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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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GRÜNE BÜRGERENERGIE
(GREEN PEOPLE'S ENERGY)
SMALL PROJECTS FUND (SPF)

INSTALLATION

MAINTENANCE

Securing Health Care with Solar Power

SUMMARY

Country	Benin
Implementer	Culture, Education, Recherche pour le Développment au Bénin (CERD)
Co-implementer	Gemeinde Bürgerkomitee für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Steinhagen (GBK, Community Citizens' Committee for Development Cooperation Steinhagen)
Target groups	Health centres and users of the health centres
Duration	08/2021 – 11/2021
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

In Boukombé, with its more than 90 villages and a good 80,000 inhabitants, there is only one doctor, who lives in the central community. The health centre in the village has no electricity. Therefore the health centre has limited possibilities to care for patients. This means that patients in the surrounding area of the centre are poorly provided with vaccinations, antenatal and maternity care or acute care. Sensitive medicines are worthless after a short time in the warm climate of northern Benin due to the lack of refrigeration facilities. The consequence of the difficult living conditions is a high mortality rate. Women in particular suffer from the poor health care.

IMPACT LOGIC

To address the lack of medical care, the non-governmental organisation CERD built its own hospital at the entrance to Boukombé. The aim of this project is to equip this hospital with a photovoltaic system and at the same time connect it to the national electricity grid. The intention is to avoid high electricity bills for the hospital. Patients are to receive comprehensive and at the same time cost-effective medical treatment. With this equipment, the hospital offers its medical staff an attractive workplace and improves the quality of health care in Boukombé in the long term. To electrify the hospital, CERD expands its team with two technical experts coordinating the installation of the system. A selected solar company installs the system consisting of photovoltaic solar panels, storage batteries and the grid connection. The solar energy is used to power lamps, a water pump, a steriliser, an ultrasound machine, oxygen concentrators, aspirators, refrigerators and computers. To ensure sustainable use of the system, the entire hospital staff is trained in its use towards the end of the project.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

The described approach makes the health centre largely independent of the volatile power grid and at the same time uses the grid as a backup for the night or less sunny days. The large solar component of the systems relieves the non-profit organisation CERD of high electricity prices. In turn, they are able to pass on these lower costs to their patients and offer medical care also to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. This can serve as an example project for other social infrastructure.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gruene-buergerenergie.org

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