



Newsletter notre soleil suisse Summer 2022

Zurich, end of July 2022

Dear sponsors,

Dear friends of the sun,

A big thank you to all of you for your continued support of our solar projects. The women of "Notre Soleil" from Burkina Faso also send their heartfelt thanks. I can now tell you what our association has experienced and moved in the last 6 months.

1. The situation in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is currently being tested by three simultaneous crises. As in most countries in the world, the corona pandemic was followed by an economic crisis. Since a military coup in the spring, politics and administration have been in flux. Finally, groups of the Islamic State are causing nationwide uncertainty with raids in some parts of the country. This makes daily life more difficult and expensive, and in peripheral areas the supply of the population is often only just secured.

Life in the larger cities remains largely normal, and the need for solar solutions for everyday life has not changed. It is fortunate that the build-up of Solafrique is now complete and that the company has so far been able to implement its projects without any problems.

Corona and the current uncertainty in the country have prevented us on the board from paying on-site project visits in Burkina Faso for almost 3 years. To this end, communication has been intensified and we are very satisfied with the implementation of our projects.



Training in bio-gardening



A new public water fountain, built by Solafrique

2. Three community gardens for women

All three community gardens that we support have been given garden houses built by the women themselves to house the garden tools and store the products. All of them also have a little private room so that the women can spend the night there as well. Training in organic horticulture is currently still ongoing (composting, seed production, seedling production, etc.) Because darkness sets in shortly after 6 p.m. in Burkina Faso, and also because of the safety of the women, our association notre soleil suisse financed solar lighting; they too will soon be installed by Solafrique. We hope to establish more community gardens in collaboration with the FEM, whose priorities are now climate change, land degradation and biodiversity. Inquiries have already been received.



More training in bio-gardening

3. The «Projet Champs»

Support for the "Projet Champs" also continued, thanks to direct private donations. It's about securing the existence of a women's association with 13 young women by setting up an agricultural business (cattle breeding, arable farming, vegetable garden) thanks to our start-up help. What sounds like a simple undertaking is actually quite challenging, but also very instructive.

4. The Solafrique Company

As already announced, the transfer of 60% of the shares in the company, and thus also the close support of the company, has been successfully completed. The number of solar projects is steadily increasing, and the long-awaited goal of a company that can operate economically from its own resources has now been achieved. Despite the confused political situation in the country, Solafrique was able to carry out many new projects such as lighting and well drilling. Thanks to the drill truck, Solafrique even became a sought-after specialist in well construction. Independent local management is also essential for one of the next major goals of our association – the construction of a solar center for production and training.



The water drilling team of Solafrique

5. A Solar Center in Bama

The planning of the solar center kept the members of our board and the partners in Burkina Faso (notre soleil and Solafrique) very busy. Unfortunately, the political change has prompted the local authorities - even before the project could be submitted by the Swiss side - to demand immediate use of the purchased building plot, otherwise expropriation is imminent. This forces immediate measures, the unforeseen implementation of which is very expensive and contradicts the original plan. For our association it means that the local situation must be clarified before the solar center project is submitted to potential donors.

With sunny greetings

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The result of a successful drilling

6. Web Presence

An active association today needs a well-designed and up-to-date website. The new version of notresoleilsuisse.ch will be online before this autumn and we will inform you by email when we have reached this important stage. A huge thanks in advance to our webmaster Diana Horning.

7. Board and General Assembly

After many years of service to the association, our treasurer Hans Leu wants to concentrate on a few tasks and, as announced in winter, will be leaving our board. He deserves all our gratitude for his great commitment. We are looking for a successor and would be happy to have 1-2 new members on the board.

On Thursday, August 25th at 6 p.m. we will hold our 2022 general meeting at the "Lokal" meeting point at Voltastr 65 in Zurich Fluntern. A corresponding invitation with all the necessary documents will be sent out in good time.

I hope that you will continue to remain loyal to us. Enclosed you will find two payment slips (QR + ISR) for a possible donation. I am also happy about every new member.