

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.

GARDEN OF THE WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF KADIOGO

Where and for whom: The Women's Association « Zems Taaba » of Kadiogo aims to improve women's living and working conditions. In addition to promotional activities (mutual aid, hygiene, sanitation), the association also operates a large garden to raise funds and provide members with supplemental revenue.

Needs: The existing pump is powered by an unreliable electric grid prone to failures, and the resulting electricity bills are too expensive for a healthy profit margin. The association is looking for a solar solution eliminating most of the operating costs of the water supply.

Objectives: Secure an abundant, economical and reliable supply of water for the garden and other activities; improve the funding of the association's social activities.

Technical aspects: 8 x 250W panels and ancillary material (frames, control module, piping...)

Budget: Total budget (CHF): 10'000.-already invested: 4'200.- ; required for completion: 5'800.-



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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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