

Solar Lamp — how it works, and why it helps

A one-page guide for NGO field staff to explain the lamp before a family accepts it. Read it aloud in the local language if needed. Keep a copy with the lamp.

WHAT THIS LAMP IS

This is a portable solar lamp for a home with no reliable electricity. Point to the parts as you speak: the dark panel on top is the solar charger; the round metal button on the side turns the light on and off; a small green lamp shows it is working; holes at the corners take a strap so it can hang. The light shines downward — warm enough to study, cook, and move around after sunset. There are no wires to install and no fuel to buy.

WHY A FAMILY SHOULD ACCEPT IT

Many households spend money every month on kerosene, or they cook and study by a smoky fire. That light is dim, the fumes can make children sick, and an open flame is a fire risk. This lamp replaces that danger with clean light. After the sun has charged it, using it costs nothing.

- **Safer.** No open flame and no indoor smoke — safer than kerosene.
- **Useful.** Bright enough to read a printed page and to light a cooking area when hung nearby.
- **Lasts the night.** One sunny day's charge lasts a full evening (about 12 hours; longer if you use it less).
- **Easy to place.** Light enough to carry in one hand. Hang it, or set it down.

HOW TO USE IT — SHOW THIS WITH THE LAMP IN HAND

1. **Charge by day.** Place the lamp where the sun hits the dark panel — windowsill, courtyard, or rooftop — for several hours. Strong sun can fill the battery in about half a day; clouds charge more slowly. Do not leave the light on while charging.
2. **Bring it inside at dusk.** Carry it in. Wipe the panel if it is dusty so it can charge again tomorrow.
3. **Press the round metal button.** That is the only control. Press again to turn it off when you no longer need light, so the battery lasts longer.
4. **Hang it so the light falls on the work.** Thread the strap through the corner holes. Hang it from a roof hook, wall nail, or door handle so the beam points down onto a book, the floor, or the cooking place. In tests, this was bright enough to read from printed pages.

CARE AND SAFETY — SAY THIS BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Keep the lamp out of rain and standing water. Wipe the solar panel with a dry cloth.
- Do not open the case or pull the batteries. Do not let children use it as a toy.
- If it stops working, return it to the NGO. Do not break it open to salvage parts.
- This lamp lights a room. It does not cook food, and it will not charge a phone.

BEFORE THE HOUSEHOLD ACCEPTS THE LAMP — NGO CHECKLIST

Walk through these points with the family. Do not leave the lamp until they can answer yes.

- ☐ They have a sunny place to charge the lamp most days of the week.
- ☐ They can repeat: sun by day, button at night, hang the light where they study or cook.
- ☐ They will not run the light while charging, and they will switch it off when they sleep.
- ☐ If this lamp was given as aid, they will not sell it or take it apart.
- ☐ They know the NGO contact if the lamp fails.

Savitar Labs designs this lamp for energy-poor homes. The goal is simple: a child can study after sunset without kerosene.