



INSTALLATION



MAINTENANCE

Solar Power Lights Up a Village and Enables Productive Use

SUMMARY

Country	Benin
Implementer	Light, Information, Health, Education (LU.I.S.E)
Target groups	Rural population
Duration	01/2021 – 01/2025
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

The approximately 3,400 inhabitants of Amouloko – the village is located about 50 kilometers northeast of Cotonou – live almost exclusively from agriculture and cultivate corn, cassava and palm oil, among other crops. Most villagers have no access to electricity. They light their houses with candles and lanterns and use firewood for cooking. There is no light in the school, nor have the villagers access to refrigerated goods. In addition, most villagers cannot afford a connection to the nearest power line. Furthermore, the power lines pass by the village but do not run through it and most villagers cannot afford the connection costs.

IMPACT LOGIC

The local non-governmental organization (NGO) called Light, Information, Health, Education (LU.I.S.E) follows a participatory approach to engage the community of Amouloko in the project. In phase one, the measures are discussed with the population, the local women's group and authorities. In phase two, a plot of land in the village is made available for the project, on which a building is constructed for the productive use activities. This building is equipped with solar PV panels and a battery system and houses equipment for the villagers to use: A grain mill, a refrigerator to store beverages and several outlets to charge their cell phones. In addition, the local school buildings receive small solar panels and LU.I.S.E trains selected residents in the maintenance of the various systems and supports residents in taking up income-generating activities. In phase three, the village community, supported by the NGO, sets up a collective management structure. Whoever wants to use the productive use equipment pays a small fee. This fee is then used by the management committee to pay for maintenance and repair services and to invest in additional productive use equipment. Eventually, the different systems will be handed over to the village community.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

Innovative about this approach is the participatory preparation and management of the project, which aims to guarantee the commitment of the target group. The village community is included in the decision making and, over time, is enabled to manage and maintain the provided systems autonomously. As the productive use site was well received in Amouloko, LU.I.S.E. will replicate the approach in two other villages in the northern part of Benin.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gruene-buergerenergie.org