



IEDA Relief Cameroon – Highlight Report
Solar Lights Create Safer Environment for Refugees
Eastern Region: Lolo Site, Batouri
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Summary

IEDA Relief realized that a lack of proper lighting was having a negative impact on refugees, and installed solar lighting to combat these issues. With the addition of lights in the Lolo site, security and freedom of movement have greatly improved for the refugee community.



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The Context

Lolo is a small village located 92 km from Batouri in the Eastern Region of Cameroon. A site created for refugees was established in Lolo in response to the emergency in neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR). The population living at Lolo comes from different regions of CAR that share borders with Cameroon. This proximity facilitated the crossing of refugees from CAR to the country of asylum.

Lolo is among the largest sites in Cameroon, housing 11,311 individual refugees or 3,247 households based on the most recent survey conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As a partner of the UNHCR, IEDA Relief is charged with meeting various needs of those living at Lolo site, as well as advocating for lasting solutions such as the social and economic integration of refugees into their host communities.

The darkness of each night at Lolo created fears of all kinds within the refugee population. It was a very difficult environment because even the nightly watch was ineffective due to the lack of lighting. By installing solar streetlights, IEDA Relief provided an important increase in security to the refugees living at Lolo, allowing them to lead a life without fear of aggression during the day or night.

Previously, incidents of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) were prevalent in Lolo because of the absence of light. The incidence of SGBV has drastically decreased since IEDA Relief installed lights, targeting high traffic areas such as toilets and water points.

The lights have had a positive impact on the lives of refugees in other ways as well. A trader noted that his daily income has increased due to the fact that he could now sell later into the evening. The trader wants to create more small shops at the site and create autonomy and self-sufficiency, which would ultimately allow him to leave the site. Currently men, women, and children go about their lives without fear, and young people can even collect water into the night now that there is lighting. Small children can play into the evening before going to bed. All of this could not have been done before the advent of solar streetlights at Lolo.

In total, IEDA Relief and the UNHCR have installed 45 streetlights in all of the refugee sites in Cameroun, including the regions of the Far North and the Adamaoua.

"The villagers are very happy with this lamp. Every night they come to the leadership to meet and discuss.

I can even receive strangers without anyone being bothered by the darkness, we can only say a big thank you to IEDA Relief. "

-Nicolas, Head of Lolo Site

The Story in Images



Image of children in their huts (shelter).

N°	Location	Number of Solar Lamps
1	Gado and surrounding villages	7
2	Borgop and surrounding villages	6
3	Ngam and surrounding villages	3
4	Lolo and surrounding villages	7
5	Mbile and surrounding villages	5
6	Timangolo and surrounding villages	5
7	Ngarisingo and surrounding villages	2
<i>Sub-total East and Adamaoua</i>		35
8	Minawao Camp	10
<i>Sub-total for Minawao Camp</i>		10
Total GENERAL		45