


Kulcha Health Center

Borana



Business Details

4 

Number Of Powerblox

6 Number of health posts

1  Number of locations

August 2023 Date of installation

179,200 ETB
Total cost paid

100% Loan percentage paid back within 9 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



HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

Offering 24/7 laboratory service to both the main center and the 6 health posts associated with it.

Microscope

Refrigerator

Centrifuges



MOBILE CHARGING

Granting medical professionals internet access for professional development through offering a mobile charging service.

Charging station

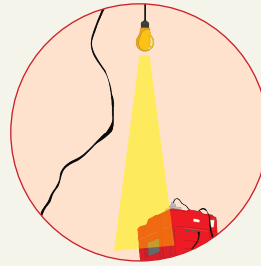


OFFICE APPLIANCES

Distributing printed hard copies of medical reports to the six health posts affiliated with the health center and running the office machines smoothly.

Desktop

Printer



LIGHTING

Offering nocturnal child delivery service and surgical procedures.

Lamps

Key Achievements

3280 ETB
57.2 USD

Average weekly energy savings

32,018

Number of people the center services

The implementation of rural electrification in Borena, Kulcha health center has improved its healthcare services, improved communication across the 6 health posts under the center communication, lab services, and entertaining reception area. It has also increased funding opportunities for the center and stability for healthcare staff.

The expansion of laboratory services has tripled the number of individuals served - from serving 50 individuals to 150 per day, and allowed for 24/7 operation. These improvements have made staff retention easier and created a more pleasant environment for patients waiting because of the TV at the reception area.


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.



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC