

Access to solar power in villages affected by armed conflicts



Project duration: 1 year

In 2022, EKOenergy granted the Congolese NGO Initiative Humanitaire pour le Développement (IHD) 25 000 € to provide solar energy to schools and health centers in 3 villages affected by armed conflict.

Text: Federica Peruzzo

Photo: IHD

Despite the end of the Second Congo War in 2003, the country continues to experience conflict and instability. This also resulted in a reduction of electricity supply and an increase in electricity rationing: In rural areas of DR Congo, only less than 1% of the population has access to electricity.

This project, implemented by IHD, provided access to solar energy for 3 rural health centres and 3 rural schools in the South-Kivu Province, one of the areas affected the most by the conflict. More than 26 000 villagers gained access to quality health care throughout the night and around 2400 students can now benefit from solar lighting.

8 photovoltaic panels were installed on the rooftops of each of the 3 health centres, and 4 ventilators, 4 batteries, 4 inverters, sockets and bulbs were provided to ensure safer deliveries and quality health care during the night. The project also included the installation of 2 solar street lights in order to secure safer access to the facilities.

The 3 schools were each provided with 4 solar panels, 4 batteries, 1 converter and 1

regulator to fulfill the basic lighting needs of the buildings and allow students to individually study after school hours.

Many key partners and stakeholders such as local authorities, local health committees, the Teacher's Association and women representatives were involved in the implementation process. This was crucial to create community empowerment, and to build credibility, trust and ownership that ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

For the same purpose, the local workforce received training for the installation and future maintenance of the solar systems.

Moreover, IHD carried out a local communication strategy through local radio and television to raise awareness about renewable energy, environmental protection and other climate-change-related topics.

Investing in health and education sectors means supporting developing countries in their strive for self-reliance. We thank all EKOenergy users and sellers for making this possible.

Our Climate Fund



Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals



New projects annually in developing countries



Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2022, the Fund granted 425,728 € for 15 new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Climate Fund

EKOenergy - the global ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the global ecolabel](#) for energy (electricity, gas, heat and cold). We are a non-profit initiative working to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

Energy with the EKOenergy ecolabel fulfils additional [sustainability criteria](#). Through our ecolabel we also raise money for our Climate Fund, which is used to finance [new renewable energy](#) projects in developing countries.

EKOenergy's network of authorised sellers makes EKOenergy-labelled energy easily [available in over 65 countries worldwide](#). Many consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy choose to use our ecolabel on their website or products to demonstrate their commitment to a 100% renewable and sustainable world.

EKOenergy users include large international businesses such as SAP, VMware, Tetra Pak, Pampers, Workday, SCHOTT and the Iliad Group, as well as cities, public organisations and individual households.



Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

	EKOenergy	Other renewable energy	Grid mix
Recommended by environmental organisations	✓	?	-
Extra criteria to minimise the impact of energy production on nature. For example, hydropower installations with fish passes and wind turbines outside important bird areas	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs (In line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Contributes to renewable energy projects in developing countries, advancing the realisation of multiple Sustainable Development Goals	✓	-	-
Available and recognised worldwide	✓	-	-
Supports the promotion of a transition to renewable energy worldwide	✓	-	-

Endorsed by global standards

EKOenergy is recommended by many international environmental standards such as CDP, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED-certification for buildings.

"A growing number of hotels in Europe have already switched to EKOenergy and include the EKOenergy logo in their communication with their guests. Follow their lead and go the extra mile."

"Ecolabels are a way for companies to do more with their purchases. EKOenergy, mentioned by the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance, is such an option: it is a mark of quality which comes on top of tracking certificates."

"EKOenergy represents the best available option for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe."

