothidha, Kokech, and beyond, showcasing the positive impact of embracing innovative and sustainable farming practices. The solar irrigation project has not only lightened the burden of watering her vegetable farm but has also illuminated a brighter future for Siprosa and her community.

Picture Speak

Solar Irrigation at Got Kokech in HomaBay



Empowering Katito Riders and Reducing CO2 Emissions with New Fleet of Roam bikes;

Sharon Otieno and Kevin Asika

We recently expanded our fleet by adding ten state-of-the-art ROAM electric bikes. This strategic move aligns with our mission to combat CO2 emissions and promote environmental sustainability through the provision of eco-friendly alternative fuel solutions.

The decision to add more ROAM electric bikes underscores our unwavering commitment to reducing the carbon footprint and fostering a more sustainable future. With environmental concerns taking center stage globally, embracing electric bikes is a progressive step toward minimizing the impact of climate change. These electric bikes are recognized for their eco-friendliness, emitting no harmful exhaust emissions, and significantly contribute to a cleaner environment.

Beyond environmental considerations, these e-mobility bikes are designed with user-friendliness, safety, and minimal maintenance in mind, making them an attractive choice for our bodaboda riders. Notably, these electric bikes are also opening doors of opportunity for the youth in the community who might otherwise face unemployment. As youth unemployment remains a pressing concern, the e-mobility bikes have proven to be a beacon of hope for the young workforce.

The recent surge in fuel costs has put additional financial strain on those who rely on traditional motorbikes for their livelihoods. Furthermore, the substantial cost associated with purchasing new motorbikes acts as a major barrier to entry for budding entrepreneurs. WeMobility offers a practical solution to these challenges, providing a cost-effective and sustainable means for individuals to venture into the bodaboda business.

These electric bikes are more than a mode of transportation; they represent a means of effecting positive change. By reducing CO2 emissions, creating employment opportunities for the youth, and offering a more economical alternative to conventional motorbikes, we are transforming not only the way people travel but also the lives of those we serve.

In the coming months, we anticipate witnessing our new ROAM electric bikes in action, recognizing that each ride taken symbolizes a step towards a cleaner environment and a brighter future for our community. Stay tuned for more updates as this green initiative continues to make strides in reducing CO2 emissions.



WeTu's TukTuk Gets an Electric Make Over

By Kevin Asika

Our TukTuk recently underwent an incredible transformation! Our We!Mobility coordinator Kevin Asika recently carried out an electric mobility conversion on this iconic vehicle, turning it into a green and eco-friendly mode of transportation.

But what exactly is an electric mobility conversion? Simply put, it's a retrofitting process that involves changing the vehicle's drive train from an internal combustion engine (IC) to an electric one. This intricate process encompasses a range of activities, including fabrication, mechanical adjustments, and electrical modifications to ensure the vehicle functions seamlessly on electricity.

This conversion marks a significant milestone for us as a company. It aligns perfectly with our overarching vision of protecting the environment and offering environmentally friendly products to our customers. We believe that sustainable transportation solutions are essential for a better future, and this project exemplifies our commitment to that cause.

One of the most immediate and tangible impacts of this conversion is the cost per kilometer covered when compared to traditional fuel-powered vehicles. Electric vehicles are renowned for their efficiency, and our WeTu TukTuk is no exception. The shift from gasoline to electricity means lower operational costs, reduced emissions, and a greener bottom line for our business.

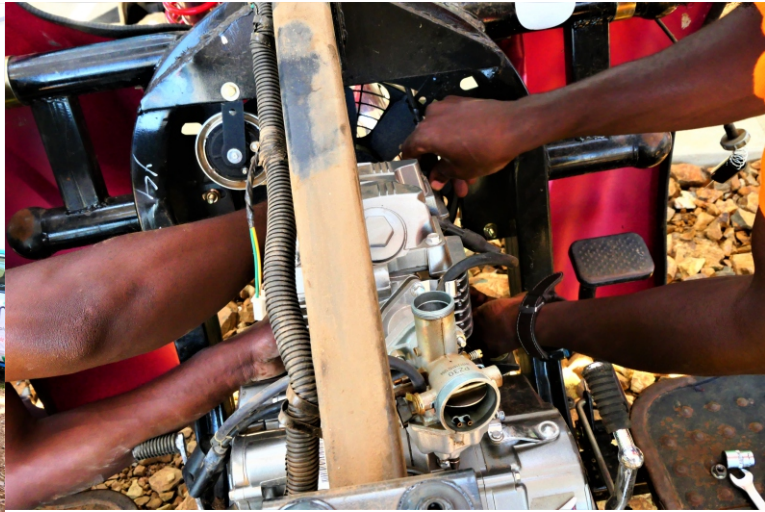
However, it's important to note that this conversion has its unique challenges. The electric motor used in our TukTuk has a slightly smaller output torque when compared to the internal combustion engine it replaced. This limitation affects the amount of load the vehicle can carry. We're actively addressing this challenge and working on optimizing the motor to ensure it meets our performance requirements.

The journey towards electric mobility is undoubtedly exciting, and we're proud to be at the forefront of this transformation. Our TukTuk's electric makeover not only reduces our carbon footprint but also sets an inspiring example for sustainable transportation in our community.

Stay tuned for more updates on our electric mobility initiatives and other exciting developments within We!Mobility. Together, we're driving change for a cleaner and greener future.

Picture Speak

WeTu's TukTuk gets an electric makeover



Get to Know Our Staff: Spotlight on Jackline Adhiambo

In every journey toward transformative change, there are individuals who stand out as beacons of passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment. Today, we're excited to cast the spotlight on one such remarkable individual within our team – Jackline Adhiambo. As a Hub Staff member at our Honge Hub, Jackline brings her expertise as a social worker to the forefront of our community empowerment efforts. Jackline's journey with WeTu began on March 12th, 2022. With a background in social work, she possesses a unique insight into the needs, dreams, and aspirations of the communities we serve. Her commitment to improving the lives of individuals in these communities is truly inspiring and serves as a driving force behind her involvement with WeTu.

What truly sets Jackline apart is her ability to infuse joy into her work. For her, every success story is a source of personal joy and fulfillment. The positive impact WeTu brings to the communities is not just a job for Jackline – it's a calling. Witnessing tangible transformations and the newfound hope that our initiatives bring is what keeps her motivated and passionate each day.

Innovation is a cornerstone of WeTu's ethos, and Jackline embodies this spirit wholeheartedly. She not only embraces the philosophy of innovation but thrives within our dynamic environment. What she particularly values is the exposure to solar energy innovations that WeTu has afforded her. The knowledge she's gained in this realm has broadened her horizons and empowered her to contribute more effectively.

Beyond her professional achievements, Jackline possesses a vibrant and engaging personal side. A lover of culinary delights, her favorite food is chicken – a small indulgence that adds flavor to her life. Outside of her dedicated work, she's a sports enthusiast. Whether it's watching or playing football, her passion for the sport shines through. A wanderer at heart, she relishes the opportunity to explore new places and experience different cultures. And when it's time to unwind, Jackline turns to the therapeutic rhythms of music, allowing it to rejuvenate her spirit.

In the tapestry of WeTu's team, Jackline Adhiambo is a thread that weaves together compassion, innovation, and a genuine desire to uplift lives. Her commitment, combined with her infectious enthusiasm, reminds us all that change – positive and enduring – is within our grasp, one step at a time.



Get To Know Our Staff: Spotlight On Simon Mawike

With a background in Health Records Information Technology, Simon Mawike has been quietly making a significant impact on our daily operations since he joined WeTu.

Simon's journey with WeTu is a testament to how skills and passion can be channeled into community service. His greatest satisfaction comes from ensuring that our lanterns are always at their best, 100% charged and effective. In his own words, the inspiration behind his work is customer satisfaction.

One unexpected benefit of his role, as Simon points out, is that it has empowered his planning abilities. Keeping track of water quality, ensuring lanterns are charged, and managing all the tasks involved in his role has honed his organizational skills, which he believes will serve him well in the future.

Beyond his contributions at WeTu, Simon has a life out of work. He enjoys his favorite food, Chapati and beef, and unwinds by listening to music. His musical tastes are diverse, with a particular fondness for Afro Beats and Rhumba. He also has a passion for Journalism and Communication. His multifaceted interests reflect his well-rounded personality and his drive to make a positive impact.

Stay tuned for more stories about the people who make WeTu a special place, where every member plays a unique role in our shared mission.



Get to know our partners Alphones Omondi

Take a walk into our HomaBay technical hub and you will spot Alphonse Omondi in his element working together with our WeMobility team ensuring our WeMobility project is a success. Omondi a true embodiment of dedication and passion in the field of electric mobility is an after-sales technician with our WeMobility partner Roam. His commitment to excellence in after-sales service for WeMobility has been instrumental in ensuring our clients have a seamless experience. Alphonse's journey with us at Roam has been nothing short of inspiring.

One of the remarkable aspects of Alphonse's journey at WeTu is his appreciation for the WeTu team's unity and their warm, welcoming nature. This sense of belonging and support from his colleagues has empowered



Alphonse to excel in his role and actively engage in various WeTu projects and activities. He has been a part of our retreats and had the opportunity to visit our new WeTu ATM points, where he gained valuable insights into the branding of these ATMs and the functioning of our innovative WeWater token system. Moreover, his involvement in the conversion of a TukTuk to Emobility in Mbita showcases his commitment to pushing the boundaries of innovation in the mobility sector.

Alphonse's dedication goes beyond his role; he is also an advocate for youth empowerment. He encourages other young individuals to consider tech courses, particularly in the mobility sector. He firmly believes that technology is the key to addressing many of the challenges in transportation and sees an abundance of opportunities for the youth to make a meaningful impact.

When Alphonse takes a break from his responsibilities, he enjoys indulging in his hobbies. Traveling to new destinations and exploring different cultures is a passion that keeps him energized. He also finds solace in the calming waters of swimming pools, which provides a refreshing escape from his busy schedule. And, like a true Kenyan, Alphonse's favorite meal is a hearty plate of Ugali and fish.

In conclusion, Alphonse Omondi is not just a partner to us; he is a dedicated and passionate member of the WeTu family. His unwavering commitment to ensuring the satisfaction of our WeMobility clients, coupled with his active involvement in our projects and his advocacy for youth in tech, makes him an inspirational figure within our organization. We're proud to have Alphonse on our team, and we look forward to many more years of successful collaboration.

Thank you, Alphonse, for your outstanding contributions to Roam and WeTu's mission of providing sustainable mobility solutions. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

It's a wrap

Sharon Otieno



Crafting and Curating We!Connect over the past five months has been nothing short of incredible, but what truly warms my heart is witnessing the remarkable growth our newsletter has undergone.

When I took on the responsibility of producing and publishing our newsletter, I was driven by a desire to create something that defied the norms of traditional newsletters. I envisioned a publication that was not only informative but also inclusive and entertaining. My goal was to develop a newsletter that resonated with all of us, a piece that felt like a homecoming - something to be revisited time and time again without losing its spark, both internally and externally. In essence, I wanted something crafted by us and for us.

As we draw closer to the end of 2023, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your collaboration and invaluable feedback. Your insights have been instrumental in shaping We!Connect into what it is today. The responses we received from our recent survey have been particularly enlightening, and I assure you that we are committed to utilizing this feedback to further enhance our publication.

So, with deep appreciation, I say "Asante sana". As we eagerly embrace the coming year, 2024, rest assured, we are ready for the next chapter of our journey together.

Thank you for being an integral part of We!Connect.



Editorial Team

1. Tilmann Straub
2. Sharon Otieno
3. Joel Mwando
4. Kevin Asika
5. Jackline Adhiambo
6. Simon Mawike
7. Alphonse Omondi