BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS PLATFORM

Australian Government

Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific

Energising Solomon Islands' Malaita community with affordable solar power

Malaita Province, Solomon Islands

June 2024 to February 2026

PARTNERS

superfly

Save the Children

Mai-Ma'asina Green Belt

Australian Government

FUNDING

DFAT	Partners	TOTAL
$244,551	$61,747	$306,298

Overview

The partnership between Superfly, Mai-Ma'asina Green Belt (MMGB) and Save the Children Solomon Islands, with support from the Australian Government through the Business Partnerships Platform (BPP), piloted an innovative hub and spoke electrification model. This combined a central solar-powered system with distributed household solutions to significantly expand access to reliable, affordable renewable energy for remote communities in Malaita Province.

More than 310 households have gained access to solar home systems, while a 16.5kW solar-powered microgrid installed at the Takataka Eco Village supports shared infrastructure, benefitting around 1,200 people in East Are-are, Malaita.

The project delivered tangible social and economic benefits, from improving education outcomes to driving local livelihoods and income generation. By focusing on energy services rather than electricity alone, the model has demonstrated a practical and scalable approach to rural electrification.

Highlights

- More than **310 households** with improved access to energy.
- Around **1,200 people** benefiting from community-level energy services.
- Computer lab supporting up to **6 hours** of digital learning a day for students.
- Cold storage facilities enabling income generation of approx. **SBD 2,000** per week for local fishers.
- Expected savings of more than **6,000 litres** of fuel and **24.5 tonnes** of CO_2 emissions each year.
- Supports small-scale enterprises and household resilience for women.

Delivery snapshot

- 16.5 kW solar PV system installed.
- ~80 kWh battery storage with microgrid distribution.
- Solar-powered hub supporting community facilities and services.
- Pay-as-you-go enabled solar home systems distributed to households.
- Electric boat charging infrastructure installed.

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Impact

Improved access

Reliable, affordable energy has significantly improved daily living conditions and productivity.

- Households can access power for lighting, phone charging, and appliances use.
- Shared village infrastructure includes a computer lab, community facilities, refrigeration, and productive-use equipment.
- A pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) solar model made energy more accessible by reducing upfront costs for households.

Inclusive impact

Improved access to energy-enabled services has directly benefitted women, youth and remote communities.

- Daily access to a computer lab is improving digital literacy and learning outcomes for students.
- Community-operated freezers enable fish and product storage for sale, generating income.
- Access to solar-powered equipment, including sewing machines, supports small-scale enterprises for women.

Sustainability and scale

The project demonstrates a financially and operationally sustainable model with strong potential for replication.

- Generates local income through access to shared facilities.
- The establishment of local sales arm, Aasigu Solutions, creates a viable pathway for ongoing solar home system distribution.
- Flexible payment options, including instalment plans support affordability.

Notes from the field

The project scope consisted of a central solar hub with battery storage to power community services (freezers, computer lab, electric boat charging) combined with distributed PAYGo solar home systems sold to households.

Community assets are operated by MMGB and Takataka Eco Village, with Superfly providing technical support. Commercial SHS sales separated into Aasigu Solutions, creating a clearer business model.

Operations are funded by fee-for-service revenues (fish freezing, IT access), plus SHS sales (outright and instalments). Fuel savings from the electric boat were intended as part of the model but are not yet realised.

> Power is a basic need, and the community needs it. Now we have fulfilment of that with the infrastructure that is set up.
>
> **Andrew Taraha**, Coordinator, Takataka Eco Village

> The solar hub will help our cultural school... students will be able to learn basic computing skills which will help their education.
> The freezer allows us to buy fish from fishermen and sell it in Honiara. That money helps the men - and women can also store and sell their produce.
> The project will support women by having electricity for sewing machines... making it easier for them to repair clothes and earn income.
>
> **Abel Parisi**, Local Chief

What's next

Building on early successes, partners are focused on strengthening performance, expanding reach and deepening impact. Immediate efforts will prioritise repairing and optimising the electric boat system to maximise potential for low-cost, low-emissions transport, and supporting Aasigu Solutions to scale solar home system sales and expand household energy access beyond the initial project footprint.

There is also strong potential to replicate the model in new communities, including through partnerships with established networks such as faith-based organisations. Future iterations will refine hub placement, strengthen community engagement timing, and focus on high-impact services.

About the Off-Grid Renewable Energy Partnerships

The Off-Grid Renewable Energy Partnerships are part of the Australian Government's Pacific Climate Infrastructure Financing Partnership (PCIFP), expanding the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific's (AIFFP) climate investments to deliver renewable energy in remote and rural communities across the Pacific and Timor-Leste. They are pilots for REnew Pacific, AIFFP's $75 million investment to scale off-grid renewable energy across the region.

Find out more