


Bale Sandabe Irrigation Cooperative

Sinana



Business Details

8 
Number of Powerblox

95 Cooperative members
empowered

8 
Number of locations

**June
2023** Date of installation

358,400 ETB
Total cost paid

100% Loan percentage paid
back within 8 months
of installation



The Energy for Rural Start-Ups initiative, a joint venture between Caritas Switzerland and Power-Blox AG, pioneers rural electrification in Ethiopia. Utilizing Swiss-developed Powerblox (PBX) swarm battery technology, it aims to provide last-mile connections to off-grid rural households by applying a nano-grid approach, bridging gaps between solar home systems and larger mini-grids. In its first phase June 2023 - January 2024, 87 Powerblox were installed in 49 locations, empowering 14 micro-enterprises, 2 cooperatives, and 6 public institutions in rural areas of Oromia Region. With a 100% Powerblox payback rate within 10 months, the initiative demonstrates business viability and fosters economic growth, household resilience, and social inclusion. Scaling up, the aim is to install 7,000 Powerblox, electrify 100,000 households, 1,000 health centres, and empower 5,000 SMEs, supported by a sustainable financing and operation model and public institutions.

Top appliances & revenue streams



IRRIGATION

By utilizing and leveraging the PBX systems, the cooperative has improved irrigation practices for their community

Irrigation system



HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIFICATION

Providing reliable and affordable electricity to households, empowering them to power their daily lives.

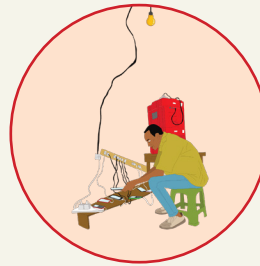
Light bulbs



MEDIA SERVICES

Enabling access to information and entertainment through TV services, enhancing the quality of life for our customers.

TV



MOBILE CHARGING SERVICES

Offering convenient and accessible mobile charging solutions, catering to the growing demand for mobile connectivity.

Charging station

Key Achievements

17 Additional jobs created

387% Weekly income increase since electrification

25 Lamps powered for own use

15233% Weekly customer increase related to energy

4 Lamps powered for income

29 Total lamps powered

131 Mobile phones charged per day

The Harana Rira Multi-purpose Cooperative through its operations, the cooperative not only meets the needs of community members but also creates economic opportunities for its members, contributing to local economic development and empowerment.

The cooperative empowers 100 members by providing them with opportunities to generate income through various ventures, including mobile charging services, barber shops, and potentially other activities facilitated by the electrification and infrastructure provided.

Join the effort

Partner with us to revolutionize rural electrification in Ethiopia. Learn more about our initiative and impact and discover how to get involved on our website today.



*The PBX are currently 50% subsidized to support the pilot phase and simulate the landing price during commercial scaling.



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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC