

Empowering an off-grid community via renewable energy



EKOenergy provided 15,000 € financing to the NGO Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC) for the installation of a micro-hydro system in the Mikwakhola Rural Municipality of Nepal. This project is part of our cooperation with the Siemenpuu Foundation. In addition to the contribution from EKOenergy, the Siemenpuu Foundation granted 31,000 € to the same project.

Text: Vasaré Gaupšaitė

Photo: NCDC

Due to its remote location, Taplejung community is not connected to the electricity grid and the locals use polluting materials such as kerosene for indoor lighting. Having no reliable source of electricity also makes internet connection impossible, thus limiting their opportunities of communication and access to information, making studying for children harder as well.

The local NGO NCDC has extensive experience working with rural communities. They work on issues such as governance, agricultural development, education, and also renewable energy.

In cooperation with the locals of Taplejung, NCDC built a micro-hydro system of 15 kW capacity. There are opportunities to develop small-scale hydropower in Nepal, in particular on steep flanks where additional production capacity can be installed with limited impact on nature.

The micro-hydro installation powers 75 households and their 412 inhabitants as well as a computer education class and a variety of local businesses, such as an agro-processing mill, a furniture making enterprise, a handmade paper production and a copy centre.

The project provides an opportunity to increase the locals' living standard through access to electric appliances, internet services and improved indoor air quality. New

entrepreneurship and employment options also open up thanks to internet access. In addition, making use of electrical lighting makes it easier for children to study after sunset and thus improves their employability in the future.

Management, operation and maintenance of the micro-hydro will be taken care of by the community at a local level. Monthly fees will also be collected from the electricity consumers to make the maintenance possible. The staff for operators and management have been selected from the community through a public hearing process. The project also covered awareness raising activities about the use of electricity to make sure the installation is used to its fullest potential, and NCDC organised a training to educate several members of the local community about the maintenance of the system.

NCDC has a presence in the Taplejung community. They are in regular contact with the local entities, will work closely with the community and provide necessary assistance with regard to the operation and maintenance of the system. This will help to ensure the sustainability of the project.

As for the near future, NCDC is also going to collaborate with the local communities to work towards making the village "Indoor Air Pollution Free" by training locals how to make and use improved cooking stoves.

Our Climate Fund



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

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

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

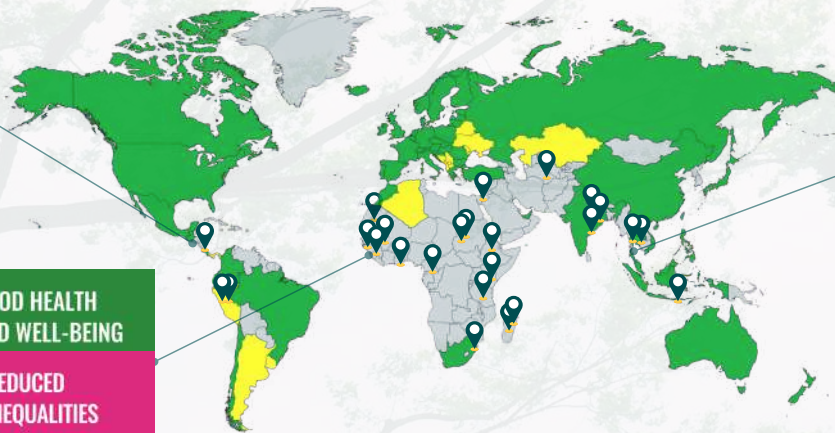
3 Leadership & Additionality
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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Solar panels for health clinics in Guinea

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
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