

Fingo Powerbank Outsourced Experimentations

Solar media backpacks in Kenya

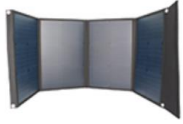
By World Vision Kenya, World Vision Finland

fingo

PACKAGE INCLUDES



MODULAR BATTERY SYSTEM



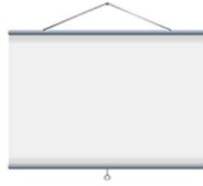
80W SOLAR PANEL



PROJECTOR



AUDIO



PROJECTOR SCREEN



Introduction

- World Vision Kenya is a development and humanitarian organization that implements projects with multiple thematic areas in rural and remote areas in Kenya where electricity is not always available or reliable.
- The staff moves around a lot in project areas providing training and organizing review and coordination meetings etc. with communities and stakeholders such as local authorities.
- With a projector that is not dependent on availability of electricity WV staff and partners can make presentations and use audiovisual materials making trainings and meetings more effective and interesting.
- The aim of the experiment was to test this assumption, find out how is it to use the Smart Solar Media-system and what are possible challenges and hiccups.
- The number of beneficiaries was not calculated. Originally the equipment was to be used in four project offices/field offices during 6 months to collect as much as data and experiences as possible.

Collaborations/partnerships

- The experiment includes collaboration with the inventor and manufacturer of the Smart Solar Media system (SSM), a small Finnish company called Tespack.
- Tespack was responsible for shipping the bags to Kenya after manufacturing them in Finland.
- Once WV projects/field offices had received bags, Tespack provided a virtual training for the staff and shared video tutorials and manuals.

- We will continue the partnership with Tespack in Uganda in piloting the SSM, but additionally combined with introducing renewable energy solutions and SSM to other stakeholders and partners and with focus on education sector.

- As such, there are different options and possibilities for collaboration. However, at the end of the day the company wants to sell their product and is looking for paying customers so there are natural limits for the partnership.

Results and successes

- It is at the moment too early to talk about the results of the experimentation as it has only started few week ago due to number of challenges (next slide).
- Unfortunately the solar media bag have been used so far in only few occasions.
- However, based on these few times the staff have find it useful. There as few small technical challenges, but troubleshooting is ongoing and we will also be in contact with the company Tespack.
- We have developed a detailed questionnaire about the use; what occasion, who were beneficiaries, did it make things easier, what impact) and will report on these to Fingo later on.
- Findings will tell us if the SSM system could and should be used in other World Vision projects and offices (and those by other organizations)

Challenges and modifications during implementation

- COVID-19: We ordered four SSM bags in April/May, but the company was not able to get all parts/components from Asia/China and could not make and assemble the bags. Only in September the bags were sent to Kenya. However, they got stuck in the customs for almost three months.
- The MFA of Finland funded projects ended in December and finalization of new ones was done in January and February. Hence there were not so many normal project activities happening.
- One SSM bag was sent to WV office in Northern Baringo, but due to the security situation activities there were put on hold. It was decided to transfer this bag to Kakuma refugee settlement, but this has not taken place yet due to security situation
- In West Pokot, in Northwest Kenya, the equipment was used in the WV office, but once taken to the field there were technical challenges that are now being addressed.

Principles for Digital Development

- **Design with the user** - Plan International originally participated in the development of the SSM bag and WV will provide the company Tespack our feedback (we already have some).
- We believe that the SSM can improve our processes and save WV staff time and resources.
- We believe that later on with SSM system we can take certain services for example digital learning to those who are underserved like children in rural schools.
- **Design for Scale** - Experiences from using SSM bag can easily be shared to other organizations and within World Vision Kenya and WV International.
- **Be data Driven** – we will try to collect data on how the SSM was used.

Feasibility for scaling

- If we find that Smart Solar Media system really makes our work more efficient and effective we can consider buying more bags and introduce it within WV international partnership.
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