



Solar power for rural households, Ethiopia

Essential facts and figures

Project activity	Providing warranty coverage and setting up a battery replacement programme for solar lamps and solar home systems.
Project site	Ethiopia
Project owner	Development Bank of Ethiopia
Start date of operation	2016
Project duration	2016 to 2024
Quantity of emission reductions (in tonnes of CO₂)	116'604 CERs and 56'563 SCF-certificates (CCF share of 21%)

Project description

The project covered the sale of solar lamps and solar home systems – which next to light also supply electricity, e.g. for a television and ventilator – to rural households without grid connection over the years 2016-2020. Thanks to the solar installations, households did not need to use kerosene to produce light and could thereby reduce their CO₂ emissions.

Driven by sharply falling prices, solar lamps are experiencing a boom in Africa. However, the products being sold are often of poor quality and do not last long in everyday use. The project aimed to enable high-quality solar lamps and solar home systems to break through in Ethiopia.

The project did not directly subsidise solar installations. The proceeds from the sale of certificates were used toward providing warranty coverage and a battery exchange programme.

The World Bank's "Carbon Initiative for Development" (Ci-Dev), in which the Climate Cent Foundation holds a share, is purchasing 116'604 CERs generated by the project over the period 2016 to 2020 and 56'563 certificates issued under the World Bank's "Standardised Crediting Framework" (SCF) for emission reductions generated over the period 2021 to 2024.

Project status (July 2026)

The project was registered by the UN in July 2016 as n° 10285 and by Ethiopia under the SCF in 2025.

880'000 solar lamps and 86'000 solar home systems subsidised by the programme have been in operation.

Project owner

The Development Bank of Ethiopia is a specialised financial establishment tasked to implement the national development strategy. It provides financial and technical support to selected projects of national interest – such as the solar programme for rural households.

For further information:

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