

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.

ORPHANAGE (CAED) LE NID

Where and for whom: The Centre d'Accueil des Enfants en Détresse (CAED, Center for the Care of Children in Need) « LE NID » near Bobo-Dioulasso is an orphanage. It also provides support to children whose mothers cannot nurse them or who suffer from malnutrition. Since its creation in 1999, it has provided care and shelter to more than 2000 children.

Needs: The orphanage used to have a source of drinking water thanks to a water tank and an electric pump which has, in meantime, almost broken down, uses up a lot of energy and is extremely expensive to operate and maintain. On top of that, the orphanage does not have electric lighting.

Objectives: The project will provide the orphanage with a solar-powered, reliable installation which will secure a steady drinking water supply and also give it electric lighting.

Technical aspects: The installation consists of solar panels (total power 3 kW), of a battery for energy storage, of lamps and ventilators, of ancillary equipment, and of a pump and piping for the distributing water.

Budget: The total budget is 7'700'000 CFA (12'000 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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