

Solar lamps lighting impact study by UNHCR Rwanda

Survey on usage patterns and impact of Little Sun solar lamps on refugee households living conditions in Rwanda

Location: Gihembe refugee camp

Date the households have been monitored: October 2016

Period the lamps have been in use: July to October 2016

Total number of households monitored: 40

Monitoring results

In July 2016, 300 little were distributed to 300 recipients aged between 70 and above from 300 different households in Gihembe refugee camp. In October 40 were monitored to evaluate the patterns and impact of the Little Sun solar lamps to the refugee households living conditions and results were as follows:

- Of the 40 recipients monitored, 28 recipients still possessed and used their lamps; while 12 reported their lamps to be stolen.
- The most commonly used Lighting sources among the recipients were wax candles, battery torches and solar lamps.
- Majority recipients (number) enjoyed light for 03 hours.
- The most commonly used light source among the recipients was solar lamp (little sun).
- Majority recipients reported that they use light for studying, cooking and other domestic chores, dining, moving at night (visiting neighbours and using latrines).
- 28 recipients reported that the LS lamp is easy to use; this means that 100% of monitored users assert that the lamp is easy to use.
- 28 recipients reported that the LS lamp is a reliable and trustable lamp.
- 28 recipients reported that the LS lamp improved the living conditions at night
- 13 recipients reported that they now have no or very little smoke in their houses
- 28 recipients indicated that they now feel more secure while moving at night while using the LS lamp.
- 28 recipients indicated that the LS lamp makes them feel happier than before they acquired it
- 16 reported that their children are now able to study longer at night
- 28 users reported that they made savings by using the LS lamp
- Most users spent the savings on food.
- 28 users indicated that they would recommend the LS to others
- 22 reported they are very satisfied with LS lamp
- The following features were recommended to be improved on the LS lamp: incorporate a phone charger in the lamp.
- Other comments. LS lamps require to be charged longer so it can light more hours.



UNHCR

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Date: 28 November 2016