

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS IN DELFT ISLAND, JAFFNA

An initiative of Solar Empowerment Initiative (SEI) carried out in collaboration with World Vision Lanka (WVL)

Following a successful distribution of solar lamps to the communities of Kiran and Kalpitiya, WVL organized a similar program in Delft Island in Jaffna on 30th July 2019 with the participation of representatives from WVL and government officials.

Initially known as 'Pasuthivu' or 'Nedunthivu' (the Long Island) by the natives, it was named 'Illha das Vaka' by the Portuguese and lastly renamed Delft by the Dutch, after a town in the Netherlands. Although the island covers approximately 4,700 hectares, it is sparsely populated. The Island has emerged relatively safe from the civil war and it has a beauty, which attracts visitors as the Island is populated with wild horses.

Among the many vulnerabilities faced by the communities in Delft, access to electricity including the unavailability of street lights remains a major challenge affecting the quality of life of people. The community in the island either does not have or has limited access to a power source, often in the form of one or two light bulbs, which limits the functioning of activities after sundown, with most families not leaving their homes after 5.30pm. Furthermore, the electricity is supplied via generators leading to an inconsistent power supply. Considering the above, several distribution programs were arranged to distribute 296 solar lamps in selected villages, communities and in a school.

The distribution programs were carried out with the participation of WVL national office staff members, World Vision Jaffna office staff and the Delft divisional secretariat representatives. The following table provides an overview of the number of lamps distributed in the Island.

| Location | No of Solar Lamps Distributed |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Panankani Village | 20 |
| Neluvini Village | 21 |
| Koruvandu Village | 49 |
| Thirulingapuram Village | 65 |
| Koddaikkadu Village | 58 |
| Saivapirakasa School | 66 |
| Delft Center Community | 03 |
| Delft West Community | 14 |
| Total | 296 |

This distribution is envisioned to have the following impact on the children and the community:

- Increased time spent on studies by school children
- Increased interest in studies and the ability of children to complete homework
- Safety of children using the lanterns in comparison to previous alternatives
- Decreased expenditure on purchasing kerosene oil and candles
- Decreased electricity consumption due to the usage of renewable energy sources
- Ability of women to engage in household work at night
- Ability of families to leave their homes after 5.30 with the aid of the solar lamp for light and safety

Similarly, limited access to electricity also affects larger establishments such as schools and government institutions. Therefore, solar energy kits (SF 906 systems) were distributed in several locations including the government offices to continue to conduct livelihood initiatives, community meetings, etc. during the evening hours. One of the energy kits were given to Saivaporakasa School to increase the time spent by students and teachers in school at afterschool classes and other activities.

Additionally, a SF 906 system was also given to the Navy to be used in the passenger boat which transports people between Jaffna and Delft Island. The wooden boat used to transport people to and from the island lacks any lighting. The solar energy kit was provided to be used for a source of light as the ferry transports passengers.

Accordingly, the list below provides a list of locations where the SF 906 systems were distributed.

| Location | Nos. of SF 906 systems distributed |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Saivapirakasa School | 01 |
| Divisional Secretariat Office | 02 |
| District Secretary Office (GA Office) | 01 |
| Navy (Boat) | 01 |
| Total | 05 |

GALLERY





The school principal addressing the gathering



World Vision staff addressing the community



World Vision staff seen gifting a lamp to a community member



Community seen listening to the representative of World Vision Lanka

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