



Newsletter notre soleil suisse Summer 2024

Zürich, July 2024

Dear sponsors, dear friends off the sun,

Half a year has already passed. We continued to work diligently on our solar projects. This was only possible thanks to your generous support. Our African partners are very grateful for this, and your donations and your interest are also the best motivation for us on the board.

Plastic collection in the villages of the Bama region also continues. The group meets every other Sunday to collect. It has now founded an association: "Cellule Sanya de Bama" (which means "committed to the country"). Another association, CHERIFA, receives the plastic waste and uses it to manufacture chairs, benches and storage bags.

1. The political situation in Burkina Faso

Unfortunately, the situation is still very bad. Islamic State armed groups continue to carry out raids and a climate of insecurity prevails across the country.

We have one more time been affected by this: A few weeks ago, the Rebot schoolhouse and the associated guardhouse in Borodougou were attacked at night by a local gang of robbers, and the expensive batteries for the solar lighting were stolen. We have decided not to replace these until after the school holidays. (Cost 500 CHF)



Internally displaced people in the garden of Nasso



The plastic collection group

2. The seven women's gardens

Three women's gardens (Borodougou, Nasso, Bana1): The facilities in Borodougou and Nasso are busy planting. There are around 20 women per garden. Ms. Amelie Son Bagre, Femme Leader of Nasso, is now also hosting a group of internally displaced people who are allowed to plant in her garden. In Bana 1, two basins with pipes to the pump were recently installed, which will make the women's work much easier.



Jonas Konkobo installing a basin

Four new women's gardens (Bana 2, Bona, Banaborodougou, Bama Center): The pump was installed in Bana2 last week by Solafrique. Unfortunately, the drilling in the Banaborodougou garden was unsuccessful and so we spent a lot of money with no result. That's why we largely lack financial resources for additional pumps.

However, the group of internally displaced young people looked after by Jonas Konkobo (technical director of Solafrique in Bobo) will continue to plant in this garden during the rainy season. The garden shed they built will continue to be used, but urgently needs lighting (500 CHF).



Installing the pump in Bana2

We also wanted to equip all 7 gardens with two bicycles each so that the women could transport their products more easily. The Velafrica bicycles have now arrived in Burkina.



Bicycles for the women's gardens

3. Projet Champs - les femmes bio du Faso

The women farmers have found a new leader in Myriam Sanou. She will be the president of the "femmes bio du Faso" association, which has yet to be officially founded. (Secretary, Yaiza Zerbo, cashier Tene Viviane Sanou).

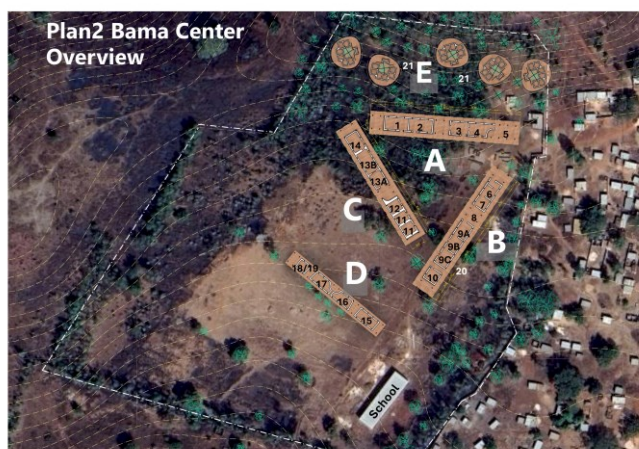
The women hope that the authorities will support their association. The Projet Champs has urgent needs - the repair of the solar lighting, a water supply with a solar pump including a borehole and a residential building.



Myriam Sanou / Femmes bio harvesting

4. Solafrique – Solar Center in Bama

In the meantime, our board member and architect Ben Olschner continued to plan with great enthusiasm, together with his professional colleagues. The solar center is taking more and more shape.



A: Student accommodation B: Workshops
C: Kitchen and restaurant D: Garden house
E: Accommodation for staff and visitors

5. News of the association: We firmly believe that community gardens (especially for women) with solar-powered irrigation make a major contribution to sustainable economic and social development. We don't have the resources to distribute it nationwide, which is why a long-term partnership with Helvetas would be so important for us.

Your support is infinitely valuable to us; I am happy about every new donor, every member and every contribution.

With sunny greetings -

F. Heusser

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