


Amanuel Kusiya & Charika mini grid, MSE

Kulcha



Business Details

4 

Number of Powerblox

3 Business operators empowered

1 
Number of locations

June 2023 Date of installation

179,200 ETB
Total cost paid

100% Loan percentage paid back within 10 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



HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIFICATION

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

Light bulbs



MOBILE CHARGING SERVICES

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

Charging station



Key Achievements

2 Additional jobs created

From 0 to 1575 ETB

Weekly income increase since electrification

7 Lamps powered for own use

From 0 to 105

Weekly customer increase related to energy

27 Lamps powered for income

34 Total lamps powered

30 Mobile phones charged per day

The Amanuel Kusiya & Charika Mini Grid MSE effectively utilizes PBX systems to provide essential services and uplift the local community. Key services offered include household electrification, mobile charging, lighting, educational empowerment, and communication enhancement. These services improve living conditions, enable productivity, extend productive hours, support educational pursuits, and enhance communication within the community.

"I was struggling to find a job after completing my engineering degree, so I returned home to search for remote work. However, with no electricity, I had to travel to the city to charge my phone, costing me money for transportation, meals, and charging fees. My friend and I attempted to launch a charging service using generators, but had to give up due to high expenses. I then focused on helping my family with subsistence farming until Powerblox transformed our lives in a short time." (Mr. Amanuel, one of the MSE members)

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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