

GreenLamp Annual Executive Summary 2014

Introduction

GreenLamp was founded in November 2012. GreenLamp's founding members were inspired by Nicholas Kristof's and Sheryl Wu Dunn's book „Half the Sky – how to change the world“ and the African proverb „... if you educate a woman, you educate a community.“

The objectives of GreenLamp are to promote the rights of women and girls in the developing world and to spread awareness about vital issues to communities in the industrialized world.

GreenLamp's vision is a bright future for women and girls. Our mission is to support community-based projects in low-income countries that empower women and girls to reach their full potential. GreenLamp believes that the combination of improved health and education will enable the empowerment of women and girls.

Our area of focus for 2013-17 is the prevention of birth traumatic injuries in general, and of the widely spread and mostly unknown issue of fistula in particular.

Education of midwives

GreenLamp is supporting the education of midwives and their deployment to health centers in rural Ethiopia, which will help in the diagnosis and prevention of birth traumatic injuries such as fistulas. It will also help in the reduction of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates. Our goal is to achieve behavioral changes by encouraging women to give birth at their nearest health center with the support of a certified midwife.

GreenLamp works with a local Ethiopian partner, the Hamlin College of Midwives in Addis Ababa, founded by Dr. Catherine Hamlin in 2007.

In September 2014 we were thrilled by the graduation of our first certified midwife, Belaynesh Siraw. Belaynesh is now deployed to a health center in her home region Amhara. During 2014 we raised funds to finance the tuition fee for two additional students who started their four year education in September 2014.



Dr. Catherine Hamlin with midwifery students and colleagues at Hamlin Fistula Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Light for Life Solar Suitcase project

To additionally support the midwives in their work and to minimize birth risks at night, GreenLamp raised funds to implement 166 Solar Suitcases supplying solar power, LED lights and fetal dopplers to delivery wards in rural health centers. This will have a substantial effect on the reduction of mortality and morbidity rates since many births occur at night. Our goal is that the midwives become an authority figure in their communities through their control of the solar light and power e.g. for the charging of mobiles. Their commitment and outreach work will enable them to be role models for other women and girls, and promote female initiative and community development.

To secure the success of the Light for Life project we are working with the UBS Optimus Foundation as co-funding partner, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia as implementing partner and We Care Solar as the supplier of the solar suitcase.



Midwives at the Abessame HC Solar Suitcase training testing the fetal doppler

During 2014, 42 suitcases were deployed in three regions of Ethiopia. GreenLamp participated in the first installations in the Amhara region in March and installations in the northern region of Tigray last November. From January 2015, our local partner Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia will roll out a further 124 solar suitcases in four other regions of Ethiopia with the objective of completing the GreenLamp Light for Life solar suitcase project by summer 2015.

The figures from the first 21 installations in the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2014 show an increase in the average number of deliveries of up to 60%. All Solar Suitcase installations are followed up on a monthly basis, and the impact will be evaluated by Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia and by an external expert. The evaluation will focus on the number of day-time and night-time deliveries, the detection of cases that need to be referred to a local hospital, antenatal and postnatal care visits, as well as family planning visits.

One of GreenLamp's Light for Life project goals is consistent with the Ethiopian Health Ministry's goal of increasing the number of deliveries at health facilities. GreenLamp simultaneously has the goal of empowering midwives to become positive role models in rural communities.

Events and activities 2014:

AGM, Herrliberg	24 February
Travel to and installation of Solar Suitcases, Amhara region, Ethiopia	March
Fund raising event Widder Hotel, Zürich	27 March
Presentation of Solar Suitcase, WHO, Geneva	18 May
Presentation of GreenLamp, Hamlin event, Geneva	23 May
GreenLamp and We Care Solar, Sustainia100, Oslo	16 June
GreenLamp and We Care Solar, UNIDO, Vienna	August
Travel to and installations of Solar Suitcases, Tigray region, Ethiopia	November
Presentation of GreenLamp, SWEA, Zürich	01 November
Right Livelihood Award, Zürich	02 December
Hamlin International Christmas Market, Geneva	14 December

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President