



CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT



INSTALLATION

Increased Access to Solar Energy for the Medical Centres in Rural Areas of South Kivu

SUMMARY

Country	DR Congo
Implementer	Groupe d'Intervention Pour l'Encadrement et la Réhabilitation Intégrale (GIERI)
Target groups	Population of the South Kivu province
Duration	05/2022 – 12/2022
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

More than 90% of the population of the South Kivu province in DR Congo does not have access to electricity due to the poorly developed national electricity grid. Within this region, the Shabunda, Walungu and Kabare territories are some of the most isolated. Electricity does not reach these territories at all. Due to the lack of electricity, medical centres cannot provide adequate health services to the population. They are unable to store medicine or vaccines, they cannot perform surgery during the night, and pregnant women do not get the appropriate health treatment during delivery.

IMPACT LOGIC

Three general health centres as well as one specialised institution focusing on women who have been victim of sexual violence are equipped with solar PV installations. By having access to electricity, these centres are enabled to power their medical equipment as well as fridges and computers. Materials for the installations are sourced locally, and GIERI ensures that the materials can easily be repaired or replaced in case of damage. In addition to these installations, GIERI also organises capacity building measures. In specialised courses, 20 local youths are trained in the installation and maintenance of the solar PV units. Besides supporting the health facilities, these newly trained technicians are also enabled to start their own businesses in the region. Thus, the health care in the region is strengthened at four specific sites and the overall capacities to expand electricity supply are improved.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

The main innovative element of this project is its geographic focus on three territories in the South Kivu province. These territories have not only been restricted from access to electricity, but no notable projects focusing on providing electricity to major public services like health care facilities have been carried out until now. Furthermore, the project selects and trains members of the local population so that the installations can be sustained even beyond the end of the project. In addition, this creates the possibility to even expand the supply of solar PV systems in the region.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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