

JAIAMA NIMIKOR SOLAR ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT: Request for support

Overall aim

The project aims to reduce poverty and improve the well being of poor communities through provision of lighting facilities for homes, institutions and small businesses that will enhance income generation opportunities and improved quality of life for households. The project is currently implemented in Nimikor chiefdom but the plan is to scale it up and implement it in other chiefdoms in Kono District.

What are the problems?

Limited capacity to use gas & electricity: The majority of the people living in the chiefdom cannot afford the cost of electricity to sustain supply of essential services. Many schools and homes do not have electric lighting. It means children have limited opportunity to study after dark.

Indoor air Pollution: Households are generally exposed to common diseases such as eye infections, respiratory disease, and smoked induced coughs from using kerosene lamps to provide lights in homes.

Hard work and use of time by women: Fuel wood collection is an exhausting and time-consuming exercise to provide coal fired power generation. The wasted time could be used for activities both at home such as child-care, participating in literacy training and in community organizations.

Carbon dioxide emission: Using wood for coal power generation to provide light produces CO₂ emission, which is detrimental to the environment.

What are the intended benefits?

- Energy will be generated, stored and distributed more locally. Renewable powered appliances including lighting systems will improve the quality of illumination and communication, benefiting security, education and community development.
- Improved health due to avoidance of harmful effects arising from the burning of kerosene for lighting
- Women, particularly, will save time from the burden of fetching fuel wood and have more time at their disposal to meet social economic needs.
- There will be improved environmental benefits. This includes less destruction of forests for coal-fired power generation and reduced impact of CO₂ emission.
- The productive usage of electricity in communities by businesses such as shops will lead to increase in household income, and increase household ability to meet social needs to improve quality of life.
- Increase availability of skills in service delivery of renewable energy electrification infrastructure will lead to creation of employment for solar electricity technicians and station caretakers.

What has been achieved so far?

1. Community organization

The project is implemented by a local partner called Future Energy Enterprises (FEE) in collaboration with the Community. The partner received funding from Oxfam GB to implement the project.

FEE has worked with the community to establish two committees, the Solar Energy Management Committee and the Solar Steering committee. FEE in collaboration with the committees has developed and agreed bye-laws that govern the overall operation and management of the project in ensuring community ownership of the solar systems that have been installed. Future Energy Enterprises (FEE) makes follow up visits to provide technical support for the solar system. FEE also supports the solar

committees in playing their roles effectively. FEE has provided training for youths in the maintenance of the system. This will be an on-going process.

2. Business model

A flat rate user fee is paid on a monthly basis for utilizing each unit of the solar system. The user fee charged was determined by Solar Energy Management Committee after community consultations. The fee collected will be used to support the expansion of the solar energy project as well as cover maintenance of the facility.

3. Installation of solar system

Solar panels including accessories such as inverters, batteries and wiring of facilities have been accomplished in **most** sections of Jaiama, Nimikor chiefdom. So far, solar electricity units have been installed by the project in 31 dwelling houses, 6 shops, 1 mosque, 1 guest house and 4 churches.

Request for support

The solar project aims to raise £150,000 to expand the project. The project is seeking for funds that will enable it to reach more people in Nimikor chiefdom and other chiefdoms in Kono district as well as reduce the burden of user fee payments, thus making it more accessible to poor community members.

The Solar Energy Management Committee has set up a bank account for the project to which user fees are paid. All contributions and donations should be paid into the account. We encourage you to let the Paramount Chief and chairperson know about all contributions you make to the project.

The following are the details of the bank account to which transfers can be made for the project.

**Jaiama Nimikor Solar Power Management,
Union Trust Bank Limited
Account number: 210-44731-01**

Please direct enquiries to following:

1. Paramount Chief, Aiah Denton Bona Foamansa 111, Jaiama Nimikor chiefdom. Telephone: +232 76590088
2. Madam Memento Dunbar, Chairperson, Solar Energy Management Committee, Telephone: +232 76977406.

Briefing paper
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