



Newsletter notre soleil suisse Winter 2025

Zurich, February 2025

Dear sponsors, dear friends of the sun,

A big thank you for your generous and loyal support of our solar projects - also from our team in Africa: Ouédou Asso, head of the solar company Solafrique (www.solafrique.org), Jonas Konkobo, its technical director in Bobo-Dioulasso, and Fatoumata Traoré, president of our partner association "Notre Soleil".

1. The political situation in Burkina

The political situation is still very bad, except in the big cities. People are afraid to go out in the evenings. There are still attacks by armed gangs from the Islamic State. We were even directly affected: my own goddaughter, Tene Viviane, on an internship in obstetrics in a hospital in the north of the country, had to run for her life during an attack on the village of Barsalo and lost everything. 100 villagers were killed.

2. Seven community gardens for women

The first three gardens (Borodougou, Nasso, Bana1) are doing well. However, the gardens will need to be equipped with 2 water basins each - the basins make the women's hard work of watering their plants much easier. Solafrique has prepared corresponding construction projects (total cost: 1,200 CHF for 3 gardens).



At work in the Borodougou school garden

The 4 new women's gardens (Banaborodougou, Bana2, Bona, Bama Center): Bana2 and Bona now have solar pumps, basins and garden houses with solar lighting, so that planting is possible all year round.



In the community garden Bana2

The money (CHF 300 per garden) for the first seeds has just been transferred. The presidents are doing an excellent job.



Monique Ouattara (Bona) & Christine Sore (Bana 2)

Unfortunately, the water drilling in Banaborodougou was unsuccessful, but the site has two sod wells with a lot of water. We will therefore provide a portable pump with a gas bottle (CHF 950) so that the refugees and gardeners can plant even in the dry season.

Unfortunately, planting is not yet possible in Bama Center - there is still no wall around the site. We will also soon be equipping each garden with two bicycles.

Fatoumata also wants to get two efficient metal wood stoves (Foyers Améliorés) for each garden, which will cost little (CHF 140 in total). Solar ovens are also planned in the medium term.



Construction of a farming cabin (Banaborodougou)

As in the previous year, Fatoumata is planning a 4–5-month literacy course in each of the 6 gardens during the dry season. The cost of teachers' salaries and school materials is 2,700 CHF. In the longer term, training in organic gardening is also planned.

We would now like to install composting toilets (dry toilets) in the gardens. If you already have concrete experience with this, please contact us.

3. Solafrique

Solafrique encourages the involvement of women and their assumption of technical responsibility in the field of solar technology. Several projects have already been carried out by women who were trained to become experts within the company.

5. News of the association

We are convinced that infrastructure projects, such as community gardens for women with solar-powered irrigation and lighting, contribute to sustainable economic development. Once started with our help, such community gardens quickly become self-sustaining. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to spread them nationwide. We would therefore like to establish a long-term partnership with Helvetas.

Please note: The 2025 general assembly will take place on Thursday, August 28th from 6 p.m. in the "Lokal" neighborhood meeting place, Voltastr. 65 in Zurich Fluntern. An invitation will follow this summer.

We are happy and grateful for every new donor, every member and every contribution.

With sunny greetings -

F. Heusser

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The association is tax exempt - donations
can be deducted from taxes.

The first project of this kind was the installation of a solar-powered submersible pump in the Bona community garden. Other projects include solar installations in Moamy, for a farm and a training center for commercial agriculture.



By women for women: the proud project manager in Bona

4. Solafrique – Solar Center in Bama

The plans for the solar center are on their way for a cost estimate by a local construction company. In the meantime, we will soon open a separate donation account dedicated to the construction of the center.



Computer view of the entrance to the Center's dormitory

The Twint-QR-Code of
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You can also donate via TWINT using the following link:
<https://www.notre-soleil-suisse.ch/kontakt>