

Rural health facilities receive solar fridges to support vaccination

BY ANNE MBUGUA - CHAK SECRETARIAT

Faith based and MOH facilities in 15 counties in Kenya have received solar powered fridges to support immunization. Most of the benefitting facilities are located in the rural areas.

The fridges donated by the SolarChill Project, a consortium of several partners, will especially be useful in health facilities that are off-grid or in areas that experience frequent power cuts.

The benefitting facilities were carefully selected to meet this criteria. For some of the facilities, the SolarChill fridges came at an opportune time as their KEPI fridges had long broken down.

SolarChill combines environmentally friendly refrigeration with solar direct drive technology for off-grid cooling applications. Solar energy is stored in ice instead of lead batteries. SolarChill refrigerators do not use any ozone depleting or potent global warming substances.

Distribution of the solar-powered fridges was launched at a colourful ceremony held at AIC Olasiti Dispensary in Narok County on August 9, 2018.

The Chief Guest was HE. Hon. Samuel Kuntai Ole Tunai who was represented by CEC Health Hon. Vivian Sereti.

The CHAK delegation was led by Chairman Rev. Dr. Robert Lang'at and General Secretary Dr Samuel Mwenda. The event was also attended by local elected and opinion leaders.

During the event, CHAK offered



(Top) CHAK staff Rosalind Mwangi screens a patient for elevated blood pressure and (bottom) General Secretary Dr Samuel Mwenda (second, right) speaks with invited guests led by Narok County CEC Health, Hon. Vivian Sereti (fourth, right) during the launch.

free screening services for diabetes and hypertension while the County health department provided MNCH services in the Beyond Zero mobile clinic. The event was organized by CHAK, Narok County health department and AIC Health Ministries.

Speaking at the event, the Narok

CEC Health Hon Sereti thanked CHAK for selecting eight health facilities in the county to receive the fridges, the largest consignment among the selected counties. She also hailed the good working relationship between CHAK and the county.

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Health facilities receive solar fridges

Health facilities receiving Solarchill fridges

	Name of the Health Facility	County	Affiliation	Manufacturer/Model
1.	Orinie Clinic (AIC)	Kajiado	CHAK	Zero Appliances
2.	Nturumeti Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Vestfrost
3.	Olendeem Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Vestfrost
4.	Olenkasurai Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Zero Appliances
5.	Olasiti Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Zero Appliances
6.	Talek Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Vestfrost
7.	Naikarra Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Vestfrost
8.	Olderkesi Dispensary	Narok	CHAK	Vestfrost
9.	Mogondo Dispensary	Narok	MoH	Zero Appliances
10.	Nyamakoroto Dispensary	Nyamira	CHAK	Zero Appliances
11.	Kamasengere Dispensary	Homabay	CHAK	Vestfrost
12.	Mukende Dispensary	Homabay	MoH	Zero Appliances
13.	Opemle Health Centre	Homabay	MoH	Zero Appliances
14.	Jamia Medical Centre	Kakamega	SUPKEM	Vestfrost
15.	Kokwoto Dispensary	Baringo	CHAK	Vestfrost
16.	Alale Dispensary	West Pokot	CHAK	Vestfrost
17.	Chepnyal AGC Dispensary	West Pokot	CHAK	Zero Appliances
18.	Namuruputh Health Centre (PAG)	Turkana	CHAK	Vestfrost
19.	Eliye Springs AIC Dispensary	Turkana	CHAK	Vestfrost
20.	Kalokol AIC Health Centre	Turkana	CHAK	Zero Appliances
21.	Lokichogio Health Centre	Turkana	CHAK	Vestfrost
22.	Log-logo Health Centre	Marsabit	CHAK	Vestfrost
23.	Namarei Dispensary	Marsabit	CHAK	Zero Appliances
24.	Gatab Health Centre	Marsabit	CHAK	Vestfrost
25.	Illaut Dispensary	Samburu	CHAK	Zero Appliances
26.	Arsim Dispensary	Samburu	CHAK	Vestfrost
27.	Kathangacini Health Centre	Tharaka Nithi	MoH	Zero Appliances
28.	Gaceuni Dispensary	Tharaka Nithi	MoH	Zero Appliances
29.	Zombe Health Centre	Kitui	CHAK	Vestfrost
30.	Kaliani Dispensary	Kitui	CHAK	Vestfrost
31.	Mulango Health Centre (AIC)	Kitui	CHAK	Vestfrost
32.	Watamu SDA	Kilifi	CHAK	Zero Appliances
33.	Malanga Dispensary (AIC)	Kilifi	CHAK	Zero Appliances
34.	Semikaro Medical Clinic	Tana River	SUPKEM	Vestfrost
35.	ODA Medical Clinic	Tana River	SUPKEM	Vestfrost
36.	AL-SADR Medical Centre	Tana River	SUPKEM	Zero Appliances

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The solar powered fridges have been imported from Denmark and South Africa. The CHAK medical equipment programme, Health Care Technical Services is charged with installation of the fridges in the

36 benefitting health facilities. Each of the fridges comes with two solar panels. However, the fridges do not run on a battery. A small compartment inside the appliance holds the vaccines. A five-centimeter space between the vaccines compartment

and the outside of the fridge holds an in-built cooling liquid which is responsible for maintaining the right temperatures, both during the day and at night.

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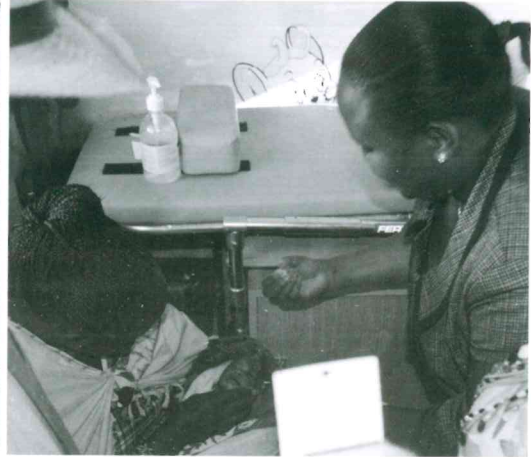
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Monitoring devices have been installed on the fridges to keep tabs on their performance. The devices which run on SIM cards will moni-

tor the humidity and temperature of the fridges. There are also sensors that monitor performance of the solar panels. An on-line platform which will be used to monitor how

the fridges are performing will be accessed by the supply companies, HCTS and the government. The data collected through the platform will also be used for research.



(Top) Representatives of CHAK, MEDS and Narok County Health Management Team (CHMT) in a group photo, during the launch of the SolarChill fridges distribution at AIC Olasiti Dispensary.

(Right) Narok County CEC Health Hon Sereti vaccinates a child in the Beyond Zero mobile clinic during the launch.

(Middle, left) Narok County leaders assisted by other dignitaries flag off a truck to begin delivery of the solar fridges in selected beneficiary health facilities in the county.

(Bottom) Olasiti AIC Church choir entertains guests at the event.