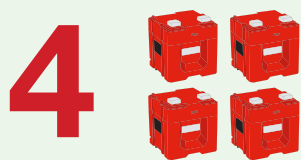


# Bakalcha Bari mini grid, MSE

Hirmaye

## Business Details



Number of Powerblox

4

Business operators  
empowered

4



Number of locations

June  
2023

Date of installation

179,200 ETB

Total cost paid

100%

Loan percentage paid  
back within 10 months  
of installation**CARITAS** Schweiz  
Suisse  
Svizzera  
Svizra

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



## MEDIA SERVICES

Enabling access to information and entertainment through TV services, enhancing the quality of life for our customers.

TV

DSTV

Decoder

Speaker

## Key Achievements

**4** Additional jobs created

**From 0 to 2485 ETB** Weekly income increase since electrification

**14** Lamps powered for own use

**From 0 to 307** Weekly customer increase related to energy

**13** Lamps powered for income

**27** Total lamps powered

**35** Mobile phones charged per day

The business operators have been empowered through access to reliable energy, which has facilitated household electrification, mobile charging services, and entertainment options like TV and speaker systems. These services not only improve quality of life but also create economic opportunities and social benefits.

## 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.