



SOLAR LAMPS DISTRIBUTION INITIATIVE

UNFPA SYRIA

“We suffer from permanent power outages, and we are afraid a lot at night. This lamp is very useful as it will help me and all mothers take care of our children at night. It is also important for the elderly people because it will help them move around in the house at night without any fear.” Recalls Om Kareem, a resident of Duma in Rural Damascus.

11,000

solar lamps donated by Signify Foundation

9,280

solar lamps distributed as of August

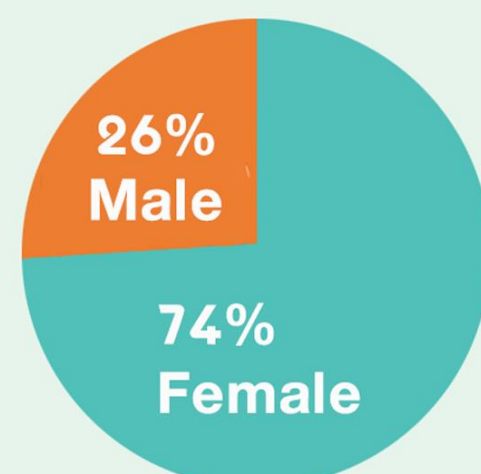
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Syria governorates targeted

With the support of Signify Foundation's, UNFPA distributed solar lamps to 9,280 households facing daily electricity shortages. The Signify-supported initiative prioritized pregnant and lactating women, elderly people, people with disabilities, vulnerable adolescent girls and female-headed households.

The distribution of solar power in Syria is crucial considering that most families are currently living with constant electricity shortages due to poor infrastructure, limiting mobility and completion of household duties, while increasing women's and girls' vulnerability at night. The solar lamps benefited the community across gender and age groups. Most households indicated that the project directly impacted their security and safety, as well as their health and wellbeing, while facilitating the completion of familial duties. Families emphasized the current need for solar power, considering the regular power shortages felt throughout Syria.

Targeted Group for Distribution



"I had twins recently, breastfeeding them with the frequent power cuts was very difficult, this solar lamp will help me a lot while breastfeeding my children." Female beneficiary, Salamiyeh- Rural Hama.

The distribution also supported the well-being of people experiencing functional difficulties, such as elders and injured individuals.

"I'm an old man, and I live alone. I have fallen a lot while going to the bathrooms which are outside of my house at night. With this solar lamp, I will never fall again." Elderly male beneficiary, Salamiyeh- Rural Hama

"I like to go out at night, especially in the summer, but I have to lean a lot on my crutches, and I am afraid of tripping at this age. My crutches may help me during the day, but at night, especially during a power outage, darkness prevents us from going out for a walk or meeting our needs. Thanks to the solar lamp, we can now go out in the evening." Abu Muhammad and his wife, Om al-Toyour, Lattakia countryside

The distribution of solar lamps has increased feeling of safety in the distributed locations. It also decreases women's and girls' vulnerability at night time, and facilitates the realization of both educational and household activities while alleviating families' difficulties during the evening.

Thanks to the UNFPA-Signify Foundation initiative, families can safely access services and facilities outside their home, children can complete their homework after school, and women can breastfeed. Shops and small businesses can also operate after dark, allowing families to generate more income, which is vital amidst Syria's deteriorating economic situation.

Working towards the Sustainable Development Goals

UNFPA-Signify Foundation distribution directly addresses protection issues related to women's and girls' vulnerability, especially when moving outside the household at night time. The service supports women feeling safe and supported by overcoming mobility barriers.

Solar lamps further allow remote communities' access to affordable, reliable and sustainable clean energy. Solar power is an emission-free, infinitely renewable resource that is less susceptible to changing energy prices, providing for future savings compared to other power sources. This is critical in Syria, considering the current financial crisis.



Distribution of solar lamps in Homs Governorate

The initiative has had a remarkable impact on the daily life of the benefited communities, yet, millions of Syrian families are still facing daily electricity shortages nationwide, which highlights the need for more distributions of solar lamps.