



Fiji Rural Electrification Fund

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2024 to August 2025

Compiled by:

UNDP - FREF Support Project Unit

Table of Content

FREF Chair's Message	01	Achievements and Milestones	05
Overview of Ambitions	02	MEL Tracking	06
FREF Technical Approach	03	Financial Overview	07
Year in Review	04	Future Roadmap	08
		Testimonials	09



FREF Chair's Message



Paula Baleilevuka

Permanent Secretary for Public Works and Meteorological Services

Bula

Much has been achieved since January 2025, when the Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) officially began implementation with the UNDP Pacific Multicountry Office. The FREF Board approved 20 sites to be electrified under Stages 1 and 2 of FREF's 24-month electrification plan, with 3 and 17 sites to be implemented under each stage, respectively.

I am pleased to convey that the tender for the Stage 1 sites has been advertised, and we plan to begin construction of the 3 sites by December 2025, with commissioning scheduled for late March 2026.

Preparations for Stage 2 tender are well underway as a multi-agency technical team from the Department of Energy, UNDP, Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and Arizona State University is conducting comprehensive technical scoping and socio-economic validation of 22 communities across Lomaiviti, Kadavu, and Lau, from which 17 will be shortlisted based on a multi-dimensional criterion established under the FREF Operation and Financial Manual. The commencement of construction for Stage 2 sites is planned for February 2026, with commissioning scheduled for August 2026.

I take this opportunity to thank our donors, the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, for their invaluable support to Fiji's rural electrification ambitions. FREF promises to be a game-changer for rural development, showcasing how well-coordinated integrated development in the form of electricity and digital communication can unlock the economic potential of marginalized communities.

However, there is much to be done. With over 399 rural communities identified to be supported by FREF over an 8-10 year horizon, requiring a total investment of approximately FJ \$564,859,312, there is an urgent need to increase the scale, scope, and speed of development/climate finance from a combination of bilateral, multilateral, and private sources to meet Fiji's rural electrification targets. In the coming months, the FREF team will be working closely with UNDP to conduct resource mobilization for subsequent stages of electrification for FREF.

The Government of Fiji remains committed to the FREF model, and we look forward to the expedited implementation of FREF's electrification plans over the next 24 months.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

Overview of Ambitions

Fiji Rural Electrification Support Project (FREF)

A guide to the facts, figures and frontline work

About FREF

The FREF model aims to provide access to clean, affordable, reliable, and resilient forms of energy for un-electrified and intermittently served rural communities. It will de-risk private sector participation in the renewable electrification market, creating a fair and open competitive renewable electrification market that supports sustainable electrification schemes for rural communities.

Development Challenges



Socio-economic Challenges: Fiji's maritime geographical spread and lack of economies of scale are attributed to a lack of affordable, reliable, and clean electricity, as well as essential services like water, digital connectivity, and healthcare.



Technical Challenges: Limited technical capacity and awareness of renewable energy mini-grids implemented using **Public Private partnership (PPP) solutions**.



Financial Barriers: Limited financing options for private sector participation in rural electrification exacerbate high upfront costs and the lack of proliferation of rural renewable energy solutions.



Regulatory Gaps: Lack of enabling regulatory environment for rural electrification using mini-grid solutions.

Expected Outputs

- 1 National Rural Electrification Regulations and rural mini-grid tariff setting structure developed** using gender considerations and being used by the national energy regulator and the Department of Energy.
- 2 20 rural solar mini-grids constructed** using public-private partnership models with an installed capacity of 2 megawatts and a particular focus on supporting women-led partnerships. Implemented as Stage 1 (3 sites) and Stage 2 (17 sites).
- 3 6,500 people** living in 20 rural communities, half of whom are females, have access to clean, affordable and reliable energy and telecommunications solutions.

Expected Impact

Empowered, inclusive and climate-resilient rural communities with equitable access to sustainable energy solutions, driving inclusive socio-economic development and global climate goals.

Quick Facts

Duration:

September 2024 - December 2028

Total Budget:

US \$19 Million
(Funding gaps: US \$3 Million)

Target Beneficiaries:

6,500 people across 20 rural communities
(50 % whom are women)

Funded by:



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



UK Government



Implemented by:



United Nations Development Programme
Pacific Multicountry Office

SDG Alignment:



Technical Approach

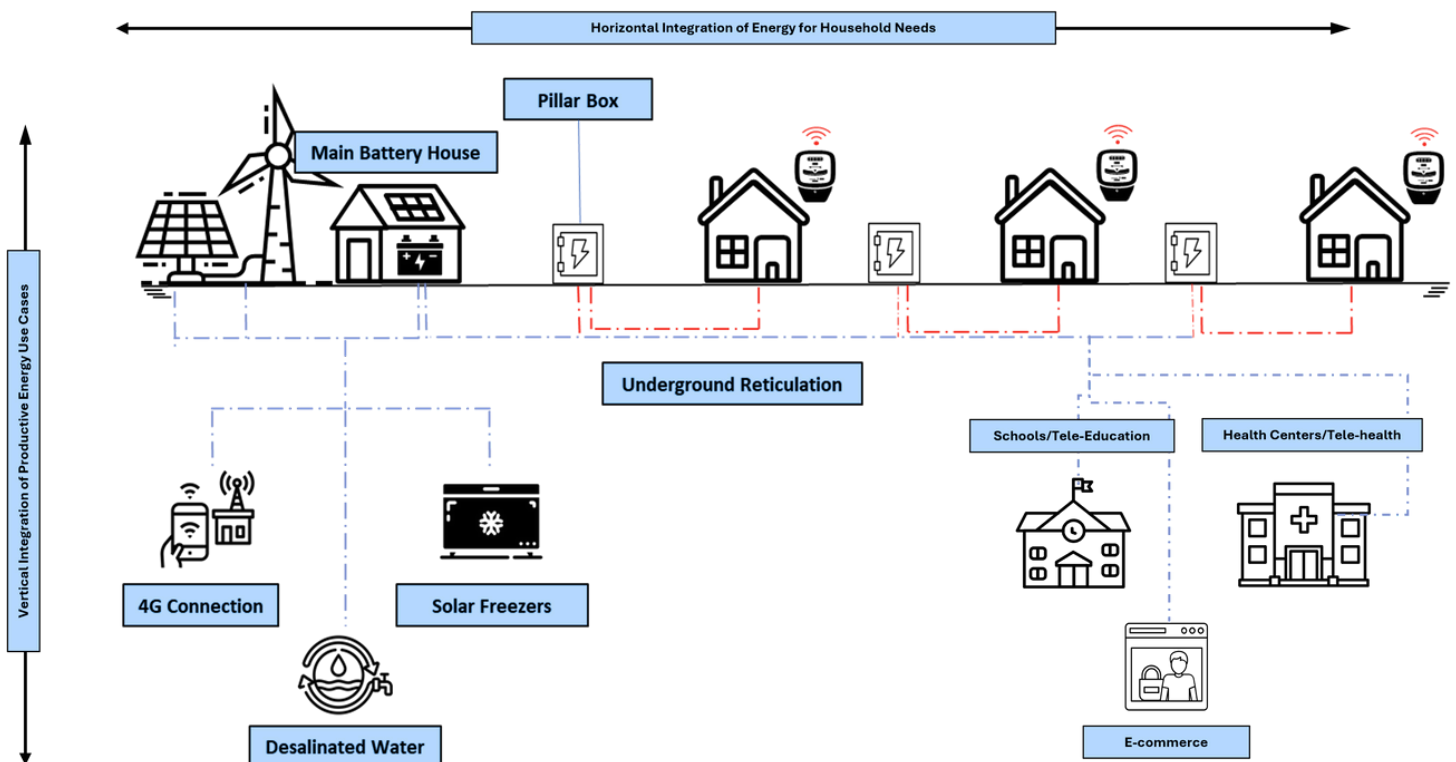
Horizontal and Vertical Integration

The FREF model aims to provide access to clean, affordable, reliable, and resilient forms of energy for un-electrified and intermittently served rural communities. It will de-risk private sector participation in the renewable electrification market and will create a fair and open competitive renewable electrification market that supports sustainable electrification schemes for rural communities. Other auxiliary services, such as desalination plants, solar refrigerators, mobile networks, digital payment solutions, telehealth services, and parametric disaster risk insurance, will be built on top of the mini-grid solution to improve overall standards of living.

FREF uses a horizontal integration model to connect all households in the village to the centralized solar mini-grid using underground cables. Each house has a smart meter, which is used to remotely monitor, bill, and manage electricity usage, enabling seamless integration with mobile wallet solutions.

This is complemented by a vertical integration model to create productive energy use cases, thereby enabling the village to increase its income and pay for the electricity it uses (user pay system). This model allows the solar mini-grid to unlock the economic potential of rural communities by enabling digital connectivity, cold storage and value addition services, clean water and sanitation, as well as telehealth and tele-education services. FREF ensures that the Engineer, Procure, and Construct contractor is also committed to a long-term Operations and Maintenance contract for the long-term viability of the project.

The diagram below illustrates both models.



FREE

Technical Approach

General Technical Specifications

Internet
Downlink

Processing
Facility

Solar
Farm

Battery
House

Underground
Cables

Average Village Size: 100-120 houses (480 people)

Projected Household Consumption:

- up to 4,000 watt hours per households per day.
- 1,000 watts = 1 unit = 4 units per day per household
- 120 units per month per household
- Each house to have a smart meter allowing digital monitoring, payments and top ups using mobile wallets

Overall system size: up to 120 kilowatts

Battery Storage: of up to 4 days of average consumption/demand.

Wiring: All copper underground electrical cables with multiple layers of insulation covers. They are shown above ground in this image for illustrative purposes only.

Digital connectivity: Satellite based downlink of up to 6 Mbps which is then projected across the village using strategically placed repeaters.



Evacuation
Centre

School

WIFI
Repeaters

Solar
Farm

Nursing
Station/Quarters

Battery
House

Women's
Market

Health
Centre

Internet
Downlink

Processing
Facility

Underground Cables

Year in Review

2024

June 2024

Finance Agreements signed between the Government of Fiji and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. Funds were received into the FREF Trust account.

October 2024

FREF Board endorsed the establishment of the FREF Unit within the Department of Energy to provide secretariat support to FREF. The FREF Board also endorsed the FREF Operation and Financial Procedures as well as modalities for outsourcing implementation to UNDP as the Lead Implementing Partner for FREF.

November 2024

Total funding of USD 7.2 million transferred from the FREF Trust Account to UNDP under the UNDP-FREF Support Project. Funds are to be used for the electrification of 3 sites under Stage 1 Tender and for up to 17 sites under Stage 2 Tender.

2025

January 2025

UNDP-FREF Support Project presented the first draft of Tender documents for the Stage 1 Tender to the FREF Advisory Committee and Board. The endorsement was received, and work proceeded with detailed design. The FREF Board endorsed technical scoping for 22 sites under Stage 1 Tender.

Feb - March 2025

Waitabu Village is replaced with Yacata Village as the third site under the Stage 1 Tender due to the planned grid extension on Lakeba Island. A detailed site scoping and technical assessment for Yacata Village was conducted, including socio-economic baselining and geotechnical assessments.

April 2025

Tender documents for the FREF Stage 1 tender were updated and reviewed by the Department of Energy and the FREF Advisory Committee. The UNDP FREF Support Project partners with Arizona State University to conduct preparatory works for the Stage 2 tender.

2025

May - June 2025

Detailed technical preparations were conducted by the FREF Secretariat, UNDP-FREF Support Project, Arizona State University, and selected government agencies for the Stage 2 tender works. A detailed review was undertaken by the UNDP Global Procurement team on Stage 1 tender documents.

August 2025

Stage 1 Tender advertised with closure of tender expected on 29 August 2025. A multi-agency technical team from the Department of Energy, UNDP, Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and Arizona State University began detailed scoping of Stage 2 sites in Lomaiviti.

September 2025

Stage 1 tender advert is being facilitated, and responses to queries from potential bidders are being addressed. Multi-agency technical team began detailed scoping of Stage 2 sites in Kadavu. UNDP-FREF Support Project Team and Arizona State University began work on drafting Stage 2 Tender documents.



Financial Overview

The FREF Trust Fund is jointly administered by the Department of Energy and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. The Fund has a balance of FJ \$1,333,856 as of August 2025.

A total of FJ \$16,287,015 was transferred to UNDP in November 2024 for the implementation of Stage 1 and 2 tenders. Of this amount, FJ \$1,413,294 has been utilized to conduct geotechnical works, site assessments, and tender designs, as well as to support project management costs for the UNDP FREF Support Project. Approximately FJ \$5 million is expected to be utilized for Stage 1 tender, while the remaining FJ \$9.87 million is expected to be utilized for Stage 2 tender works.

FREF is fast becoming the prime rural electrification initiative for the Government of Fiji and is helping to leverage public, private, and community partnerships at scale. There are over 399 rural communities that need to be electrified. This creates a strong market opportunity to mobilize FJ \$454 million over the next 10 years to meet Fiji's rural electrification ambitions.

FJD 17.6 million

Mobilised with support from the Government of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

FJD 7.71 million

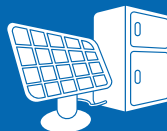
Utilized (actuals and commitments) through the UNDP-FREF Support Project to conduct comprehensive preparatory works for Stages 1 and 2.

Core Fund Allocations Per Site



80%

Approximately 80% of funds per site are allocated for the design and installation of a fit-for-purpose solar PV system with Battery Energy Storage Systems.



16%

16% of funds per site are allocated towards generating productive energy use cases that include digital connectivity, solar freezers, processing facilities, and water and sanitation solutions.



4%

4% of funds per site is allocated to conducting detailed technical scoping and socio-economic baselining. This includes conducting geotechnical assessments and tender designs.

	Y1 (2024)	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Actuals	Commitments	Total
	Q3							
FREF Unit Operations	165,057							
FREF Manager (\$76,852.80)	6,404	19,213	19,213	19,213	19,213	-	76,853	76,853
FREF Accounts Officer (\$55,080.50)	4,626	13,877	13,877	13,877	13,877	-	55,081	55,081
Overhead Costs (\$20,000)	1,667	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,701		4,701
	12,697	38,090	38,090	38,090	38,090	4,701	131,933	136,635
Preparatory Works	1,100,000							
Site visitation, assessment and scoping (20,000)	-	220,000	-	-	-	94,428		94,428
Geo-tech Survey (60,000)	-	660,000	-	-	-	77,009	87,456	164,465
Solar mini-grid tender development (20,000)	-	220,000	-	-	-	2,800	25,200	28,000
	-	1,100,000	-	-	-	174,237	112,656	286,893
Procurement and Commissioning of solar mini hybrid systems	11,250,000							
Tender Award and contract signing (20% of \$1,300,000 per site) X 3 sites	-	750,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	-	1,361,442	1,361,442
Solar mini-grid installation (80% of \$1,300,000 per site) X 3 sites	-	3,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	5,445,768	5,445,768
	-	3,750,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	-	6,807,210	6,807,210

Achievements and Milestones



RURAL MINIGRID FRAMEWORK

UNDP-FREF Support Project assisted FCCC to develop the National Rural Minigrid Framework and Tariff Tool that are now expected to inform the development of corresponding regulations.



TENDER DESIGN STAGE 1

Completion of technical scoping and socio-economic baselining across three Stage 1 sites. Comprehensive tender documents were developed and advertised. Fiji's largest multisite solar PV tender.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (PPCP)

Successfully brokered a PPCP with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to utilize dividend payments received by the Ministry to contribute 10% of FREF capital costs, while a private sector contractor will contribute 10% under a joint venture ownership model for the Stage 2 tender.



MARKET SOUNDING

Conducted two Expression of Interest calls to guide the design of Stage 1 tender, and conducted 1 international webinar to spur market interest for FREF.



PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING

FREF secured its second philanthropic funding through collaboration with Arizona State University (ASU), worth USD 500,000 to support preparations for Stage 2 tender.

MEL Tracking

RESULTS	TARGETS	REPORTING PERIOD	UPDATE
Fiji accelerates action on its climate change mitigation priorities domestically	Rural electrification through renewable energy contributes to Fiji achievements of the NDC and other mitigation objectives.	Annually	FREF electrification plans will be included in Fiji NDC 3.0, demonstrating meaningful opportunities for CO ₂ equivalent reduction in the energy sector. Upon completion of the 20 sites under Stages 1 and 2 - FREF will help abate 2.92 gigagrams of CO ₂ equivalent.
Rural and maritime Fijians have access to electricity from renewable energy sources	3 sites - Salia, Yacata and Yadrana villages have access to electricity under Stage 1 electrification.	6-monthly	Comprehensive pre-tender site assessments completed. Tender documents were advertised for 3 sites as Stage 1 tender. Groundbreaking is expected in October 2026, and project commissioning in March 2026.
Procure and install solar mini grid systems in Salia and Yadrana Villages.	17 sites have access to electricity under Stage 2 electrification.	Quarterly	Pre-tender site assessments for Stage 2 tender is currently underway. Lomaiviti sites completed while Kadavu and Lau are expected to be completed by September 2025. Tender to be advertised on October 2025, groundbreaking in January 2026, and commissioning in August 2026.
Build capacity for solar mini grid deployment and operation.	4 community consultations and training sessions conducted on solar literacy, energy saving practices, tariff payment methods per village. 2 meetings of Community solar committees held per village in each village.	6-monthly	First round of community consultations have been conducted in Stage 1 sites while Stage 2 sites are undergoing community consultations. More site visits are planned in the coming months as tender documents are advertised and contractors hired. A schedule of community engagements has been compiled the UNDP-FREF Support Project.
National Rural Electrification Regulations and rural mini-grid tariff setting structure developed using gender considerations and being used by the national energy regulator and the Department of Energy	Percentage completion FREF business plan, financial models and incentive structures developed.	6-monthly	The FREF support Project has completed a public-private community (PPC) model in collaboration with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. This has been formalized and will be the basis for developing the FREF Business Plan and financial model. The project is partnering with Arizona State University (ASU) to complete this work. Currently, it is at 40% completion. 
	Percentage completion of tariff algorithms, structures and regulations/guidelines for mini grids.	6-monthly	National Rural Minigrid Framework for Fiji developed and endorsed by the Fijian Competition & Consumer Commission (FCCC). UNDP and ASU are providing technical assistance to FCCC to develop National Rural Minigrid Regulations. 80% completion. 
	Number of capacity building initiatives undertaken to revert FREF operations to the Government of Fiji and Number of community based rural technicians trained to manage FREF systems.	6-monthly	This work has progressed slowly as the focus has been on conducting pre-tender technical scoping and socio-economic baselining to enable Stage 1 tender to be advertised as soon as possible. Two capacity-building training sessions have been conducted for the Department of Energy on tariff modelling by FREF project partners.

RESULTS	TARGETS	REPORTING PERIOD	UPDATE
20 rural solar mini grids constructed using public private partnership models with an installed capacity of 2 megawatts and a particular focus on supporting women led partnerships.	Number of FREF tenders successfully awarded.	Annually	None. The Stage 1 tender has been advertised at the time of reporting. By December 2025, tenders for 3 sites will be awarded.
	Total investment (USD) mobilized from private sector entities for FREF projects per tender round	6-monthly	No progress as Stage 1 tender is being advertised.
	Number of jobs created in renewable energy generation and distribution through private sector involvement in FREF projects, disaggregated by gender and age.	6-monthly	No progress as Stage 1 tender is being advertised while Stage 2 tender is being developed.. Construction works are expected to begin in October 2025 for Stage 1 and in January 2026 for Stage 2 after which data on job creation can be collected.
6,500 people living in 20 rural communities, half of whom are females, have access to clean, affordable and reliable energy and telecommunications solutions.	Number of sites for which technical assessments, socio-economic baselines, land tenure arrangements completed.	6-monthly	 76% A total of 19 of the 25 sites identified between for Stages 1 and 2 have been technically assessed with socio-economic baselines completed and land tenure arrangements secured. The remaining 6 will be completed by October 2026.
	Number of people (disaggregated by gender) accessing renewable energy	6-monthly	For Stage 1, 1,031 people (502 females) are expected to access renewable energy by March 2026. Data for Stage 2 sites are currently being compiled.
	Amount (kilowatts) of renewable energy capacity installed (disaggregated by site/geographical location)	6-monthly	For Stage 1, 274.8 kilowatts of electricity is expected to be installed by March 2026. Data for Stage 2 sites are currently being compiled.



In Focus



Stage 1 Site

Salia Village

Resilience and Ingenuity

Located on Kioa Island in the province of Cakaudrove, Salia Village is one of three sites to be electrified by FREF under Stage 1 tender. After World War II, a group from Vaitupu in Tuvalu pooled savings earned from wartime activities to purchase Kioa in 1946, anticipating land scarcity and overcrowding at home. In October 1947, 37 initial settlers arrived aboard the ship Avahou and began building houses, clearing land, and planting crops. Within a decade, over 200 people had joined the community.

The Kioan community maintained their Tuvaluan culture—language, traditions, and social norms—while also integrating Fijian aspects and citizenship. The daily affairs of Kioa are handled by the Kioa Island Council, thereby creating a robust subnational governance machinery on the island that guides sustainable development. The island has strong entrepreneurial endeavours ranging from homestays, a coffee shop and a women's handicraft market for cruise ships, fishing, and pearl farming. However, growth in these sectors is limited by unreliable electricity on the island.

Salia Village falls among Fiji's many remote communities lacking access to the national grid. Until recently, households relied on costly and unreliable diesel generators, kerosene lamps, or candles for power. This denied them basic modern conveniences such as lighting after dark, cold storage, and digital connectivity—factors essential for well-being and economic opportunity. FREF aims to transform that landscape with reliable, affordable solar-powered electricity.

411

People live in Salia Village. It is the largest of the three sites to be electrified under Stage 1

247 (60%)

Of the population are females. FREF is working closely with the island women's group to develop fit for purpose solar PV solutions

118 kW

Of solar energy will be installed by FREF with Battery Energy Storage System. This will replace the current 65 kilowatt (kW) village diesel generator.



In Focus



Stage 1 Site

Yacata Village



Unlocking Rural Development

Located on Yacata Island in the province of Lomaiviti, Yacata Village is one of three sites to be electrified by FREF under Stage 1 tender. Yacata is flanked by a privately owned island called Kaibu Island, which is home to the famous Vatuvara Resort. The people of Yacata Village depend on tourism (from the nearby island) and fishing as their main sources of income. There is a strong demand for processed fish and agricultural products from the nearby island. However, the lack of electricity limits cold storage and value-added activities on Yacata.

Internet connectivity is extremely limited on Yacata, with reliance on satellite repeaters from the nearby resort to receive intermittent mobile connectivity. Access to clean drinking water is another challenge that needs addressing.

FREF will install a solar PV system with a satellite digital downlink that will enable reliable, affordable, and clean renewable energy, along with stable digital connectivity. This is expected to enable value addition opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, and handicrafts that the nearby resort and neighboring islands are keen to purchase.

270

People live in Salia Village. It is the smallest of the three sites to be electrified under Stage 1.

116 (43%)

Of the population are females. FREF is working closely with the women on the island to develop fit for purpose solar PV solutions

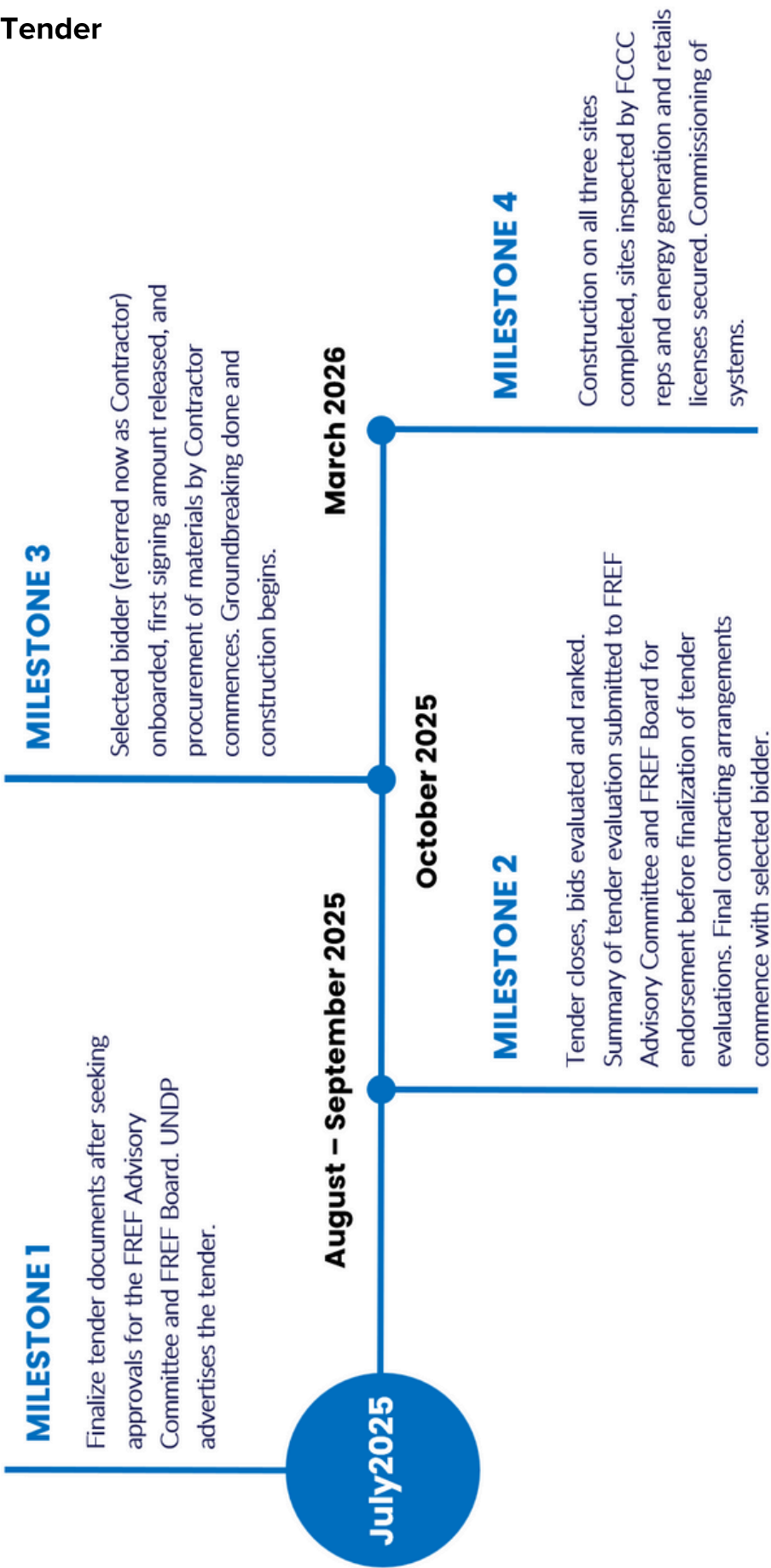
78.4 kW

Of solar energy will be installed by FREF with Battery Energy Storage System. This will replace solar home systems being used on the island.

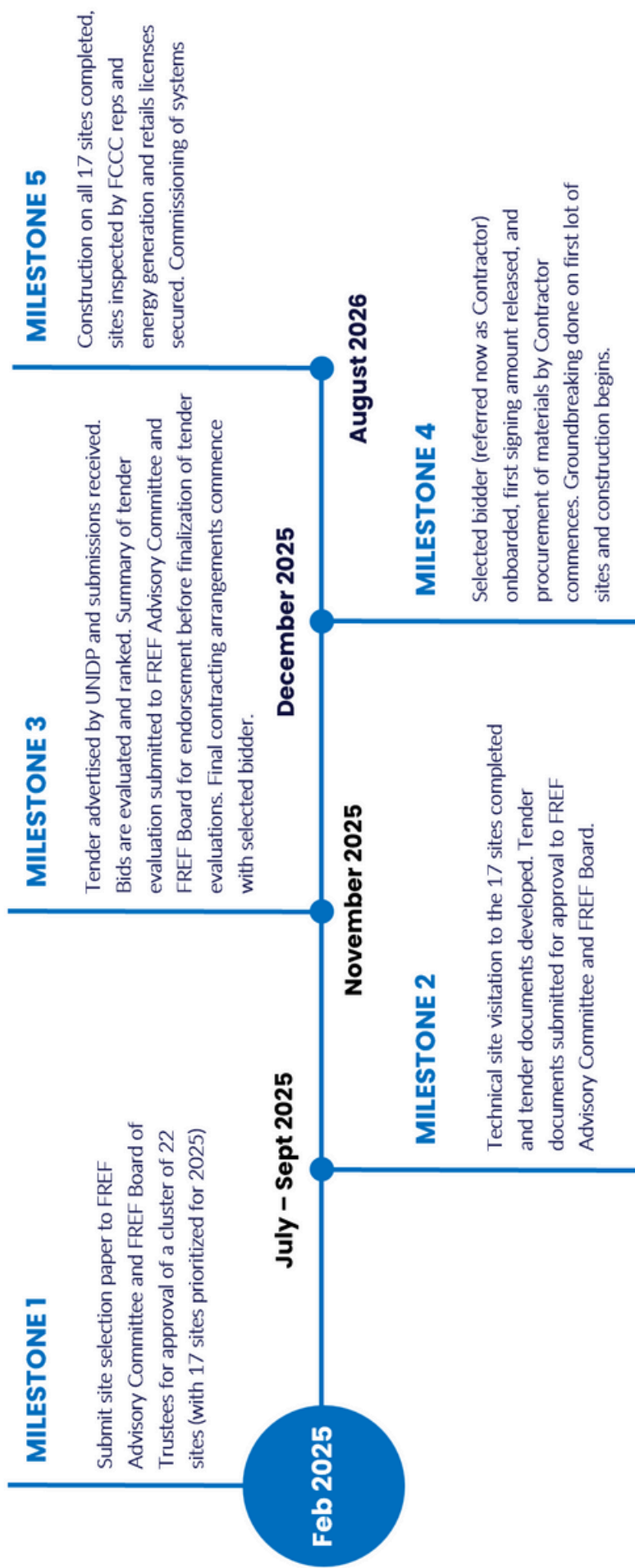


Way Forward

Stage 1 (3 sites) Tender



Stage 2 (17 sites) Tender



Risk Monitoring

Risk	Risk Description	Associated Challenges	Risk Treatment / Mitigation Measures
1. Governance and Institutional Risk	Delays in FREF Board or Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) approval of key documents (business plan, tariff structures, incentive models).	Lengthy inter-agency review processes; unclear mandates between Department of Energy (DoE), FCCC, and UNDP; possible policy shifts.	Early stakeholder engagement through advisory committee meetings and one-on-one stakeholder discussions; establish pre-approval milestones; maintain a FREF Secretariat action tracker reviewed quarterly by the Board.
2. Policy and Regulatory Risk	Absence of finalized or approved rural mini-grid regulations and tariff algorithms.	FCCC may delay tariff determinations due to lack of precedents; uncertainty on rural regulation enforcement.	Develop interim tariff guidelines endorsed by FCCC; provide technical assistance to FCCC via UNDP to enhance tariff determinations on a site by site basis; include cost-recovery analysis models with transparent assumptions as a key requirement for FREF tender bids.
3. Procurement and Tender Risk	Low quality or insufficient number of bids during tender processes for mini-grid installation and Operations and Maintenance (O&M).	Limited private sector capacity amongst local contractors; unfamiliarity with Public Private Partnership (PPP) models; exchange rate and material cost fluctuations preventing quality overseas bids.	Conduct early market sounding and pre-bid workshops; issue standardized tender templates; ensure transparent evaluation and feedback to bidders; bundle sites to attract investors.
4. Financial and Investment Risk	Inadequate private sector co-financing or delays in financial close for tenders.	Limited domestic liquidity; high perceived risk of rural projects; weak incentive structures.	Offer risk-sharing or guarantee mechanisms; mobilize concessional funds (e.g. donor grants); maintain flexible CAPEX-sharing models (80-10-10) to lower entry barriers.

Risk Monitoring

Continued

Risk	Risk Description	Associated Challenges	Risk Treatment / Mitigation Measures
5. Technical Design Risk	Inaccurate system sizing or poor technical design due to weak baseline data.	Human error in data collection; limited site accessibility; inadequate geotechnical and socio-economic data.	Use GIS-based validation, peer review of technical designs, and third-party quality assurance; conduct baseline verification with technical partners and DoE before procurement is advertised and contractor selected.
6. Land Tenure and Social Acceptance Risk	Delays in obtaining land access or disputes over customary ownership.	Overlapping claims; slow approval processes through iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) or local chiefs; weak documentation.	Early land consultations conducted in collaboration with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and provincial offices; use standardized consent templates; include land tenure verification in pre-feasibility checklists.
7. Community Engagement and Adoption Risk	Low adoption of solar systems due to cultural or behavioral barriers.	Limited awareness of renewable energy benefits; unrealistic expectations comparing mini-grid to EFL grid service; reluctance to pay tariffs.	Conduct continuous awareness campaigns; use local champions; provide transparent tariff education; include women's groups and community leaders in co-design and training.
8. Gender and Inclusion Risk	Insufficient participation of women and marginalized groups in capacity building and decision-making.	Cultural constraints; limited childcare and travel support for women attending trainings; male-dominated technical fields.	Implement GEDSI-sensitive training schedules; ensure at least 50% female participation in community consultations and co-designing processes; offer targeted scholarships and incentives for female rural technicians to create O&M capabilities within beneficiary communities.

Risk Monitoring

Continued

Risk	Risk Description	Associated Challenges	Risk Treatment / Mitigation Measures
9. Capacity and Human Resource Risk	Lack of qualified technicians to manage and maintain systems post-handover.	Limited technical training providers; high attrition of trained personnel to urban areas.	Establish certification program through local education/skills training providers; offer retention bonuses via community cooperatives; maintain database of trained rural technicians with quarterly refreshers.
10. Operational Sustainability Risk	Poor O&M leading to early system failures.	Weak community ownership; inadequate monitoring; absence of maintenance budgets.	Embed O&M cost recovery within tariff model; train community cooperatives for routine maintenance; establish remote digital monitoring (smart meters).
11. Data Quality and MEL Risk	Inconsistent or incomplete data collection affecting project reporting and evaluation.	Differing data formats from partners; weak verification; delays in field reporting.	Conduct bi-annual DQA (Data Quality Assessment); use FREF Databus and mobile data tools; standardize templates for all implementing partners.
12. Environmental and Climate Risk	Infrastructure exposure to cyclones, flooding, and sea-level rise.	Siting in low-lying coastal areas; inadequate climate-proofing of infrastructure.	Integrate hazard mapping and disaster-resilient engineering standards (elevated battery houses, reinforced panel frames) – determined via Geotechnical assessments for all FREF sites; insure assets through parametric or micro-insurance schemes where possible.

Testimonials

Hear the voices from our potential beneficiaries from the Stage 2 Tender, envisioning a brighter future through rural electrification.



Amenatave Kaitani
Head of Nasau Village, Koro Island

“

*With consistent power, we can run refrigerators, store food longer, reduce waste, and improve our income. Our students will have **a better environment for learning.***

It would support livelihoods, education, and a better future for everyone.

”

“

*"Every week I make between FJD 500 - 1000. And If I have the solar energy here (at canteen), I'll buy a fridge to **expand business** to better support my family"*

”



Mere Vonu
Canteen Owner, Nasau, Kadavu Island



Nanise Yaya Viribale
President of Women's Group, Koro Island

“

The current generator at the village only caters for lighting, getting children ready for school in the morning, and short evening study times...

*We, women members are already thinking about starting frozen goods businesses. With full-time electricity through solar, many of **our plans can finally come to life!***

”

Meet the Team

FREF Board of Trustees



Paula Baleilevuka

FREF Chairperson and Permanent Secretary for Public Works and Meteorological Services



Shiri Gounder

Permanent Secretary for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Planning & Development



TBC

Permanent Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management



Eseta Nadakuitavuki

Permanent Secretary for Women, Children, and Social Protection



Sivendra Michael

Permanent Secretary for Environment and Climate Change



Ropate Lomavatu

Solicitor General



Jones Navakamocea

(Acting) Permanent Secretary for Ministry of iTaukei Affairs



Mikaele Belena

Director for Energy and FREF Advisory Committee Chairperson (non-voting member of FREF BOT)

Meet the Team

FREF Technical Team



Mikaele Belena

Director for Energy and FREF
Advisory Committee Chairperson



Deepak Chand

Deputy Director Energy



**Rural
Electrification Unit**

Department of Energy



Shelvin Chand

FREF Manager/Project Analyst
Department of Energy



Hennon Yuen

FREF Accounts
Officer/Project Associate
Department of Energy



**Patrick
Tuimalealiifano**

Team Leader Inclusive Growth
UNDP



Vineil Narayan

Portfolio Manager - UNDP Blue
Economy and Rural Electrification



Ashneel Chandra

Project Manager - UNDP-FREF
Support Project



Elijah Mario

Project Analyst - UNDP-FREF
Support Project

FREF Technical Team



Vatimosi Delailovu

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
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Rita Tamton

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
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Catherine Heritage

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