



# 2023 Global Report

working for a more equitable, sustainable world





## To our blueEnergy community



As we reflect on the successes of 2023, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible progress blueEnergy has made in transforming communities and empowering local leadership in Nicaragua, Ethiopia, and beyond. Over nearly two decades of operation, blueEnergy has remained committed to overcoming the challenges presented by socio-political landscapes and complex environmental conditions. Our work, grounded in collaboration with local communities and partners, has proven that persistence, determination, and technology can create lasting change.

In 2023, we witnessed the impact of our programs in ways that affirm our mission. From expanding access to clean drinking water in Ethiopia through solar-powered pumping systems, to supporting vulnerable communities in Nicaragua with agroecology training and sustainable farming practices, blueEnergy's reach has grown. Notably, our long-time partner, Meal a Day, visited our San Pedro Climate Smart School in Bluefields, where their volunteers helped implement food security and climate adaptation initiatives. These efforts support our mission of building resilient communities in the face of climate change.

We also celebrated the completion of phase one in our water access program in Ethiopia's Oromia region, with solar-powered systems now providing water to over 1,000 residents of Damotu village. In addition, we continued our collaboration with local partners in Burkina Faso, further expanding our impact in energy and water access.

A key milestone for blueEnergy this year was securing the final three buildings of our campus in Nicaragua, which will strengthen our operations and expand our capacity to train and equip local leaders. We remain deeply committed to fostering local leadership through capacity-building efforts, including training in agroecology and solar engineering, which empower communities to lead their own development.

As we move forward, we are excited to build on this momentum. We continue to strengthen our partnerships, expand our impact, and, most importantly, empower communities to thrive through access to clean energy, water, and sustainable food sources. We remain deeply committed to our core values of local leadership, sustainability, and resilience. Together, with the continued support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we look forward to the future with optimism and determination.

The remarkable achievements of blueEnergy in 2023 are a testament to the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of individuals like you. I am deeply grateful to our boards, staff, and supporters for their commitment to driving positive change and for entrusting me with the privilege of leading us into the future. Thank you for your continued support of blueEnergy. We invite you to explore the journey we've collectively undertaken this year and encourage you to consider joining us in our next chapter of growth and impact.



Madeleine C. Bouton, US Executive Director



## Our Approach

**Local Leadership** We are locally lead in Nicaragua and partner with in-country institutions in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, and solutions are designed, developed, and implemented in partnership with the population concerned and with the agreement and support of local institutions.

**Women Empowerment** We consider the central and dynamic role of women by focusing on women’s needs and requests, empowering them to improve their lives.

**Capacity Building** We then further train, within the community, people who relay and promote good practices and chosen solutions. We provide skills and organizational strengthening with the aim of increasing autonomy and self-sufficiency so that people can lead their own development and disseminate what they've learned to their community.

**Impact Expansion** We scale our impact through sharing at the local, national, and international level through our Open Source Impact Model, designed by blueEnergy.

## 2023: Your Impact in Numbers

2,995

people with increased water, sanitation, and hygiene access

898

people with affordable, renewable electricity

1,306

people with improved food and nutritional security

**Our mission** is to improve the quality of life of those living at the margins of globalization by empowering families and communities with food security, clean water, and renewable energy.

**Our vision** is a world of sustainable living and opportunity for all.

Platinum Transparency 2023

Candid.



over **185,942** people reached since 2004

Integrating local knowledge and resources for sustainable impact



**Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH)**



In Nicaragua's South Caribbean Coast, over 90% lack access to clean water. Since 2008, blueEnergy's WASH program has improved water and sanitation by providing filters, deep wells, latrines, and hygiene infrastructure. Similar challenges persist in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, where millions face water scarcity and inadequate sanitation, further driving blueEnergy's mission to expand its impact globally.



**Renewable Energy**



In Nicaragua's South Caribbean Coast, over 75% lack energy access, leaving communities isolated and in darkness. Since 2004, blueEnergy has addressed this through solar micro-grids, home systems, and portable solutions. In Ethiopia, a partnership with MCMDO since 2014 has brought solar-powered water pumps to rural areas, with expanded efforts reaching Burkina Faso in 2023 to improve energy and water access.



**Food Security & Agroecology**



In Nicaragua's South Caribbean Coast, poverty and limited dietary diversity drive high malnutrition rates. Since 2014, blueEnergy has promoted food security through agroecology practices, including seed bank development, training, and support for families in creating food-producing home gardens.

**Climate Change Resilience**

blueEnergy operates in countries highly vulnerable to climate change, facing intensified hurricanes, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels. These events worsen poverty, gender-based violence, food insecurity, and access to clean water and sanitation. blueEnergy's climate resilience initiative in Nicaragua addresses these interconnected challenges through an integrative approach, spanning its programs in Food Security, WASH, and Renewable Energy.

## Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



**28,001 direct beneficiaries**



**114** ecological latrines

**83** family and community washing stations



**124** wells

**1,391** filters



**6** rainwater harvesting systems

**72** grey water treatment systems

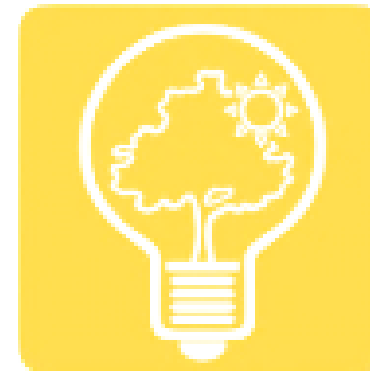
**40** CAPS created and trained



**4** recycling stations

**700** taxi hygiene Kits

## Energy



**148,799 direct beneficiaries**



**298** solar lanterns



**231** fuel efficient cook stoves



**242** individual and community solar systems



**20** solar pumping systems

**2** biodigester systems

## Food Security & Agroecology



**9,342 direct beneficiaries**



**27** model families

**22** community promoters

**3** community gardens



**83** food-producing home gardens

**45** farm tool kits

**1** seed banks



**1** online learning platform

**11** teachers certified

**7** Climate Change Adaptation Plans

**5** community development plans

**6** Community Climate Change Adaptation Centers



**+ 1,995 BENEFICIARIES**



*Handover of filters at Villa Nueva, September 2023*

## Improving Health and Resilience through Water Access and Education

In 2023, blueEnergy made a positive impact on living conditions in the communities of **Villa Nueva**, 47 km west of Bluefields, and **Punta Masaya**, a suburban district of Bluefields.

- **At the community level**, the organization strengthened the Drinking Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS) and raised awareness about the commitment needed to address water and sanitation challenges. The Punta Masaya CAPS identified a location for a community well and managed the contributions from beneficiaries. **The 42-meter deep well now provides drinking water to 30 families and is the only water source in an area previously without any community distribution network.** Awareness activities, including training on hygiene, health, and water conservation, were also conducted.
- **At the family level, 115 water filters were installed in Villa Nueva and Punta Masaya.** Beneficiaries received full training on using and maintaining the filters, ensuring access to clean drinking water directly in their homes.
- **At the school level**, participatory diagnostics were conducted in the San José (Villa Nueva) and Santa Rosa (Punta Masaya) public schools. **At San José, two water filters were installed following E. coli contamination of the well, along with training on their use.** A hand-washing station is also being planned. In Santa Rosa, priorities include improving latrines, repairing the well, and restoring the water distribution system. One child CAPS was trained to carry out school-wide awareness activities.



*Punta Masaya well drilling, December 2023*



**+ 1306 BENEFCIARIES**



*Nirva Rivas vegetable garden, September 2023*



**Olga Garcia, 74, from Bluefields, a participating family in Barrio 19 de Julio.**

“I feel very happy today, because I'm surrounded by all these young people helping me with my vegetable garden. It's something very precious, I feel very serene and happy, because it's going to help me provide for my children.”



**Dina Omeir, 41, Community promoter and entrepreneur**

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who support these initiatives, as they have enabled me to have a dignified job. Beyond the assistance in establishing my garden, I deeply appreciate all the entrepreneurial guidance that has transformed my life. It's something I truly value and enjoy. Thank you so much."

## Growing Resilience and Nutrition through Agroecology and Empowerment

In 2023, blueEnergy's Food Security and Agroecology program, which trains families, schools, and communities to improve nutrition through agroecology and vegetable gardening, directly benefited 1,306 people.

- **Dozens of elderly and disabled women were trained in agroecology and permaculture practices, supported by blueEnergy to create their own vegetable gardens.** This not only provided them with healthy, balanced food but also contributed to soil regeneration and climate resilience.
- **The 14 women promoters played a crucial role in the project's success and sustainability.** By sharing their knowledge and skills, they inspired new families to join, creating a multiplier effect that expanded the program's reach.
- Additionally, **6 URACCAN students were certified in 2023 as elementary teachers of the biointensive method,** helping to promote best practices and strengthen vulnerable communities' resilience to climate challenges.



**+ 898 BENEFICIARIES**



*Delivery of equipment to Rama Mainland, December 2023*

## Transforming Communities with Sustainable Energy for a Brighter Future

In 2023, blueEnergy's renewable energy access program directly benefited **898 people**.

Rama Mainland, a newly established village for families from the overpopulated island of Rama Cay, will receive blueEnergy's support in 2024. The project will install:

- **20 solar home systems**
- **2 community solar systems for a multi-purpose building and laundry**
- **18 solar-powered street lamps along footpaths**
- 

Each system generates up to 1.79 kWh per day, with a 24-hour autonomy thanks to integrated batteries. This initiative has significantly improved the quality of life in Rama Mainland, promoting social and economic development.

Additionally, in 2023, blueEnergy launched a hybrid solar grid at Verbo College, combining solar power with the commercial grid to fully cover the school's energy needs.

### Testimonial from Pierre Grosset, International Solidarity Volunteer working for blueEnergy Nicaragua for a year.

“My mission with blueEnergy Nicaragua focuses on renewable energy projects, particularly solar energy. Specifically, I am responsible for installing a hybrid energy system on the roof of a secondary school. This system provides a clean energy source and ensures energy resilience during extreme climatic events, such as hurricanes that lead to power outages. My role involves coordinating, designing, and budgeting for these projects.

On a personal level, this experience has been nothing short of extraordinary. The blueEnergy team is remarkable for their passion, warmth, and exceptional hospitality, which continuously inspires me. This opportunity has been incredibly enriching for my career, as it allows me to develop a wide range of skills. Each day brings new challenges and learning opportunities, making this journey both dynamic and deeply rewarding.”







Training session at the Model Center, September 2023

In 2023, **blueEnergy** supported 7 beneficiaries from the Disabled People's Association in establishing sustainable self-employment businesses.

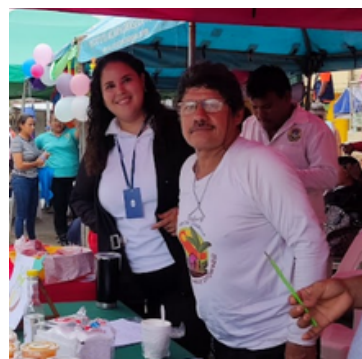
Part of the Food Security and Agroecology Program, this project promotes self-sufficiency and improves the economic conditions of beneficiaries. **Income-generating activities focus on agroecological practices, climate change adaptation, and an inclusive socio-economic approach, with technical support from blueEnergy.**

Throughout the year, blueEnergy provided guidance and support in developing entrepreneurial ideas. Several entrepreneurial fairs were held, and one initiative secured third place in a national agribusiness competition. **At the program's conclusion, after presenting to an international jury, the beneficiaries received seed funding to launch their businesses**

## Introducing the 7 Entrepreneurs



**Leonte Martinez**  
Santa Rosa  
Handcrafted Wines



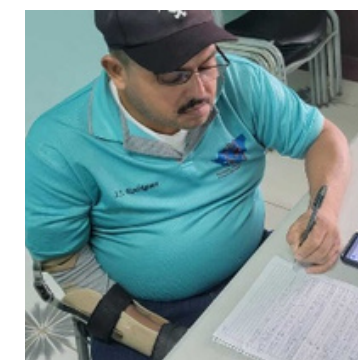
**Alberto Williams**  
Mr. Williams  
Coconut Product



**Zoila Miranda**  
The Wonders  
of my Home



**Luz Laguna**  
Green House  
Naturals



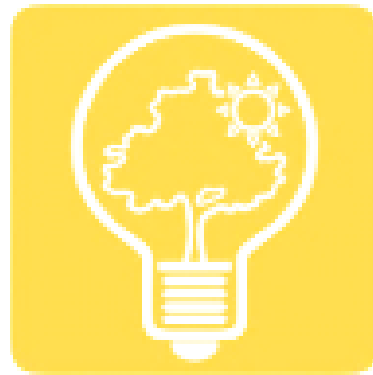
**Juan Jorge Rodriguez**  
Don Juan Pickles and  
Peppers



**Dina Omeir**  
Braids & Beauty  
by Dina Omeir



**Adelina Lopez**  
The Delights Adelina  
Bananas



## The solar pumping project implemented by MCMDO\*, blueEnergy's local partner:

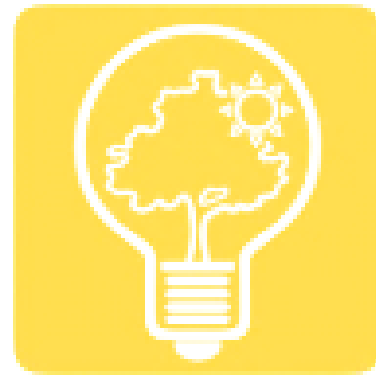
In 2023, the first phase of the drinking water access program in the Oromia region was expanded with the installation of a 1.8 kW solar pumping system, which feeds a 10 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir. This system now provides clean drinking water to the 1,000 residents of the village of Damotu.

Building on this success, the second phase of the program, in partnership with the Bureau Régional de L'Eau & Energie, is set to begin in 2024. This phase will further improve access to drinking water for another remote village in the region, continuing to enhance the health and well-being of underserved communities.

*\*Mother and Children Multisectoral Development Organisation*



Solar pumping in the Oromia region, Ethiopia

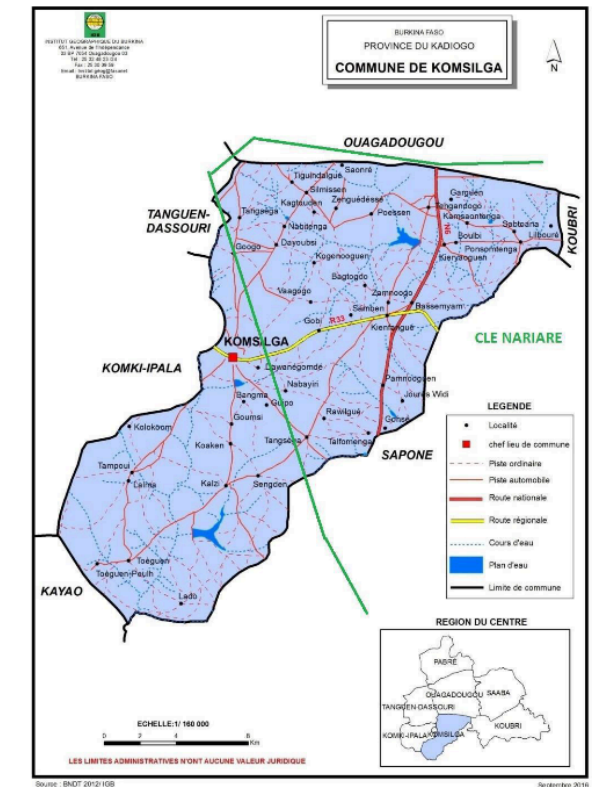


In partnership with the Comité de Jumelage du Mirebalais and the Burkinabe association **SINI LABE**, the Komsilga project was launched in March 2023 to improve access to drinking water and sanitation for the 1,600 residents of the villages of Dawanégomdé and Basseymiam.

With a total budget of €160,000, the project is supported by several public partners, including Brest Métropole, Agence de l'Eau Loire Bretagne, Bordeaux Métropole, and Eau de Vienne.

The first phase of the project successfully constructed two boreholes, with flow rates of 5 m<sup>3</sup> and 8 m<sup>3</sup>, validated in July. However, the second phase, which includes building water access infrastructure, solar pumping, and latrines, was halted due to a government decision to cease public funding, including the 50% subsidy from the Loire-Brittany Water Agency.

In response, the project steering committee decided to equip the two boreholes with hand pumps to meet the immediate drinking water needs of the community. The project team is now preparing the necessary technical files to resume the second phase once alternative funding sources are secured and the situation is resolved.



Manual pumping in Komsilga, Burkina Faso

## Building Sustainable Futures Through Partnership and Volunteer Action

Partner networks are a cornerstone of blueEnergy's success, enabling the organization to effectively scale its impact and deliver long-lasting solutions to communities in need.

A particularly significant part of the year was the visit from Meal a Day, a long-time partner that has supported blueEnergy's initiatives for many years. Their commitment to community development was especially evident in their contribution to the San Pedro Climate Smart School in Bluefields, where volunteers from Meal a Day played an instrumental role in implementing climate adaptation actions.

These volunteers helped establish sustainable practices within the school, including the installation of food-producing gardens, rainwater harvesting systems, flood infrastructure, to name a few.

The collaboration not only strengthened the school's resilience to climate change but also provided valuable hands-on learning opportunities for students. Meal a Day's ongoing support and their volunteers' dedication are key to blueEnergy's mission, illustrating the power of partnership in tackling access to basic resources and climate change adaptation.



In 2023, blueEnergy was proud to host its first international team visit since before the pandemic. This visit allowed team members from various global locations to reconnect, share insights, and assess the progress of projects in the field.

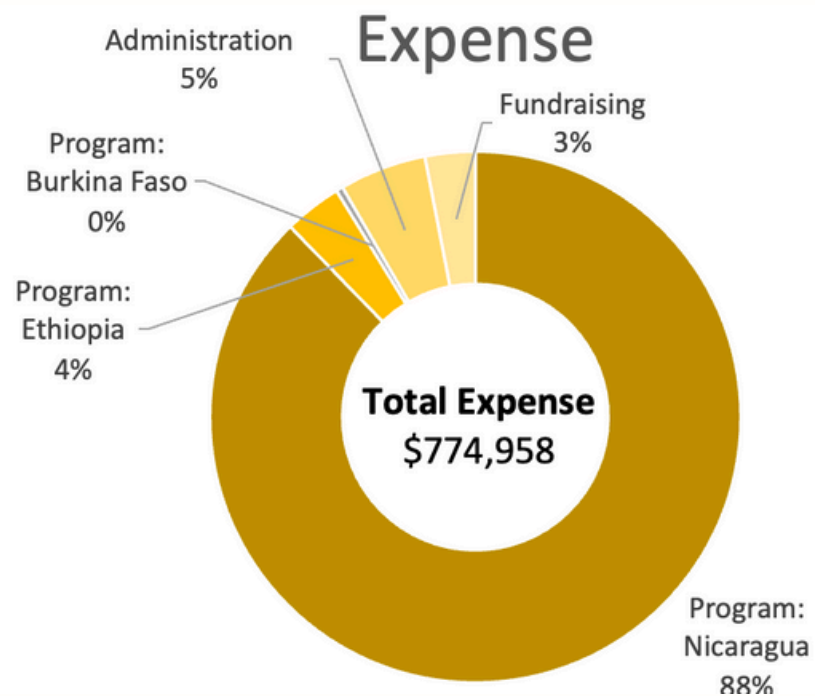
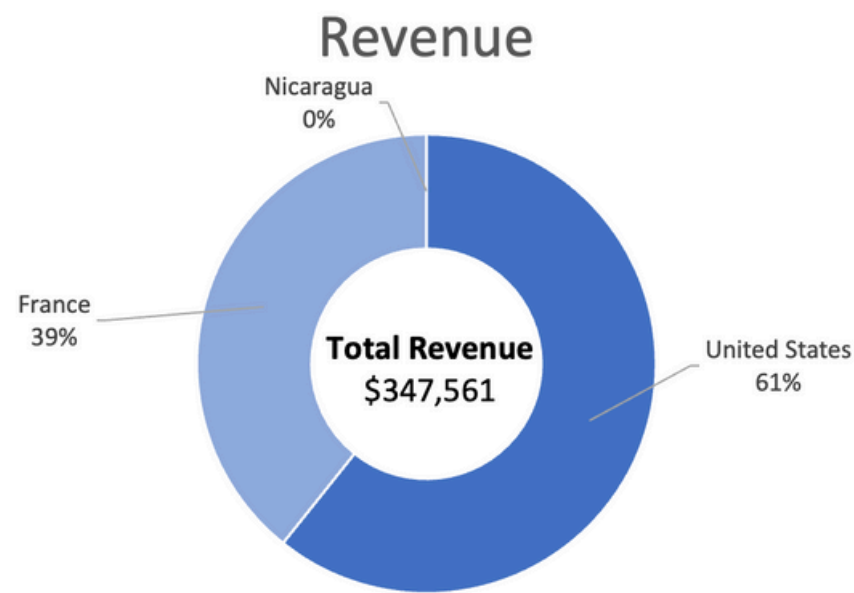
International team visit to Bluefields in March 2023 : Mathias Craig, Madeleine Bouton, Guillaume Craig and Jacky Bauley with the blueEnergy Nicaragua team.



Nouma Khaznawi's visit to Bluefields in September 2023.



# FINANCE & KEY INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



\* Financial figures presented in this report will vary from publicly available records in the United States, namely the IRS 990 form. This is due to the inclusion of cash revenue and cash expenses in France and Ethiopia, which are not included in government filings in the United States due to our legal structure. All revenue and expenses in France and Ethiopia are processed through blueEnergy France, a separate legal entity registered in France. As a result, these figures are not reported to the US government. However, global consolidated figures for blueEnergy presented here include cash figures from all segments of the organization and the percentage divisions are based on the consolidation of the two segments' financial reports.

# GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

As part of blueEnergy's commitment to gender equality and our prioritization of a gender lens in our work, we are proud to announce that over half of our leadership roles are held by women. Globally, blueEnergy's operational team is over 70% women-led, and our Board of Directors is 50% women.

## Board of Directors



**Michèle Grégoire**  
blueEnergy France Co-Founder



**Mathias Craig**  
Chairman, Treasurer, President  
Co-Founder blueEnergy



**Madeleine Bouton**  
Secretary  
US Executive Director



**Jacky Bauley**  
blueEnergy France President  
International Executive Director



**Andres Zamora**  
ON Energy Storage



**Imen Ben Said**  
GE Renewables



**Colette Grinevald**  
Director Emerita  
blueEnergy France Co-Founder



**Matt Flannery**  
Director Emeritus

## International Management Team



**Sandra Pavón**  
Nicaragua Country Director



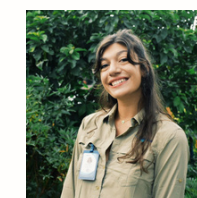
**Margarita Ruíz**  
Nicaragua Adjunct Director



**Madeleine Bouton**  
US Executive Director



**Jacky Bauley**  
International Executive Director



**Nouma Khaznawi**  
France Development and  
Communications Coordinator



**Guillaume Craig**  
Senior Program Advisor  
blueEnergy Co-Founder



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