

## 10 million people now benefiting from SunnyMoney solar lights in Africa's poorest regions

**27 April 2015:** Today SolarAid announces that their social enterprise, SunnyMoney, has sold close to 1.7 million solar lights, improving the lives of **10 million people**. This was achieved with another record-breaking year as 624,468 lights were sold in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda.

This means that families in Africa will save over **£200 million**, create an extra **two billion hours** of study-time and avert **900,000 tonnes** of CO<sup>2</sup>.

SolarAid CEO Andrew Webb said: *A clean, affordable and better source of light is the first and most crucial step on the energy ladder. The benefits to families, schools and communities is truly staggering and the fact that 10 million people in rural Africa, as we speak, are using these lights is testament to the hard work and dedication of our SunnyMoney teams. The growing off-grid solar market is a beautiful example of how we can reduce our impact on the planet and improve the lives of those living on it at the same time”.*

Across Africa, the total number of people now benefiting from solar light is **50 million**. With SunnyMoney solar lights accounting for one fifth of all lights sold, they remain the largest seller and distributor in Africa. When SunnyMoney first started selling lights in 2009, there had been fewer than 40,000 lights sold. But by creating demand, catalysing markets and demonstrating a commercially viable and scalable solution, sales have begun to pick up right across the continent.

Over the past year SolarAid has placed a greater emphasis on knowledge sharing and recently made a **Clinton Global Initiative** commitment to ‘build the alliance to eradicate the kerosene lamp’. They are currently advising a number of organisations on how they can enter and support the off-grid lighting market and are a leading member of the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association.

Webb explained: *“The off-grid sector reaching 50 million people is fantastic, but there are over half a billion people in Africa still reliant on dangerous and very poor light sources like kerosene. In 2015, this is simply not acceptable. We need more support so that we can continue to give people across the continent the chance of a brighter future.”*

SolarAid believe that a mix of business-based approaches, innovation and philanthropic support is the best way to serve the need of those living in some of the poorest countries in the world.

### The figures:

- This financial year SunnyMoney sold 624,468 solar lights in Africa
- Total number of lights sold to-date is 1,646,731

### One solar light:

- Improves the lives of around 6 people
- Saves a family £130
- Enables an extra 1200 hours of study
- Averts half a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>

Based on our own [research findings](#), this means:

- 10 million people currently have access to a solar light
- 9 million of whom live below the World Bank \$1.25 p/d poverty line
- Families will save £200 million
- 2 billion extra study hours will be created
- 900,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> averted
- 6 million people experiencing better health from reduced indoor air pollution
- 1 million kerosene lamps packed away

#### **Wider impact:**

- Off-grid lighting is the most cost effective way of contributing to the [UN's Sustainable Energy 4 All](#) goal of universal energy access by 2030
- With the addition of solar home systems and accessories [GOGLA](#) estimate the off-grid sector to be worth around \$50 billion
- As of Dec 2014 [GOGLA](#) estimate that around 7.52 million lights have been sold throughout Africa
- [According to our research](#) this will currently be benefiting around 50 million people across the continent

The above figures are calculated using [SolarAid's own research](#), our own sales figures, and those put forward by the [Global Off-Grid Lighting Association](#). The impact figures are taken over the lifetime of the light.

#### **For more information, images or comments:**

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#### **About SolarAid&SunnyMoney**

SolarAid is a London-based international charity that believes in business-based solutions to poverty and climate change. In 2008 SolarAid created a social enterprise called SunnyMoney to run its on-the-ground operations in Africa.

SunnyMoney uses an innovative distribution model to sell solar lights in rural off-grid communities currently dependent on costly, toxic, kerosene for lighting. By building a sustainable market for solar products SolarAid and SunnyMoney aim to eradicate the kerosene lamp from Africa by 2020.

[Watch our video 'The Solution already Exists' here](#)

[Read our latest Impact Report](#)