

Results of the Key Informant Interviews (KII) on Solar Lamp Distribution

World Vision

Typhoon Haiyan Response, East Leyte Zone and Panay Zone, October 2014



Photo by Communications Team

INTRODUCTION

The actual data collection mainly through KII was undertaken last September 29- October 2, 2014. The purpose of which was to gather specific information from the beneficiaries on the following:

- a. Benefits derived from the solar lamp received
- b. Challenges encountered in using the solar lamp
- c. Satisfaction level on the distribution process
- d. Recommendations for improvement

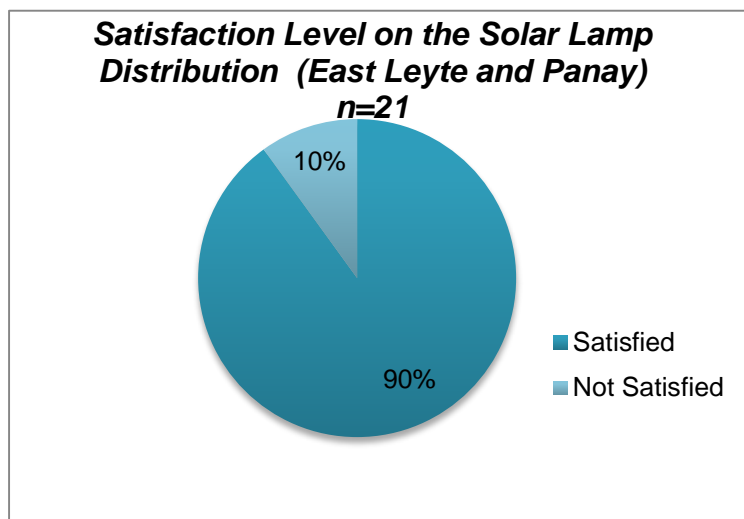
The team who collected the data was composed of 4 individuals from the Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) unit of the THR in Eastern Leyte and also 4 from Panay.

RESPONDENTS

Respondents of the KII were mostly brgy officials (86%) while 14% were members of the Cash for Work Committee (CFWC). Profile of the respondents is presented below:

Zone	Gender Disaggregation		Total	Barangays/Municipalities
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
<i>Eastern Leyte</i>	2	8	10	Abucay, Tacloban City ; Bugho, Langit, Alang-alang ; Maliwaliw, Lobe-lobe East, Dagami ; and Alegre, Dulag
<i>Panay</i>	8	3	11	Botongon, Gogo, Estancia ; Mambuquiao, Tabon and Man-up, Batan
TOTAL			21	11 barangays, 1 City, 5 Municipalities

SATISFACTION LEVEL



High satisfaction level is noted on the solar lamps distribution for both Eastern Leyte and Panay. Of the ten (10) informants from East Leyte 90% (9) expressed satisfaction with the distribution while only one (1) signified her dissatisfaction saying that only the Abucay bunkhouse residents were the ones provided with the solar lamp excluding those residents from Brgy. Abucay.

Some feedback gathered included one concerning malfunction of solar lamp (was not switching on) and another saying that non-recipients were angry. In addition, 91% (10) of the informants from Panay were also satisfied while one informant expressed that he was somewhat satisfied since the number of solar lamps brought by World Vision during one of the distributions was not enough. He added though that this was immediately solved thus everyone was still able to receive the lamp the same day.

The informants said that they were generally happy and grateful having received the lamps. The feedback gathered before by the Accountability team from the beneficiaries during and after the distribution is consistent with this.

Reasons for satisfaction and benefits attributed to the solar lamp are presented below.

BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO SOLAR LAMP

- Source of light
- Save electricity expenses
- Used for cell phone charging
- Lamp is durable

REASONS FOR SATISFACTION

- Distribution process was organized/systematic
- Items were distributed to all HH
- All households with students were prioritized.
- Fast and on schedule

"There was no electricity during the distribution last January and it was only restored in May. Until now our solar lamps are still functional because we are taking good care of it. We still use it when there is power interruption. We are also able to save on our electric consumption since we will just put the solar lamp in the sun and it is ready ready for later use."-
Brgy. Council, female

Generally there had been good feedback as to the usefulness or relevance of the solar lamp for both Eastern Leyte and Panay. Solar lamp being the source of light at home is the most frequently mentioned benefit. Some of the key informants said that it had been a great help during those times when power lines were down and took a long time for the electricity to be restored. In lieu of electricity, people used solar lamps when they were traveling at night or doing some work at dawn like farming, fishing and hunting. This is supported by the feedbacks gathered during previous distributions. It was noted that children also used the lamp when studying.

According to the key informants, the solar lamps are still being used to this day especially when there is power interruption. Families being able to save on expenses on electricity and kerosene are the second most mentioned benefit for East Leyte while this is the top 1 for Panay.

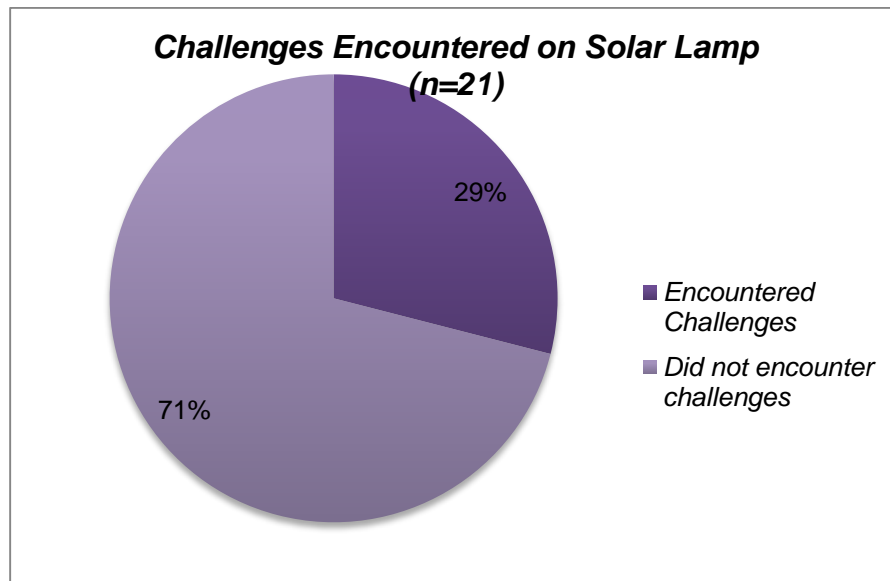
As pointed out by one key informant from Eastern Leyte, instead of paying for electricity and kerosene, money is used for food and education allowance of children.

Furthermore, the lamps being used for charging is the 3rd most mentioned benefit for Eastern Leyte while this was the 2nd for Panay. As pointed out by one informant from Eastern Leyte, the lamp is multi-functional which makes it different from those solar lamps that are sold in the market which cannot be used for charging. The lamps being durable was also identified as a benefit for Eastern Leyte informants.

Among the reasons cited for the satisfaction is the distribution process being organized and systematic (top 1 for both Eastern Leyte and Panay). It was mentioned that the process was fast with people lined up accordingly. In Panay, beneficiaries with students were prioritized. Distribution was also a "blanket" one (meaning every household was provided). One informant from Eastern Leyte appreciated the fact that proxies were allowed in claiming the lamps provided that one is a certified representative of the household.

"It is 90% good because even if the HH head was not present during the distribution as long as there is a representative from that particular HH, the solar lamp was still released."-Brgy. Secretary, female

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED



Seventy one (71%) of the respondents (15 respondents) from both zones did not encounter challenges while those who encountered challenges (6 respondents) attributed such to the following:

- Some of the lamps received did not produce lights (this was brought to the attention of WV staff who then provided replacements)
- Distribution was not a blanket one (from East Leyte respondent)
- At first, some did not know how to use the solar lamp for charging (from East Leyte respondent)
- Item was not sufficient to provide light for the whole house (from Panay respondent)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE KEY INFORMANTS

Asked about what could have been done differently related to the distribution of solar lamps, the following were the expressed recommendations:

- Provision of a bigger solar lamp or higher wattage which can cover a whole house
- To have a blanket distribution
- Use of green card (e.g.in Abucay bunkhouse) during distribution so as to ensure that each household will be able to receive. (Green cards are the ones used by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in some areas during relief distribution)
- Distribution must be per Purok so that people will not waste their time in waiting
- Ensure that the lists are in order and thoroughly checked so as to avoid HH receiving twice
- Designate entrance and exit areas to avoid overcrowding during distribution
- Explain thoroughly to the beneficiaries the flow of the distribution to avoid confusion. The process must be strictly implemented
- Ensure participation of beneficiaries during the orientation on how to use the item to be distributed.

*“It would have been more helpful like in decreasing our monthly electric bills had we been given a bigger solar lamp which we can use at night.”- **Brgy. Council member. male***

Additional notes from the review of secondary data and information gathered in the course of regular monitoring some months ago after the distribution of solar lamps across the response zones

Generally there had been good feedback as to the usefulness/relevance: children able to study, used by fishermen out in the sea, for mothers preparing food before sunrise, etc. (ie. for Panay, and likely the same for other zones). The accountability team had gathered notes from beneficiaries expressing gratitude and other similar stories were also published by Comms.

Although generally positive, one issue was about timeliness in the distribution. For example, solar lamps were supposed to be included in the shelter kits distributed during the emergency phase which did not happen. At one point assessment (regarding the need for such) was rushed and the eventual separate distribution since the timeframe for a specific grant was about to end and the beneficiary selection was just starting. This was specifically true for North Cebu where restoration of power lines was relatively fast. Though not really significant in number, there was an incident or two reported about selling of solar lamps immediately after the distribution which raised the discussion on the beneficiaries' priorities and actual need at that time.

As to the idea of prepositioning solar lamps, one of the lessons learned identified for the DFATD1 project as reflected in one of the reports from the programme which also supports the above statement:

“Given the damage to the electrical power grid, solar lamps should have been introduced much earlier. Beneficiaries greatly appreciated solar lamps for both their light giving properties and their cellular phone charging function. For future large scale disaster where electrical systems sustain significant damage, solar lamps should be incorporated into a standard NFI kit.”

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