



SuryaHurricanes : Bangladesh

Powering the Future - Converting kerosene lanterns into solar powered hurricanes

Project description

Since 2008, the partnership has provided women with solar powered lanterns and replaced the traditional kerosene lamps. Besides improving work capacity and income opportunities of the household, it also enables children to study in the evening as the light quality is much better than from kerosene lamps.



Business model

The initiative is the first in Bangladesh to convert kerosene hurricane lamps into solar lanterns. They will be used on boats or in villages to create better livelihoods and economic opportunities.

The SuryaHurricane is a low-cost solar powered lantern made from recycled traditional kerosene lanterns; the wick and burner are replaced with a Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL).

The initiative targets the 52% of Bangladesh's population – over 74 million people – that live in rural areas without electricity.

Scaling up activities

- Rent out 1,400 SuryaHurricanes and 7 SuryaShroys (solar energy shelters) for 1,400 families in 7 villages.
- Launch a campaign to create a greater demand in the northwest.
- Rent solar hurricanes to entrepreneurs/organisations that will train women to maintain the lanterns.
- Teach children to use the lanterns in order to study at night.
- Agree a contract with a bank to finance the entrepreneurs' costs.

Immediate needs

- Financial assistance for the next stage of scale up to allow the entrepreneurs/ organisations to rent out the solar lamps and train women in the use of the SuryaHurricane lamps.
- Assistance in profiling/marketing to gain international recognition and stimulate local banks/foundations to support the project.





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Partnership

- ❶ **Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha** generated the concept, helped to develop, and is now implementing the technology.
- ❷ **Daridra Bimochon Sanstha** (DBS), conducts surveys on the acceptability level of the SuryaHurricane.
- ❸ **Panchshisha Bahumukhi Somobay Somity** (PBSS) informs people about the hurricane lamp conversion and its benefits.
- ❹ **Social Development Research Programme** (SDRP) monitors and evaluates the growth of SuryaShroy.
- ❺ **Rupkatha** promotes SuryaHurricanes.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: By creating better employment opportunities and independence for women, the initiative contributes to the empowerment of women within their family and community. It also helps reduce migration to towns significantly and enables children to study in the evenings.

Environmental impact: The initiative reduces reliance on kerosene, which between 2009-2010 will decrease CO₂ emissions by 7,884 tonnes, and save about 288,000 litres kerosene and 4,562 kWh electricity.

Economic impact: Families will pay USD 4.35 for solar conversion and USD 0.073 for every re-charge, thereby increasing their incomes compared to using kerosene.

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SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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