

Deployment of solar kiosks

Current solar solutions are generally used by communities that offer their members, for example through lighting or access to drinking water, services that were previously unthinkable. Another group is formed by families who have purchased a solar oven. In either case, the utility is considerable, while the visibility is relatively limited. Solar kiosks represent a different approach. They are places of meeting, information and discussion for individuals. And, by highlighting solar cooking and cell phone charging in convivial surroundings, they send a clear message: solar technology is not in any way mysterious; it works everywhere and can enrich everyone's life.

Since 2019, the NGO FEM (Global Environmental Fund - UNDP) and Solafrique have planned and implemented, first of all in villages in a relatively remote region without electricity some 150 km south of Ouagadougou, kiosks offering food and beverages but also lighting, television for the public, and mobile phone charging stations, all powered by a photovoltaic installation. A gas stove is complemented by a solar oven, and the installation of the kiosk includes training in solar cooking for the "solar grandmothers" who manage the kiosks and for a local carpenter who is introduced to the manufacture of solar ovens.

Where and for whom: The project aims to offer, in regions without infrastructure, public kiosks for catering and associated services (television, mobile phone charging) illustrating the advantages of a solar solution. The beneficiaries are the villagers.

Needs: The advantages of kiosks are obvious: they show, even far from urban centers, that one can earn a living from solar power, and facilitate information to residents and their use of mobile phones which are becoming more and more common in Africa.

Objectives: The project aims to deploy the largest possible number of standardized kiosks, with simple functions, in regions where electrification is not planned in the short or medium term, in order to improve the visibility of solar energy and raise awareness of its potential among the population.

Technical aspects: The kiosks require, in addition to catering equipment, a standardized photovoltaic installation of modest scale, which is located on the roof of the kiosk, and some electronic equipment.

Budget: Solafrique is not involved in the construction of the kiosks themselves, but only in their solar part. For each installation, Solafrique also provides training in solar for the team of "solar grandmothers" managing the kiosk and a local carpenter wishing to take charge of the manufacture of solar ovens, all for an amount of approximately 2 '000 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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