2024

Project Implementation Report (PIR)

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Resilient nations.

SPIRES (Rural Electrification)

A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	6089
GEF ID	9787
Title	Stimulating Progress towards Improved Rural Electrification in the Solomons (SPIRES)
Country(ies)	Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands
UNDP Technical Team	Energy, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology
Management Arrangements	NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE)
Joint Agencies	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	4th PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY24
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
Facilitation of the achievement of increased access to electricity in rural communities in the Solomon Islands.

Project Contacts	
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	Mr. Sergio Quiros.navas (sergio.quiros.navas@undp.org)
UNDP BPPS Programme Associate	Ms. Phatthamon JANTALAE (phatthamon.jantalae@undp.org)
Project Manager/Coordinator	Ms. Judith Reynolds (JReynolds@spires.gov.sb)
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Vini Talai (vini.talai@undp.org)
UNDP Country Office Deputy Resident Representative	Ms. Raluca Eddon (raluca.eddon@undp.org)
UNDP Regional Bureau Desk Officer	Ms. Rany Pen (rany.pen@undp.org)

GEF Operational Focal Point	Mr. Chanel Iroi (c.iroi@met.gov.sb)
Project Implementing Partner	Mr. Chris Vehe (CVehe@mmere.gov.sb)
Other Partners	Ms. Susan Sulu (SSulu@mecdm.gov.sb)

B. Overall ratings

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	moderate

C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description
Objective **GOAL:** **Reduced annual growth rate of GHG emissions in the energy and energy end use sector of the country.**

Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2023**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024**
Cumulative incremental GHG emission reduction from the electricity sector in rural areas, tons CO2	0	6,376	19,147	Zero (0) - Two sites (Rokera PSS and Hunanawa Community) that have been installed since November of 2022 has not been commissioned and will be soon completed. Once these two sites are up then calculations can be done to calculate the incremental GHG emission reductions. There will be a training conducted to calculate the GHG data, this training will enable SPIRES to achieve the targets allocated for this project as it has already been off-track during the MTR.	6.098 tons of CO2 from the two sites Rokera and Veila beach Project site. - The level of achievement (as of the end of the PIR 2024 reporting period) of the target for this indicator is still being determined based on the operating performance of the demos, as well as other rural RE-based power generation projects that are implemented during the SPIRES Project implementation. The other rural RE-based power generation projects are considered as those that were influenced by the activities and results of these activities on RE and EE policy improvements; capacity development on RE/EE technology applications; and the institutional and financial management systems that were

					designed for each project demo. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator is presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
National electric energy consumption index, ktoe/US$ GDP	6.42	6.20	5.87	Zero (0) - The existing percentage should remain the same as the baseline as there are no monitoring of baseline sites done from the MMERE Energy Division. A training will be conducted to enable the calculation of midterm targets as allocated for this project.	Based on data obtained from the SEIA, CBSI, and WB, the estimated national electricity consumption index as of mid-2024 is 6.49 ktoe/US$. The SPIRES Project is supposed to contribute to the achievement of a much lower index value but notwithstanding the other factors that somehow slowed down the uptake of RE-based power generation projects, the project was not able to deliver the expected number of demos, and demo replications. While there may be other RE-based power generation projects in rural areas of the country as influenced by the SPIRES Project, these are mainly on solar PV technology applications. Moreover, EE technology applications are also part and parcel of the demos but were not incorporated. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.

					Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Objective

OBJECTIVE: Facilitation of the achievement of increased access to electricity in rural communities in the Solomon Islands

Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2023**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024**
Cumulative incremental fossil fuel savings due to sustainable energy and low carbon interventions implemented, toe	0	697.6	2,095	Zero (0) - There will be a training to calculate the GHG with Climate Change Officer scheduled for August 2023, by then the two sites (Rokera Provincial Secondary School and Hunanawa Community) should be heading towards completion and there should be sufficient data to calculate the incremental fossil fuel savings acquired by sustainable energy. The same training from the first objective will also determine the data	The cumulative level of achievement of the target for this indicator is still being determined based on the operating performance of the demos, as well as those other rural RE-based power generation projects that are considered as those that were influenced by the activities and results of these activities on RE and EE policy improvements; capacity development on RE/EE technology applications; as well as the institutional and financial management systems that were

				needed for this objective.	designed for each project demo Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
% electricity access in rural areas, %	5%	15%	25%	5% - There is a certain existing percentage estimated to be currently to be 15% in the rural areas in Solomon Islands but the percentage for the project have not changed as there is no installations that are complete so the data for this still remain as in the baseline which is 5%.	The level of achievement of the target for this indicator is still to be finalized. The estimate will be based on the projection (using trend analysis) of available data on electricity access in rural areas in the country, along with the updated SIG plans for rural electrification and the assessed level of interest in the rural areas (public/community and private) on RE-based power generation for electrification. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
No. of new jobs created due to enhanced electricity access in off-grid areas in the country	10	60	200	Twenty (20) - There are new jobs influenced by SPIRES such as the creation of committee that will look after the sustainability of the system this has already been setup in Rokera and Hunanawa and also formation of the committee for other sites such as	20 This estimate (still for further verification) is based on the contractor reports on the work done during the installation of the demo facilities; and

				Nangu, Ginger Beach and Garanga. The MOU signed in these sites mainly covers that there should be a committee whom would look after the system once the project ends. Also part of new jobs created were the contractors whom were engaged to construct the battery house in both sites.	from planned PMU surveys, enquiries and canvasses of follow-up work on potential demo replications and other new RE-based power generation projects and those that are SIG-funded and to be implemented by the MMERE These are expected new jobs for the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of new RE-based power generation and supply projects in other rural areas as influenced or indirectly assisted by the SPIRES Project. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 1 **Outcome 1: Enforcement of approved policies and rules and regulations to support enhanced application of cost-effective RE technologies for electricity generation in the off-grid areas in Solomon Islands**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2023**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024**

No. of implemented off-grid rural electrification projects facilitated by the approved and enforced energy access, RE and EC&EE policies.	0	2	5	Three – The Energy Division with the support of SPIRES have established and helped the division to proceed with the following projects that have been influenced by the approved and enforced energy access RE and EE & EC Policies. 1. Renewable Energy Road Map (RERM) 2. Review of Electricity Act 3. National Energy Access Strategy.	0 The estimated level of achievement of the target for this indicator is still to be finalized. The estimate will be based on the results of the planned PMU surveys, enquiries, and canvasses of follow-up work on potential demo replications and other new RE-based power generation projects and those that are SIG-funded and to be implemented by the MMERE to ascertain how these were influenced or facilitated by the Project's recommended new and improved RE and EC&EE policies. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
No. of designed and implemented pilots on the implementation of applicable policy and regulatory framework for rural electrification	0	1	2	Zero – Draft Rural Electrification Policy is being developed and has not yet been finalized. Rural Electrification Policy has already began, still in its draft stage and consultations are still ongoing. The project is taking lead with the	0 There has been no policy pilot that was conceptualized and designed. The pilot(s) must be based on specific policy/policies recommended by the SPIRES Project to facilitate or enable the implementation of more RE-based rural electrification projects in the country. The recommended draft new or

				help of the Energy Division to carry out consultations and workshops to formulate the draft skeleton of the RE Policy. The draft skeleton being formulated is uploaded as evidence. Note this draft skeleton will change as this is not yet the final skeleton being formulated. The project is prioritizing this policy as part of the MTR report recommendation for component 1 to ensure this is addressed with a time frame attached to it.	improved RE and EC&EE policies are not yet even presented or promoted to the SIG. One or 2 of these policies must be piloted as per the SPIRES ProDoc. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
No. of formulated, approved and implemented rural electrification plans.	5	7	9	Zero (0) – The Energy Bill should be approved by parliament this year so the possibility of this outcome is One. The Energy Division with the great support of SPIRES is now implementing development of energy efficiency act, petroleum, storage and handing act. Once the Rural Electricity Act is complete then this outcome can also be achieved.	5 These are still the baseline rural electrification plans. No additional plans were prepared/formulated, let alone approved and implemented. The non-accomplishment of the target appears to be the misunderstanding of the PMU about the activities for delivering Output 1.4. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator is presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.

The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**
Evidence uploaded:	YES

Outcome 2

Outcome 2: Enforced improved institutional and financial mechanisms in the integrated planning and implementation of rural electrification and RE-based energy production in the off-grid areas

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
No. of formulated and recommended institutional and financing mechanisms that support the enhanced implementation of rural electrification initiatives.	0	2	2	Zero (0) - Two (2) models have been identified and the document is still a work in progress and yet to share with Committee's and also communities and schools. Once complete then the initializing the financial mechanism into the sites should start to progress. The document on Financial Mechanisms is provided as evidence and will likely change as we do workshops regarding this template with the communities and then determination of the different financial models can be finalized.	3 This refers to the 3 institutional and financial management systems that will each be applied and implemented in the operation of 3 demos. While such systems are necessary to ensure the sustainable operation of each demo, these do not pertain to the indicator. This miscue is due to: (1) misunderstanding of the activities that are meant to deliver the required institutional and financial mechanisms for financially supporting RE-based power generation projects in rural areas; and (2) according to the PMU, a well defined and feasible institutional and financial management is a requirement for local banks serving the rural areas for obtaining financial support for rural development projects such as RE-based power generation

					and supply. There needs to be proper evaluation done on this two models to check their feasibility and sustainability. The PMU/IP planned the implementation of an Energy Reform Review to develop with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) unit that will financially support future rural electrification projects. Further work on at least discussing with local banks/financial institutions on the development of potential financing mechanisms (inclusive of the institutional procedures) are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.
□ No. of rural electrification initiatives facilitated by adopted and enforced institutional and financial mechanisms.	0	2	2	Zero (0) - The outcome of this will commence once the Financial Mechanisms are formally adopted by sites to use.	0 No institutional and financial mechanisms for financially supporting RE-based power generation projects in rural areas have been designed and established. Hence, there is nothing to report that pertains to the indicator. The reason for this is as explained in the previous indicator.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be	**Off track**				

described as:	
Evidence uploaded:	YES

Outcome 3

Outcome 3.1: Increased confidence in, and application of, RE technologies and RE-based power generation to support socio-economic development in off-grid areas

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
No. of planned and implemented rural electrification projects in both on-, and off-grid areas that are based on the findings are recommendations of conducted DREI assessments of RE-based electricity generation options.	0	2	5	Zero- A DREI consultant is required to do the DREI assessment for SPIRES but there have not been any DREI specialist allocated for SPIRES since the beginning of the project. A TOR is being developed by UNDP & PMU Quarter 4 2022 to Q1 2023 for this DREI Specialist. TOR submitted to UNDP by PMU in Q1 2023. Awaiting finalizing of the TOR and recruiting the DREI CTA by Q3 2023 from UNDP online roster.	0 The pertinent activities (1.3.1.1 and 1.3.1.2) on the techno-economic feasibility analysis of RE-based electricity generation options have not yet been implemented. These should have been implemented in Years 1 & 2 of the project but was not done due to some misunderstanding of the PMU about the UNDP-approved alternative assessment methodology. As with the other outcome indicators that requires monitoring of other RE-based power generation projects in the country, the PMU will monitor and document these other projects also as part of the project's knowledge management efforts. Further work on this is presented in the Action Plan at the end of this DO Progress Table.

No. of follow-up rural electrification, sustainable energy and low carbon technology application projects (demo replications and scale-ups) in on-, and off-grid areas.	0	4	6	Zero (0) – Selwyn College as part of the baseline for the project there have been two consultations with the school in supporting them in purchasing a new Genset but there has no commitment from the ACOM and Selwyn College to move forward with this proposal. ACOM already purchased a Genset as of Quarter 1 2023 Continuous monitoring of the baseline sites will be conducted by the PMU to ensure there is sufficient data available for reporting purposes for this outcome.	0 No demo replications nor scale-ups carried out, or at least planned. All the demos are on the application of solar PV-based power generation technology. more in solar demos. Nonetheless, there are some planned new MMERE-funded solar PV projects that are considered as replicating the demos.
Percentage of successful maintenance or repair work on demonstrations by MMERE and all RE-based rural electrification projects in the country	0	50% support	100% MMERE with no external support	Zero (0) – Training with a Hydro mechanic specialist will be carried out by Q2 August before commissioning for both sites. this would enable specialized members of the community to undergo this training on the main components of how to sustainably maintain and do repair works for the system in both sites.	25% This estimate is based on yet to be confirmed reports about repair & maintenance work done by MMERE staff on existing MMERE-operated solar PV power system installations. The MMERE staff trained on R&M of solar PV-based power generation and supply systems under SPIRES are the ones doing the repair and maintenance on these MMERE

					operated facilities. They also have a better understanding of what needs to be done when working together with external R&M specialists/the contractors or supervising the R&M work done by such external personnel.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**Off track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Outcome 4

Outcome 3.2: Adoption and implementation of climate resilient and low carbon electricity applications in increasing access to electricity in off-grid areas.

Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2023**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024**
No. of successfully installed and operational systems of the implemented demonstrations of RE-based electricity generation and low carbon technology application in the off-grid areas.	0	2	5	Two (2) - Rokera PSS and Hunanawa Community in South Malaita. Commissioning should occur by Q3 August 2023 The Solar PV Capacity for Rokera PSS is 36kwp and for Hunanawa Community is 30kwp. Two sites in South Malaita – Rokera PSS and Hunanawa Community both have reached 95% completion each and should be completed around	3 - Three demos have been launched since October 2023. Two demos are yet to be completed during the next PIR reporting period. All demos are on solar PV-based power generation. No stand-alone EE technology demo. Yet-to-be verified if EE technology (measures or actions) applications have been incorporated in the 5 project demos. It is suggested that the demos be re-evaluated as to their selection,

				August – September 2023. The commissioning of both sites will depend entirely on its completion. Proposed date for commissioning is scheduled for the early weeks of September 2023.	technical and financial viability, and expected energy and environmental performances.
No. of RE and EE technologies application projects designed and financed for implementation as influenced by the results and outcomes of the demonstrations	0	4	9	Zero (0) - Once the sites have been launched then work regarding this output can begin	0. Since the operational project demos have only been operating less than a year, there are no RE and EE technology projects designed and financed for implementation as influenced by the outcomes of these demos.
Percentage of women in community-based RESCO morally supported by village men to build their confidence in leadership	0	25%	50%	Zero (0) - expected by the end of August Q3 sites commissioned and RESCO's can begin. Through initial awareness the project has already pointed out the need for women to invest themselves into the ideas behind RESCO's models from other active sites of the Energy Division e.g. Tina Hydro Project.	38.4% This is based on the participation of women for all surveyed communities under SPIRES Project including the demo sites. Further work on at least discussing initially identified women-led and operated RET equipment suppliers and RE service providers on the development of the community-based women-led RESCO businesses are presented in the action plan at the end of this DO Progress table.

The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Outcome 5

Outcome 4:

Enhanced awareness and knowledge of the government, private sector and communities on the cost-effective application of RE and EE technologies and practices

Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2023**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024**
No. of trained national and local government personnel that can ably plan and evaluate energy access, sustainable energy and low carbon technology application projects.	0	2	4	Six (6) - There were six officers who took online training with the GSES course on Solar Photovoltaic Systems. This training involved three (3) SPIRES Officers and Three (3) Energy officers. Another training is the GHG calculations and national energy consumption with Energy and Climate change officers should commence by Q3 end of August.	1 - Six (6) SIG personnel trained but only one graduated with a certificate. This trained individual is a staff of the Energy Department under MMERE.
No. of local firms that can capably provide technical, engineering and maintenance services for rural electrification and low carbon	1	1	3	Six (6) - these are the local firms that have been providing technical and engineering and maintenance services for the project.	7 – This level of achievement of the target for this indicator is to be further verified based on the post-evaluation work on the capacity development activity on technical, engineering and

technology application projects.				1 Future Electrical and Solar Consultancy Services 2. Archives Solution Limited 3. C-ME Electrical and Engineering Limited 4. G- Rock Electrical and Engineering Limited 5. Mechatrics Engineering Services 6. James Engineering and Building SI Limited.	maintenance services for rural electrification and low carbon technology application projects. .
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

Action plan

Off-track objective/outcome	Action(s) to be taken	Responsible party/ies	Due Date
Objective	Completion of the installation of the remaining demos, as well as the Component 4 activity on the development of the energy consumption monitoring, reporting, and database system. Conduct a survey/evaluation of other RE-based power generation and supply projects to gather data/information for the GHG calculations This involves monitoring and reporting of operating performance of each demos, including other rural RE-based power generation projects that are implemented in the country	SPIRES PMU and MMERE Energy Division, including MECDM and SEIA	Nov 12, 2024

	during Project implementation to ascertain the direct and indirect attribution of these to the results of the Project activities on RE and EE policy improvements; capacity development on RE/EE technology applications; and the institutional and financial management systems that were designed for each project demo.		
Objective	Continue evaluation of gathered research data, particularly on the projection (using trend analysis) of the data on electricity access in rural areas in the country, Conduct of surveys/enquiries/canvasses of the views and interest of the project beneficiaries to ascertain the level of interest in the rural areas (public/community and private) on RE-based power generation for electrification. Verification of the work reports of the contractors who were engaged during the installation of the demo facilities. Conduct of surveys, enquiries, and canvasses of follow-up work on potential demo replications and other new RE-based power generation projects and those that are SIG-funded and to be implemented by the MMERE to determine the new jobs that will be created for the design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of such projects in other rural areas.	SPIRES- PMU and MMERE Energy Division (IP)	Nov 12, 2024
Outcome 2	Complete the formulation and presentation of the recommended new or improved RE and EC&EE	SPIRES- PMU and MMERE- Energy Division (IP)	Nov 12, 2024

	policies. Conduct of surveys, enquiries, and canvasses of follow-up work on potential demo replications and other new RE-based power generation projects including MMERE projects to determine how these were influenced or facilitated by the Project's proposed new and improved RE and EC&EE policies. Appointed consultant to recommend specific policy/policies that will be piloted, and draft at least the concept for the implementation of the pilot. Appointed consultant to recommend the next steps to be carried out by MMERE to prepare/formulate new rural electrification plans.		
Outcome 3	Implementation of the activities to deliver Output 3.1.1 (i.e., the techno-economic feasibility evaluation of various RE-based power generation options for rural electrification). Identification and documentation of potential sites and hosts for demo replications and scale-ups. Evaluation and verification of the extent of knowledge pick-up and application of the MMERE personnel who were trained on the repair and maintenance of RE-based power generation systems	UNDP, SPIRES- PMU and MMERE- Energy Division	Nov 12, 2024

D. Implementation Progress

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	88.43%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	88.43%
Cumulative disbursement as of Jul 31, 2024:	2,334,195

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	100,000
GEF Grant Amount	2,639,726
Co-financing	16,525,531

Key Project Dates

Project duration	48 months
PIF Approval Date	Nov 29, 2017
CEO Endorsement Date	Aug 3, 2020
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Nov 12, 2020
Date of Inception Workshop	Mar 23, 2021
First Disbursement Date	Apr 29, 2021
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Jun 16, 2023
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Jun 22, 2023
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Aug 12, 2024
Original Planned Closing Date	Nov 12, 2024
Revised Planned Closing Date	*(not set or not applicable)*

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2023 to 1 July 2024)
2023-11-10

Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please

indicated 'not applicable'.
The SPIRES Project was delayed in delivering some of its activities due to the fact that the first two years the project was focused on the demonstration activities under Components 3.1 and 3.2. The work on the other project components (1, 2 and 4) have been on catch-up mode. The overspending in Components 3.1 and 3.2 has resulted in the reduction of the budget allocations for the other components, and this has resulted in budget constraints and limitations affecting the implementation pace of the activities of these other components. Despite the early focus on the Component 3 activities there were also delays in the delivery (freight shipment) of the purchased equipment and materials resulting in the delay of the installation of the facilities in the remaining 2 demo sites.. The earlier demos were also delayed in theire commissioning, which only happened during 2Q 2023, and in 1Q 2024. Considering the remaining project budget, the IP/PMU has to prioritize the ongoing activities that must be completed using the remaining project budget, and somehow to be able to deliver most of the project outputs before the original project closing date.
CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance
There has been an increase in oversight activities by the UNDP Programmes Team since June 2024 to address the current challenges of SPIRES project implementation. Weekly face-to-face and online meetings between the SPIRES Team, UNDP senior management and the Regional Technical Advisor in UNDP RBAP are held weekly to discuss the current status of the project and request for possible extension by the IP on the project duration to complete outstanding activities. The UNDP RCC Programmes team are having ongoing discussions with the SPIRES Team and the IP on finalizing the revised budget for 2024 and prioritization of activities in close consultation with the project CTA. The SPIRES Team and UNDP Programmes Team are monitoring the budget closely in consultation with the RTA to remain within the GEF-approved thresholds at the same time prioritize activities to achieve off-track indicators to the extent possible. The next FACE Form need to be submitted together with activity reports to verify expenditures undertaken in Q3/ 2024 before Q4/ 2024 tranche is transferred. A project board meeting is organized for 29 August 2024 to endorse the progress report for the 2023/ 2024 reporting period and agree on recommendations for possible four months of project extension from November 2024 with a concrete work plan for the extended period. The UNDP Programme Team is also working with the SES Specialist to manage risks during the remaining project implementation period. ToR for the upcoming Terminal Evaluation is currently being developed and will be circulated to all

parties by early September 2024 to secure the consultant ahead of the planned evaluation date.

BPPS RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.

To accelerate implementation and the achievement of project objectives, with less than three months before OC date, PMU (including CTA), OC and the Environment Team (RPA and RTA) have had weekly follow-up calls.

The PMU presented a revised list of prioritized activities to the Project Board and develop with the work plan and a timeframe for implementation. PMU is considering requesting a project extension to finalize prioritized activities.

RTA and RPA to provide support and oversight to ensure that workplan approved by the board needs to be consistent with available resources, capacities and that the project achieves its outcomes/objectives.

E. Project Governance

1) Please enter the dates of Project Board meetings during the reporting period (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024)
2023-11-10

F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2024 Development Objective Progress Rating	2024 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory

Role	2024 Overall Assessment
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	This is the third PIR for the project titled, “Stimulating Progress towards Improved Rural Electrification in the Solomons (SPIRES)” that is under implementation since November 2020. The SPIRES Project has been hampered right from the beginning with implementation delays starting with the quarantine and lockdown conditions in the country during the Covid-19 pandemic, to the delays in setting up the project management office (PMO), hiring of the project’s chief technical adviser, to the prioritization of the implementation of the project’s technical demonstration activities. These challenges partly influenced the decision of the PMO and the project’s implementing partner to focus the work on the demos in the planned demo sites where the baseline demo activities are fully defined and budgeted. Despite the focus on the demonstrations, there were also delays encountered in some of these activities due to changes in the design and engineering plans, availability of technical expertise as well as delays in the supply of construction materials and demo equipment. Although work on some of the project’s enabling activities (policy/regulatory measures, capacity development, awareness raising, knowledge management, etc.) have been started, since the component activities are interlinked, their completion are required to initiate and complete the others. Out of the total 18 indicators in the results framework, there are currently 5 indicators that are “on track”, 6 indicators that require further verification and 7 indicators are “off track”. CO, Environment Team (RPA and RTA) have worked closely with the PMU to prioritize activities to attain the results of the project with the available resources, including discussions on the possibility of requesting an extension. As these are still ongoing discussions, the action plan included in the PIR needs further revisions so that it captures available resources, available capacities and a realistic timeline. For instance, there is an ongoing discussion on the possibility that only 4 of the 5 demos will be completed under the project's funding (forgo Garanga and concentrate on Nangu). Also, there are still ongoing discussions on which activities from components 1, 2 and 3.1 will be implemented. After reviewing the available evidence provided in PIR, as an RTA my assessment is that the project is off-track. Given that there are only 3 months left in the implementation and almost 14% of the GL delivery is outstanding, the project requires careful oversight to ensure that project as many EOP targets as possible. Considering the achievements reported by the project in this PIR and reviewing the evidence files, as an RTA for the project, the ratings for progress towards Development Objectives (DO) is “Moderately Unsatisfactory” and Implementation Progress (IP) is “Moderately Satisfactory”.

	SUMMARY ON PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE The FIRST DO is to reduce annual growth rate of GHG emissions in the energy and energy end use sector of the Solomon Islands. In total the following 2 indicators are tracked to monitor and measure progress towards achieving the DO. I. First Indicator aims at reducing 19,147 tons of CO2 emissions from the electricity sector in rural areas. This indicator is based on the operating performance of the project demos as well as other RE-based projects implemented during implementation of the SPIRES which could be influenced by RE and EE policy improvements, capacity development or RE and EE technology applications and institutional and financial management systems. This indicator made some progress towards the EOP target as three demos began operation during the reporting period (Rokera, Hunanawa and Veila Beach) but the level of achievement of the indicator is still being determined. Furthermore, despite more work required to measure the level of achievement, the indicator is considered off track as the contribution of the demos will be limited due to the number of demos (only 3 out of 5) which began operating later than originally planned and due low implementation of project enabling activities, limiting having a scaling impact on other projects. II. The second Indicator aims at reducing the national electric energy consumption index from 6.42 to 5.87 ktoe/US$ GDP (evidence to be provided). Estimations based on data obtained from the SEIA, CBSI, and WB, show a consumption index as of mid-2024 of 6.49 ktoe/US$, reflecting the challenges that the project faced to deliver the expected number of demos, and demo replications. Further work on the monitoring and evaluation of this indicator is proposed in the action plan. The SECOND DO is to facilitate the achievement of increased access to electricity in rural communities in the Solomon Islands. I. The first indicator under this DO aims at increasing cumulative fossil fuel savings due to sustainable energy and low carbon interventions implemented by 2,095 toe. This indicator is also based on the operating performance of the demos, as well as other rural RE-based power generation projects influenced by the activities and results of these RE and EE demos. The cumulative value of this indicator is still to be determined but is considered off track due to the same limitations highlighted in the previous indicators. II. The second indicator under the second DO aims at increasing electricity access in rural areas from 5% to 25%. The cumulative value of this indicator is still to be determined but is considered off track due to the same limitations highlighted in the previous indicators. The third indicator aims at increasing by 200 the no. of new jobs created due to enhanced electricity access in off-grid areas in the country, that is, jobs related to design, implementation, operation and maintenance of RE-based projects in rural areas. Cumulative progress is estimated at 20 new jobs, same as reported during last reporting period, based on contractors reports on the work done during the installation of the demo facilities, PMU surveys on potential demo replications and SIG-funded projects. Although further verification on the value of this indicator is pending and included in the action plan, the latest estimation is 20, which is considered off track. Considering these factors, the DO is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MS), which is consistent with the CO rating, remaining the same as the previous PIR’s rating. SUMMARY ON OUTCOMES: FOUR OUT OF FIVE OUTCOMES ARE OFF TRACK. The achievement of the project DO is related to the following five

	outcomes: OUTCOME 1's goal is to enforce approved policies and rules and regulations to support enhanced application of cost-effective RE technologies for electricity generation in the off-grid areas in Solomon Islands. Although the outcome is reported as on-track when assessing the indicators individually, two present zero cumulative progress and one has not reached the midterm target. I. First Indicator aims to implement 5 off-grid rural electrification projects facilitated by the approved and enforced energy access, RE and EC&EE policies. As of now, the reported value is 0 as improved RE and EC&EE policies are yet to be presented or promoted to the SIG. However, there is ongoing work conducted by a legal consultant mainly on the review of the SINEP (Solomon Islands National Energy Policy). II. The second Indicator aims for designing and implementing pilots on the implementation of applicable policy and regulatory framework for rural electrification. As of the end of this reporting period, there have been no policy pilots conceptualized or designed. III. The third Indicator aims at formulating, approving and implementing 9 rural electrification plans. Apart from the 5 plans included in the baseline, no additional plans have been prepared/formulated, approved or implemented. OUTCOME 2's goal is to enforce improved institutional and financial mechanisms in the integrated planning and implementation of rural electrification and RE-based energy production in the off-grid areas. The outcome is reported as off-track. I. The first Indicator aims to formulate and recommend 2 institutional and financing mechanisms that support the enhanced implementation of rural electrification initiatives. From the PIR 2024 reporting discussions, it was learned that what were developed and to be presented to the demo hosts (the Flat Rate Cash Billing of PAYGO and sinking fund) are the proposed institutional and financial management systems to sustainably operate the demo installations. However, the scope of the related activities, according to project design, should be related to activities to support local banks providing services in rural areas to finance RE-based power generation or the development of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) unit that will financially support future rural electrification projects. II. The second indicator aims at achieving 2 rural electrification initiatives facilitated by adopted and enforced institutional and financial mechanisms. To this day, as no institutional and financial mechanisms for financially supporting RE-based power generation projects in rural areas have been designed and established, this indicator cannot be achieved. OUTCOME 3.1's goal is to increase confidence in, and application of, RE technologies and RE-based power generation to support socio-economic development in off-grid areas. The outcome is off-track. I. The first Indicator originally aimed at achieving 5 planned and implemented rural electrification projects based on the findings and recommendations of conducted DREI assessments of RE-based electricity generation options. In the end, it was agreed with the PMU that, instead of a DREI Expert, the PMU must engage the services of an engineer (mechanical, electrical, energy) who is knowledgeable of RE-based power systems (design, engineering, and operation) and familiar with the feasible RE resources in the country that can be utilized for power generation. As of today, there has been no progress related to this indicator. II. The second indicator aims at implementing follow-up rural electrification, sustainable energy, and low carbon technology application projects (demo replications and scale-ups) in on-, and off-grid areas. As of this reporting period, no demo replications have been planned. III. The third indicator related to attaining a 100% successful maintenance or repair work on demonstrations by MMERE and all

	RE-based rural electrification projects in the country. This is estimated at 25% but needs to be further confirmed with reports on repair & maintenance work done by MMERE staff on existing MMERE-operated solar PV power system installations. OUTCOME 3.2 aims at adopting and implementing climate resilient and low carbon electricity applications in increasing access to electricity in off-grid areas. This is the only outcome which is on-track as most project resources to date have been focused on the implementation of 3 demos. I. The first indicator aims at having 5 successfully installed and operational demonstration systems of RE-based electricity generation and low carbon technology application in the off-grid areas. As of this reporting period, the project has 3 operational solar PV-based generation demos in Rokera PSS (36kWp), in Hunanawa Community (30kwp) and Ginger, Nide and Doma Cove Eco Lodges (30 kWp). One or two additional PV demos are yet to be completed during the next reporting period. II. The second indicator is related to achieving 9 RE and EE technologies application projects designed and financed for implementation as influenced by the results and outcomes of the demonstrations. There are no RE and EE technology projects influenced by the outcomes of these demos. This is partly attributed to the fact that the demos began operating since October 2023 (Rokera and Hunanawa) and since April 2024 (Ginger, Nide and Doma Cove Eco Lodges), not allowing for enough time to influence other projects. III. The third indicator aims at reaching 50% of women in community-based RESCO morally supported by village men to build their confidence in leadership. Based on surveys done at the communities under SPIRES Project progress during the reporting period is 38.4%. OUTCOME 4 aims at adopting and implementing climate resilient and low carbon electricity applications in increasing access to electricity in off-grid areas. It is reported as on-track. I. The first indicator had an EOP target of 4 trained national and local government personnel that can ably plan and evaluate energy access, sustainable energy and low carbon technology application projects. Six (6) SIG personnel trained but only one graduated with a certificate. II. The second indicator had a target of 3 local firms that can capably provide technical, engineering and maintenance services for rural electrification and low carbon technology application projects. This number is estimated at 7 but this level of achievement is to be further verified based on the post-evaluation work. To bring the project back on track, SPIRES PMU hired during this reporting period a new Chief Technical Advisor to support the PMU in various technical decisions, including the prioritization of activities to be implemented during the remaining implementation period and a potential project extension. RISK MANAGEMENT: Several risks have been flagged in the project's risk register under the following categories: - Financial risks: first, there are substantial risks related to government, partners and stakeholders not delivering co-financing commitments which could lead to non-availability of committed co-financing for specific activities of the project. To mitigate this risk, PMU has been seeking funding from other donor partners, as well as in-kind support from government partners. However, to this date, there is no evidence that the project has received any co-financing assistance. In addition, there is significant risk that lower fossil fuel prices could reduce interest in RE-based power generation. To mitigate this risk, awareness raising interventions to inform about high logistics costs of bringing

	diesel fuel to rural areas and about the downwards trend in the cost of RE systems, can help maintain overall interest in RE-based systems despite of low fossil fuel prices. Finally, there are risks related to the capacity of rural electrification projects to generate cash-flow to allow for local communities to manage the sustainability of the projects. To counter this risk, the project has been working in the design and implementation of financial mechanisms such as flat rate cash billing or the establishment of sinking funds for operation and maintenance. - Operational: there are low risks related to the construction and operation of the demonstration and replication projects. To address these, PMU has reviewed the SESP to ensure compliance with SES requirements for each site and has been working to ensure that designs consider environmental impacts and comply with Solomon Islands Building Code. The project's updated SES plan included the development of Standard designs/design guides for demo-sites which are still to be developed. Furthermore, there is a substantial risk related to inadequate local capacities which could be mitigated by conducting training events. However, the capacity building strategy is still being developed and a comprehensive training program for operation and maintenance has not been implemented yet. - Safety and security: there are low risks of the project generating disagreements among indigenous peoples on the use of their land for the project. To mitigate this, consultations FPIC processes are required and documented during project implementation. - Social and environmental: moderate risk of climate change impacts (heavy rainfall, sea level rise, flooding) disrupting the implementation of project activities and remote location of sites which may lead to transportation incidents. To mitigate this, it was agreed in the SES Plan in Q4 2023 that site-specific ESMP would be developed which would be accompanied by quarterly ESMP monitoring reports. - Strategic: there are low to moderate strategic risks related to PMU not having enough engagement with local communities and with MMERE and other stakeholders not making enough on policy and regulatory reform for rural electrification. MMERE and PMU are working with a legal consultant in the development of the proposed rural electricity regulatory framework. The overall risk rating for the project in PIMS+ is "Moderate", related to safeguards implementation, as the project's SES implementation is off track and, in the previous reporting period (2023), the project faced an incident occurred during a trip to offload the SPIRES project materials from Nu'usi Port to Hunanawa Community. Two village boats collided each other that caused damages to both boats. Eight batteries including rolls of cables in the loaded boat sank into the sea but were quickly recovered and taken ashore. A child in the other boat got his arm broken from gripping tight to the boat from falling off into the sea. In the previous reporting period (2023), the Environment (NCE) Team – with support from the CCM Safeguard Specialist - agreed to work with country office and the project team and develop an SES action plan to help bring the project's SES implementation back on track. SPIRES PMU agreed to implement an SES Plan, including the following products/activities: - Geo-technical feasibility study reports - Standard designs/design guides for demo-sites

	- Develop site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) – which will include: o health and safety measures for construction and operation (for community and workers), o waste management plan (highlighting waste disposal during construction and operation), and o monitoring requirements for construction and operation. - Document all consultations, including related to disclosure and consultation on site-specific ESMPs, as part of the FPIC process. - Quarterly ESMP monitoring report. The SESP consultant who will lead the implementation of the SES plan has not come onboard yet and is expected to begin in Q3 2024, according to the information provided by PMU. MINOR AMENDMENTS On Project Results Framework, as documented during the MTR the project, the project board in November 2023 approved a decrease in the number of demonstration sites from 8 to 5 which is expected to lower the GHG emissions reductions. On Components and cost, the PIR highlights that there have been a number of budget revisions to address finding from the mid-term review and audits. Finally, on Risk Analysis, risks were updated in quantum and discussed in the Risk Management section. Several budget revisions were made throughout the project implementation to the Annual Work Plan (AWP) in order to address the findings of the Mid-Term Review and Audits, as well as allocate additional resources to certain components. FINANCIAL DELIVERY SUMMARY The cumulative financial delivery of the project is at approximately 88% (in the last PIR it was reported at 59%) of the total approved budget. With less than 3 months left in the project implementation period (expected operation closure is November 12, 2024), the project needs to accelerate its delivery and assess the need for a project extension. On co-financing, the cumulative co-financing materialized for the project is $ 2,550,497, corresponding to the recipient country and the GEF agency, compared to total committed co-financing of $ 16,525,531. With these considerations and progress against expected financial delivery, the IP for this period is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU). KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS The project has hired a database consultant who will consolidate all the information, data, reports and maps of SPIRES Project designs to enable it to be accessible to donor partners, stakeholders implementing partners and also the general public. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT as highlighted earlier, there are risks of not having enough engagement with local communities or the MMRE and not progressing on policy and regulatory reform for rural electrification.

	GENDER PROGRESS The project continues to progress toward the gender targets through the installation of solar PV systems in communities, schools, and tourism eco lodges which has significantly contributed to the development of economic activities for the recipients, including women. RECOMMENDATIONS 1) The project is lacking monitoring and evaluation capacities, as reflected in several indicators which still need revision and/or do not provide evidence to support the estimations. 2) The action plan presented should reflect available resources, available capacities and a realistic timeline. 3) the project has to ensure effective safeguards strategies to manage waste and potential impacts beyond the end of the project implementation period.
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Overall, the project has made some progress toward its goals since the outcome of the Mid-Term Review in May 2023. While over 50% of the project results remain off-track during this reporting period, good progress was made in 2023. Despite the challenges in fully achieving the intended results of the four components, the IP indicated that important lessons were learned from the SPIRES project to inform its future projects on unlocking barriers to implementing renewable energy. Another important consideration is the aim of SPIRES to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the energy and energy end-use sector of the Solomon Islands. To achieve this, it is essential to analyze data and reports from similar infrastructure projects within the country, in conjunction with SPIRES data. A clearer picture will emerge once a thorough assessment is completed. The outcomes of this project will become increasingly evident as time goes on and as systematic monitoring and measurement are carried out. At the time of this report, the IP has scheduled a national energy summit in mid-September with an overall aim of developing an Energy Road Map for the Solomon Islands. The lessons from implementing SPIRES will be presented in that event as well therefore it is important to acknowledge the value-add of this project even though most targets are off-track in this PIR.
Project Manager/Coordinator	To summarize the findings of this report, the SPIRES Project has successfully addressed components 1, 2, and 4 in the current phase of implementation, which began in the latter half of this year. The third Demo Site Solar PV system has been completed, and progress has been made on the policy aspect of our work with the recent hiring of a Legal Technical Expert. Additionally, a CTA has been hired to provide valuable assistance in project

	extension work and other areas requiring technical expertise. Trainings have begun in the three commissioned sites, focusing on financial mechanisms, safety and waste management, and technical skills development for the IP staff to enhance their capacity. However, there has been a delay in the availability of funds, and we have not received any co-financing assistance and support for the SPIRES Project. We are still waiting for the release of the third tranche of funds, which is crucial for completing the fourth and fifth sites, as well as the remaining activities before the project's closure in November of this year. Unless the no-cost extension is approved, the project's duration will not be extended beyond the current timeline. However, with the funds currently available, we believe we can still complete the remaining activities. It is essential for us to implement the monitoring plan to capture relevant data and transfer it to the IP once the project concludes.
GEF Operational Focal point	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Implementing Partner	*(not set or not applicable)*
Other Partners	*(not set or not applicable)*

G. Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

CO Programme Officer: Please check the box for each category for which a minor amendment occurred during this reporting period (1 July 2023- 30 June 2024).

For each category that is checked off, a text box will appear Please provide a brief description of the change that occurred in the associated text box. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate, via the upload feature at the bottom of this section.

The purpose of this section is to capture adaptive management and measure project proactiveness, an indicator outlined in paragraph 70 of the GEF-8 Policy Directions available here.

A) Results Framework
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'
The GHG emissions rate will vary due to the reduction in the number of approved sites in the project document from 8 to 5. To support this justification, the MTR report and relevant documents from the urgent emergency board meeting have been uploaded/attached.
B) Components and cost
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'
Several budget revisions were made throughout the project implementation to the Annual Work Plan (AWP) in order to address the findings of the Mid-Term Review and Audits, as well as allocate additional resources to certain components. Please note that the latest revision has been included in the report.
C) Institutional and implementation arrangements
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'
(not set or not applicable)
D) Financial management
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'
(not set or not applicable)
E) Implementation schedule

No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'
(not set or not applicable)
F) Executing Entity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'
(not set or not applicable)
G) Executing Entity Category
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'
(not set or not applicable)
H) Minor project objective change
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'
(not set or not applicable)
I) Safeguards
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'
(not set or not applicable)
J) Risk Analysis
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'
No new risk analysis was conducted; however, the risks were updated due to the transition from Atlas to Quantum. The updated version has been uploaded in the Risk Management section of this report for your information.
K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
No
Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%
(not set or not applicable)
L) Co-financing

No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'
(not set or not applicable)
M) Location of project activity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity
(not set or not applicable)
Other
No
Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or gender activities can be captured here.
(not set or not applicable)
Upload any supporting documentation related to responses in this section. *(Uploaded files will be kept internal and not submitted to the GEF.)*
Fina Draft_ MTR Report _ SPIRES MTR Evaluation_ Final.pdf

H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1) Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.
Gender Analysis of Action Plan.xlsx Participants Segredated Data_ Updated 2024.xlsx
Quantum Gender Marker Rating
GEN2: gender equality as significant objective
2) Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women. **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**
The installation of solar PV systems in communities, schools, and tourism eco lodges has significantly contributed to the development of economic activities for the recipients. In the Hunanawa community, the women's group has greatly benefited from the Solar PV System. This system allows them to engage in small-scale business activities, such as producing ice blocks to store in their refrigerators. Additionally, they can now store and sell frozen protein products like chicken, mincemeat, and sausages within their communities, which was not possible before. At the Veila beach project site, the system also provides similar business opportunities to complement their existing eco lodge operations. For concrete data on these achievements, please refer to the attached site back to office reports.
4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

The key to promoting gender equality is to offer comprehensive training programs for women and young girls. By empowering them through participation in energy end-use tools training and providing them with fundamental knowledge about renewable energy, we can help them acquire valuable skills.

Training sessions focused on basic financial literacy, including bookkeeping, filing, and data analysis, can enhance their livelihood skills. Additionally, providing training in basic life skills such as operating electric sewing machines will enable women to sew clothes for their families and generate income through selling their products.

Furthermore, establishing connections between these women and the UN Women group organization can create market opportunities for them.

I. Risk Management

A) Overall Risk Management

BPPS RTA: Please discuss the risks flagged in the Quantum project Risk Register and the VF Risk Dashboard in PIMS+ with the CO and then provide an assessment of project risk management undertaken during the reporting period. Document actions, agreed with the CO, to address all project risks in the coming year.

Several risks have been flagged in the project's risk register under the following categories:

- Financial risks: first, there are substantial risks related to government, partners and stakeholders not delivering co-financing commitments which could lead to non-availability of committed co-financing for specific activities of the project. To mitigate this risk, PMU has been seeking funding from other donor partners, as well as in-kind support from government partners. However, to this date, there is no evidence that the project has received any co-financing assistance. In addition, there is significant risk that lower fossil fuel prices could reduce interest in RE-based power generation. To mitigate this risk, awareness raising interventions to inform about high logistics costs of bringing diesel fuel to rural areas and about the downwards trend in the cost of RE systems, can help maintain overall interest in RE-based systems despite of low fossil fuel prices. Finally, there are risks related to the capacity of rural electrification projects to generate cash-flow to allow for local communities to manage the sustainability of the projects. To counter this risk, the project has been working in the design and implementation of financial mechanisms such as flat rate cash billing or the establishment of sinking funds for operation and maintenance.

- Operational: there are low risks related to the construction and operation of the demonstration and replication projects. To address these, PMU has reviewed the SESP to ensure compliance with SES requirements for each site and has been working to ensure that designs consider environmental impacts and comply with Solomon Islands Building Code. The project's updated SES plan included the development of Standard designs/design guides for demo-sites which are still to be developed. Furthermore, there is a substantial risk related to inadequate local capacities which could be mitigated by conducting training events. However, the capacity building strategy is still being developed and a comprehensive training program for operation and maintenance has not been implemented yet.

- Safety and security: there are low risks of the project generating disagreements among indigenous peoples on the use of their land for the project. To mitigate this, consultations FPIC processes are required and documented during project implementation.

- Social and environmental: moderate risk of climate change impacts (heavy rainfall, sea level rise, flooding) disrupting the implementation of project activities and remote location of sites which may lead to transportation incidents. To mitigate this, it was agreed in the SES Plan in Q4 2023 that site-specific ESMP would be developed which would be accompanied by quarterly ESMP monitoring reports.

- Strategic: there are low to moderate strategic risks related to PMU not having enough engagement with local communities and with MMERE and other stakeholders not making enough on policy and regulatory reform for rural electrification. MMERE and PMU are working with a legal consultant in the development of the proposed rural electricity regulatory framework.

The overall risk rating for the project in PIMS+ is "Moderate", related to safeguards implementation,

as the project's SES implementation is off track and, in the previous reporting period (2023), the project faced an incident occurred during a trip to offload the SPIRES project materials from Nu'usi Port to Hunanawa Community. Two village boats collided each other that caused damages to both boats. Eight batteries including rolls of cables in the loaded boat sank into the sea but were quickly recovered and taken ashore. A child in the other boat got his arm broken from gripping tight to the boat from falling off into the sea. In the previous reporting period (2023), the Environment (NCE) Team – with support from the CCM Safeguard Specialist - agreed to work with country office and the project team and develop an SES action plan to help bring the project's SES implementation back on track. SPIRES PMU agreed to implement an SES Plan, including the following products/activities:

- Geo-technical feasibility study reports
- Standard designs/design guides for demo-sites
- Develop site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) – which will include:
- health and safety measures for construction and operation (for community and workers),
- waste management plan (highlighting waste disposal during construction and operation), and
- monitoring requirements for construction and operation.
- Document all consultations, including related to disclosure and consultation on site-specific ESMPs, as part of the FPIC process.
- Quarterly ESMP monitoring report.

The SESP consultant who will lead the implementation of the SES plan has not come onboard yet and is expected to begin in Q3 2024, according to the information provided by PMU.

Finally, the project is off-track for various objectives and components. To overcome this, SPIRES PMU hired during this reporting period a new Chief Technical Advisor to support the PMU in various technical decisions, including the prioritization of activities to be implemented during the remaining implementation period and a potential project extension.

B) SES Implementation

Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan was for the most part adhered to. Nonetheless, there were also identified stakeholders that were not engaged because of attached in the supporting documents.

Strategic: there are low to moderate strategic risks related to PMU not having enough engagement with local communities and with MMERE and other stakeholders not making enough on policy and regulatory reform for rural electrification. MMERE and PMU are working with a legal consultant in the development of the proposed rural electricity regulatory framework.

J. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.
Activity 4.2.2 of the project is on the development of consumption monitoring, reporting, and database system and impact assessment of demo and baseline projects. Such database will also be designed to include modules for supporting the project's knowledge management strategy. The database will consolidate all the information/data generated from the project activities, especially from the energy consumption monitoring and reporting. These will be accessible to donor partners, stakeholders implementing partners and also the general public. Alternatively, the SPIRES team can also include the data on the demos into the integrated Monitoring Reporting and Verification Platform for the Solomon Islands to inform the government's efforts in climate finance monitoring.
2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)
Website: https://spires.gov.sb/ Face Book - https://www.facebook.com/SPIRES2022/ UNDP Solomon Islands launching of SPIRES website- https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/promotion-renewable-energy-and-rural-electricity-through-spires-website https://spires.gov.sb/spires-and-sinu-collaborate-to-engage-certified-re-system-installers-for-the-energy-industry-in-the-country-under-their-tvet-photovoltaic-programme/ Press Release for Commissioning of Hunanawa and Rokera PV System - https://spires.gov.sb/two-solar-hybrid-power-systems-inaugurated-in-southern-malaita-province/
3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.
IMG_5567.JPG IMG_5791.JPG IMG_6293.JPG IMG_6338.JPG IMG_7233.JPG IMG_7327.JPG

IMG_7337.JPG

K. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.