

Distribution of Little Sun Solar Lamps in the Islands of Nyal, Southern Unity, South Sudan



All names have been changed to protect identity and the pictures used do not reflect the individuals in the case study.

Since September 2015, following protracted forced displacement in Unity State in South Sudan, there has been an influx of IDPs who have sought sanctuary in Nyal and Ganyiel, in southern Unity State. Most IDPs are women and children who have managed to escape attacks against their villages in central Unity State and have moved south away from the fighting. IDPs have arrived in Nyal with nothing. Women reported a number of risks regarding gender based violence and snake bites, which are likely to occur when they have to travel outside of their homes at night time, such as when going to the toilet. Due to a lack of latrines, women are forced to walk long distances at night to find a secluded place to relieve themselves; they face violence from host communities if they are found to be defecating on their land. IDPs have requested lights from Oxfam to help them mitigate these risks, especially snake bites and scorpion stings. In October 2015, Oxfam distributed the little sun solar lamps as part of a female hygiene kits in Nyal and Ganyiel.



Sarah Nyanlok is a woman in her mid twenties, and a mother of four children, who is currently living on Nyoat Island. Sarah recently received a Little Sun Solar Lamp as part of a female hygiene kit distributed by Oxfam.



Sarah was a resident of Leer County prior to the conflict that started in December 2013, which has killed more than tens of thousands, and displaced more than 2 million people internally with many more taking refuge in neighbouring countries. Nyanlok's first born child is seven years old, with the smallest child less than one year old. Nyanlok is one of the beneficiaries of Oxfam's WASH non-food items and female dignity kits distribution in Nyal. Oxfam's Kenyi Alison Athanasius conducted an interview with her to see how she felt about the solar lamp she was given:

"I left Leer because of the fighting, our area was attacked by government forces and they could not spare anybody even small children and we had to run into the swamps to save our lives. We moved on foot in the water with our children on our shoulders, that was how we escaped. Some areas are shallow and others are almost to the chest level .We ran with nothing only carrying our children, he was carrying the big children and I was carrying the small one and that time I was pregnant and could not carry a lot.

I was pregnant when the fighting happened and I delivered the baby in the islands. We were then attacked again on the island we fled to and the only option for survival was to move further in to the swamps to look for peaceful places and we got to this place.

Today I received 2 buckets one yellow and white, 2 bars of soap, PuR water purifier, 2 ebriks, 2 under wear, 1 packet of AFRIPad, 1 solar light and a basin. The most important item I have received in this distribution is the solar light because I have a small child who needs to be taken care of in the night most especially when changing her bed, previously I would light the fire then change her beddings but with this solar light I will just press the button and do it easily.

This island is full of snakes which usually come out from the swamp at night to avoid getting cold, so this solar lamp will help me see at night to avoid being attacked by snakes and also I can be able to go to the latrine at night using the lamps.

We Nuer people also like cooking when it starts getting dark, this solar light will help me cook clean food for my children as I can see where to put dish and the plates."

