

# Newsletter notre soleil suisse Winter 2021



Zurich, end of January 2021

Dear sponsors,  
Dear friends of the sun,

A big thank you to all of you for supporting our solar projects.

Thanks also from Fatoumata Traoré, the president of our partner association "notre soleil" in Burkina. The "Rehoboth" primary school building, which she built on her own land for the village of Borodougou, has meanwhile been completed. Thanks to your donations, it has a roof and lighting. Fatoumata urgently needs access to drinking water for the school children, i.e. a "forage" (well drilling). (Costs CHF 11,000).

In the summer, in the rainy season, trees have again been planted, this year in the courtyards of the women members of notre soleil. Somewhat more expensive two-year-old tree seedlings were bought, to better ensure that they grow big. The portable "foyers améliorés" made of clay which were started during my stay in January, have also been completed, so that another 30 women can now cook wile using far less firewood.

Thanks to our partner company Solafrique, it was also possible to install the long-expected solar lighting for the « nid » orphanage in Bobo. The project also served as a practical exercise for training 18 young people in photovoltaics.



In July it was finally possible to ship the approximately 150 solar modules (50W and 20W) and 24 105AH batteries (they had been in storage in Switzerland for a long time and had been donated by the Louis Vuitton company) to Africa by container. Solafrique can now, among others, convert its company headquarters in Ouagadougou to solar energy, while the women of the Projet Champs association in Bendia will again enjoy evening light at their farm!

In September, thanks to the collaboration of Solafrique, the FEM-UNDP and notre soleil suisse, two more solar energy kiosks were installed. These serve as meeting points in the villages in the form of a bistro and are equipped with solar lighting, a mobile phone charging station and a television. A "Grand-Mère solaire" specially trained in its management offers cooked healthy meals from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Two to four women thus get an income. Thanks to your donations, we were also able to conduct training sessions in cooking with the solar oven. Carpenters from the nearby villages were also trained. In the future, every kiosk will also receive a solar oven. We hope this will encourage the spread of solar and wood-efficient cooking while encouraging social cohesion in the villages.



A big "Bravo" goes to the enlarged team of Solafrique. The company achieved financial independence in the course of this year. A total of 12 pump projects, 9 larger and smaller lighting projects for private customers and NGOs and four training courses for young people, with a total of 90 participants, were carried out. It is thus important that we soon find the finances for the construction of our planned training and production center at Bama near Bobo-Dioulasso. The Solafrique team is currently working on the site, thanks to some larger donations, e.g. from the Zurich State Church, installing a pump and water tower with poly tank and solar modules.

We are urgently looking for some members for the board of notre soleil suisse. Who would like to be involved in this valuable project?

I very much hope that you will continue to remain loyal to us. Attached you will find a payment slip for a possible donation. Of course, I am also happy about every new member. As of now, because of Corona, no date has yet been fixed for the 2021 General Assembly.

With sunny greetings –

*F. Heusser*

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