Evaluation Brief · Renewable Energy And Climate Change Technologies

Solar Power for Green Jobs in Burkina Faso (PROSSEV-BF)

Final evaluation of the Promotion of Solar Solutions to Stimulate Green Employment in Burkina Faso

Final Evaluation · Part of the LuxDev BKF/023 programme · Implemented by AECF

35
agricultural SMEs supported (140% of target)

445
direct jobs created (254% of target)

901
additional indirect jobs along value chains

74%
of direct jobs held by women

IN BRIEF

- Solar installations for productive use were **highly relevant** to agricultural SMEs, cutting energy costs and dependence on an unreliable grid and diesel generators.
- The project **far exceeded its targets**: 35 companies supported against 25, and 445 direct jobs against 175, helped in part by additional funding.
- Job creation was **strongly inclusive**: women hold 74% of direct jobs and 83% of the 901 indirect jobs, and formal jobs pay above the national minimum wage.
- Future projects should **pair solar with processing equipment** and select companies that can mobilize their co-financing on time.

About the project

The Promotion of Solar Solutions to Stimulate Green Employment in Burkina Faso (PROSSEV-BF) promoted solar energy for productive use in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small and medium-sized industries (SMIs), with the aim of creating green jobs for Burkinabè workers by greening the country's local industrial and productive base.

The project combined financial incentives with technical assistance for participating companies. It formed part of LuxDev's BKF/023 programme, which supports private-sector initiatives to drive the energy transition in key economic sectors towards a greener and more inclusive economy. It had two specific objectives:

- Promote solar installations for productive use in at least **25 companies** with high job-creation potential.
- Stimulate **job creation** by participating SMEs and SMIs.

Country	Burkina Faso
Programme	LuxDev BKF/023 (Luxembourg Development Cooperation)

Implementer	Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF)
Sectors	Agricultural value chains: mango, rice, cotton, fruit and vegetables, poultry and tubers
Support	Co-financing incentives and technical assistance for solar installations

About the evaluation

The final evaluation assessed the project's achievements against its original objectives using the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, and drew out lessons and recommendations for future initiatives.

Primary data were collected from a purposive sample of **10 participating companies** in the Guiriko and Kadiogo regions, covering a diverse range of agricultural value chains, including rice processing, oilseed processing, seed production and marketing, dried mango processing and export, and livestock products. In-person interviews were complemented by field observations and photographs to verify that solar installations were functioning. The study analyzed quantitative data descriptively and qualitative data thematically, and triangulated findings with project documentation and stakeholder information. Because the sample was purposive, read findings from the company visits as indicative rather than representative of all 35 companies.

Key findings

FINDING 1 | RELEVANCE

Solar support met a pressing need for reliable, affordable energy

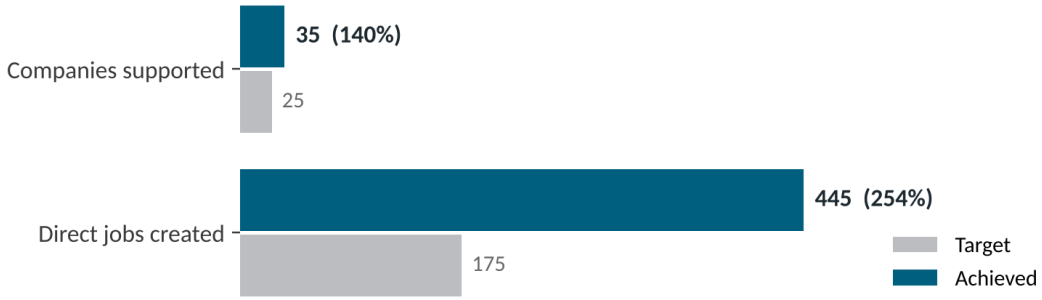
Participating companies reported very high satisfaction with the support, particularly for energy stability, lower energy costs and higher productivity. For many, solar investments reduced reliance on the national grid and on generators, improving energy self-sufficiency and business continuity. The approach proved relevant across several agricultural value chains, including mango, rice, cotton, fruit and vegetables, poultry and tubers.

FINDING 2 | EFFECTIVENESS

The project substantially exceeded its core targets

PROSSEV-BF supported 35 companies against an initial target of 25 (140%) and generated 445 direct jobs against a target of 175 (254%). The evaluation attributes this over-performance partly to additional funding the project received during implementation.

Figure 1. Results against targets



FINDING 3 | IMPACT

Job creation was large, inclusive and reached beyond supported firms

Of the 445 direct jobs, 108 are formal and 337 informal. Women hold 74% of direct jobs overall: 57% of formal jobs and 80% of informal jobs. Formal jobs created by the project pay above the national minimum wage of 45,000 FCFA per month.

The benefits also extended across the supported value chains, with the evaluation estimating a further 901 indirect jobs, 83% of which were held by women. By helping companies operate year-round, the project also stabilized seasonal employment for agricultural workers.

Figure 2. Share of jobs held by women



FINDING 4 | ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Solar adoption reduced fossil-fuel use

By reducing reliance on the national grid and diesel generators, participating companies reduced their fossil fuel consumption, contributing to the project's green-growth objective alongside its employment outcomes.

Lessons and recommendations

1	**Combine solar with processing equipment** Future projects should finance solar installations alongside transformation and processing equipment and clearly explain the chosen model to applicants from the outset.
2	**Select companies that can co-finance on time** Choose beneficiaries who can demonstrate their share of the investment within the required timeframe, using funding tiers whose criteria match the size of the grant.
3	**Hold to agreed timelines** Keep to the deadlines set at design and, where necessary, prioritize beneficiaries who are up to date with their co-financing, to avoid overload and delays across the portfolio.
4	**Help existing beneficiaries add processing capacity** Support companies that already have solar equipment in acquiring processing equipment, increasing production capacity, and enhancing the long-term sustainability of their investment.

THE OVERALL LESSON

Solar energy for productive use can do more than cut costs: when matched to agricultural value chains, it can create large numbers of jobs, most of them for women.

ABOUT AECF

The Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) is a Pan-African development institution that finances early- and growth-stage businesses in agribusiness, renewable energy and climate-smart technologies. Combining grants, results-based and repayable finance, and technical assistance, AECF helps enterprises innovate, create jobs, and build resilient, sustainable incomes in rural and marginalized communities, with a particular focus on fragile contexts, women, and youth.

Since 2008, AECF has supported more than 700 enterprises across 26 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, reaching an estimated 37.4 million lives. AECF commissions independent evaluations of its programmes and publishes what it learns, including mixed results, so that evidence shapes future programming.

ABOUT THIS BRIEF

This brief summarizes the final evaluation of the PROSSEV-BF project, implemented by AECF under LuxDev's BKF/023 programme. The views expressed are those of the evaluators. The full evaluation report is available on request from AECF.

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