



CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT



INSTALLATION

Renewable Energy for Marginalised Communities

SUMMARY

Country	Namibia
Implementer	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN)
Target groups	Rural communities in the Omaheke region
Duration	07/2022 – 06/2023
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

Access to electricity is one of the biggest hurdles for the vast majority of people living in rural areas in Namibia. These communities often live too remotely to be reached by the national electricity grid. Instead, they rely on candles, kerosene lamps and firewood for lighting. Not only are these energy sources expensive, they have also been found to cause indoor pollution which can potentially lead to long-term respiratory problems and house fires. While Namibia has made good progress in the electrification of many regions, rural electrification is still very limited. The high unemployment rate, especially in rural marginalised communities, has also made it difficult for these parts of the population to have equal access to affordable and safe electricity.

IMPACT LOGIC

The project provides a comprehensive electrification scheme to the communities of the sub-villages Donkerbos and Sonneblom in the Omaheke region. This includes the distribution and installation of solar-powered home systems for 72 households, electrification of the local crèche and community centre, as well as the installation of 25 solar streetlights in five sub-villages.

In addition to these installations, citizens also receive comprehensive trainings. During installation of the solar home systems, ten San women are trained in basic solar installation and maintenance techniques. The second part of the project aims to establish two community-run gardens in proximity to the existing boreholes in Donkerbos and Pietsepos village. Up to 40 members of the community receive training on solar-powered irrigation and gardening techniques to ensure year round harvests. In combination, these measures minimize the negative environmental impacts of burning firewood, improve safety at night, strengthen the role of women in their communities and provide much needed electricity for all households.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

The Omaheke region has so far received comparatively little attention in terms of measures and projects aimed at promoting sustainable energy solutions. This project specifically targets this neglected region. DRFN has worked on other projects in the region since 2007 and has designed the project with and according to the needs of the local community. Furthermore, the project has a gender-sensitive approach, putting female empowerment into focus by providing training specifically for women. The project also ensures that renewable energy technology is included and integrated into day-to-day activities, securing the sustainability of the project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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