



Annual report 2019 and project visit report (6-27 Jan 2020)

The year 2019 was extremely successful in terms of the development of the Solafrrique company in Burkina. It is impressive how this company has been able to implement many good projects in the past few months. There are now 12 well-trained employees who are divided into two teams - one in the capital, Ouagadougou, and one in Bobo-Dioulasso, both carrying out projects. With the two locations, many long, often time-consuming journeys to customers can be eliminated. The majority of the projects are in the area of water supply with solar systems.

This report first describes the calendar of activities of our partner Solafrrique, followed by impressions and results from the visit of the team of "notre soleil suisse" in Burkina Faso.

1. Annual report of Solafrrique

January: The year 2019 started with various new customer contacts. Solar pumps were in particular demand. The sale of the "little Sun" solar lamps also went very well and brought new customers. We think selling solar lamps for Solafrrique would be good business. Unfortunately, the transports are quite expensive. Also, many customers could only pay in instalments, which would require a lot of initial investment.

February: February: This month was dedicated to the promotion of our company Solafrrique, its offerings and services. Countless visits by associations, private individuals, government organizations and NGOs took place. In Ouagadougou, a test project for a solar pump was successfully carried out on behalf of the American ONG **Kingdom Investment**. Kingdom Investment previously had three pump projects with poor results. Congratulations to Solafrrique.

March-April: Installations: Solar lighting for the administration of the «la Vision» lyceum in Guénon, and simple lighting in the home of a professor from the same school.

Repairs: The installation from the Catholic Center in Kouentou in 2015 was serviced for the first time (repair of the inverter by Solafrrique interns). A pump in Sector 30 in Ouaga has been successfully repaired for Kingdom Investment. Solafrrique has now

become a partner of this ONG. M. Traore's solar system in Bobo is working again.

Training seminar of the pump company Lorentz in Ouagadougou: Mr. Matmati presents the company's new, innovative products. We note again how good it would be if we had enough capital for pre-financing. Customers want to pay in instalments.

May-June: Within a month, on behalf of Kingdom Investment, Solafrrique was able to build a solar pump for the Pazani quarter in Ouagadougou, to the great satisfaction of the population. The costs, including the polytank and pump house, were 14 million CFA.



The waterhole in Pazani / Ouagadougou
In the south of the country, in Po, Nahouri province, initial training for simple solar systems was finally carried out. 10 students were scheduled to participate; 30 came (5

women and 25 men). A big success! A pity it was not possible to combine the training with a practical project - money for the material was lacking.



Training young people in Po

July: Solafrique helped the ONG “**Compassion Internationale**” equip their 6 centers (CDE = Center de Développement pour Enfants) with good quality solar installations. A 10-point program was drawn up and its implementation carefully checked.

The company also made a cost estimate for a larger PV system for Tiebélé's Mairie on behalf of private donors. As a trend, Solafrique is increasingly making cost estimates and evaluations for third-party installations on behalf of ONGs, which will promote the acquisition of new projects.

August-September: Mr. Asso travels to Switzerland for further training



Mr. Asso training in Switzerland

October - December: Back from his training, Mr. Asso invested a lot of time in the training of the staff: goals of the company, organization, entrepreneurial thinking, successful establishment of a company, marketing and commercial management,

applied solar technology, e.g. how does a solar pump work.

The **Bobo team** then installed the solar system financed by “notre soleil suisse” in the Lycée privé “Emmaus”.



The solar system in the Lycée «Emmaus»

Drilling was successfully carried out on the recently purchased property of the future Solafrique **training center** in Bama. The water should also serve the surrounding population. This was followed by two repairs at Doctor Ouattara and in Bingdougousso, near Bobo. The team also spent a week doing research on local and foreign solar companies.

From 4.-11. Nov., the **Ouaga team** participated in the agricultural exhibition “**la journée agro alimentaire**” with a stand, thus making Solafrique's products better known.



Agricultural exhibition: the Solafrique stand

A lot of time was invested in customer contacts (Dec. 15-19). A pump was repaired in **Witenga**, a successful drilling (Forage) followed in **Ouaga 2000** and Mr. Badiel got a solar system in his house. Large training courses on renewable energies and their job prospects also took place. 500 young people got an insight into the

installation and maintenance of simple solar systems. This training was financed by the ONG Job Booster and the state of Burkina Faso.

A further training of 42 apprentices was carried out on behalf of the **CDE** (Center de Développement pour Enfants). This was followed by the installation of a pump in **Sonre** and two further drillings. Solafrique also had the opportunity to install a pump for the **ONG FEME** (Fédération des Églises et Missions Évangéliques).

Before the end of the year there was an training with Mr. Yonas Kiflom from Swiss-Green, who had traveled from Switzerland.



Yonas Kiflom as an instructor in Ouagadougou
In the first week of January, three more drillings followed in **Saaba** and **Diapaga**.

2. Project visit January 6-27, 2020

My travel companions this year were Anne-Rös Scherrer and Ben Olschner. As in all previous years, the travel expenses were paid privately.

Meetings in Ouagadougou: on the first morning after our arrival we were picked up by Jonatha for a meeting in Solafrique's new company headquarters. When we arrived at Mr. Asso on the first floor, we first admired the large, elegant conference room - his family lives below - and got to know not only almost all employees with their special skills, but also three important people from friendly NGOs who, during the meeting, presented their organizations: **Mr. Noël Compaoré** from **FEM (Fonds Environnemental Mondial - UNDP)** and two members from the Protestant church "**Compassion Internationale**" who initiate projects that serve the population. They told of a woman who breeds goats near Fada and is afraid that her goats will soon die due to lack of water. There is a need for a solar pump for the villagers and their animals. Josias impressively presented the Solafrique company and its activities over the past three months. Afterwards, we were treated to a salad and fruit buffet.

The next meeting was at the FEM. Noël Compaoré gave an illustrated presentation about our joint energy kiosk project. Running a cell phone charging station in the form of a bistro in the villages definitely seems to address a real need.



An energy kiosk

The kiosks are each operated by a "grand mère solaire". The women were trained to operate the solar systems.

Another meeting during our trip was at **Helvetas**: Mr. Waongo, responsible for road construction, received us. Helvetas is working hard to improve connections between the rural villages, and the villagers are directly involved in the projects. Mr. Waongo was very impressed by the possibilities of solar technology, especially by our energy kiosk project.

We then had our first meeting with the NGO **Solidar Suisse**. We were received by the director, Mr. Dieudonné Zaongo, and by Mme Micheline Laure Ouameaga. We got an impressive presentation about the goals of this Swiss NGO. Her main topics: education, democracy, jobs (travail décent), marketing chains, cooperatives, unions (minimum wage,

collective agreements, no child labor). We hope to be able to contribute something with our solar technology.



Drilling

The next day we visited a well in a new suburb of Ouaga. When we arrived, the drill equipment was already in place. Water came out at a depth of 30 meters, but unfortunately it soon dried up. Drilling continued down to a depth of 120m, but without success - such a shame and such a loss of money.

Trip to Bobo-Dioulasso: The first morning in Bobo was used a visit to the Solafrigue workshop. We found the warehouse to be very tidy. We also discussed the construction of our training center in Bama and visited the property. We marked the border with blue paint on the eucalyptus trees. (approx. 930m length!) We decided to build a wall with a gate on the side of the nearby village and protect the rest of the terrain with a special wire fence, which is obviously necessary because a lot of trees had been stolen.



Break during the visit to the property

3. Activities 2019 of our partner association Notre Soleil Burkina

During our stay in Bobo, we were also able to take part in a workshop in the courtyard of Fatoumata Traore, the president of Notre Soleil Burkina, for the construction of Foyers Améliorés (improved wooden stoves made of clay).



Women build their own Foyers Améliorés

Since only one of the approximately 30 women can read and write, we decided to organize a literacy course for them.



Women learn to read and write

Many trees were planted again during the rainy season. We drove with Fatoumata to the country control over a terrible dirt track and found that many of the trees had suffered from fires. There are actually villagers who catch rats, rabbits and other small animals by setting fires to the fields.

At the same place, Fatoumata showed us the plans of the school house that she intends to

build for the children of the village of Borodougou. We decided to finance the solar lighting of three of the six classrooms and also external lighting for the gallery via notre soleil suisse.

Drive back to Ouaga via Koudougou: We (Mr. Asso, Augustin, Annerös, Ben and I) drove back to Ouaga via Koudougou to visit the new solar center «Zodo». We were welcomed by Karin Jäggi (coordinator of the "enfant pour enfant" and "Compassion Internationale" foundations). We really liked the center, which we visited the next morning: We were welcomed by 17 apprentices (electro & solar) in the training room. Other rooms: a conference room with a large, round table, office and cooled battery room, a large workshop, a magazine ... There was also a kitchen and accommodation. This visit was a precious opportunity for our architect Ben Olschner, because we want to build a similar center in Bama.

Visit to FASO-BIOGAS: Another interesting visit concerned Gilbert Breminkmeyer's large biogas plant, right next to the Ouaga slaughterhouse. The employees collect all possible organic waste from the surrounding area (Brakina brewery, slaughterhouse, a nearby farm with cattle ...). This helps generate biogas and high-quality fertilizers. The gas is used to produce electricity, which is fed into the city network, making the system self-supporting. The goal is a totally closed-loop operation.

Journey south to Songo2 and Guénon: On the way to Songo 2 with Mr. Noël Compaoré and Mme Cécilia Somé, President of AMIFOB (Amicale des Forestières au Burkina), we visited four recently created energy kiosks. In the village of Goyenga, - the kiosk opened in June 2019 - the members of the "Comité de Gestion du Kiosque" welcomed us. People were very happy that they got a test kiosk because they see it as a mark of recognition for their village.



The energy kiosk in Goyenga

2-4 jobs were also created. The kiosks are made of sheet metal and have a kitchen equipped with a freezer and gas stove and a bistro section with a few chairs and small tables. All were managed by grandmothers (Grand-mères solaires) and are open from 6 am-10pm. Therefore, not only men but also women came to eat, as we had been hoping.

It was generally criticized that the restaurant part was too small and not under the same roof as the kiosk. It was difficult to attach the TV and it would probably not be possible to operate it in heavy rain. All kiosks lacked lighting in the bistro section, a magazine and the most important thing: a mobile phone charging station.

Visit to the women's garden in Songo 2: We were welcomed by singing and dancing women at the garden gate and led through the huge garden to a shadow tree. There are now four basins distributed in the garden, all of which are supplied by our pump, which was installed in 2018. We saw moringa, yams, beans, onions, peppers etc.

Under the tree, we were received by the village elder and his council. Luc Kazagabou, the Conseil Communal, organized everything very well and also took on the role of the translator in the numerous addresses. Finally, we were treated to a lunch - "To" made from corn flour with sesame sauce - and numerous gifts.



The waterhole of the women's garden, Songo 2

Visit to Guénon's CSPS: The doctor was very happy about the new beds that Mr. Groner, a member of the board of notre soleil suisse, had organized for him. Unfortunately, it is still difficult to get enough medication, since everything is organized centrally from the capital and a lot of goods gets lost on the way to the south. He wants a solar sterilizer, three comfortable chairs for each of the two doctor's offices, and an ambulance for patient transportation.

Visit to the primary school in Guénon: We were led from one classroom to another and were able to find that the benches donated by Switzerland had been delivered. The classes are huge (up to 92 children), but nobody had to sit on the floor anymore and there were no more five, but only three or four children per bench.



In the Guénon primary school

Visit to the high school of Guénon: We visited the library's structure that had just been completed - still without a roof, but very well built and quite large. The house for the

administration, the bike shelter and the school kitchen did not exist last year either. Many students and also a large group of sponsored children came to greet us. I was particularly pleased with a literacy course and the beautiful school garden. There was even a small swimming pool for the students in one corner; the water is exchanged frequently and is used to irrigate the garden.



Partial view of the new library in Guénon

It was a very impressive trip with many interesting encounters.

Mr. Asso's project goals for 2020

- **Many more solar projects**
- **Many more basic photovoltaic training courses for young people** (groups of 10 young women and men) in each of the 13 regions of the country including a practical installation (e.g. schoolhouse lighting, CSPS, church / mosque).
- **Women's workshops** for the manufacture and use of solar ovens and dryers in each of the 5 zones
- Great progress in the development of a **solar mill** and the **solar kiosks**
- Installation of many solar pumps
- Financing for **social projects** and the construction of our **Solafrigue solar training and production center** in Bama.

A very big, heartfelt thank you: thanks to the support of our association notre soleil suisse, Solafrique has again done a great job on many different projects on site and made it easier for so many people to cope with everyday life. The main part of our thanks goes to the generosity of our members and sponsors.

Help us further with donations to the postal account of: notre soleil suisse, 8000 Zurich, 61-419994-4, IBAN: CH61 0900 0000 6141 9994 4. Our association has been tax-exempt since last year, which means that you can deduct your donations in your tax form.

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