

SOLAR-POWERED LIGHTING AND DRINKING-WATER SUPPLY FOR COMMUNITIES

Almost without infrastructure, the rural areas of Burkina Faso lack not only electricity, but also the access to abundant and clean water taken for granted in richer countries. Suitable groundwater is often present, but it first has to be discovered, tapped and distributed. As of today, scarce water, often far below health standards, has to be fetched over long distances, and is so expensive that it is used very sparingly. The price to be paid is not limited to time and money; the available water is a health hazard, public and private hygiene are affected, and most people cannot afford small-scale gardening.

One solution is to use solar power to pump clean water from underground sources into ground-level reservoirs. This provides local communities with fresh and clean water for drinking, cooking, washing, hygiene, livestock and growing plants. One particular feature of the present project is to also address the special needs of a community school. This allows a better protection of the water supply, improves school attendance, and even makes it possible to operate a large garden for teaching purposes and vegetable production.

The solar energy required for operating the pump can also be used in the evening for lighting, helping improve working and teaching conditions and social life.

BIBLE AND AGRICULTURE SCHOOL (EFBAB) IN BANANKÉLÉDAGA

Where and for whom: Banankélédaga is a village 10 miles west of Bobo-Dioulasso. A school for biblical training and agriculture has been founded there some 40 years ago. Its operation requires a lot of energy, mostly for drawing water and for lighting. The staff and students of the school, but also their families and the children of the attached primary school will all benefit from the project.

Needs: To continue with its work, the school needs to reduce as much as possible its operating costs and especially its electricity bill. It therefore needs a source of renewable energy.

Objectives: The project will provide the school with photovoltaic power for drawing water and for lighting.

Technical aspects: Two separate systems will be installed at the Banankélédaga school. One, with 1 kW of solar panels and a battery for energy storage, will provide lighting, powering 40 lamps and a few ventilators. A second one with 2 kW of solar panels, will drive a pump to draw and distribute drinking water.

Budget: The total budget is around 6 million CFA, or approximately 9'500 CHF.



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The association was granted tax-exemption status in 2018; donations to it are tax-deductible in Switzerland.

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