

for children

hello

ZIMBABWE

How do you greet someone in Shona?



makadli

 (Say mah cah DEE)

My name is Anesu Hahlani.

Age: 9

Lives in: Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe

I live with my mother, my two sisters and brother. My dad works in South Africa. Every day I fetch water and clean the dishes at my house. Sometimes I help Mom sell chickens. We use the money to grind our maize (dried corn) into flour.

Last year we got solar panels at my house (through an MCC-supported project). Now I have lights to do my homework at night instead of using candles. We use the power to charge phones, watch TV and read.

Once a week, I take a piece of firewood to school. Other students do, too, so the cooks can build a fire to make lunch for us. I like studying English and math. I want to be brilliant. But really, my favorite part of school is playing soccer.

My favorite food: chicken and sadza (thick cornmeal)

My favorite subject: recess

What I want to be: a truck driver

From candles to solar

In rural areas like Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe, most homes do not have electricity, so students would use candles to study at night. But candles don't put out much light and need to be replaced regularly.

Today, MCC is helping families to have solar panels that light up rooms and courtyards and make tasks like studying at night easier for Anesu and other students.

Can you try doing a few minutes of homework at night without using electricity? Did you use a flashlight or a candle? (Ask your parent or another adult to help if you're lighting a candle.) How hard is it to study by flashlight or candlelight?



Anesu Hahlani (left) does his homework with his mom Juliana Hahlani. He is able to do his homework as daylight fades thanks to light from the solar panel outside his home.

