



Stories — from the — — Field.

Stories from the Field

From purpose-driven youth leaders in Cambodia, to communities across Grenada and Sierra Leone, this edition of Stories from the Field highlights what's possible when we unite for a brighter future.

Happy reading!



Programs Powering Greater Impact

As someone who has supported our journey to illuminate futures, you know the life-changing power of energy access.

Now, SolarBuddy is evolving how we deliver that power.

We're growing our regionally focused programs, designed to respond directly to the needs of communities experiencing energy poverty. We're also expanding our program delivery, providing families with more education opportunities, livelihood activities, and improved health outcomes through clean, reliable energy solutions.



Programs Powering Greater Impact

You'll also see more clarity, flexibility, and connection to the impact you make possible. Whether you support a whole region, a specific country, or a local project, your contribution will be even more visible, targeted and more powerful than ever.

At SolarBuddy, we're deeply committed to ensuring every contribution, whether it's a generous donation, or a corporate investment, creates lasting impact where it's needed most.

Your support powers real change: lighting up lives, supporting children's education, and building stronger, more resilient communities across the globe. Together, we're not just gifting light – we're illuminating futures.

[Explore our Programs](#)

Youth-Led Impact in Cambodia



Karen students holding up their new JuniorBuddy lights

SolarBuddy believes in supporting local leaders to make a global difference, and through our [Southeast Asia Program](#), a group of inspiring young leaders from Cambodia are proving that age is no barrier to impact.

We provided over 2,000 solar solutions to our long-standing distribution partner, [Cambodia Rural Students Trust](#), who joined forces with the [Karen Women's Organisation](#) to deliver JuniorBuddy and StudentBuddy devices to displaced students from the Karen community living along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

For decades, the Karen community has endured systemic persecution, armed conflict and displacement. Many families have sought refuge along the Thailand-Myanmar border, only to face new challenges, including the absence of basic services like electricity.

Ten student leaders from Cambodia Rural Students Trust led this powerful mission, navigating river crossings, pick-up truck rides, boat journeys, and trekking through remote terrain to reach the schools.

In addition to distributing solar solutions, the team also facilitated educational workshops and Days for Girls menstruation kits, supporting opportunities for learning, safety and dignity.

With their new SolarBuddy devices, the community has:

- Improved educational opportunities through safe lighting after dark
- Enhanced health and wellbeing by reducing exposure to toxic fumes from kerosene and candles
- Youth empowerment and leadership development, building skills and confidence for future pathways
- Positive environmental impact, replacing polluting fuels with clean, sustainable solar energy

Together, these young changemakers are lighting the way toward a brighter future for all!

[Watch their journey here](#)



Students Equipped with JuniorBuddies in Sierra Leone



Student in Sierra Leone holding their JuniorBuddy and new school supplies

For many students in Sierra Leone, the setting sun once signalled the end of learning for the day.

In Sierra Leone, 64% of the population still live without access to electricity*. Even where the grid exists, energy shortages and reliance on expensive, polluting diesel fuel result in frequent power outages. This lack of reliable energy deeply affects essential services like schools and healthcare facilities.

SolarBuddy is working to change this reality through our partnership with [The Fig Tree Children](#). Together, we distributed JuniorBuddy lights to students across Sierra Leone, and now they can continue their studies with confidence and consistency, well beyond daylight hours.

*<https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/country/sierra-leone>



The Fig Tree Children team distributing JuniorBuddies across Sierra Leone

From Conversations to Impact in Grenada



Young students smiling with their JuniorBuddies

Conversations spark change. Lena, the Founder of [Lena Marshall Foundation](#), spoke with parents across Grenada, Liberia and Sierra Leone who shared their main concern that without electricity, their children must use their parents' mobile phone torch to study after dark.

Informed by these conversations, SolarBuddy worked with the Lena Marshall Foundation to distribute solar devices across Carriacou and Petite Martinique, 2 of Grenada's islands. These JuniorBuddy lights are now helping students make the most of their time, supporting learning, safety and brighter futures, without the shadow of darkness.



Young students smiling with their JuniorBuddies

Hear from Lena about an event she hosted back in February this year, raising awareness for energy poverty. We love the shared passion that our partners, like Lena, have toward ending energy poverty.

[Watch here](#)



Distribution Updates

Across July

- 2,000 solutions are on their way to Cambodia

Inspired by these stories?

Your support keeps the momentum going. With your help, we can end energy poverty and illuminate futures for more communities around the world.

[Donate Here](#)



I'm endlessly inspired by the incredible support from our community. Together, we're not just lighting the way for children around the world—we're empowering them to dream, learn, and build brighter futures.

Thank you for being such an essential part of this journey.

Elly Harris

In-Country Impact Manager



Take a look at the regions we are so proud & privileged to distribute lights to!

Check out [Our Impact](#) page!

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