

Solar Energy for Clean Water Supply in West Kenya



Between 2018 and 2020 EKOenergy granted in total 23,400 € to Solafrica, a Swiss NGO, to build solar-powered water kiosks to secure clean water and improve the energy supply in the village of Abura, Kenya.

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Pictures: Solafrica

The project area suffers from insufficient access to water and a widespread lack of access to energy. Only about 3.3% of households in the wider area are connected to the public electricity grid.

Solafrica collaborated with local organisations Ramogi Resource Centre and Kenya Solar Solutions to construct a large solar installation in Abura village, Homa Bay County, to drill a 180 meters deep well and install water tanks. The solar installation consists of 80 solar panels of 375 Wp each and powers a water pump. The pumped water is distributed via two water kiosks through which the locals can buy water at an affordable price.

Previously, the villagers had to travel to fetch clean water, but they now have access to an actively maintained and consistent source of water in their own village.

Each kiosk also has a small solar energy installation, to provide lighting for the kiosk and to power several outlets where the residents can charge phones and other small electrical devices such

as lamps for a small fee. Many used to rely on diesel generators and oil lamps for lighting and had to travel to nearby cities to charge mobile phones.

In order to ensure the longevity of the project, Solafrica has decided to assist the local community in following an investment strategy for the generated income once the kiosks become profitable.

Not long after the completion of this project, the local Kenyan Water Resource Authority suggested that Solafrica should connect 8 additional water kiosks. The authorities offered to fund the kiosk construction, water tanks and pipes. Solafrica is currently evaluating the feasibility of expanding it to such a larger project.

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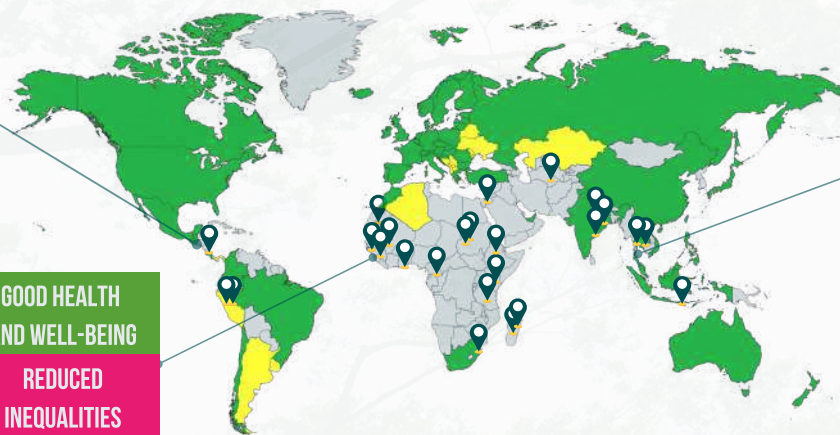
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