

POST-DISTRIBUTION REPORT OF THE SOLAR LANTERNS AND SOLAR ENERGY KITS

Solar Empowerment Initiative (SEI) partnered with World Vision Lanka (WVL) to distribute solar lanterns to the vulnerable communities who do not have access to electricity. For this purpose, 1,008 solar lanterns and 10 solar energy kits were shipped to Sri Lanka by SEI where WVL was able to clear all the items from Sri Lanka Ports Authority on 20th June 2019.

The first distribution was carried out on 5th July, 2019 where 1 solar energy kit and 308 solar lanterns were distributed to 2 school and 2 villages in Kiran, in the Eastern Province. Additionally, 4 solar lanterns were given to the community considering the need. The second distribution was carried out on 11th July, 2019 in Kalpitiya located in the North Western Province, which includes 1 solar energy kit and 200 solar lanterns to 1 school and 9 villages. The final distribution of 300 solar lanterns and 5 solar energy kits were distributed to 1 school and 7 villages in Delft Island, Jaffna on 30th July 2019. The remaining solar energy kits were given to three schools in Muthur and Vaharai. Community coordinators were involved in the process of beneficiary identification and selection.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LANTERNS IN KALPITIYA

Located in the Puttalam district, Kalpitiya consists of 14 islands with a total geographic coverage of 16.73 km². The people of Kalpitiya are mostly fishermen. Out of 31 Grama Niladhari Divisions (GND) World Vision Lanka's Kalpitiya Area Program (AP) works with 19 GNDs that have been identified as the most vulnerable. Many households in the GNDs, especially the marginalized communities living on the islands, do not have access to an energy source. Thus, they function with limited or no energy supply. These families are forced to either complete all their activities before sundown and be in complete darkness or resort to spending money from already tight incomes on kerosene oil for lamps.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LANTERNS IN KIRAN

Many households with children do not have electricity or have a limited electricity supply (one light bulb for the whole house) and as a result are unable to engage in studies during evening. Further, families of Sinnavembu and Korakallimadu are located in coastal areas of Kiran, which compared to other villages, have minimal development. These households are below the poverty line and do not have access to basic facilities including electricity.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LANTERNS IN DELFT ISLAND, JAFFNA

Among the many vulnerabilities faced by the communities in Delft, access to electricity including the unavailability of streetlights 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 lanterns in selected villages and in a school.

THE IMPACT OF THE DISTRIBUTIONS

The locations where the lanterns were distributed have limited or no access electricity. Hence, one of the primary benefits of using the lanterns is to carry out household activities during the evening or night hours. During a meeting held with the community members it was also mentioned that the households would be able to discontinue the usage of kerosene oil lamps, which are oftentimes dangerous. This would also save money, which would otherwise be spent on kerosene oil and candles.

It was identified that children spent more time engaging in school activities and that the time spent on studies had increased. The safety of the children had also increased as opposed to previous alternatives the community had been using (ex: oil lamps and candles).

The solar lanterns also assist women to engage in household work at night. The lanterns can be used as a multi-purpose unit where it can be kept in the kitchen while cooking meals at night, while using sanitation facilities after dark (which are commonly located outside the main house) or to provide lighting when walking in the street. While the distributions were conducted, a mother reiterated the difficulties faced by the community when walking in the night without streetlights. Reptiles and other animals on the roads have continuously hindered traveling during the evening/night hours. Therefore, the solar lanterns have been of greater help for these communities.

Many beneficiaries also utilize the lanterns to engage in livelihoods during nighttime. Families engaged in fishing, pottery and handicraft work have benefited from these lanterns on a greater scale. The lanterns have immensely helped these communities and children, and continue to do so.

BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK



“This lantern is very useful for my family. I like this solar lantern as it gives more light than lanterns which helps me to do my house work easily”

- A.H.Kuresiya (41) Alankuda

“The solar lamp I received is very useful and I use it to study at night. Now I am more interested in my studies as I am able to do my work in the night as well.”

- Kumar Kanika (aged 14)



“Because of the lamp given to me, I am able to do paper crafting work during the night as well as complete my homework”

- Jegathaban Vinujan (aged 15)

“There are no street lights in our village, so these lanterns are helpful for people to during evening/night hours. It also helps to do most of our work during power cuts”

- Comments of the community during a consultation



THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR ENERGY KITS

The list below provides a list of locations where the solar energy Kits (SF 906 systems) were distributed.

Location	Solar energy kits
Delft Island - Saivapirakasa School	01
Delft Island - Divisional Secretariat Office	02
Delft Island - District Secretary Office (GA Office)	01
Delft Island - Navy (Boat)	01
Kiran - Library at Santhively	01
Kalpitiya - Uchchamunai Preschool	01
Muthur - Kalaimahal Hindu College	01
Vaharai - Kattumurai School	01
Vaharai - Mathurankerni School	01
Total	10



A solar energy kit has been installed in a library at Santhively in Kiran which is run by the Pradeshiya Sabha which has an attached child friendly reading. The energy kit currently serves over 50 children per day during evening hours including children from neighboring villages. This therefore enables greater study and enjoyment of reading books for longer hours as a result of the energy kit.



A solar energy kit has also been donated to the Uchchamunai Preschool in Kalpitiya Island. It is proposed that the facility is used for after-school care as well as to conduct moonlight pre-school programs (a new concept where pre-school activities would be carried out during evening hours).



Image: *The solar energy kit installed in the GA office*

The energy kits distributed in government offices in Delft Island have helped the employees extend their service hours to serve the community in a larger scale.

There are many challenges faced by the children and the teachers as the schools are located in remote locations. Therefore the solar energy kits have helped the schools to carry out evening classes and thus to improve the literacy of the children in these vicinities. It has also benefited the whole community as the community meetings are also held in schools during evening hours.

Our development facilitators are visiting the beneficiaries and monitoring the impact of the solar lanterns and the energy kits. These items have benefited many children and all the other recipients daily while assisting the communities to enhance and strengthen their livelihoods.

End of report