



# Newsletter notre soleil suisse Winter 2024

Zurich, February 2024

Dear sponsors,  
Dear friends of the sun,

First, a big thank you for your support of our solar projects, also on behalf of Ms. Fatoumata Traoré, President of our partner association Notre Soleil Burkina, of Mr. Ouédou Asso (CEO of Solafrique) and of Mr. Jonas Konkobo (Technical Director of Solafrique in Bobo-Dioulasso). He once told me that thanks to our continued help he could have a life full of meaning and happiness, which touched me deeply. He is now also looking after 10 young internally displaced people; they have volunteered to build a house for the community garden of Banaborodougou. Mr. Konkobo also heads the plastic collection in Bama. For more information on this project, see [www.notresoleilsuisse.ch](http://www.notresoleilsuisse.ch).

Ms. Fatoumata Traoré also shows the same commitment: she has many refugee children in her school and makes lunch for all students in the school canteen every day. She has accommodated a family of refugees in the school principal's house. The refugee families are also allowed to plant vegetables in the school garden.



Young refugees growing rice



House in the community garden of Banaborodougou



Start of the plastic collection in Bama: Jonas Konkobo with the village chief and other notables.

## 1. The situation in Burkina Faso

The situation remains catastrophic. Islamic State groups continue to raid remote towns. I have also been affected: I had personally supported the construction and equipment of a small restaurant not far from Bobo; one night, it was vandalized, and everything - refrigerator, television, furniture, dishes, etc. - was gone.

However, the implementation of our projects is not affected by the political situation and the dire security situation in some areas. Project visits from Switzerland are currently not possible, but we remain in almost daily contact with our project partners thanks to telephone and internet.

## 2. Three existing gardens, four new ones

Thanks to our solar pumps, the women were able to plant efficiently in the first 3 women's gardens (Borodougou, Nasso, Bana1) even in the dry season.

Work continued in the four women's community gardens planned for 2023. Exploratory drillings were positive in three of the gardens. Solar pumps are still needed (that's €6,500 per garden), fencing is also needed in two gardens, and a fourth exploratory drilling is still pending. In total we need to raise a good €30,000.



Successful exploratory drilling



Working in the Borodougou school garden

Without irrigation, it is not yet possible to work in the 4 new gardens in the dry season. In the meantime, Fatoumata is organizing literacy courses; men are also invited to attend. Each course (30 people, approx. 16 weeks) costs €350.



The cheerful teacher: literacy course in the Borodougou schoolhouse

### 3. Construction of a solar center in Bama

On the Swiss side, Mr. Ben Olschner, an architect and a member of our board who has already been to

### 5. News of the Association

Community garden projects with solar pumps for women are a great idea - they secure their economic future in times of crisis and provide work and income regardless of the dry season. They deserve to be rolled out nationwide, which is beyond our capabilities. We are therefore trying to enter a partnership with Helvetas.

Please note: The 2024 general meeting will take place on Thursday 29th. August 6:00 p.m., in the "Lokal" neighborhood meeting place on Voltastr. 65 in Zurich Fluntern. An invitation with documents will follow in the summer.

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

With sunny greetings

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Burkina Faso, is now focusing on the project in Bama, especially on the design of the buildings.

We are continuing to work on a project submission.

Finally, Solafrique hopes to soon find the means to complete the fencing of the Bama project area - a prerequisite for the women's group from the nearby village to start planting.



Bama Center Garden Women

### 4. Solafrique

The company Solafrique continues to be successful and no longer depends on our financial support. The company has recently started using salt batteries that are particularly suitable for the tropical climate.



Mr. Asso (right) with employees in the battery room

Use this link to donate via TWINT:  
<https://www.notre-soleil-suisse.ch/kontakt>

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[www.notresoleilsuisse.ch](http://www.notresoleilsuisse.ch)  
[www.solafrique.org](http://www.solafrique.org)

The association is tax-exempt - donations can be deducted from taxes.