



SIERRA LEONE COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

In cooperation with



**Project Report – SLCBO project of Solar Kiosk with 150
Solar panel and lamps with mobile charging facilities.**



Kadiatu, the Ngepay kiosk manager

Appreciation

On behalf of SLCBO, Bonthe Municipality council, staff and pupils, community elders and women, we wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the partners Solenergi Uten Grenser - Solar Energy Without Borders and well-wishers of SLCBO for donating the money for this new source of energy to lightning the community, we are very pleased and we will support this project for safe and reliable service.

SLCBO is a community based organization aimed at improving the lives and conditions of the poor in communities in Sierra Leone and the provision of good, safe, cheap and effective source of energy is one of the priorities of SLCBO.

Training

On the 25th April, 2015, a team of five (5) determine an eager young men and women including Kiosk Manager, Project Coordinator and Public Relation Officer held a three days training and workshop in Bonthe Island. The purpose of the three days training program was to train and educate the kiosk managers how to handle the lamps, finance and respect the views and opinions of customers. This day can be remembered with a big smile as it was an interesting and successive educative good time. There was great cooperation from both the trainers and trainees which led to a successful distribution of more than 80 lamps of which have been currently rented out in Bonthe Island. The training was also a success because each member of the team is now capacitated enough to handle a solar lamp kiosks which is an incredible achievement considering the duration of the training.

Solar Kiosk

The solar kiosk is located in Ngepay village, Sittia chiefdom in Bonthe Island. The kiosk manager which was one of the trainees is currently managing the kiosk in Bonthe town and the other one in Ngepay village, Sittia chiefdom. The third trainee is a potential kiosk manager for other kiosks.

The Ngepay solar kiosk is located in the strategic planned position that can be accessed by more than 500 people. Ngepay village is the section town among the eleven (11) sections that make up the Sittia chiefdom. It is also surrounded by 7 sections of approximately 1,200 to 1,500 people.

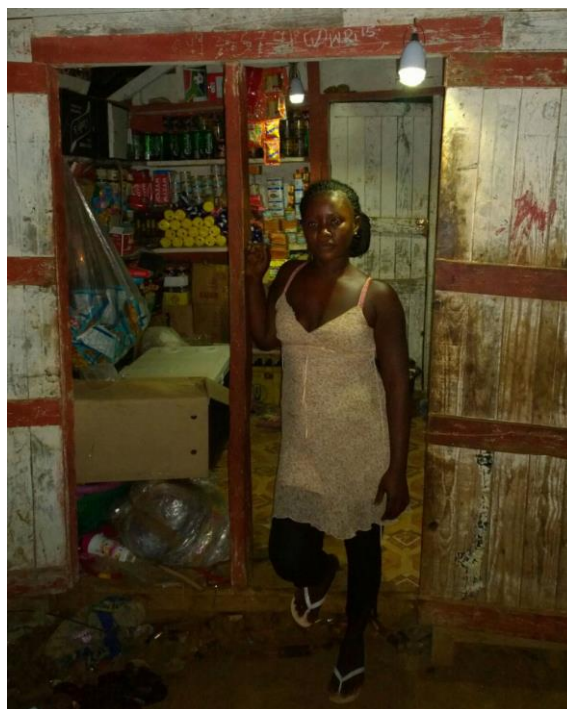
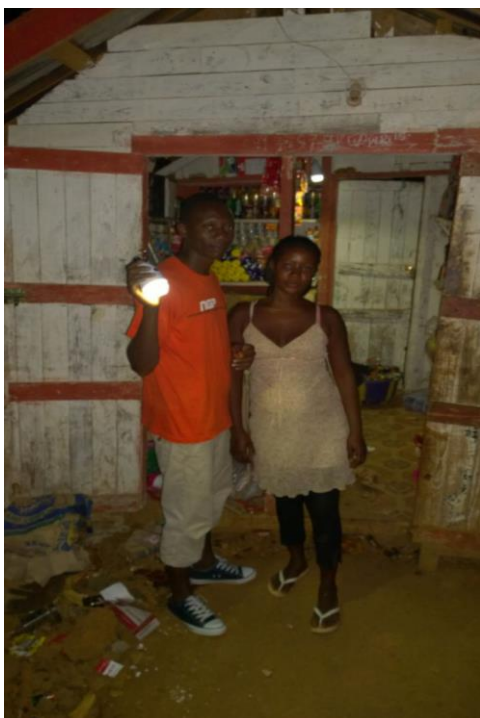
The solar lamp project was warmly welcomed by the Sittia community. They viewed this project as a suitable alternative to the use of the kerosene lamps, flash lights, candles etc. This enthusiasm was manifested when within three days; more than 60% of the allocated 150 lamps were rented out. This was encouraging and satisfying. By all indication, it is obvious that the demand is already exceeding the supply. We are however working on bridging this gap.

Notwithstanding the successes attained by this pilot phase, their significant challenges which, if not overcome, has the potential of derailing the project. Key among these is the lack of more financial help to support the solar kiosk project.

The charging of mobile phones is also very critical to the overall success of the project because as projected, the charging of mobile phones on the lamps will help cushion and subsidize for the small amount being paid for the lamps. It was forecast that for a new project of this nature to be accepted and patronized by community people, there is need for the price of the solar lamps to be significantly and comparatively low to attract customers. This low price is to be cushioned by the revenue obtained from the charging of mobile.



Safie using the solar lamp to prepare family dinner & Hajaratu Bah to receive lamp at the solar kiosk on behalf of her family



Boima Beah, a shop owner has two lamps for her business



Mr.Ibrahim receiving his lamp



Mr.Ibrahim and family in their carpentry workshop



Daramy (student) receiving lamp for studying



Kamasu (fisherman) for fishing



Advertising the lamps to the school children at the Ngepay primary school



Children doing their home works

In conclusion, the lack of sufficient money to successfully support the solar kiosk for the more than 5,000 inhabitants of the Sherbro Island is a big risk undertaken for this project.

Public version

In the report of the kiosk manager, he stated that at present there are more than 40 customers on the waiting list and many more are asking. There is a greater chance for positive outcome of this project provided all the information stated in the project manual are followed to the letter. The cooperation of the public is positive but the project is currently not living up to its expectations.

It is crystal clear that even 100 more lamps won't be enough for the next supply because more people are waiting for the lamps.

According to the population (more than 10,000 people) in the entire Bonthe Island, the next solar kiosk should be located at Lugbu village, the center village of the Dema Chiefdom which is some couples of miles away from the first kiosk and densely populated. The Lugbu village kiosk in the Dema chiefdom is surrounded by 10 villages clustered together with more than eight hundred and fifty (850) residents.

The Dema chiefdom is one of the two (2) chiefdoms and the municipal town of Bonthe that make up the Sherbro Island. The inhabitants of this chiefdom is more than one thousand nine hundred people that still dwell on kerosene lamps, flash lights, candles and even gathered around fire to keep time, meetings or warm their bodies. The main sources of their livelihoods are fishing and trading.

Despite some minor setbacks, the cooperation and commitment displayed by both the technical team and community people led to the successful launch of the solar kiosk in Bonthe Island.

A big thank you and appreciation to you all for donating the money and technical team for the solar panels and lamps, we will surely support this project. We also wish that this project will continue and many other developmental projects follows thereafter.

Thank you.