



INSTALLATION



MAINTENANCE

SolarCent

SUMMARY

Country	Namibia
Implementer	CommonWaters Namseb
Target groups	Smallholder farmers
Duration	03/2022 – 06/2023
Type of energy use	Irrigation

CHALLENGE

The Hardap region located in the Namib Desert in southern Namibia is home to approximately 10,000 indigenous Nama people. After eight years of persistent drought, during which many Nama farmers lost significant shares of their herds, 2021 finally brought the long-awaited rainfalls. These partially replenished the groundwater level and revived the region with grass and other plants. However, access to water remains a challenge in many places due to insufficient maintenance of equipment and other technical reasons. More than 300 of the 450 available boreholes in the region are estimated to work insufficiently or to be completely defective. But because many farmers already have to spend large parts of their income to feed their cattle, repairing these pumps confronts them with unbearable costs.

IMPACT LOGIC

The project aims to improve the water supply in the Hardap region. Its main activity is the rehabilitation of 15 existing boreholes. In an upfront field visit, the sites with the highest yield potential are identified and analysed. Depending on the findings, CommonWaters installs new solar-powered groundwater pumps, replaces the water collection tanks and renews the distribution systems. At each site, the organisation supports the surrounding farmers in the set-up of a small water management committee. Each committee is managed self-responsibly. It assures the basic maintenance of its system and collects a small amount of money from each user – the so-called SolarCent – to finance future repairs. Beyond the project, CommonWaters is working with the GIZ programme Farming for Resilience (F4R) to introduce solar-irrigation gardening in the communities that surround the boreholes to increase agricultural yields and food security in the region.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

The project is characterised by several innovative elements. First, using a tailor-made approach, it prioritises repairing existing water provision systems over completely dismantling them in favour of new structures. Second, the project ensures local ownership through the established water committees. Finally, the collection of the SolarCent serves as a showcase for financing maintenance operations, even in very sparsely populated areas.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gruene-buergerenergie.org