

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

SEI partnered with WVL for the second time 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 and WVL cleared all the items from Sri Lanka Ports Authority on the 29th November 2019.

The dispatch to the intended Area Development Programmes (ADPs) were carried out in the month of December. Two solar energy kits and 200 solar lanterns were distributed in Paddipolai and in the same month, two solar energy kits and 35 lanterns were distributed in Koralaipattu (detailed information can be found below). The distributions of the remaining lanterns are proposed to be carried out in Trinco South, Muthhur and Bibila ADPs in the Eastern and Uva Provinces.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS IN PADDIPOLAI

World Vision Lanka – Paddipolai ADP arranged the distribution of 200 solar lamps in several villages considered to be most deserving. These villages are scattered throughout the inland forest areas where the flow of electricity is interrupted, minimal or unavailable. The villagers also face a high concern, as there is a high threat from elephants, making it challenging for the communities to travel especially in the evening and during the night. When identifying the distribution selection criteria, a high emphasis was also given to children as their studies were minimized or not done after 6 PM.

“I am from Thanthamalai and the solar lamp I received is very helpful for me to study at night. Earlier I used a Kerosene lamp and it was difficult for my parents to afford kerosene oil frequently. Now, we don’t have this challenge anymore” - Nagalingam Elachchika.

The distribution programs were carried out with the participation of WVL staff members and the community representatives. The following table provides an overview of the number of lamps distributed in the ADP.

| Location | No. of Solar Lanterns Distributed |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Thanthamala village | 108 |
| Kachchakodi Swamimalai village | 32 |
| Panichchayadimunmari village | 45 |
| Kuluvinamadu village | 15 |
| Total | 200 |

“My name is T. Thanushkaran and I am 13 years old. The solar lanterns we received is helpful for me and my brother to study at night. My parents are also able to go out at night for any emergency and we are not scared of the dark anymore” - T. Thanushkaran

The solar energy kits were distributed to two families who live bordering the forest and engage in Chana (chickpea) cultivation (their houses are located near the cultivation land). Lack of proper sources of electricity and the threat of wild elephants are continuous challenges for their cultivation. As such, the Divisional Secretariat advised to hand over the panels to these families, which would assist these families to minimize the destruction of the cultivation from the elephants.

DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS IN KORALAIPATTU

Following a successful distribution of solar lamps to the communities of Paddipolai, WVL organized a similar programme in Koralaipattu in the same month with the participation of representatives from WVL and government officials.

The households in the selected villages are of low economic standards and therefore are unable to afford an electricity connection. The houses of these communities are made of cadjan (woven mats made out of coconut palm leaves, mainly used as walls and roofs). Therefore, the parents and the families find it extremely difficult to engage in household activities and school work during evening hours. Therefore, for lack of better option many households resort to using kerosene oil lamps which significantly threatens the safety of the people in the house.

I am thankful to World Vision and the partners for providing us these lamps. My house does not have a power supply and our children are unable to study at night. This lamp will enable them to complete their homework and they are also not scared of the dark anymore” - T.Manjula

The following villages were selected to distribute the lanterns.

| Location | No of Solar Lamps Distributed |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nasivanthiv village | 20 |
| Kalmadu village | 05 |
| Karunkalichola village | 05 |
| Sunkankerney village | 04 |
| Kinnayady village | 01 |
| Total | 35 |

“We live in a cadjan house and we are not able to afford an electricity connection. We are unable to do any household activity during evening hours and our children find it difficult to study using the kerosene lamp. These lamps are an immense benefit to us and we are so thankful for World Vision and the partners for this support” - R Sasikala



The ADP in Koralaipattu requested two solar panels after analyzing the requirements in the vicinity. Hence, the solar panels were decided to be installed in two clinics in Karunkalicholai and Nasivanthivu that had an interrupted power supply making it challenging to carry out the clinic activities smoothly.



“Thank you for the valuable solar panel given to our clinic. We are now able to take records, enter data, etc. in the evening hours without any difficulty” – Mrs. P. Saratha (PHM) – Nasivanthivu Clinic

GALLERY

