Little Sun Foundation

Solar Power Means Empowerment

IMPACT REPORT 2018
Dear Friends of Little Sun,

The power is in our hands to stop the worst effects of climate change, even if the challenge often seems so abstract that it is hard to imagine what we can do on our own. We ask ourselves, How does climate change affect me as an individual? How do I, as a member of society, recognise that I have individual power? There are countless people wrestling with precisely these questions, and this year some excellent answers have been proposed, giving hope for a brighter future for all.

Take for example Mary Robinson’s book Climate Justice, or the film Paris to Pittsburgh, which both feature incredible individuals fighting global climate change with local solutions. At a time when governments are not acting quickly and boldly enough, there are many other players out there who are attacking climate change head on. This is why, this year, Little Sun joined an incredible crowd of 50,000 people in Hambach Forest to urge the German government to end the use of fossil fuels – to keep it in the ground. For a second time, Little Sun also lit up the Pathway to Paris concert in San Francisco, which gathered musicians and artists in a global call to action for policymakers and leaders.

As an artist, I work to make the abstract tangible, to transform something as massive as the climate into a physical thing that you can touch and that you can be touched by. When we come into direct contact with the melting Greenland ice sheet in the immense ice blocks that make up Ice Watch, or grasp the power of the sun in our hands through Little Sun, the distant issues become local, emotional, urgent. This is the important role that art plays in changing the world. And this is what Little Sun is all about. I believe if you hold hands with the sun – or the ice – you hold hands with the future.

While Little Sun functions as a powerful symbol for global togetherness, it is most importantly your own little power plant. In parts of the world where there is no access to electricity, the little solar lamp has a huge impact and is building a future today that generations will inherit tomorrow. To achieve our goal of universal energy access for all, we need you. By donating to our Solar Power for Health Workers programme in Tanzania, you provide energy and can quite literally save lives. Find out more at littlesunfoundation.org/donate.

Together, we make a movement.

Olafur Eliasson
Board Member Little Sun Foundation
Little Sun Foundation
Global impact*

- 20,442 Students empowered with solar study lamp
- 544 Teachers supported with solar phone chargers
- 1000 Children living in refugee camps empowered with solar lamps
- 24,530,400 Extra hours of child study time*
- 21,046 People joined awareness training on renewable energies, risks of kerosene and climate protection
- 20,442 Children empowered in educational workshops on renewable energies and climate protection**
- 7,499,812,253 CO\text{2} Emissions reduced/kg*
- $4,135,389,573 Household savings over four years*
- 91,866 Lives changed off-grid*

* Based on GOGLA Impact Metrics
**from Little Sun Foundation’s distributions to school children since 2018. Based on SolarAid’s Impact Calculator.
Our vision is a future in which no child has to live without the clean and renewable energy they require to study and succeed. Unfortunately in Sub-Saharan Africa only, there are roughly 130 million children of school age without access to electricity. We empower students with access to bright, clean light and awareness training on renewable energies and climate issues. Children gain extra study time after dark, feel empowered and do better at school. They are more likely to gain a higher level of education and are no longer exposed to toxic kerosene fumes.
First project marking the official launch of the Little Sun Foundation, the Solar Schools Program aims at equipping schools in rural areas with clean and reliable energy. In the Kamonyi district, Rwanda, 96.5% of the population have no access to electricity. In March and November, Little Sun successfully delivered 13,868 solar lamps to schoolchildren and 444 solar-powered phone chargers to teachers. 2019’s goal is to have all schools in the Kamonyi district equipped! Thanks to our amazing local partners from SaferRwanda for making this happen.

“I can now help my parents on the field and use the lamp at night to do my homework. Also, I’m glad to have a light when I go outside after dark.”

TUYISENGE, 11
71,560
PEOPLE REACHED

100%
INCREASED FEELINGS OF SAFETY

96%
REPORTED HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SAVINGS, WITH AVERAGE SAVINGS OF $0.30 PER WEEK

76%
REPORTED HEALTH BENEFITS (REDUCED COUGHS, ITCHY/STRAINED EYES FROM DIRT)

Photos: Jean Bizimana, Little Sun
In summer 2018, Little Sun Foundation supported the Preschool Program in the Massai Community in Northern Tanzania through the distribution of 1500 solar lamps and 100 phone chargers. Lack of access to light has a very negative effect on the children’s ability to study as well as on their safety after dark, especially in remote areas of the country.

Location: Arusha, Tanzania
Partner: AAIDRO Archdiocese of Arusha
Children reached: 1,500
We are working with Little Sun since 2016 and can see great results with the kids. For the Maasai communities, environmental protection really matters which is why we integrate solar into our programs and educate our community about the different benefits.

STELLA MOLLEL, PROJECT COORDINATOR CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ARUSHA
Madagascar has a tremendous diversity of animals and plants that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Slash and burn agriculture, mining, illegal hunting and logging are the biggest threats to this unique piece of nature. Chances for Nature works for the conservation of species and habitats in Western Madagascar, supporting the development of people’s livelihood through environmental education, awareness and capacity building. Only about 5% of the rural population in Madagascar currently has access to electricity.

Little Sun x Chances for Nature

In August, Little Sun Foundation supported their 3-days camps “Little Rangers” in the Kindiny forests with solar lamps and teaching materials, enabling the kids to walk around after dark and learn about renewable energy.
Thanks to Little Sun, the children have a better understanding of how solar energy works, and at the same time, they felt safer after dark and we were able to discover rare animals together on a night walk.

HANRITA MARKOLF RAKOTONIRINA, PROGRAM COORDINATOR MADAGASCAR
Caritas Lebanon and their Youth Department worked with Little Sun Foundation to tackle the issue of unreliable electricity and raise awareness on renewable energies among children and youth in Lebanon, distributing 4,968 solar lamps in refugee camps and various schools all over the country.

Photos: Caritas Lebanon

Location: Lebanon, country-wide
Partner: Caritas Lebanon
Children reached: 4,968
Youth are key actors in their communities and can implement change. Youth can be ambassadors of peace through all the different sectors that they are part of. We need to empower the youth and provide them with all the needs that can help them to progress. Through Little Sun Foundation we were able to provide them with a very important need, and that is LIGHT.

PETER MAHFOUZ, HEAD OF THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT, CARITAS LEBANON
Our partner BildungsCent e.V. got our solar lamps into their ‘climate boxes’ to teach school children about sustainability and climate change. So far, already 141 schools have been equipped with the boxes full of educational material, meters, ideas on how to develop your own climate concepts and of course a Little Sun! A group of teenage students was responsible for selecting the material for the climate boxes:

“The teenagers know best what is interesting for their age group. For them it’s a great honor knowing the so compiled climate boxes will empower students across Germany to take climate action.”

Silke Ramelow, BildungsCent e.V.

In 2019, we will launch a joint program on Climate Action and Justice at Primary Schools with three schools in Germany. As part of the program, students will develop educational content based on the central question: “How do you want to live in the future?”

About BildungsCent e.V.
BildungsCent e.V.is a German NGO working in the educational sector. They aim to enhance the teaching and learning culture by fostering new educational approaches including education for sustainable development.

Photos: FUNKE Foto Services, Socrates Tassos
Access to quality health care is still an issue in large parts of rural Tanzania. Approximately 50% of pregnant women deliver at home, leading to unacceptably high rates of maternal and neonatal mortality. To improve access to healthcare and reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, Health organisations have developed digital tools to support Community Health Workers in their daily work – particularly with identifying pregnancy danger signs and counselling on the importance of delivering under skilled care at a facility. We provide them with solar-powered phone chargers and light so they have reliable access to the digital tools, can communicate in emergencies and have a safety light to travel and work after dark.
In rural areas of Zanzibar, almost half of Zanzibari women deliver their children at home due to lack of money for transport, traditional practices, and/or lack of planning. Community Health Volunteers help pregnant women overcome these barriers and provide advice on key health topics. As many of the Volunteers lack electricity in their homes, Little Sun has equipped 250 of them with portable solar-powered phone chargers and has pledged to donate 500 more Little Sun Charges, aiming at equipping all Community Health Volunteers. Solar energy allows them to work efficiently in assuring safe and high quality health care to the women and families who need it.

Watch the video and hear from Amina, Community Health Volunteer since 2011: littlesun.com/powerzanzibar

About D-Tree
Working in over 12 countries since 2004, D-tree International is a leading digital health organization leveraging technology to build digital solutions that strengthen health systems, improve program quality and achieve health impact. D-tree International has demonstrated that digital health systems can improve clinical decision-making, increase health worker motivation and performance, and lead to better health outcomes. D-tree works through partnerships with Ministries of Health and NGOs to effectively integrate technology into health systems to improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery.
We usually take electricity for granted, but when the power is out, it becomes a horrifying and painful experience. It can mean turning to candles or kerosene lamps, which can be dangerous, scarce or expensive. Around the world, consistent access to power is a problem worsened by hurricanes, earthquakes and monsoons. In response to the devastation resulting from recent hurricanes and earthquakes we are sending portable solar powered lamps and phone chargers to people affected by disaster. To get the power units to the people who need them, we are partnering with local non-profits, which respond to disasters and distribute the items within their relief programs. That keeps the costs down and allows for fast response.

Little Sun Chargers being distributed in Puerto Rico with Save the Children US.  

Photo: Save the Children
Little Sun Foundation brought light and power to children and their families who continue to live without power six months after Hurricane Maria. We donated 60 solar powered phone chargers distributed in partnership with Save the Children US.
Little Suns made their way to Dolpo, Nepal

*Photos: Dan Lin*
In 2017, the Pathway to Paris concert marked the launch of a new initiative called 1000 Cities, inviting all cities of the world to transition away from fossil fuels and move to 100% renewable energy by 2040. In 2018, Olafur again led the audience in creating a Little Sunrise using 2,400 Little Sun solar lamps.

From San Francisco to Nepal...

Location: San Francisco
Partner: Pathway to Paris
People reached: 2,400

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With the support of the Little Sun Foundation, the lamps were afterwards sent to communities living in high-altitude, remote areas of Nepal without access to electricity. Kudos to our friends from Upaya Zen Center and Everest Awakening for making this possible on the ground!

Follow their journey here:
littlesun.com/p2p

...with Pathway to Paris

Location: Nepal
Partner: Upaya Zen Centre and Everest Awakening
People reached: 2,400
On Governors Island in New York City, solar lamps lit a guided walk, creating a collective work of art in August. Co-created by the students of Usdan Summer Camps for the Arts, Nate Koch, and Little Sun Foundation, the Solar Nightwalk brought together almost 200 people, raising awareness for energy access whilst holding the power of the sun in their hands! Governors Island is a former military base turned into a destination for recreation, culture and innovation offering a wide range of sustainability programs.
The Little Sun Foundation won the WeWork Creator Award! The $72,000 granted by WeWork will help us bring solar lamps and chargers to rural Rwandan communities, especially school children and teachers, to improve access to education.
Little Sun is all about campaigning for global access to clean energy. A big support to this endeavour is the ongoing media coverage. Thanks to everyone around the globe who featured our mission throughout 2018 and spread the word about energy access for all! Let’s share the good energy and bring even more solar to the world in 2019.
Thank you to everyone, near and far, who has helped furthering the Little Sun Foundation’s solar mission to bring energy access to all.

Special thanks to all the interns, solar advocates and fans all around the world for your support throughout 2018.
Because Solar Power Means Empowerment

Donate & Connect at littlesunfoundation.org

About us
The Little Sun Foundation was founded by artist Olafur Eliasson to deliver solar energy to the most vulnerable communities worldwide. The charitable entity works with qualified partners such as Oxfam, Save the Children, UNHCR, and IOM to bring high-quality, durable, long-lasting solar products to displaced people and school children who would otherwise not have access to clean energy at all. The Foundation’s solar-education programmes aim to provide children with tools and knowledge that empower them to shape a sustainable future for themselves and for the planet.

Little Sun Foundation e.V.
Christinenstr. 18/19
10119 Berlin
Germany