

AN INITIATIVE OF SOLAR EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE (SEI) CARRIED OUT IN COLLABORATION WITH WORLD VISION LANKA (WVL)

SEI partnered with WVL to distribute Solar Lanterns to the vulnerable communities who do not have access to electricity. For this purpose 1008 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 the 20th June 2019.

The first distribution was carried out on the 5th July, 2019 where one Solar Energy Kit and 308 Solar Lanterns were distributed in Kiran (detailed information can be found below). The second distribution is proposed to be carried out on the 11th July, 2019 in Kalpitiya located in the North Western Province, which includes one Solar Energy Kit and 200 Solar Lanterns. Furthermore, 300 Solar Lanterns and 8 Solar Energy Kits are proposed to be distributed in Delft Island in the Palk Strait, Northern Sri Lanka. The distribution of these items are proposed to be carried out during the last week of July or the first week August.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS IN KIRAN

On 5th July 2019, World Vision Lanka – Kiran Area Development Program arranged for distribution of 308 solar lamps in two schools and two villages considered to be most deserving. Thihilivettai Government Tamil Maha Vidyalaya (GTMV) and Pullipainthakal GTMV are two schools situated in the inland area of Kiran which is identified as been most affected by the civil war. Access to these schools are challenging due to the lack of transport and gravel roads. Many children live in houses that 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 hours. Through this initiative, 66 students from Thihilivettai GTMV and 89 from Pullipainthakal GTMV received solar lamps.

“Our children are extremely privileged to have received these solar lamps. It will help increase their interest towards studies which will contribute towards the school’s academic achievements” – Mr.K.Sathiyavarathan- Principal (Pullipainthakal GTMV)

Further, 63 families of Sinnavembu and 90 in Korakallimadu also received solar lamps. These villages are located in resettled coastal area of Kiran which compared to other villages are identified as having minimal development. The households are those below the poverty line and do not have access to basic facilities including electricity.

“We don’t have electricity at home and I use a Kerosene lamp for my studies. My parents spend a lot on kerosene and I hope that by using my lamp, I will be able to help reduce this cost. I am very grateful for World Vision and their partners for supporting children like me to engage in studies more freely” – Semalakshi, a 12 year beneficiary child from Sinnavembu”

The solar lamps distributed to households are projected to have the following impact:

- Decrease of money spent in purchasing kerosene oil and candles
- Women would be able to engage in household work at night.
- Increased interest in studies and ability of children to complete homework

The solar energy kit would be installed in a library at Santhively which is run by the Pradeshiya Sabha with a child friendly reading space attached to it. The space does not have electricity facilities and children who are willing to stay a little late and engage in reading are unable to do so. As such, fixing the solar energy kit would contribute towards child protection, ability to read during evening hours and most importantly would encourage children to engage in reading as most of them are identified as not having an age appropriate literacy level. Approximately 500 -600 children would benefit directly and around 1000 indirect beneficiaries from 6 surrounding villages would also be benefited.

GALLERY

Distribution at Pullipainthakal GTMV



Children pose for a photograph with lamps received



The school principal addressing the students



Manager- WVL Kiran ADP gifts a lamp to a student



A student proudly poses for a photograph with the lamp received

Distribution at Thihilivettai GTMV



Children pose for a photograph with the lamps received



A WVL staff is seen gifting a lamp to a student



School Principal addressing the children



World Vision Staff addressing the students

Distribution at Korakallimadu and Sinnavembu



Community in Sinnavembu pose for a photograph with the lamps



Community members acknowledging the receipt of the lanterns



Children in Korakallimadu seen listening to World Vision staff

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