

SunnyMoney Highly Commended in Unilever Global Development Award 2015

8 July 2015: Last night, SunnyMoney was recognised at the prestigious Responsible Business Awards gala in the Unilever Global Development Award category, being Highly Commended for its work.

The social enterprise was established by the international UK charity, SolarAid to reach remote communities in Africa with life-changing solar lights. In sub-Saharan Africa 600 million people live without electricity; 91% of the rural population. SunnyMoney's work to date has improved the lives of over 10 million people who benefit from the extraordinary impact of solar power.

Andrew Webb, SolarAid CEO, who accepted the Award on behalf of SunnyMoney, said: *"We are delighted that SunnyMoney has been recognised by the Unilever Global Development Award for its huge impact and the hard work and commitment of each and every person working in SunnyMoney teams across Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania. Helping rural community's access safe light transforms lives, but it is also a huge challenge. Their success shows us how much more we can achieve. And for that we need support more than ever so we can reach our goal - the eradication of the kerosene lamp from Africa by the end of the decade."*

To date, the organisation's work enabling families to switch from expensive kerosene lamps to clean solar light has led to*:

- Savings for families of \$345 million
- Improved health for millions, now less at risk from toxic fumes and open flames
- 2.4 billion in extra study hours for children
- Almost 900,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions averted

Dr Caesar Mwangi, SunnyMoney CEO, also recognised his team's efforts and determination in reaching rural communities with life-changing solar light: *"This announcement is a real boost to our teams working in rural, off-grid Africa. As we have expanded our operations, most recently to Uganda, we have met a wide range of challenges; from the recent floods in Malawi to the influx of poor quality, imitation lights in Tanzania. I am proud of the innovative spirit our teams across the continent have consistently shown in getting one more light to one more family in the last inch of the last mile. This award is really a recognition of their efforts."*

SunnyMoney was commended for the replicability of its programme as well as its impact and advocacy. Judges of the Responsible Business Awards called SunnyMoney *"a fabulous endeavour, absolutely fantastic"*, highlighting in particular the *"educational and environmental impact of the programme and its huge potential."*

SolarAid open-sources learnings and research from SunnyMoney and is calling for support for both SunnyMoney and its partnership programme. The organisation is building an alliance of partner organisations to scale its work across Africa.

*On average, over the lifetime of the solar lights

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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 and polluting 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](#)

About The Responsible Business Awards

The Responsible Business Awards are the most prestigious and respected awards championing responsible business in the UK and abroad. They celebrate inspirational companies that are taking action to address social and environmental issues and transform their communities. 145 companies were shortlisted for the 2015 awards across the 13 award categories.

The Responsible Business Awards Gala was supported by 2014 Responsible Business of the Year, National Grid. The event was hosted by TV presenter Claudia Winkleman and comedian Adam Hill.