

Leading sustainable change

Geoffrey Sabuni manages REDAVIA's solar farms in two rural communities, leading his team to overcome the challenges of delivering power in remote areas.

Geoffrey became REDAVIA's Head of Operations in Tanzania in August 2017, managing the company's off-grid solar farms in the south-west of the country. Having previously worked as a Processing Engineer for a brewery and with Tanzania's Rural Electrification Authority, Geoffrey brought experience of implementing technical projects. He was inspired to work for REDAVIA to gain new skills and experience as he has a passionate interest in solar power technology.

Based in Dar-es-Salaam, Geoffrey can monitor the solar farms remotely, addressing any issues swiftly and ensuring that new customers are connected to the mini-grid network. He also undertakes regular visits to Isenzanya and Shitunguru, managing a team of local technicians and guards responsible for the farms' day-to-day operations. Geoffrey shares his energy expertise and understanding of rural projects with local staff recruited from the villages. His role involves teaching them how to maintain the solar farm equipment, ensuring their safety and the safety of the panels when, for example, they are cleaning the panels and undertaking grass cutting.

Geoffrey notes that delivering power in such a remote location is not without its challenges, during the country's rainy season rural roads can be impassable but, "I enjoy having the opportunity to lead a team. I find it fulfilling to be learning new things together, solving problems and supplying electricity to villagers who haven't had access to electricity before in their entire lives."

Since he began working for the company, Geoffrey has noticed significant changes in the communities: "When I first visited Isenzanya and Shitunguru, I didn't see any business people working after 8pm, it was dark, and everyone was sleeping because they had no power. Now, it is brilliant to see people doing business day and night. Before, there were no mills and now we have two, and many welding machines that operate using our REDAVIA power."

"What we have in the villages is pioneering technology – it is clean, efficient and it is changing people's lives."

