



Solar
Aid



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MALAWI FACTSHEET 2014

The Problem: Only 9% of the population in Malawi has access to electricity, which means nearly 13 million people are living without power.

Over 50% of the population lives below the poverty line, the majority of who live in rural areas – the least likely to benefit from grid electrification. Without light, opportunities for earning, learning and socialising are severely limited.

“Energy is the thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity and sustainability. But, widespread energy poverty still condemns billions to darkness, ill health and missed opportunities for education and prosperity.”

– UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

RURAL HOUSEHOLDS SPEND AROUND 15% OF THEIR INCOME ON LIGHTING.

MANY FAMILIES RELY ON KEROSENE OR TORCHES THAT ARE EXPENSIVE AND UNRELIABLE.

SunnyMoney is a social enterprise wholly owned by international development charity SolarAid. It forms part of an innovative charitable model that takes a business-based approach to tackling poverty and climate change. Any surplus revenue generated by SunnyMoney is reinvested back into the charity to support our goal: **the eradication of the kerosene lamp from Africa by 2020.** Malawi is one of the six countries that we are currently working in.



The Solution: SunnyMoney is building a sustainable market in Malawi through the sale and distribution of pico-solar lights.

In 2013, SunnyMoney in Malawi provided access to clean, safe, bright solar lights across Northern and Central Regions. With support from the Ministry of Education, SunnyMoney work closely with Teacher Development Centres to arrange Head Teacher Meetings, bringing groups together to learn about solar so they can offer their students and community the chance to purchase a solar light. At the end of 2011, 11,000 lights had been sold; by the end of 2013 this had increased almost fivefold to 51,530.



THE IMPACT IN MALAWI

Solar lights have a tremendous impact on the income, education and health of families in Africa.

Our monitoring, evaluation and research provides evidence of the impact that SunnyMoney has in Malawi.

2013: THE BIG PICTURE



26,665 solar lights sold to rural low-income families. All of SunnyMoney customers in Malawi live below the poverty line.



157,000 people have access to clean, safe, bright light.



Children are doing an extra two hours of homework each day. 85% of teachers report an improvement in performance and attendance of their students as a result.



\$3.4 million saved* for families from reducing spending on lighting alternatives like kerosene; 10% of household income. Savings are spent on **food, school fees and investment in farming inputs or business**, starting a virtuous cycle of development and progress.



60,000 people experiencing better health thanks to reducing use of air-polluting kerosene lamps. This includes reduction in respiratory illness, coughing, eye irritation and chest problems.



13,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide* emissions averted due to reduced kerosene lamp use.



Families also talk of **improved security and safety** due to this brighter, more reliable lighting and the opportunity they have for **improved social interaction and family time**.

*in total, over the lifetime of the solar light

The Future: We aim to bring solar lights to tens of thousands more households across the country using our innovative model to reach those most in need.

"We live a happy life now when darkness comes because we are able to light our home for a long time, at the same time we easily move outside and wind does not blow when moving with the light compared to kerosene lamps and candles."

Sithembile Kasambala, Karonga

"My children use [the solar light] for studying. They are able to read at night which was not possible initially when we had no solar lamps. It's so bright, it's a good light that you can't imagine!"

Evelesi Lwasi, a mother of six, Salima

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