



# Newsletter notre soleil suisse Sommer 2023

Zurich, July 2023

Dear sponsors,

Dear friends of the sun,

A big thank you for supporting our solar projects. The women of Projet Champs - "les femmes bio du faso" - as they now call themselves, also send their heartfelt thanks. They were able to receive a training in permaculture at Wendbenedo Ranch-Pharmacy thanks to a generous donation from one of our members. They are very happy about it and also extremely motivated to apply what they have learned on their farm. The six bicycles are also fun and very useful. Fatoumata Traoré, President of Notre Soleil Burkina is also very grateful for our loyal support of her projects (school canteen and women's community gardens).

## 1. The situation in Burkina Faso

Unfortunately, the political situation has not changed in the last six months. Islamic State groups continue to cause uncertainty across the country with individual local raids. This makes daily life more difficult and expensive. Providing the population with necessities has become more difficult.

However, the implementation of our projects is not affected by the catastrophic political situation, except that, unfortunately, project visits are no longer possible for the time being.

## 2. Internally displaced persons

Burkina Faso has now to deal with many internally displaced persons (about 1 million). Fatoumata Traoré has given shelter to a refugee family in the guard house of her school in Borodougou. The refugees are allowed to plant in the school garden. We – the other board members of notre soleil suisse and I - have also decided to continue running the school canteen during the school holidays so that the refugees who come to the garden have enough to eat.

Jonas Konkobo, the technical head of Solafrique in Bobo-Dioulasso, has also initiated a project with young refugees. He intends to help them plant a rice paddy in a part of the new community garden of Banaborodougou, in agreement with Fatoumata. The income is intended to help the young people pay for their education and support the families who give them shelter.



Les femmes bio du Faso



Food is being served



Refugees in Banaborodougou

### 3. Four new women's community gardens

Of the four new women's gardens planned for 2023, two already have a water well in operation and a fence. Only garden sheds with lighting and solar pumps with the water pipes are still missing. The women will build the houses themselves. Unfortunately, two boreholes each in the village of Yjrwal and in the Bama Center were unsuccessful and a lot of money was lost as a result.

### 4. The solar center in Bama

On the Swiss side, architects from Kämpfen Zinke und Partner are drawing 3D plans for the garden house, the three-part workshop building and the guest and employee accommodation. We are also working on a project submission. For the Bama center we hope to soon find enough finances to finish fencing in the whole area so that the women's group of the nearby village can start planting.

### 5. News from Solafrique

Solafrique continues to be successful. The company has recently started installing solar systems in neighboring countries. One example is a solar irrigation system (a specialty of Solafrique) in Ghana. A large photovoltaic system of 70W is also being built on top of a potato field in Niger. The solar system is used to cool a warehouse for the potatoes. The installation uses state-of-the-art salt batteries, which are particularly well suited for use in Africa.



The garden women of Banaborodougou



Mrs Christine Soré  
(Bana)



Mrs Monique Ouattara  
(Bona)



A new solar installation made by Solafrique

### 6. News from our association

In the meantime, our new cashier, Pierre Gaudin, has familiarized himself with our association, while our webmaster Diana Hornung has now launched the new website [www.notresoleilsuisse.ch](http://www.notresoleilsuisse.ch) in three languages! A big thank you! Take a look at the new website. It is worth it!!

Hunger in the country has not diminished. Our garden projects are therefore still very important – and not only with regard to climate change and soil degradation. We are also trying to establish a partnership with Helvetas so that our idea can also gain a foothold in other regions. I hope that you will remain loyal to our cause, and I look forward to every new member – even more so for potential members of our board.

With sunny greetings

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