



IMPACT SHEET

Project Holder :
Shekina Association
 Program co-financed by
 the GIZ and implemented
 by ADEPT



Location:
 Abolikro and Takra Adiekro,
 Gbeke, Bouaké region,
 Côte d'Ivoire

Objectives

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- To provide the inhabitants of Abolikro and Takra Adiekro with a better access to health care;
- To help the villages of Abolikro and Takra Adiekro tackle their isolation situation, by offering them access to a renewable and sustainable energy source.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To improve the quality of health care provided to local populations and the working conditions of health care workers in local health centers
- To allow for the storage, directly in the local health facilities, of vaccines and medicines that need to be refrigerated
- To offer patients the possibility to access health care at any time during the day or the night (in particular for emergencies and childbirth)
- To provide electricity through solar energy, an environmentally friendly system that contributes to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- To raise awareness and train the population on environmental protection.

Duration :
 from February to March 2022
 Project cost : 15 000 €
 Amount allocated by ADEPT : 7500 €

Contribution to SDGs:



“Solar energy for better healthcare in Côte d’Ivoire”



The MODAL Program, funded by the GIZ and implemented by ADEPT, was born with the aim of setting up an action for the four countries of the South-South Cooperation Action: Mali, Morocco, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. MODAL mobilizes Malian, Moroccan, Senegalese and Ivorian diaspora organizations in Europe, as well as their partner organizations in these four countries. The program is based on three pillars:

- Providing the required technical means to implement local development projects through skill development programs;
- Providing financial means;
- Exchanging and capitalizing on knowledge.

The MODAL Program gathers 11 development projects in various fields: entrepreneurship, agrifood transformation, ecotourism, vocational/professional training, and education, among others.

Shekina, a non-profit organization created in 2016 in France, is one of the organizations supported by the program. Shekina works on various projects in the fields of education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, health, sustainable development and women empowerment.

In the framework of the MODAL Program, Shekina implements the “Solar energy for better health care in Côte d'Ivoire” project, a development project aiming at installing solar panels on Ivorian health centers that are not electrified yet.

In Côte d'Ivoire, Shekina has already implemented more than ten projects, that have allowed the organization to electrify 14 health centers in 5 regions, to provide more than 10 000 meals to school canteens across the country, to empower 100 women and to successfully rehabilitate 100 young people. With three offices in Côte d'Ivoire (in Daloa, Abidjan and Jacqueville), the association is well established in the country.

On the one hand, the political and military crisis from 2000 to 2011 really weakened the country and its economic potential: the poverty rate reached almost 50% and Côte d'Ivoire was ranked 171st on 187 on the UN poverty list, because of medical and educational structural weaknesses. Almost half of the population is considered as being “poor”.

On the other hand, more than 200 Ivorian health centers in rural settings are not electrified because of the lack of resources at national level, and the rate of maternal mortality in childbirth is one of the highest in the world (614 deaths per 100 000 births between 2005 and 2013). In addition, immunization coverage is very low and neonatal mortality (because of the lack of incubators) and child mortality rates remain very high (108 deaths per 1000 births).



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Partners

PAIPS (NGO PARTNER)
WALEZI (NGO PARTNER)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Public Hygiene
and Universal Medical Coverage,
Côte d'Ivoire.

Beneficiaries

- 10 000 BENEFICIARIES,
OR 5 000 PER HEALTH CENTER

Context (more)

The health challenges that Côte d'Ivoire faces are therefore significant. The country's healthcare system has been weakened by the numerous political crises that unfolded over the last decades, which explains the fact that the ratio of doctors, nurses and midwives per inhabitant is among the lowest in Africa.

The health centers that need to be electrified and equipped are located in isolated villages, far from larger cities. Access to these remote areas is very hard, because there is no tarred road; these regions are not a priority for the national authorities. There is only one midwife and/or one nurse per 5000 inhabitants and no doctor. In some villages, the situation is even more precarious: the nurse is the one who has to help mothers give birth, because there is no midwife in the village. There's no clean drinking water or electricity, and local populations live with less than a dollar a day. They get by thanks to their small incomes from fishing, agriculture and cattle breeding. Each village has around 5000 inhabitants on average, and the birth rate is very high.

It is after seeing how precarious and concerning the living conditions of the local populations are that the association decided to launch the "Solar Energy" project.

Activities

- Measurement of the health centers to determine where solar panels can be installed
- Awareness and training activities for the local populations on the benefits of solar energy
- Installation of the solar panels
- Training for health care workers and local populations on the maintenance of solar panels
- Monitoring, evaluation and assessment of the project.

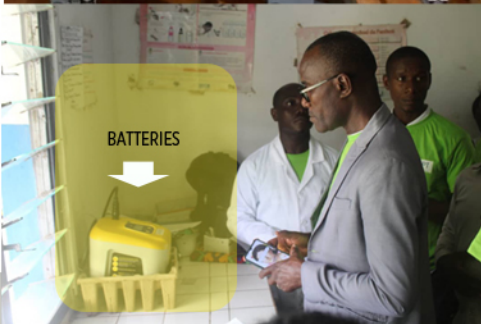
Outcomes

- Two health centers were electrified: the Abolikro and Takra Adjekro health centers, in the Bouaké region, in the center of Côte d'Ivoire
- Health care workers now work in better conditions and can store, directly in their facilities, the vaccines and medicines that need to be refrigerated..

Feedback

- 10 000 people now have a better access to health care and can seek treatment 24/7
- 3 000 vaccines per year are now stored directly within local health facilities
- Health care workers in the two health centers mentioned above now enjoy better working conditions
- The frequentation rate in both health centers has increased almost 30% compared to last year
- The maternal mortality rate during childbirth has decreased by 30%
- The Abolikro and Takra Adiekro health centers are slowly getting out of their isolation situation
- Local populations have more knowledge on solar energy and are more mindful of environmental protection.

4 BATTERIES PER HEALTH CENTRE HAVE BEEN INSTALLED, I.E. 1200 W / HEALTH CENTRE. THEY HAVE A POWER OF 300 W; THESE ARE THE BATTERIES THAT RECHARGE THE SOLAR SYSTEM.



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ADEPT's input

"The partnership with ADEPT unfolded in a very smooth way. The project was very interesting; it was a good idea to also work with their local partner in Côte d'Ivoire, the NGO PAIPS. The project coordinator was very helpful to allow the project to run smoothly. She was very attentive to everything for the success of the project. [...]"

ADEPT deserves a huge thank you, because thanks to them, we were able to secure funding from very prestigious donors, such as the European Union and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ)."

Ange Eric Kouassi, Founder and Director of the Shekina association.

Participant testimonies

Kouame Kouman Jules, Head nurse at the Rural Health Center in Abolikro:

"First of all, I would like to thank Shekina and its partners for giving us the gift of electricity. The Abolikro Rural Health Center (Centre de santé rural – CSR) was created in 1944 and covers a population of 7 570 inhabitants. The services that we offer are the following:

- Curative care, prenatal consultations and post-natal checkups
- Vaccination
- Childbirth
- Family planning guidance.

Unfortunately, since its creation, the Abolikro CSR has had no access to electricity or running water and we have been suffering from it. The electricity we have just been given access to will improve our working conditions, but there is still a lot to do, because the maternity clinic is incomplete and under equipped and our toolbox is becoming outdated. We look forward to the continuous support of Shekina and its partners, so that we can, in turn, serve the population."

N'DRI Amino, also called Sarah, President of the MLAN Kouassikro women

"Today is a big day for us, women of MLAN Kouassikro, because we are getting out of darkness to finally go under the light. We are leaving behind us a delivery room with no electricity for a delivery room that now has light. I want to wholeheartedly thank Shekina and its partners for the precious gift they have just given us. Even though there is still a long way to go, because we still need an ultrasound room and running water in our clinic, 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush', as the saying goes. We welcome what has been given to us, but we are always happy to receive more. Keeping in mind our precarious working conditions here, having an ultrasound room directly in the health center would allow us not to have to go to Bouaké for our consultations."

DJAHA Yao Mathieu, Youth President in Abolikro:

"The youth of Abolikro, through my voice, would like to deeply thank Shekina and its partners, thanks to whom we now have access to electricity in our hospital. At some point, we doubted their sincerity, after they came to make their promise, but today, it is a reality and we could not be happier. Our clinic is slowly modernizing. The youth presidency that we represent will ensure that the equipment is used wisely, so that it can be sustainable. It is a huge step forward, but there are still other challenges to address for our hospital to be sufficiently equipped. We still need to have running water, to renovate the whole building and to finish building the maternity clinic. But for now, we wanted to thank our donors once again. [...]"

