

One thousand Solar Lamps donated by Little Sun, GmbH, Germany Company Distributed for vulnerable and school children in Barahle and Aysaita Camps

Background:

Barahle and Aysaita refugee camps located in Afar National Regional state of Ethiopia host Eritrean Afar refugees. Currently there are more than 24,618 refugees settled in these camps assisted by UNHCR and ARRA. The settlement areas are situated in arid climatic zone and in an ecologically fragile ecosystems, where it is difficult to find energy for lighting and cooking. Although UNHCR with its partners prioritize to provide refugees with alternative energy sources for lighting and cooking, the Eritrean Afar refugees are in unfortunate situation to access alternative energy for lighting and cooking primarily due to shortage of fund and partly due to priorities to many unmet life-saving needs.

Thanks to the donation from Little Sun GmbH, Germany Company, 1000 Little Sun solar lamps have been obtained as a donation to be distributed to the most vulnerable, school children and women found in the two camps. The distribution was effected in September 19 and 21, 2017 in the presence of representatives from Solar Development Plc, ARRA and the RCC. This donation is highly valued by the UNHCR, ARRA and the beneficiaries for it has filled the critical gap in household lighting, and ensuring the safety, protection and wellbeing of the benefiting refugees.



Fig1: The donated Little Sun solar lamp

The lamps are quality certified by the World Bank global lighting initiative, solar charged, water, weather impact and dust resistant with batteries life span of up to five years and are user friendly.

Distribution Event:

The distribution ceremony was organized by OSD in Barahle and EECMY in Aysaita; energy and environment implementing partners. The implementing partners selected the beneficiaries together with RCC and ARRA based on vulnerability, school enrollment and family size. The 1000 lamps were equally shared between the two camps where 500 beneficiaries were selected based on selection criteria set; from each camp comprising of vulnerable individuals, school enrolled children, women and elderly.



Fig2: Partial view of beneficiaries of Little Sun at Aysaita Refugee camp

The energy and Environment team from UNHCR and the experts from the donating Plc provided technical training on the use, charging practice, maintenance, care and management of lamps before distribution. In addition to the user awareness creation trainings, the application of the SOP distributed earlier, was emphasized by the trainers to increase the management and effective use of the lamps. Post distribution assessment will also be done to evaluate the impact of the lamps. A joint monitoring tool will be developed to assess the impact of the lamps which can later be used by the donor for improvement and/or up-scaling of its products elsewhere. UNHCR hopes that this donation will attract more donors to extend their donation to the people of concern who are so many unaddressed by this donation.

Intended Impact:

It is expected that the 1000 individuals who received the lamps feel safer and less exposed to protection treats through the use of the Little Sun solar lamps since sustainable lighting will reduce protection risks in all circumstances.

This solar lamps are clean, brighter and safe compared to open kerosene lamps, open fire and candles. The smoke from Kerosene and fire-wood is also irritating and unhealthy. These lamps hanged on the neck, provide the vulnerable the light he/she needs for self-protection, and security wherever he /she goes during the night. The Little sun solar lamps, as observed; can allow students do their home-works and study for extended hours during the night providing lighting for the family at the same time.



Fig3: Partial View of Beneficiaries of Little Sun at Barable Refugee Camp

The unique design of little sun makes it special for vulnerable, persons of special need and school children. It is portable, easy to handle while permitting the user's hands free to carry out other activities. Light sustains family socialization, and enhances night time chores and other social cohesion since social interaction typically starts after sun set and that in turn needs lighting. . The refugee compounds in Berhale and Aysaita including their shelters have no light. Solar lighting, such as this, has a positive emotional impact, keeps the wellbeing and dignity of refugee families. This is partly achieved through the donation from Little Sun GmbH. Hence, let's donate and support the refugees!

"Together we stand #with the refugees"

UNHCR, Ethiopia
Energy and Environment Unit
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