

Extending business hours

Yohana Mwamlima has a barbershop in Shitunguru, with REDAVIA solar power he can cut hair in the evenings and plans to open a second barbershop.

Yohana established his salon five years ago in rural Shitunguru, he previously used an unreliable solar home system which frequently cut out, “there were times when I had no power, there was no light at night and I couldn’t cut customers’ hair if they came in the evenings.”

He admits to having doubts about REDAVIA’s solar power at first but was soon convinced that the mini-grid can deliver sufficient electricity to power the tools of his trade.

Yohana now saves an average of TSh1000 per day by using electricity from the mini-grid to light his salon, power his hair clippers and charge customers’ phones. “The good thing is that it doesn’t go out, when you pay you are good to go with no inconveniences at all. Electricity is now affordable, and I don’t worry about it any longer.”

With REDAVIA’s battery storage, Yohana can now access electricity to cut customers’ hair in the evenings and has extended his opening hours. “This electricity helps me in so many ways, now I can easily accomplish my activities from morning until night, until I choose to close the shop. This can be 9pm or even 10pm, where before I closed early when it got dark. There are more customers at night, often they are busy at noon and so it is easier for them to come here during the night hours.”

Yohana’s well-lit salon can now be seen from the road and he estimates that he has already attracted around 40 new customers, including those from neighbouring villages. He plans to open a second barbershop in the future.