

Solar energy for the Pandu Gupha Health Post in Nepal



In September 2020, EKOenergy granted 20,000 euros to the North-American NGO GRID Alternatives (GRID) and their Nepalese partners to bring clean, reliable electricity to the remote Pandu Gupha Health Post in Nepal.

Text: Milly Wernerus

Photo: GRID

GRID is a leading voice in low-income solar policy and the USA's largest nonprofit solar installer, serving families throughout California, Colorado, the Mid-Atlantic region, and tribal communities nationwide. The organisation is expanding its work in Nepal too. GRID Alternatives' work in Nepal follows a community-led approach to ensure that the installed solar systems remain in use for the long term. Community representatives are involved in every stage of the project.

With the financial help of EKOenergy, GRID and their local partners installed a 5.9 kW solar system at the Pandu Gupha Health Post (PGHP), a health clinic and birthing centre located in the rural Kanakasundari municipality in Nepal's Jumla district. The clinic serves approximately 2,000 households, as well as approximately 10,000 residents from surrounding communities. While equipped with a full staff, a number of electric medical devices and diagnostic equipment, it lacked a reliable source of electricity to power the facility. Thanks to the new installation, the staff will be able to provide thousands with 24-hour quality medical services for common diseases, physical injuries, and maternal and child healthcare.

With the Jumla District Headquarters' central medical facility located a 3-hour drive away, PGHP's ability to provide quality medical care is imperative

in ensuring that families from the surrounding remote villages have access to the health services they need. With access to clean, reliable electricity, the clinic is now able to power quality lighting, an X-ray machine, vaccine refrigeration and birth-delivery equipment including a baby warmer, peri light and vacuum pump.

During the installation of the solar system, GRID provided training on the system and its use to the staff and community members who will be in charge of checking the solar system and provide basic maintenance. GRID remains active in the area too and will visit the Pandu Gupha clinic twice a year to collect data and feedback on the outcomes of the project. This long term commitment means that the system will stay in use for decades. The corona pandemic didn't make the preparation and installation any easier, but thanks to the involvement of many and to the expertise of GRID and their partners, all happened according to plan.

We thank all users of EKOenergy-labelled renewable energy for helping GRID Alternatives and Gham Power bring clean, reliable electricity to the Pandu Gupha Health Post. By contributing to better medical care, these installations will have a lasting impact on the health of the local population.

Climate Fund Projects



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In 2020, the Fund granted 230,000 € for 13 new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

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Meets ESG and CSR requirements and guarantees a minimal impact on the local environment.

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Highlighted as a good solution towards sustainability by CDP, LEED and GHG Protocol.

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The logo can be used in your online communications, marketing materials, products and facilities.

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EKOenergy's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals exceeded 1 million € between 2015-2020. For each MWh of EKOenergy sold, 0.10€ (0.20 € for hydropower) is used to fight energy poverty and protect biodiversity.

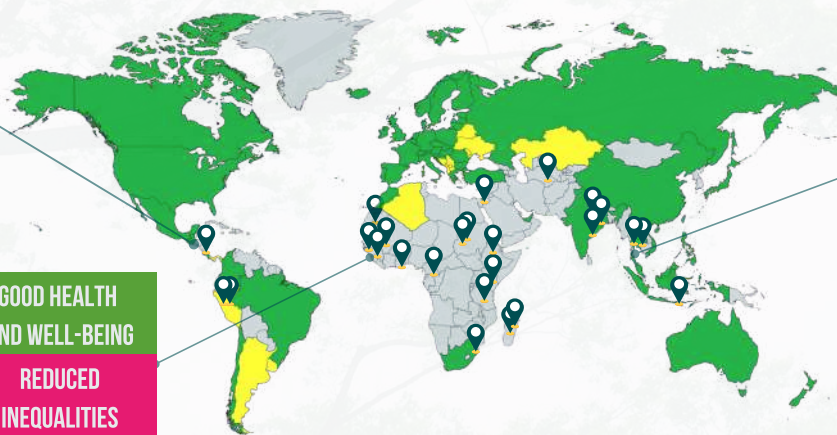
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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
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Solar panels for health clinics in Guinea



4 QUALITY EDUCATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Solar panels in a refugee camp in Myanmar

