

Contracting Authority:

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy

Implementing Agency:

Desert Research Foundation of Namibia

Strategic Partners:

Ministry of Mines and Energy, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute (REEEI)

Project Duration: April 2009 to April 2010

Project Budget: N\$ 700,000.00

Project Overview

The objective of the project is to promote business opportunities in the off-grid regions of Namibia, using solar energy technologies. The established basic “Energy Shops” will provide basic energy services and foster renewable energy technologies.

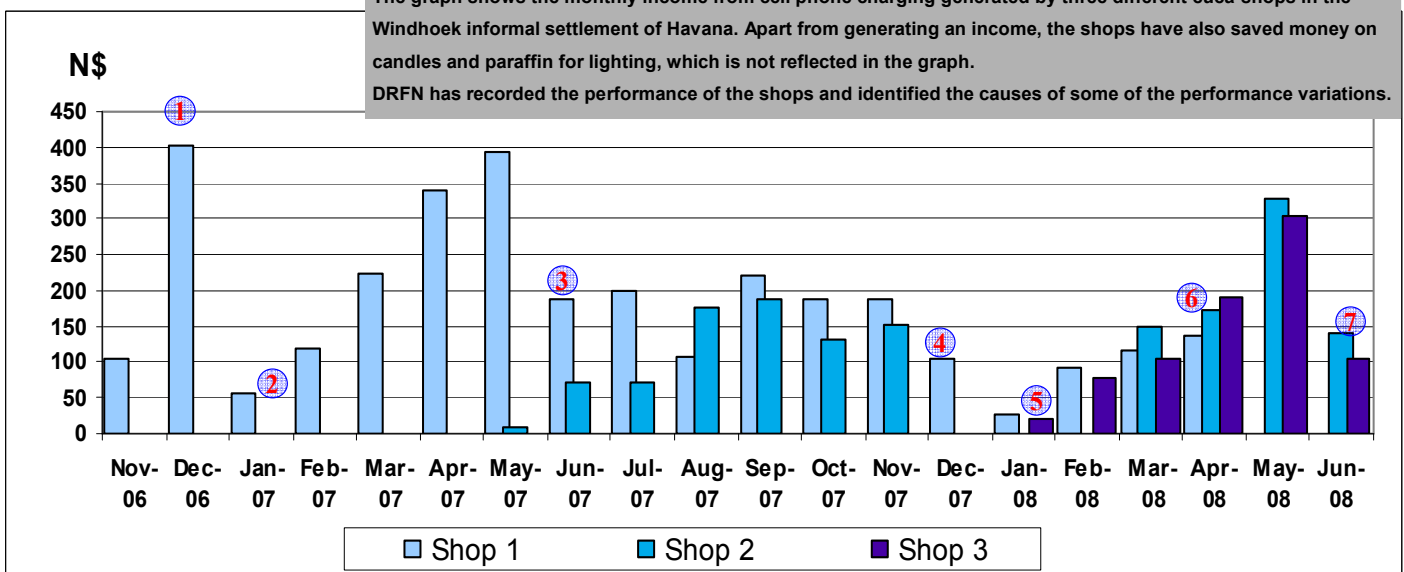
Ten suitable entrepreneurs, who already operate a small cuka-shop, shall be identified, trained and equipped with solar business systems that offer electricity for cell phone charging, hair cutting, electric lantern charging and lighting for the shop. In addition the businesses will be provided with solar and energy efficient stoves for baking and catering. The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), who is implementing the project, aims to assess the financial feasibility and sustainability of small Energy Shops. In cooperation with other institutions such as the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) the programme shall provide feedback to a national roll-out plan in Namibia, according to Namibia’s Off-Grid Energisation Master Plan, 2006.



Project Outcomes

- Identification of suitable entrepreneurs and training into market assessments and business management
- Ten solar shops established in various un-electrified rural and informal settlement areas across Namibia
- Lessons learnt and guidelines documented

The graph shows the monthly income from cell phone charging generated by three different cuka-shops in the Windhoek informal settlement of Havana. Apart from generating an income, the shops have also saved money on candles and paraffin for lighting, which is not reflected in the graph. DRFN has recorded the performance of the shops and identified the causes of some of the performance variations.



- ① National holiday season prevented people from charging for free at work
- ② Poor disposable income in community after holiday season
- ③ Full-time manager from Shop 1 leaves, while Shop 2 opens in vicinity and partially competes with Shop 1
- ④ Shop 2 closes temporarily. Shop 1 struggles with suitable staff
- ⑤ Shop 3 opens in same area, but some distance away
- ⑥ Shop 1 closes and relocates to rural area. Shop 2 open again
- ⑦ Income record of only half of month for both Shops 2 and 3