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ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World...

Today we're off to Wales, Nigeria and the International Space Station...

But first, Kenya...

The technology that's taken for granted in cities because they have reliable electricity is often less readily available in rural parts of Kenya compared to urban areas. This is the case for many other countries around the world too.

A lack of reliable electricity affects access to the internet and regular access to fridges and freezers amongst other things which have a substantial impact on people's quality of life.

A couple of Kenyan inventors have come up with some ingenious solutions to help people living in more remote parts of the country.

Michael Kaloki reports from the city of Nairobi to tell us more...

Michael Kaloki: When you enter a house in an urban area of Kenya, you are likely to have access to electricity.

So when I open my fridge, I can see that it is working properly.

But what about when you are in a rural village and have no access to electricity, what do you do?

Norah Magero: So it's powered by solar, but it has in-built battery power so that during the night and when there is cloud cover, the fridge still continues to be in operation.

Michael Kaloki: Mechanical engineer Norah Magero has designed a portable, solar-powered fridge. I had a chance to speak to Norah about the fridge...

Norah Magero: So Vaccibox is a portable, solar-powered refrigerator. It is so portable that it can easily be put on a motorbike, a bicycle, a boat or even be carried so that medical items such as vaccines, blood for transfusion and drugs like insulin can be deployed as fast as possible to hard to reach healthcare facilities and communities.

Michael Kaloki: What led you to design a portable, solar-powered fridge?

Norah Magero: I worked at a hospital, I was working as a technical and energy manager, and the same issues kept on coming up because you are always running against time to ensure the vaccines actually being kept in the best cold storage.

Michael Kaloki: Is solar power the solution to Africa's energy problem?

Norah Magero: Well, it's a yes and a maybe also. It's a yes, because solar power is obviously renewable energy and we need renewables as much as we can. If we're ever going to really fight through this climate change.

But then solar power is not entirely the solution.

So it's just one of the solutions, one of the components that will actually help us tackle the energy crisis in Africa.

Michael Kaloki: So what do young Kenyans have to make of Norah's solar-powered fridges? I spoke to some people on the streets of Nairobi.

Bernard Otieno: My name is Bernard Otieno and I think this technology will help to a great extent because it's going to transform our lives, the people, especially from the low economic backgrounds. We can afford it and use it anywhere at any time.

Karita Irungu: My name is Karita Irungu.

Michael Kaloki: How would it affect your life if you had no electricity?

Karita Irungu: It would be difficult in a significant, in a significant manner, since I require electricity to do online studies. To mark it, I require electricity for that.

Brenda: Hi, my name is Brenda. Rural areas have limited power supplies, so these solar fridges will come in handy because most people in the rural areas have maybe excess food.

Some of them are farmers, so they need to store their food, maybe for sale or for domestic use. So this will really help them.

Michael Kaloki: What can be learnt from all this is that making use of available green energy sources can be of benefit to not only Kenya, but the African continent as well.

This is Michael Kaloki reporting for Newsreel World from Nairobi in Kenya.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Michael.

ALANNA LESLIE: A new policy in Wales has promised that every eighteen year old leaving the care system will be offered sixteen hundred pounds a month for two years under a basic income pilot.

Young people in the UK end up in the care system if they don't have a parent or guardian who is able to look after them.

In this pilot, around five hundred people are expected to qualify to join the scheme, which is a short term trial to see if it would be worth continuing in the long term as a policy.

The plan is for it to be unconditional, which means the money won't be withdrawn if one of the participants gets a job.

ALANNA LESLIE: It's been announced that the The International Space Station, or ISS, will be retired in 2030, before plunging into the Pacific Ocean in 2031.

A new report from US space agency NASA says the ISS will crash into a part of the ocean known as Point Nemo.

Point Nemo is the furthest place from any land on planet Earth, and is also known as the spacecraft cemetery as many other old satellites and spacecraft have deliberately crashed there over the decades.

ALANNA LESLIE: NASA says that in the future, space activities closer to Earth would be led by private companies such as Elon Musk's SpaceX or Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, so NASA can focus funding on missions in deep space.

ALANNA LESLIE: That's *Weight and Time* by folk duo We Mavericks.

Victoria Vigenser was born in Auckland in New Zealand and has been inspired by a childhood love for opera and kapa haka, which is traditional Māori group singing and dancing.

She discovered folk music in her teens and is particularly inspired by the Celtic folk tradition.

Multi-instrumentalist Lindsay Martin is from New South Wales in Australia.

The duo met at a folk festival and hit it off so well they formed We Mavericks soon after.

ALANNA LESLIE: The IELTS, which stands for the International English Language Testing System, is a test given to non-native English speakers to assess their English language proficiency.

It's the test you would have to take if you wanted to study in the UK, the US or Canada for example.

However it's very expensive and some countries around the world believe they're already native English speakers, so they shouldn't have to prove their fluency.

For example, English proficiency is very high in Nigeria. It's ranked third in Africa and twenty ninth across the English-speaking world by Education First's English Proficiency Index.

But Nigerians who want to study abroad have to take the IELTS.

Some young Nigerians are protesting against this, and Anthonieta Kalunta has this report.

Goodness: “Well, essentially, I took the ELTS because it has become a mandatory requirement for most of the overseas study.”

Anthonieta Kalunta: That’s Goodness Ajinomoh. He’s a friend of mine and as you just heard, he recently took the IELTS.

Ebenezer Wikina: “Stop, first of all, charging us some ridiculous amount of money to prove that we can speak the same language that you have taught us.”

Anthonieta Kalunta: That’s Ebenezer Wikina, founder of Policy Shapers, a youth-led advocacy platform based in Nigeria. I spoke with him about an online petition he recently launched asking the UK Home Office to reform the requirements for the IELTS.

According to Policy Shapers, the test creates a significant burden for young Nigerians who want to study or work abroad.

Ebenezer: “Nigeria has gone through a double recession, we’re not sure where the exchange rate will be by the end of this year”

Anthonieta Kalunta: This year, the cost to take the IELTS in Nigeria is anywhere between 80,000 to over 100,000 Naira, which is about 240 US dollars.

The minimum wage in Nigeria is 30,000 Naira per month, roughly 72 US dollars.

So an IELTS fee can cost more than three months wages, an amount that is not within reach for many young people to spare.

Anthonieta Kalunta: And, as Goodness points out, paying for studying abroad is already very expensive.

Plus you have to pay to take the IELTS test with no guarantee that you'll pass it.

Goodness: “Many of these persons, especially those who are paying for scholarships, for instance, they are really trying to secure funding in order to be able to pursue their passion and continue their studies. Given that amount of money and there's no assurance that you'll pass.”

Anthonieta Kalunta: The UK Home Office has said that anyone with a bachelor's degree or equivalent will not need to take an English proficiency test if the Education Counselling and Credits Transfer Information Service, that's Ecctis, can verify that the degree meets, or exceeds the recognised standard of a UK bachelor's degree.

However not only is the cost about the same as the IELTS, it requires more steps to complete so it's not really an alternative that can help ease the burden on young people.

I'm Anthonieta Kalunta, reporting from Abuja, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Anthonieta. That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!