

d.light in the Humanitarian Space

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d.light's experience in responding to humanitarian crises began in 2010 with the Haitian earthquake. Within 24 hours of the earthquake, d.light was in contact with representatives of the World Bank and other leading humanitarian organizations in Haiti to assess the situation and to find a way to support these relief efforts. The World Bank partnered with d.light to bring 40,000 d.light solar lanterns into Haiti in support of communities devastated by the earthquake. These d.light lanterns were distributed by Electriciens Sans Frontieres and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), who were able to ensure these lanterns reached the most vulnerable Haitian households as well as key medical facilities.

Since then, d.light has partnered with donor agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other multilateral institutions to effectively respond to emerging crises. In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, d.light worked closely with both the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Vision to deliver over 20,000 solar lanterns to families and institutions displaced by the storm. More recently, d.light partnered with Oxfam and Church's Auxiliary



for Social Action (CASA) in India to provide over 4,000 lanterns to communities affected by massive flooding in Jammu and Kashmir. d.light has significant experience working in active conflict zones, with regular sales and operations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Myanmar, and northern Nigeria.

d.light also has experience partnering with humanitarian organizations to deliver high-quality solar power products to refugees, internally displaced persons, and other chronically vulnerable communities. d.light provided Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp with 5,000 lanterns in partnership with Windle Trust while in Ethiopia's Dolo Ado refugee camp, d.light distributed 20,000 lanterns to Somali refugees in partnership with World Vision. Working with the Norwegian Refugee Council, d.light also delivered 10,000 lanterns to IDP camps in the Waziristan region of Pakistan. d.light also provided UNICEF with 5,000 lanterns to support education and child protection projects in South Sudan.

d.light has been an industry leader with regard to participating in studies to determine the impact of solar lighting in emergency response activities. d.light has worked with UNHCR's

Shelter Cluster in Somalia and the International Rescue Committee in Haiti to assess the utility of solar lanterns in reducing gender-based violence and protection concerns for women living in camps for internally displaced persons. The IRC study concluded that “Over 95% of women in the study reported using the lamps at least once a day and said they would recommend them to friends. The solar lamps became the most popular source of lighting both in and outside the home, with 85% of women reporting using the solar lamps inside, and 70% outside, in the past week.” However, they also found that “Handheld solar lamps alone cannot effectively address the complex root causes of gender-based violence. Operational agencies should provide a more comprehensive risk-reduction package for women and girls in emergency settings.” While these findings are not surprising, this study was just the beginning of the rigorous research needed to prove the need for solar lanterns in emergency settings.

d.light has a long-term perspective in its response to humanitarian crises and seeks to play an active role in driving the economic recovery of communities affected by such crises. d.light works to build upon its initial engagement as a best in class partner in the emergency phase. It works to responsively provide product in short timelines with flexible payment terms. It also works with partners to advise on distribution strategies and after sales mechanisms. At this point in the response, d.light strives



to work with partners to start planning the recovery phase of implementation. In most contexts, d.light works to link emergency activities with sustainable market development, through linking partners with new or established sales and distribution presence in country. This enables d.light to contribute to the long-term recovery and development of crisis-affected communities through providing employment opportunities and access to cost-saving renewable energy products sustainably. In Haiti, for example, d.light’s initial engagement in response to the 2010 earthquake has grown into a long-term distribution partnership, with over 700 women currently selling d.light in Haiti.

The need for clean energy in emergency settings is growing, yet humanitarian organizations have been slow to recognize both the need and opportunity. The humanitarian community must start treating private sector actors as partners, not just suppliers, if we are to improve the delivery and access of clean energy products throughout the response and recovery phases of crises.