

Solar lighting and freezers for women and children in Mali



The Siemenpui Foundation, along with our EKOenergy Climate Fund, have jointly funded a project in Mali implemented by OMADEZA (Oeuvre Malienne pour le Développement des Zones Arides), providing 42,500€ and 7,500€ respectively. The aim of this project was to bring electricity to the village of Sogola in the Bougouni municipality.

Text: Marie Valentin
Photo: OMADEZA

The village of Sogola produces most of the fruits, vegetables, and firewood that are consumed in Bougouni, which is only a few kilometers away, and yet until recently the village operated in almost total darkness. This means that education, medical work and even just walking through the streets at night was complicated and even dangerous, in particular, because of the presence of poisonous scorpions and snakes.

For lighting, only petrol lamps and lamps with batteries were an option, but petrol lamps are dangerous and batteries could only be recharged in Bougouni. OMADEZA's project aimed to address this lighting issue.

The main component of the project was the installation of 40 solar-powered street lamps in various strategic spots in and around the village, such as the national road, public square, near the school, and near the maternity clinic. These provide light between 6 pm and 6 am.

The second part of the project consisted of the installation of solar panels at the maternity center and at a building used by cooperatives of beekeepers and women.

These solar panels power three solar freezers, enabling the storage and preservation of pharmaceuticals and food. Moreover, thanks to the solar panels, there is now also electricity at two offices, two stores, a shed and the toilets in the center as well as 10 charging points, where locals can charge small electric devices.

All the inhabitants were mobilized in the implementation of the project and they created a management committee in charge of the follow-up and the maintenance of the installations.

The main beneficiaries include the 367 women from the local agriculture cooperative, along with the over 400 women from other villages who have also joined the project. These women treat, preserve and sell natural forest products like shea butter, Sumbala, Zaban, and other food products. Around 420 children also benefit from the project, being able to study after dark. Overall, the project will improve the living conditions of 2231 villagers.

Thanks to the Siemenpui Foundation and to all users of EKOenergy-labelled energy, OMADEZA's project creates new opportunities for all inhabitants of Sogola.

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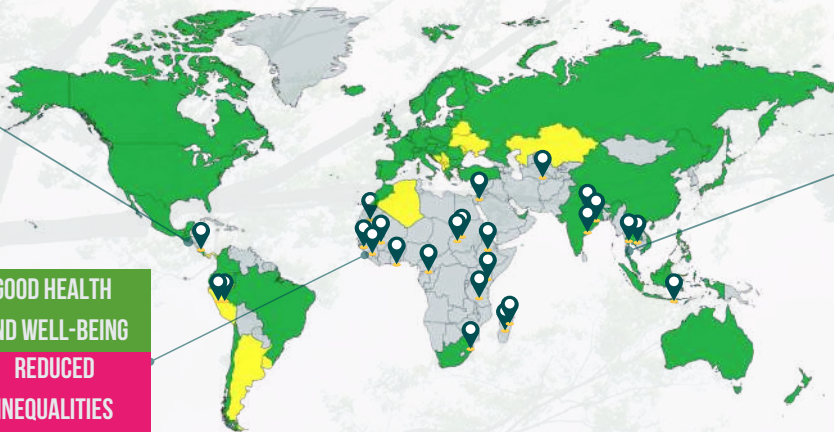
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