



Newsletter notre soleil suisse Winter 2023

Zurich, February 2023

Dear sponsors,

Dear friends of the sun,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continuing support of our solar project. Our partners in Burkina Faso also convey the same gratitude.

1. Insecurity in Burkina Faso

The security situation is still very worrying; in some places one can even speak of a humanitarian tragedy. Jihadist terrorist militias have crept in from the northern country of Mali. Too weak to gain a foothold in the big cities, they appear in remote rural areas, driving out the frightened rural population and bringing agriculture and trade to a standstill. Up to 2 million inhabitants are now regarded as internal refugees. The attitude of the government that emerged from a coup is unclear. It is all the more important for notre soleil suisse to support the ongoing projects - they take place in areas that have so far remained completely undisturbed.

2. Solar lighting for the Guénon school

There is a partnership between notre soleil suisse and the Swiss association Nimaro, which has been supporting and developing the school in Guénon for some time. Notre soleil suisse has therefore agreed to equip three classrooms with solar lighting. The project costs amount to around CHF 5,000.



Enjoying a break at the school in Guénon



School children in Guénon

3. Community gardens for women

The first three women's community gardens in Borodougou (school garden), Nasso and Wana are now almost completely equipped with fences, wells and a garden house with solar lighting. Now it's finally time to plant! And now requests for more community gardens are coming in. Fatoumata Traoré, the president of our partner association notre soleil in Burkina Faso, has already started organizing the creation of three new community gardens for women in Bana, Bona and Yirwal.



Ms Fatoumata Traoré and Ms Odette Traoré in Wana; the women of Bana with Ms Christine Soré



The women of Bona with Ms Monique Ouattara

4. The «Projet Champs»

The 13 women brought in a good harvest. The zebus "Tonnerre" and "Tornado" that had been poisoned by Monsanto's RoundUp 2 years ago have also long since recovered.

Unfortunately, the women still do not have their own house on the farm. For the time being, we would like to equip them with 6 bicycles (approx. 900 CHF) so that they can return to their village more quickly.



Some women from the «Projet Champs» in their garden



Tonnerre and Tornado at work

7. Association Business

Financial transparency is of essential for our association; in Pierre Gaudin we have now found a worthy successor to Hans Leu. It is just as important to publicize the association's activities with an attractive website. As a result of a great deal of professional work, our web master Diana Hornung has given our website notresoleilsuisse.ch a new, more modern look. The website has even become trilingual!

Hunger is spreading in the country. Our garden projects are a good and important countermeasure, beyond the issues of climate change and soil degradation. I hope that you will remain loyal to us and I am happy about every new member.

With sunny greetings



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5. Construction of a solar center in Bama

A vegetable garden is also planned on the site of the future training center. The women of the neighboring village of Badara are very motivated to participate in it. Fatoumata has already organized training in organic gardening / composting.



Die neue Gartenfrauengruppe von Bama

6. Die Firma Solafrique

Solafrique was not only very successful in well construction but also in the development of irrigation systems. A great success in this respect was the invitation to a conference in Paris, where Mr. Asso was awarded a first prize: an irrigation system! It will be installed in the organic garden of the solar center in Bama.



Solafrique is developing a new irrigation system