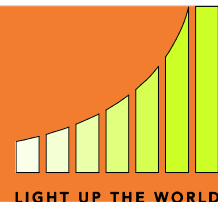


Sierra Leone – Lighting for Education

Project Completion Update – June 2009



Project Highlights

- Four Schools impacted, that's over 2800 school children and 70 teachers who can now study in the evening and take part in exam preparation and tutorials
- Over 700 women participating in adult literacy training programs will be able to attend class at night
- Lighting and solar power for a computer were added to the CAUSE Kids Resource Centre allowing them to extend programs to the children they serve
- Post-secondary students from Sierra Leone gained hands on experience and training on solar installations through our technical partners, Environmental Foundation for Africa and SunEnergy Power International
- Lighting was provided for a public community library serving over 1000



Teacher with children from WCSL Primary School, one of the project's beneficiaries.



Children in Kormansilia village looking on at the solar installation at their primary school

Koinadugu, Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country located in West Africa. Koinadugu is the largest district in Sierra Leone and is referred to as the "breadbasket" of Sierra Leone for its agricultural productivity. Koinadugu is also one of the poorest districts in Sierra Leone. The capital of the district, Kabala, like many other parts of Sierra Leone, suffered greatly during the civil war which lasted from 1991 to 2002. The war crippled the Sierra Leonean economy and much of its infrastructure.

The electrical grid network in Sierra Leone is limited and does not extend to Kabala. The government has minimal financial resources to address the needs of the country and the prospect of electricity reaching Kabala in the next 15 years is very low. Kerosene lanterns and candles are primarily used for lighting in the evening and due to cost, are out of reach for many people.

Lighting for Education - Completion of Phase 3

The completion of the third phase of the project saw two additional schools and a children's resource centre gain solar power for lighting and a computer.

Kormansilia Primary School is now able to provide light in the evening to its students and other village groups as it is the only building in the village with electric light in the evening.

Kabala Secondary School (grades 7-12) was also able to benefit from the project. Study groups in the evenings are common, especially around the competitive exam period, and the students of Kabala Secondary School were excited about the prospect of free light. Previously the students had to pay for candles and because of the cost, would often study in groups of four or five around a single candle.

The CAUSE Kids Resource Centre also received lighting and enough solar power to run a computer. The CAUSE Kids Program provides two meals per day at school and school supplies and uniforms to children in fifteen schools throughout the region. They also run a number of educational and social programs out of the resource that add to the quality of life of the children in the region.