

Honiara electric grid

SISEP was implemented over the period 2009-2019 (expiry 31 March 2019) with total disbursed funding (grant and loan) of USD 11.71m and contribution from SIEA (Solomon Islands Electricity Authority trading as Solomon Power) of USD8.2m.

The objective of SISEP was to improve operational efficiency, system reliability and financial sustainability of Solomon Power through improved financial and operational management, reduction of losses, improved generator and distribution system reliability and improved revenue collection.

Improved operational efficiency of Solomon Power- reduction of system losses, reduction of average number of debtor days, number of days between due date of tariff and if not paid notice of arrears and quarterly financial reports and rolling projections for Solomon Power performance within 14 days at the end of each quarter.

This project commenced in July 2016 and will end on 31 March 2020. However, the program will continue under component 2 (Solomon Islands Electricity Access and Renewable Energy Expansion Project for 1500 connections funded by the World Bank) and through funding from MFAT, Government of New Zealand for 1000 connections spread over new Outstations at Hauhui, Sasamunga, Namugha and Vonunu.

The project development objective is to increase access to grid-supplied electricity and increase renewable energy generation in Solomon Islands. The total project cost is USD 19.95 million and the funding will be used towards (i) the installation of hybrid mini grids at the Provinces, (ii) electricity connections in low income areas, (iii) installation of grid connected solar facilities in Honiara and (iv) technical assistance and capacity building for Solomon Power and the Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification.

In component 1 the 5 hybrid locations are Tingoa (Renbell Province), Visale (Guadalcanal Province), Baolo (Isabel Province), Bina Harbour and Dala (both in Malaita Province).

The Solar Power Development Project was approved by the ADB Board on 21 November 2016, grant agreements in an amount of US\$8.44 million were signed on 19 January 2017 and declared effective on 5 April 2017. Counterpart financing of Solomon Power amounts to US\$6.76 million. MMERE is the executing agency, and Solomon Power is the implementation agency for the facility.

The project is progressing well with imminent commissioning of the 1 MW solar installation at Munda and associated battery storage at Noro in May 2020. The other 4 solar installations totaling another 1 MW will progressively be commissioned by December 2020.

JICA is funding this project. The objective of the project is to develop a road map for 100% renewable energy



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in the electricity sector in Honiara by 2030. The roadmap is expected to be completed by December 2020.

MFAT is providing approximately NZD 7.1 million to Solomon Power for us to implement the Solomon Islands Renewable Energy Project (Activity) under the New Zealand Aid Programme. The objective of the Activity is to expand access to affordable, reliable and clean energy in rural Solomon Islands.

The project is being implemented by Solomon Power to install solar hybrid systems at Hauhui, Sasamunga, Namugha and Vonunu and it will also provide subsidized house wiring, service connections and meters to about 1000 customers at these four locations in the Provinces.

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