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GRÜNE BÜRGERENERGIE
(GREEN PEOPLE'S ENERGY)
SMALL PROJECTS FUND (SPF)

CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT

Capacity Building for Quality Energy Services in Rural Benin

SUMMARY

Country	Benin
Implementer	Brücken bauen mit der Sonne e.V.
Co-implementer	TierraSol Benin
Target groups	Rural population around Abomey and Bohicon
Duration	04/2022 – 06/2023
Type of energy use	Electrification

CHALLENGE

In Benin only about 50 % of the population has access to electricity. In rural areas this number is even lower and amounts to only around 25 %. The reason for this is a poorly developed national electricity grid which, especially in rural areas, does not reach individual villages. While Benin receives up to 12 hours of sunlight per day, due to its proximity to the equator, the possibilities for the expansion of solar PV installations throughout the country still remain largely untapped. More trained technicians are required countrywide to better utilise this potential. However, so far training and capacity building measures have often not reached rural regions.

IMPACT LOGIC

The project aims to improve the knowledge about solar PV systems in rural Benin. With a specifically designed, hands-on solar PV installation and maintenance training, the implementing partner TierraSol builds capacities among youths and young adults in the Zou region in southern Benin. The training takes place part-time over the course of six months in a classroom that is rented for this purpose. All material and demonstration equipment is bought locally. Participants are recruited through awareness and advertisement campaigns, which are broadcast over the radio. The training is designed to improve their theoretical and practical technical capabilities and to prepare them to take up jobs as technicians for solar home appliances. To strengthen the practical application, the approach also foresees an internship for each participant and a networking event for the regional solar energy sector. Thereby, the approach not only improves the employment opportunities of each participant, but in the long term also increases the quality of service for solar installations and repairs in the Zou region. Ultimately, the project accelerates the sustainable development of a decentralised renewable electricity supply in Benin.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT ELEMENTS

The project is characterised by a locally tied approach. Local experts are hired to impart their knowledge in a low-entry, practical way. The measures target local students with the intent of providing training that builds on their school education and offering them a promising job perspective. Accessing material from local sources not only keeps costs down, but also helps to connect the project to the region. Not many projects in Benin have so far put capacity building for solar energy technologies in rural areas in the focus of their activities, which characterises the added value of this project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.gruene-buergerenergie.org

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