

Bidimo Primary School

Hore Kora




Business Details

5 

Number Of Powerblox

July 2023  Date of installation

1  Number of locations

100%  Loan percentage paid back within 10 months of installation

224,000 ETB

Total cost paid



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



LIGHTING

Allowing students to use libraries and engage in sports activities after school. Teachers are also able to use the library after school for additional preparation.

Lamps



CHARGING SERVICE

Enabling teachers to charge their mobiles and laptops and access the newly revised academic curriculum books at the federal level.

Laptops

Mobile phones



MINI MEDIA

Unleashing students' talent through a mini media platform where they can share information during their breaks.

Speaker



Key Achievements

780 ETB
13.6 USD

Average weekly energy savings

The electrification at Bidimo Primary School has led to diversified revenue streams, reducing reliance on community funding. It has also enabled additional services like printing, adult education classes at night, and extra tutorial sessions, enhancing the overall educational experience.

1849 Average weekly number of students benefiting from improved services.

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.



POWERBLOX



AFRICA
GREENTEC



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC