

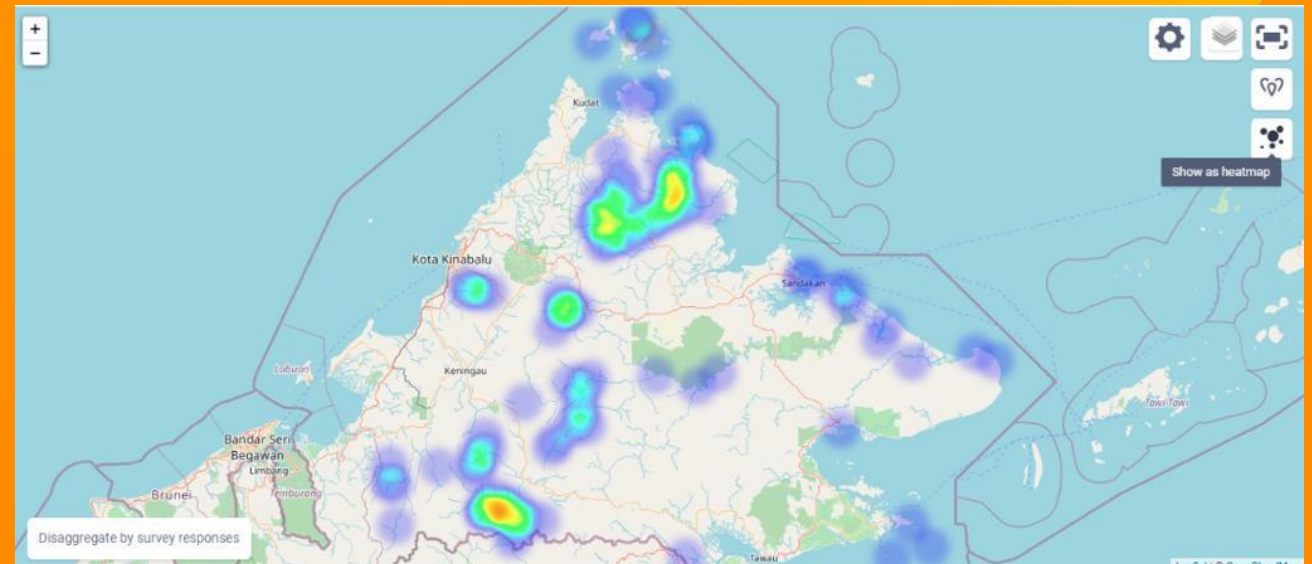
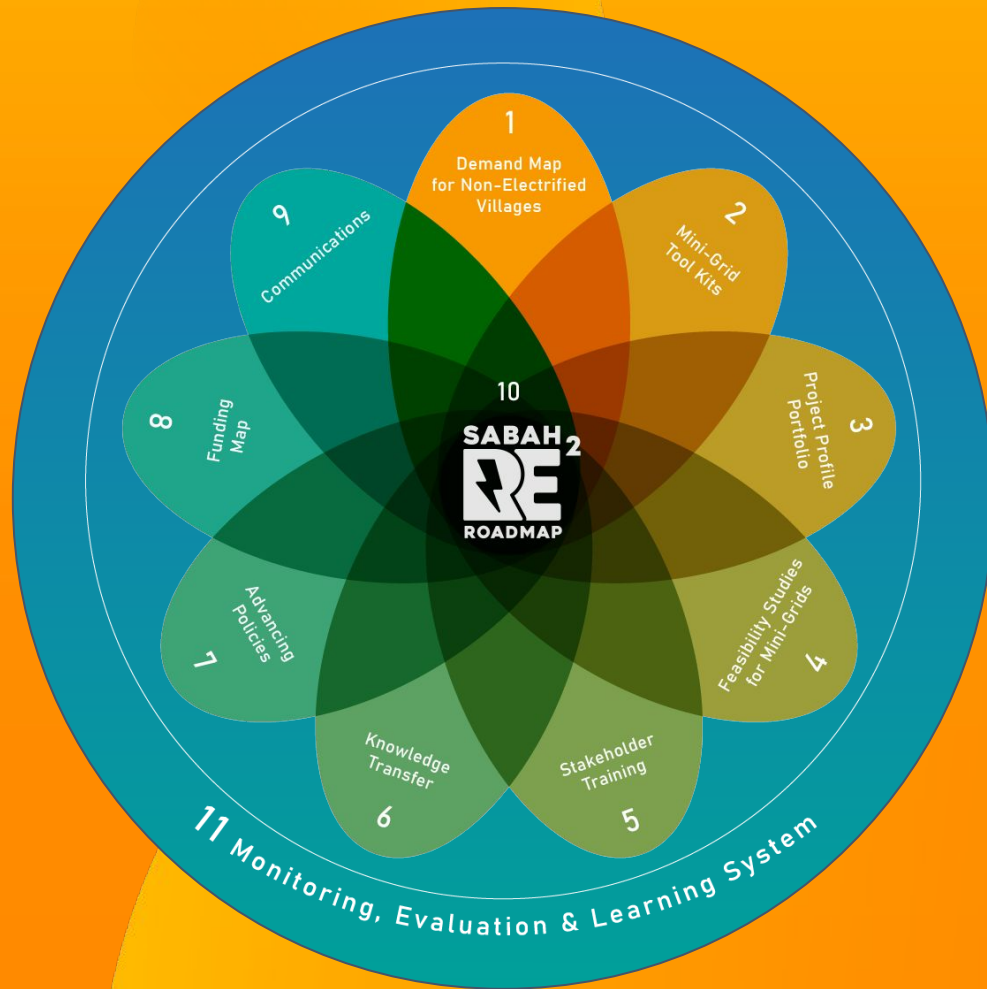
Sabah Renewable Energy  
Rural Electrification Roadmap

# Mapping the Transition 2022-2030



# Sabah Renewable Energy Rural Electrification Roadmap

is a multi-stakeholder initiative that charts a course for energy access for all in Sabah. The roadmap provides the tools, data and approaches required to optimize renewable energy deployment in rural Sabah, and connects climate change mitigation with energy justice, local economies and environmental stewardship.



Led by four organizations converging their unique and diverse capacities towards a common goal.



green empowerment

Village Solutions for Global Change since 1997

Sabah is home to 72% of unelectrified rural Malaysians, and 8 of 10 poorest districts in Malaysia (12 Malaysia Plan). Our demand map (heat map in previous slide) has identified these communities, and the roadmap creates the pathway to energy access for them.

Exhibit 5-2  
Location of Ten Poorest Districts in Malaysia, 2019



Source: HIES & BA 2019, Department of Statistics Malaysia and Economic Planning Unit

\* DOSM's simulation based on HIES & BA 2019 data and selected indicators from Salaries and Wages Survey 2020, LFS, Economic Activity Survey 2020 and Special Survey on Effects of COVID-19 on Economy & Individual.

# Principles & Scope:

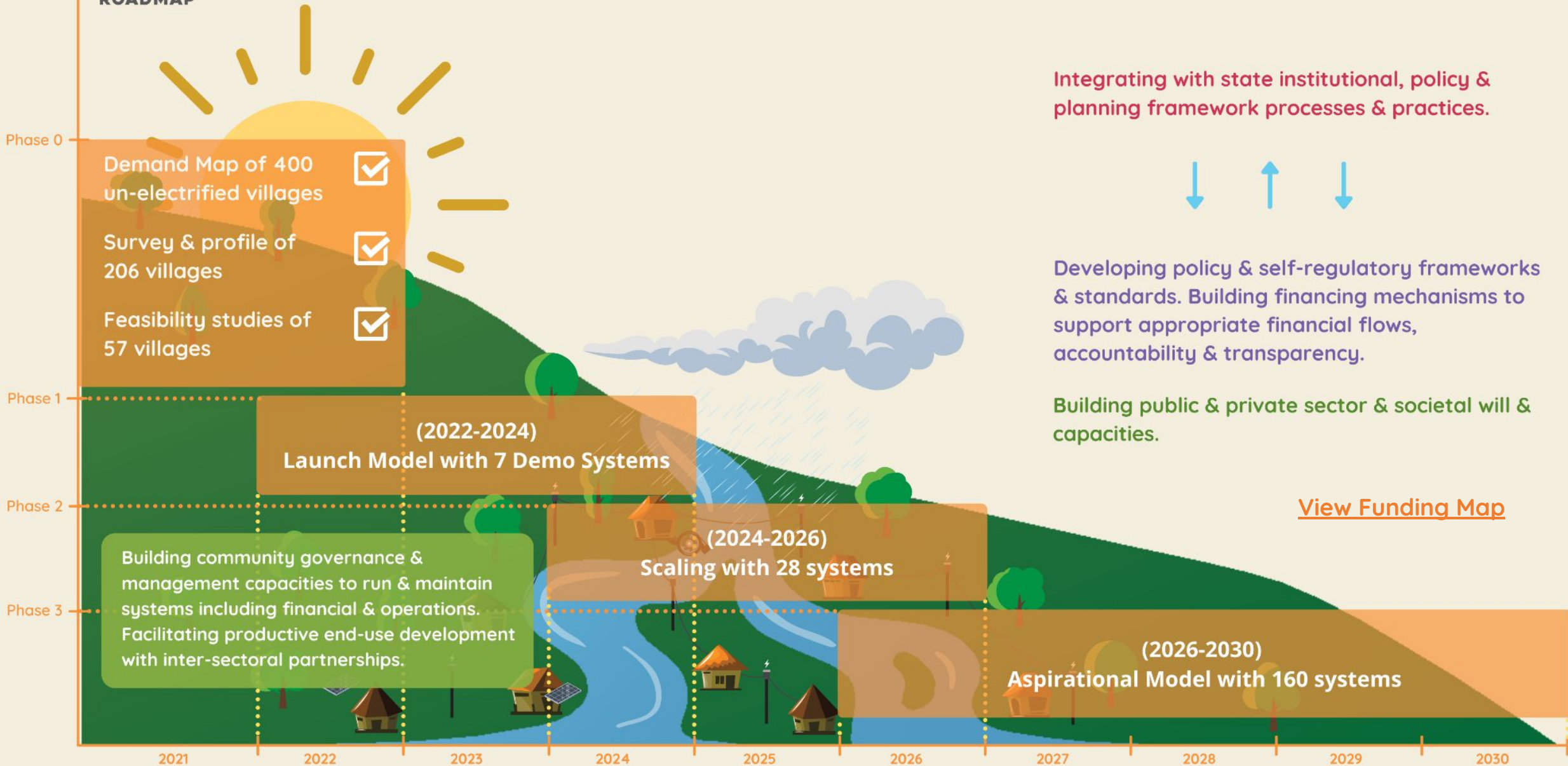
A principles-based strategy that drives sustainable resource development and a transition towards distributed renewable energy systems; it focuses on equity, inclusion, prioritizes Sabah-based ownership, and sets a standard for quality of service while minimizing financial burden on communities.

Decolonizing rural electrification includes embracing the circular economy, investing in local practitioners, maximizing investment and earnings within the state, and promoting distributed power dynamics to build a strategy resilient to government turn over, external influence and corruption.

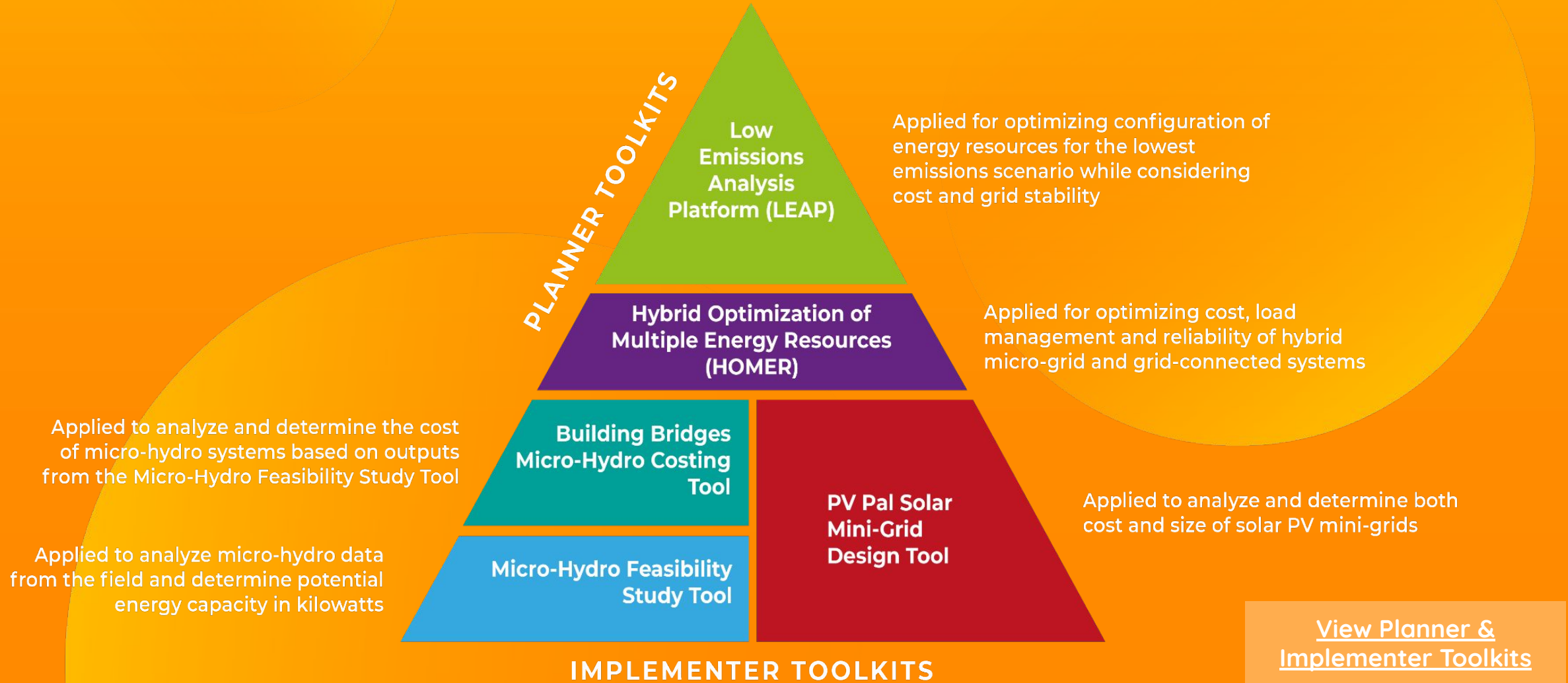
The map is a generative journey towards identifying existing and potential financial flows (federal and state, private and philanthropic, climate and development finance) into rural electrification with renewables in Sabah; proposing funding models appropriate to the circumstances and needs on the ground.



# Flow Chart of Roadmap Rollout



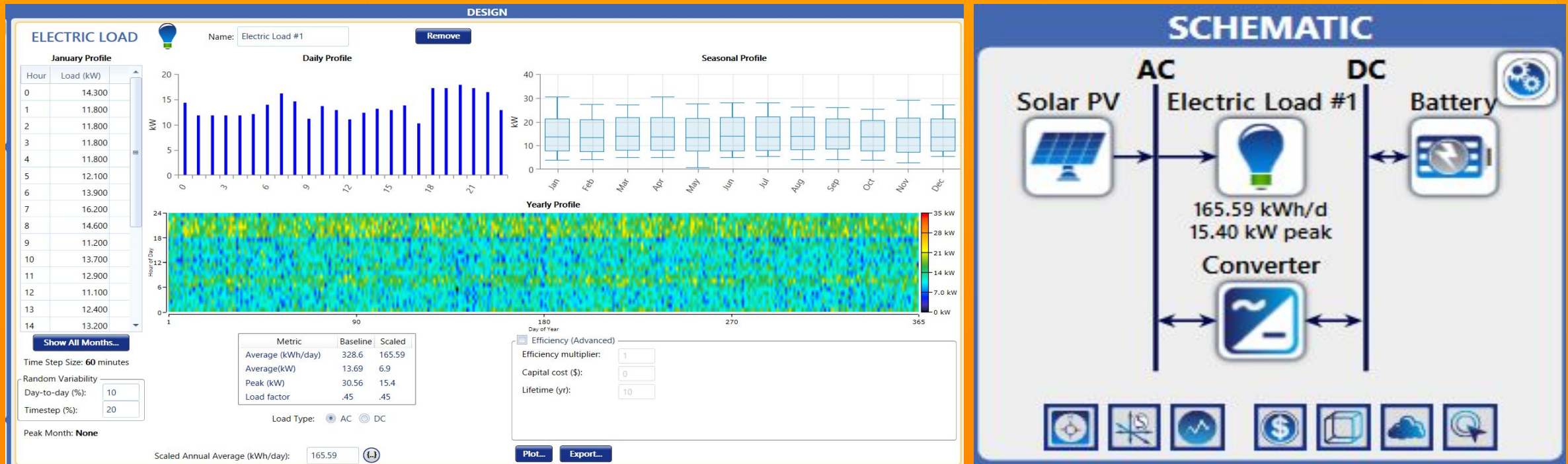
# Mini-Grid Systems: Planner & Implementer Toolkits (Methodology)





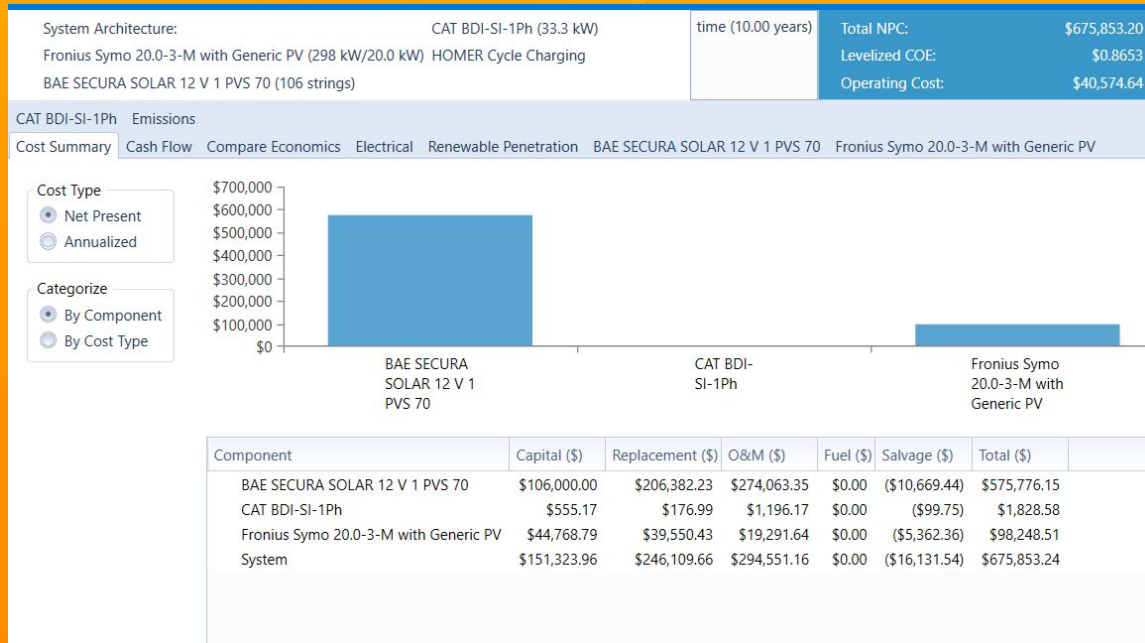
# Mini-Grid Systems : Planner & Implementer Toolkits (Methodology)

The outputs of HOMER based on dataset collected from 53 households in Kg Atog, Paitan sub-district



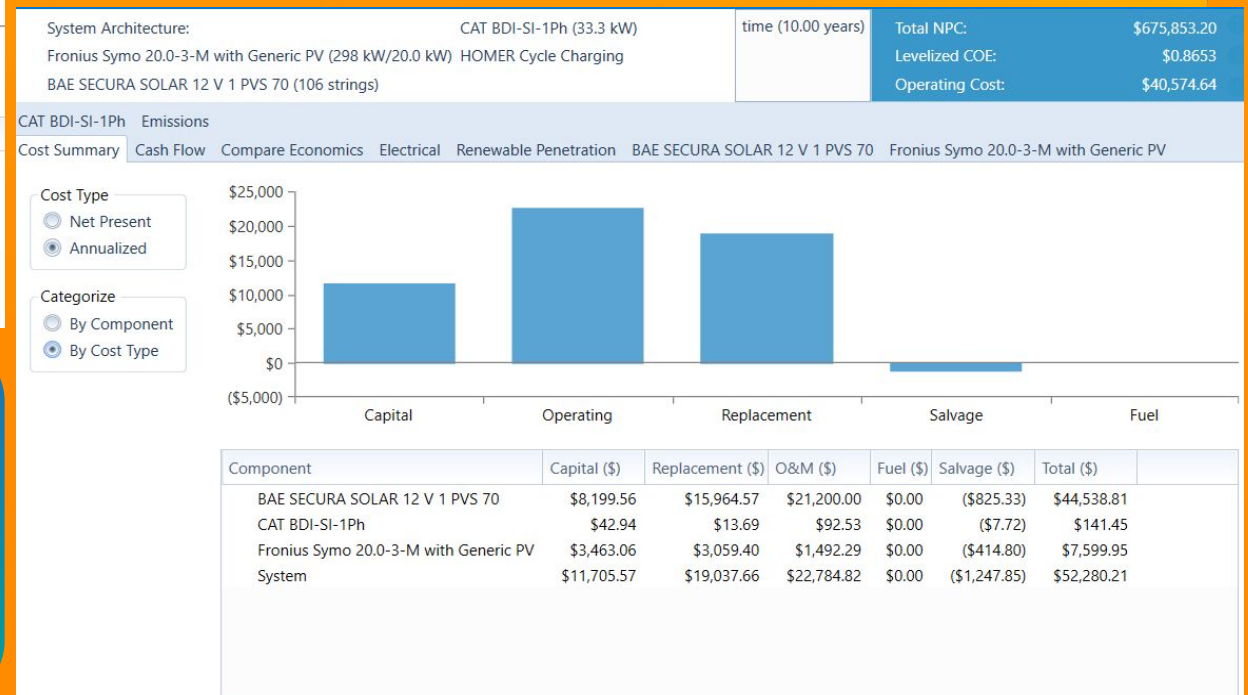
The tool optimizes the design of a mini-grid system based on lifetime costs, and anticipated loads throughout the day and annually, over its lifespan.

# Mini-Grid Systems: Planner & Implementer Toolkits (Methodology)



The tool is also capable of optimizing the cost of a hybrid power system (i.e. combination of multiple systems or components), from utility-scale and distributed generation to standalone microgrids.

HOMER was applied to estimate the cost of renewable energy deployment for 53 households of Kg Atog, Paitan sub-district.





# FEASIBILITY STUDIES

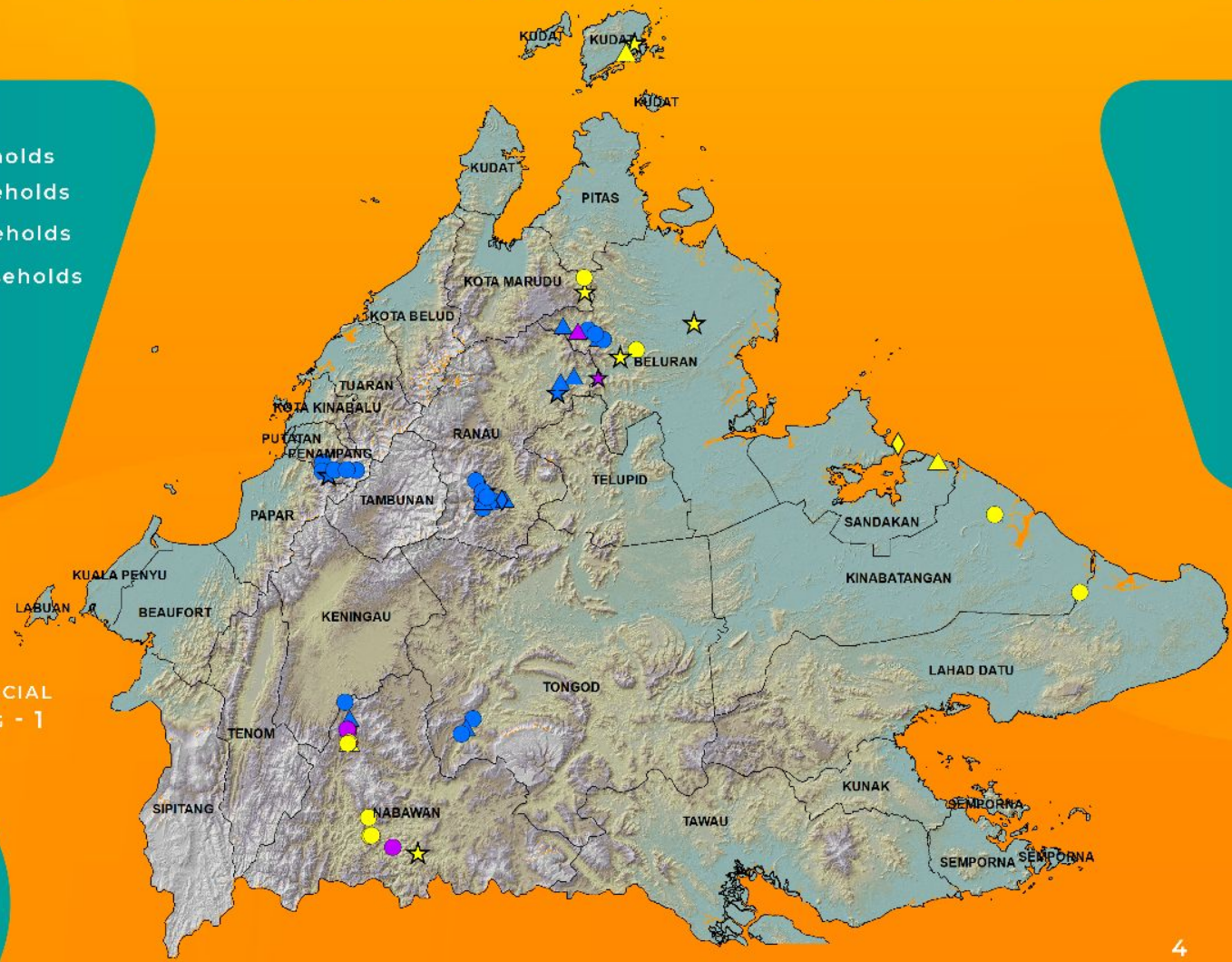
[View Feasibility Studies](#)

## KAMPUNG SIZE

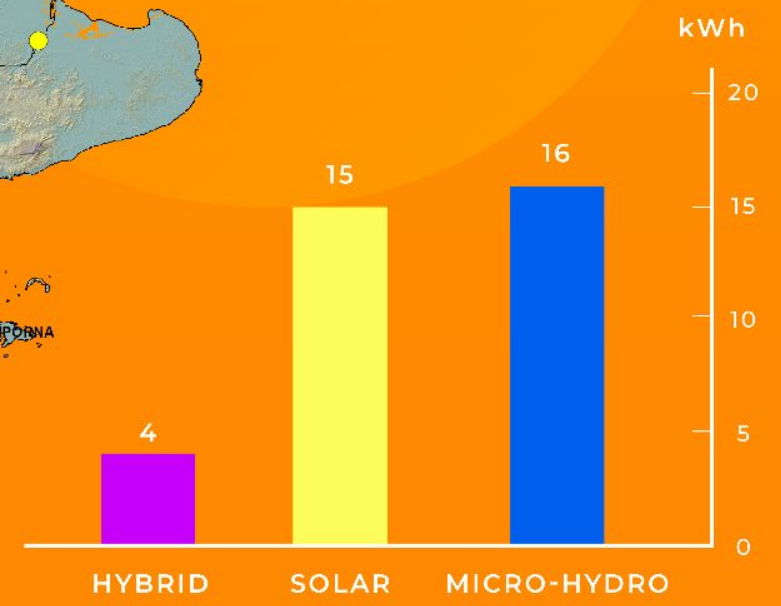
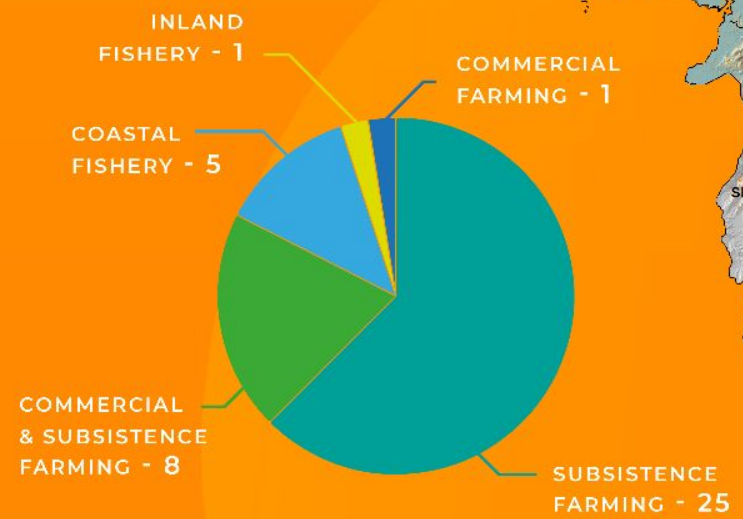
- 4-23 Households
- ▲ 24-47 Households
- ★ 48-95 Households
- ◆ 96-326 Households
- 4-23 Households
- ▲ 24-47 Households
- ★ 48-95 Households
- ◆ 96-326 Households
- 4-23 Households
- ▲ 24-47 Households
- ★ 48-95 Households

## LEGEND

- Solar
- ▲ Solar
- ★ Solar
- ◆ Solar
- Micro-hydro
- ▲ Micro-hydro
- ★ Micro-hydro
- ◆ Micro-hydro
- Solar-hydro hybrid
- ▲ Solar-hydro hybrid
- ★ Solar-hydro hybrid



57 VILLAGES & 35 SYSTEMS  
APPROXIMATE POPULATION OF 13,049

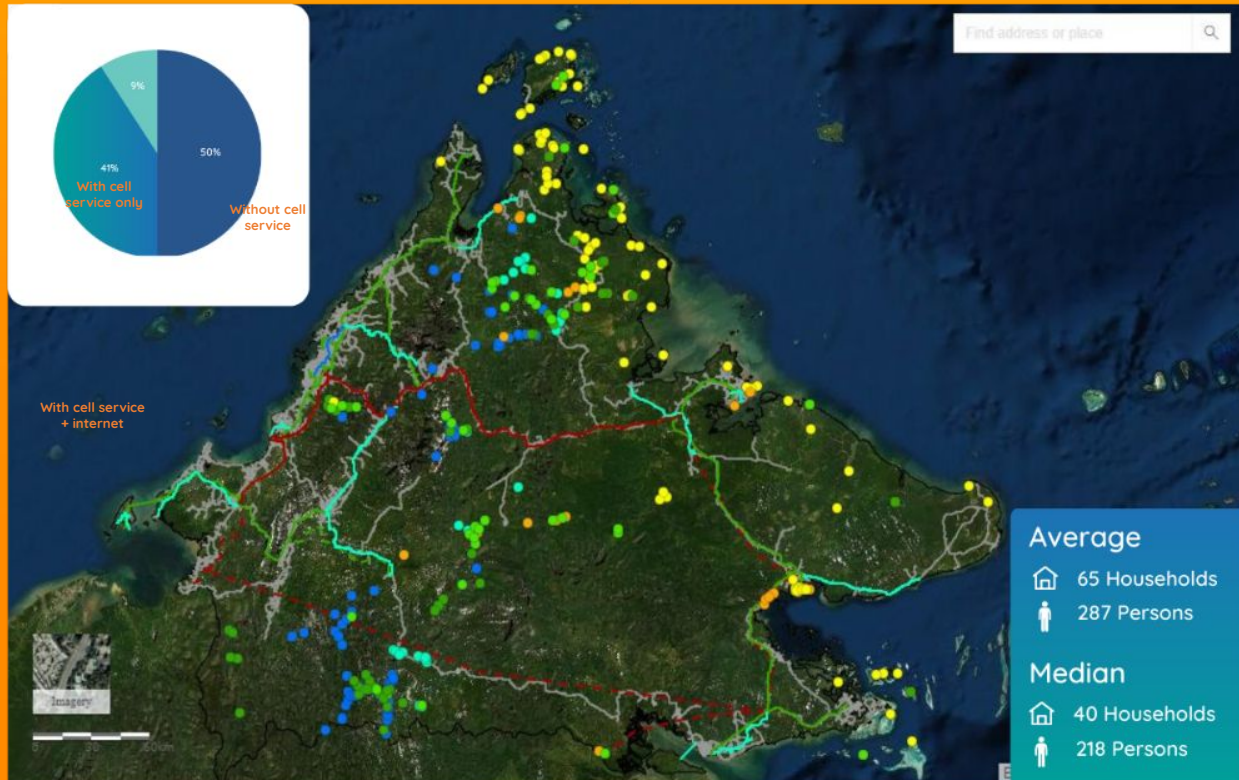








# Understanding Sabah's Un-Electrified Villages



## TERRITORIES & ECOLOGY

Most are in isolated forested regions where villagers combine multiple livelihoods often living along rivers. A second cluster are within mangroves, on islands and in other isolated coastal regions where fisheries dominate. Traditional lands and ways of life are threatened, and communities divided about sustainability & long-term strategies

## CULTURAL VALUES

Collective identity remains strong: "We practice communal labour in most of our activities such as farming, building repairs and celebrations." – Kg. Terian, Penampang



## INTERSECTING ISSUES

Un-electrified villages also typically face water problems, and for cooking half access gas cylinders and half use firewood: opportunities for integrated solutions

## FINANCIALLY POOR

8 of the 10 poorest districts in Malaysia are in Sabah: 71% of the project portfolio's villages are in these very districts.

## PHYSICALLY ISOLATED

Far from sealed roads, commercial centres & nearly half reliant on boats for access.

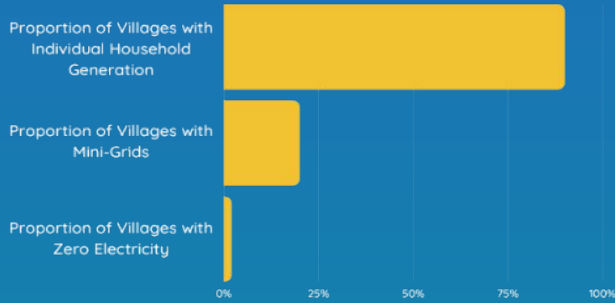
## PARTIALLY ABANDONED

Poor services mean 60% of villages experience seasonal abandonment (average of 8.6 households absent 6 months/year) and some whole villages are 'fallow'.

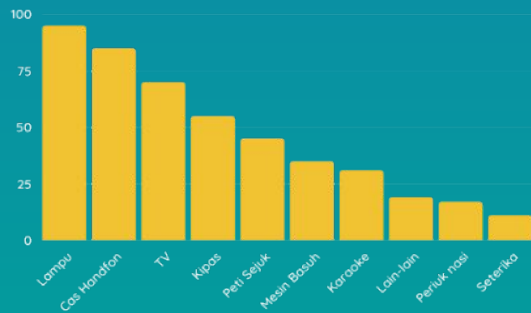
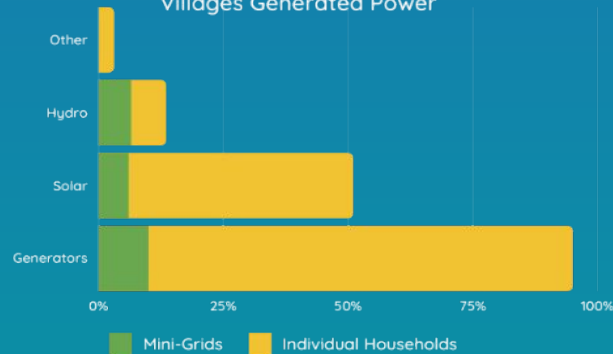
# Current Electrical Access and Use in Sabah's Un-Electrified Villages

Most "Un-Electrified" villages have some access, however, it is mostly non-renewable, very expensive, and available only a few hours a day.

Access to Electricity in Un-Electrified Villages



Sources of Un-electrified Villages Generated Power



## ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

- 98% of villages have some Electricity – made up of basic mini-grids & in individual household systems.
- The most commonly used are diesel generators, of which there were an average of 15.7/village & 89% of villagers with at least one personal generator.
- However, these systems do not reach all villagers & have numerous operational problems.

## INSTITUTIONS

- 80% have churches or mosques, only half with electricity.
- 30% have schools and 9% have clinics – nearly all depending on diesel or diesel-solar hybrids.
- 43% have sundry shops, most un-electrified.
- 14% have agri-processing facilities, mostly un-electrified.

## HIGH COST

Due to the high cost transporting diesel over long distances using bad roads or boats, average lighting & electricity generation costs RM200-RM300 per month.

## RELIABILITY

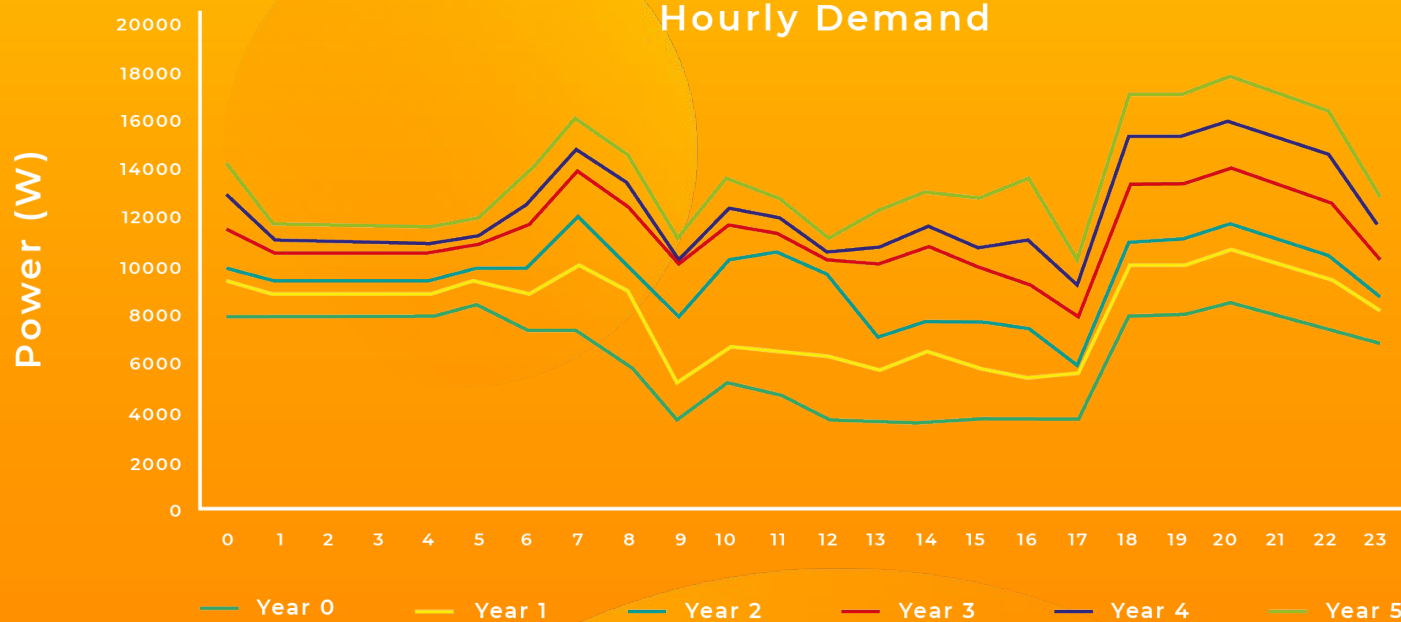
The situation varies widely across both villages and individual villagers, along a continuum between zero supply and continuous electricity of insufficient quality & expensive. Assessed against the ESMAP (World Bank) Multi Tier Framework they are at Tiers 0 to 3, whereas need and aspiration seek tiers 4 to 5.

## LOW AVAILABILITY FOR MOST

- On a given day 23-53% of villages report they have 4 hours of power or less and 60-86% have six hours of power or less; only 2% reported routinely 24 hour access.
- This is due to high diesel expense & the use of lower tier renewable energy systems.
- Most villages reported interruptions in supply daily, weekly or monthly.
- Many current systems also cannot support high energy appliances e.g. refrigeration.



# A Future with Mini-Grids



## FORECASTING NEEDS & GROWTH:

Calculations of daily demand level and flux suggests only mini-grids can meet current needs, let alone anticipate future demand for most villages: indeed we estimate demand will double over 8 years.

## DEVELOPING & MANAGING MINI-GRIDS:

- Communities identified a variety of existing village level community organisations with the capacity to implement and manage mini-grids alongside local government agencies.
- 40% of communities pointed to village religious institutions, 10% pointed to women's groups and 10% to youth groups.
- Few villages believed they lacked institutions that could do this.

## LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:

- 56% of villages described ongoing business activities that would immediately benefit from electrification.
- Fridges & freezers were identified as key for both sundry shop development but also for cold storage for local products (including fish).
- Opportunities with electrification are homestays (ecotourism), restaurants, agri-processing, print shops, etc.
- Hands-on support for developing village enterprise could go hand-in-hand with technical support for electrical supply systems.

## ANCHOR CLIENTS:

- One third of the villages have government facilities (schools & clinics) currently paying heavily for diesel generation with unreliable supply.
- 10% have agri-processing facilities that could be anchor clients.
- Telecommunications towers exist – or should exist – in most locations.
- Most villages have places of worship relying on expensive diesel gensets.

## CAN PAY, WILL PAY:

- Willingness to pay for electricity, on a scale of 1-10, where 5 is the SESB rate; the most common response was 9 and the mean 8.29.
- Levelized Cost of Energy calculations suggest micro-hydro at RM0.90 & solar at RM2.78 per kWh, well below SESB grid connection rates.
- With 50% installation support we can be commercially viable at less cost than villagers currently pay for intermittent mostly non-renewable supplies (SESB tariffs is perhaps 80% subsidized).

## DOMESTIC EXPRESSED NEEDS:

- Need for electricity for lights & phones is universal.
- 36% named need for fridges & mini-grids must support this for food handling & comfort.
- TVs and fans are sought by most, and a third want karaoke machines.
- Remote villages appear to afford these appliance purchases.

# Legal forms of community ownership:

## Community Ownership Model

### Co-operatives

Co-operatives are jointly owned by their members to achieve common economic, social or cultural goals based on the democratic principle of "one member, one vote". Co-operatives rely largely on volunteers but can have paid staff.

### Partnerships

In partnerships, individual partners own shares in the community-ownership model. The key objective of a partnership is to generate profits for the shareholders, in addition to any other benefits of the project. Unlike co-operatives, partnerships may not operate on the basis of "one member, one vote". Nor do partnership firms rely largely on volunteers, as co-operatives do. They may employ full-time staff to provide expertise needed for specific projects.

### Non-profit Organisations

A non-profit organisation is formed by investments from its members, who are responsible for financing the organisation but do not take back any profits. Profits are reinvested in projects focused on community development.

### Community Trust

Trusts use the returns from investment in community projects for specific local purposes. These benefits are also shared with people who are not able to invest directly in projects.

### Housing Associations

A form of non-profit, such associations offer housing to low-income families and individuals.



# Mini-Grid Operational Models:

## 1 Utility

### Pros:

- Experienced, with more capacity
- Usually more established

### Cons:

- Governed by political agenda
- Market-driven (low rural electrification priority)

## 2 Private

### Pros:

- May have better operational/management capacity
- Incentivised to promote financial viability

### Cons:

- Lack of financial support

## 3 Community

- Co-operatives
- Community-owned management committee
- Housing associations

### Pros:

- Buy-in/Sense of ownership
- Reduces bureaucracy

### Cons:

- Lack of technical skills
- Governance and social conflicts

## 4 Hybrid

### Pros:

- Opportunity to combine different strengths and advantages

### Cons:

- Inclusion of multiple entities could increase (transaction) costs
- Need to balance different interests

# Existing rural electrification efforts in Malaysia:

Rural Electrification	Estimated Costs	Challenges/Shortcomings	Notes
Grid extension through BELB (Government rural electrification programme)	< RM100,000/household connection (budgeted limit)	Relies heavily on government energy policy, particularly in the south, where generation capacity is low Relies on road access Not cost-effective for remote areas	First-choice (but not always least cost) strategy. Other options are only considered if costs exceed RM100,000/household (for Sabah. RM80,000/household for Peninsular Malaysia).
Off-grid mini-grids through BELB (Government rural electrification programme)	RM15,000 - 50,000/household for 20 - 100 households. Not included: Additional costs for transportation other than water and land.	Lack of operations and maintenance know-how locally Focus is solely on delivering electricity connections	Costs are for solar hybrid systems. Systems deployed are a mix of technologies (e.g. diesel, solar, micro-hydro, solar hybrid).
Solar home systems through BELB (Government rural electrification programme)	<i>N/A. The World Bank estimates that good quality solar home systems cost between USD 200-400.</i>	Limiting in its ability to support productive end-uses of electricity Also relies on technical support network for maintenance which currently does not exist	Only for extremely remote communities.
Sarawak's SARES program (State rural electrification programme)	RM55,000 - 65,000/household connection	So far dedicated to residential energy use only	For a daily 1kW, 3kWh per household systems. Mostly solar mini-grids, with some micro-hydro. Solar home systems for extremely remote and small communities.
Community-based/involved Mini-grids (Private/civil society initiatives)	RM30,000 - 65,000/household (based on technology, location)	May operate outside of safety and reliability standards or regulations	For systems between 5-30kW systems. Mostly micro-hydro, with some solar.



# How can we accelerate rural electrification to these communities?

*Note: Presentation transitions from individual “projects” to the “program”*

Now that we understand the need and the potential solutions, **how do we support the local energy access sector** and **how to we ensure that these projects meet the immediate and long-term needs of rural Sabahans?**

We need a strategic intervention in Sabah’s renewable energy sector to **accelerate the funding, prioritization and deployment** of off-grid renewable energy installations.

We need to enable an **ecosystem where the public sector, financiers, civil society, community stakeholders, and community-based partner organizations** work together in harmony.

Communities need to be **engaged to ensure ownership, participation, and accountability** of the projects.

**Must be cost effective** - less than BELB programs and designed to sustained sufficient quantity (kWh/HH) and maintenance of system over time.

The proposed “program” efficiently and transparently **manages available funds and channels them to the people who need them** – the rural communities and those that can best help communities meet those needs.





# Launch Model

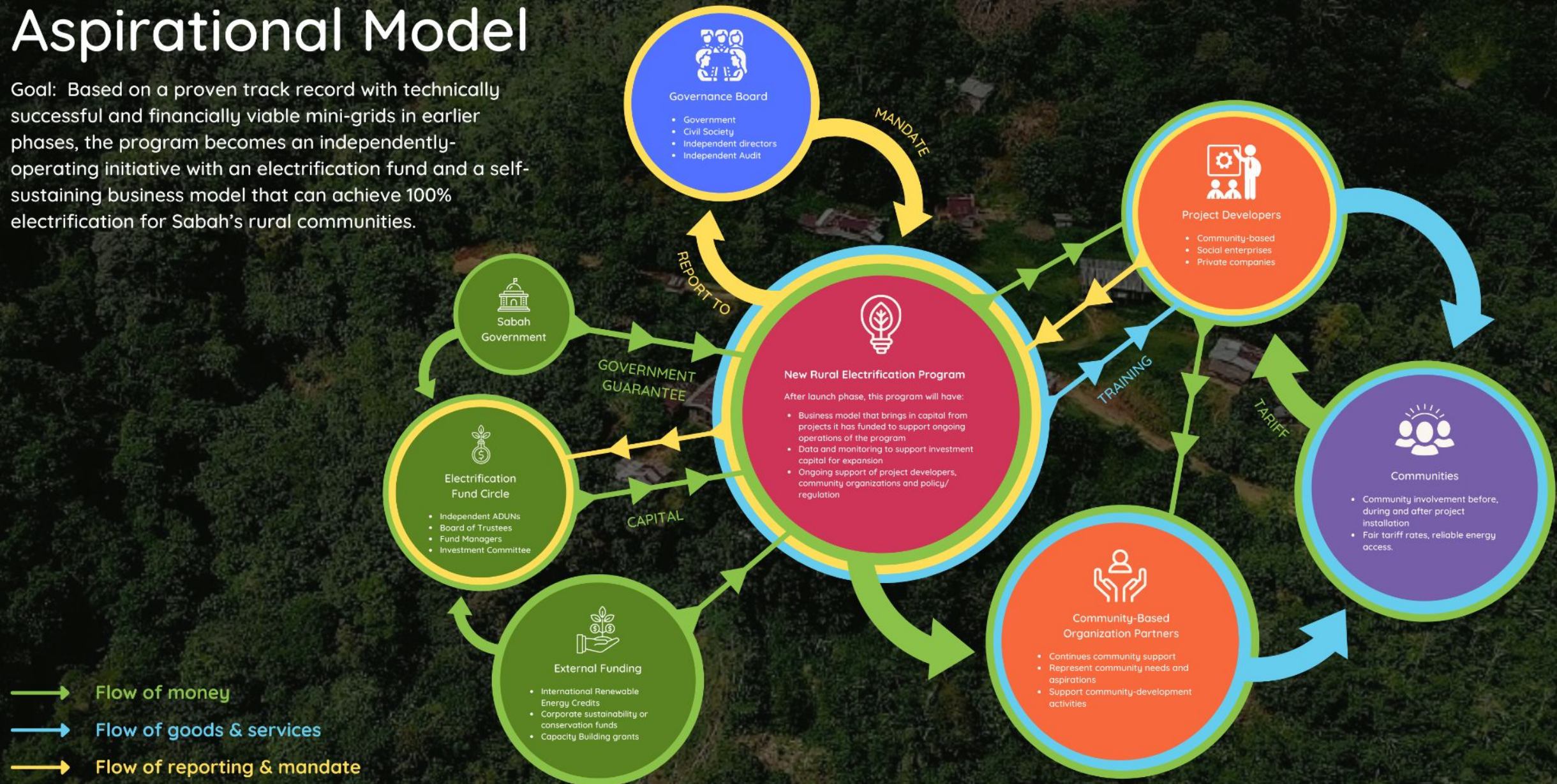
Goal: demonstrate that this is a cost-effective, socially responsible, sustainable model to fund, execute rural electrification at an accelerated pace.





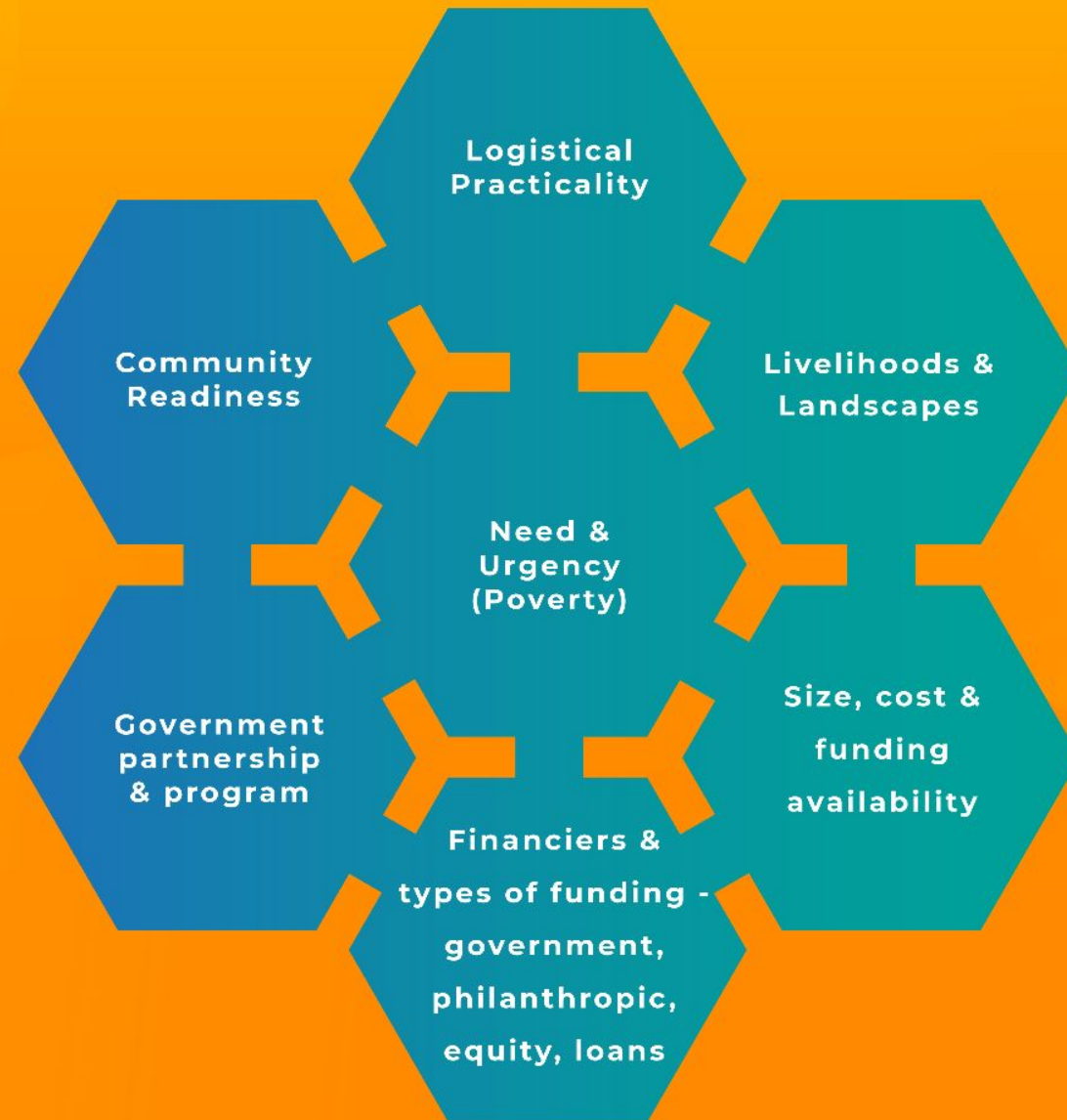
# Aspirational Model

Goal: Based on a proven track record with technically successful and financially viable mini-grids in earlier phases, the program becomes an independently-operating initiative with an electrification fund and a self-sustaining business model that can achieve 100% electrification for Sabah's rural communities.



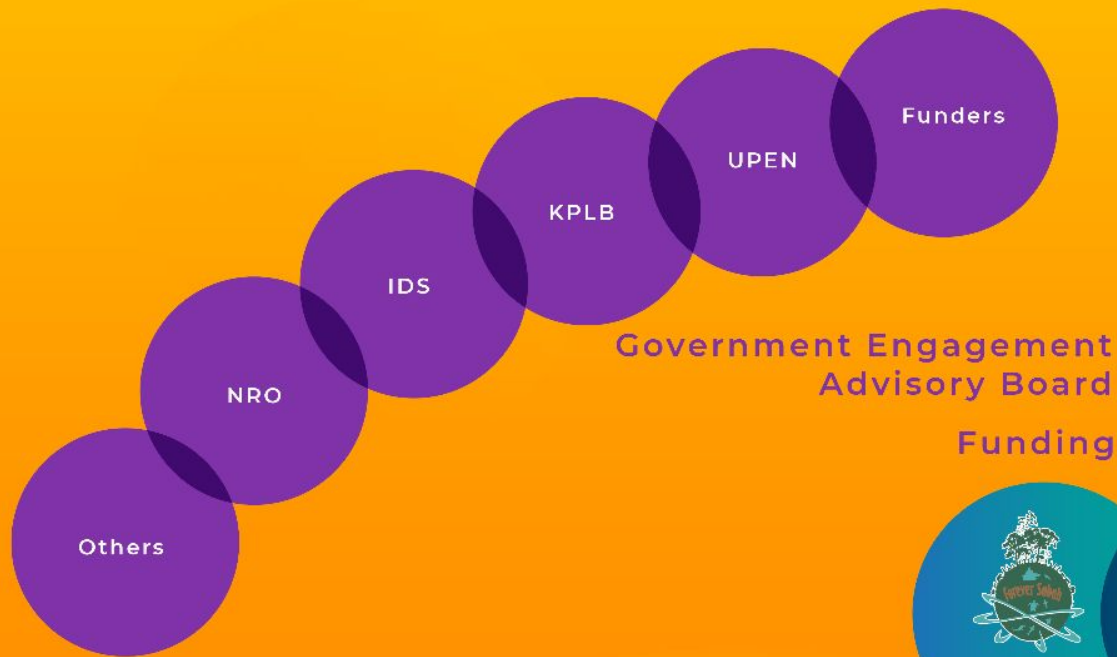


# Selection Criteria



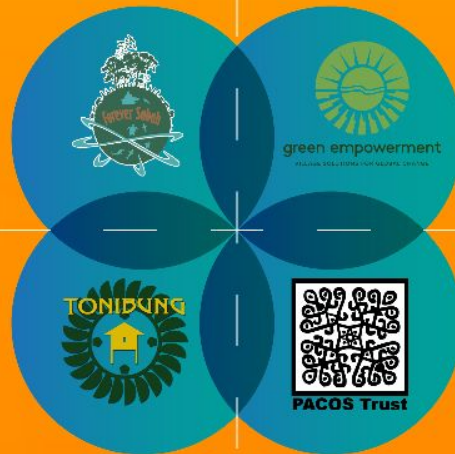


# DELIVERY ECOSYSTEM



Sector Accompaniment Support

Funding Support



Installations Tech support

Community Engagement

Sector Accompaniment

Installations  
- Community Systems  
- Developer Systems (TSD)

Support



# Phased Rollout & Funding

## PHASE 1

(2022-2024):

**Launch Model  
with 7 Demo  
Systems**

**USD2,500,000**

Philanthropic grants  
Government programs  
Private Funding (e.g. CSR)

## PHASE 2

(2024-2026):

**Scaling with  
28 Systems**

**USD9,140,000**

Philanthropic grants  
Government programs (incl. loan  
guarantees)  
Private funding (e.g. equity)  
Impact Investment  
Loans - direct, subsidized interest, etc.  
Climate/ESG funding

## PHASE 3

(2026-2030):

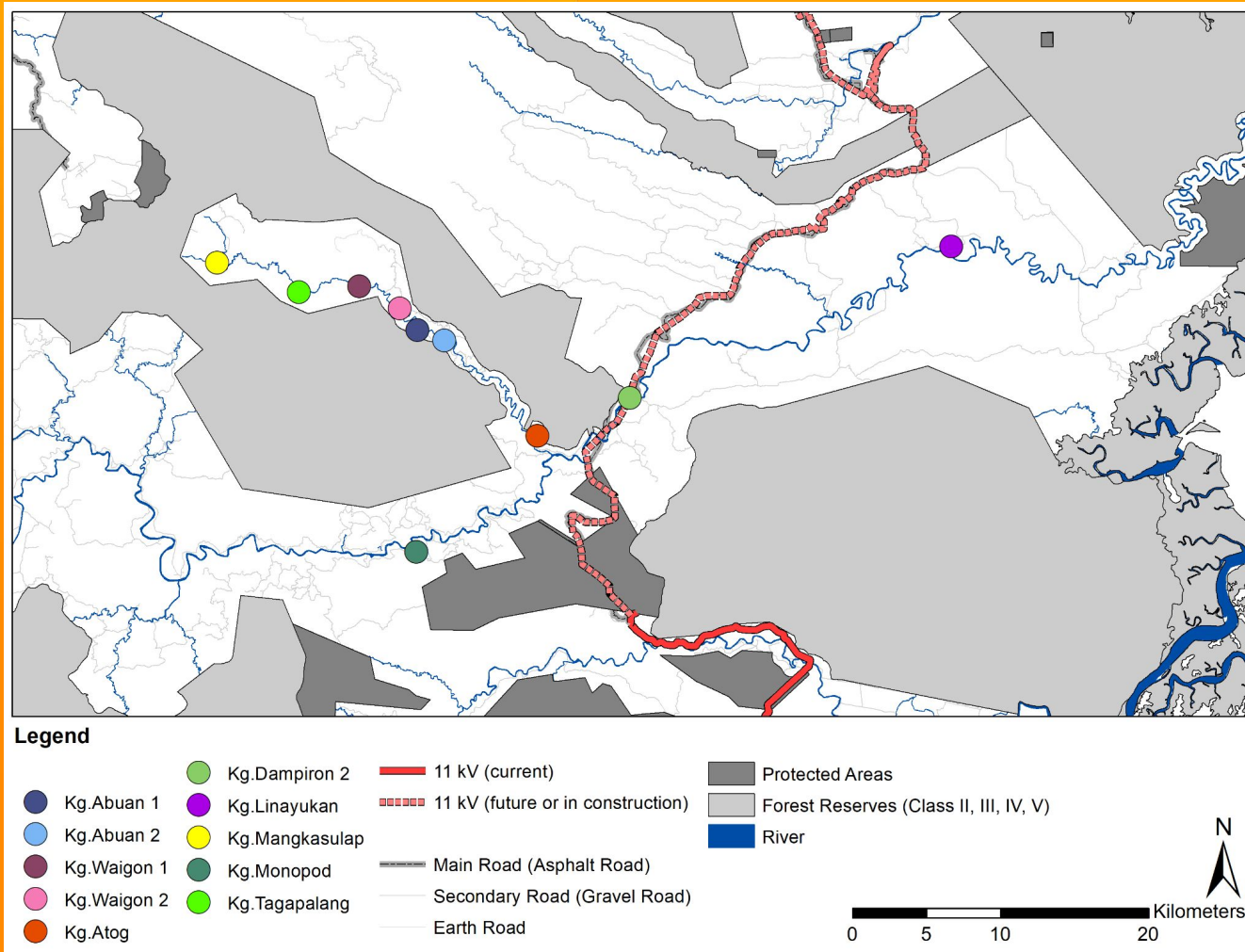
**Aspirational  
Model with 160  
Systems**

**USD50,000,000**

Philanthropic grants  
Government programs (incl. loan  
guarantees)  
Private funding (e.g. equity)  
Impact Investment  
Loans - direct, subsidized interest, etc.  
Climate/ESG funding



# Phase 1 - 2022 to 2024



## Key Aims

- 7 mini-grids completed
- 5 new contracting companies trained to work on mini-grids
- 5 productive end-use business plans developed
- Pilot regulatory & quality assurance framework and roll-out
- 160 mini-grid feasibility studies completed

## RE Output Targeted

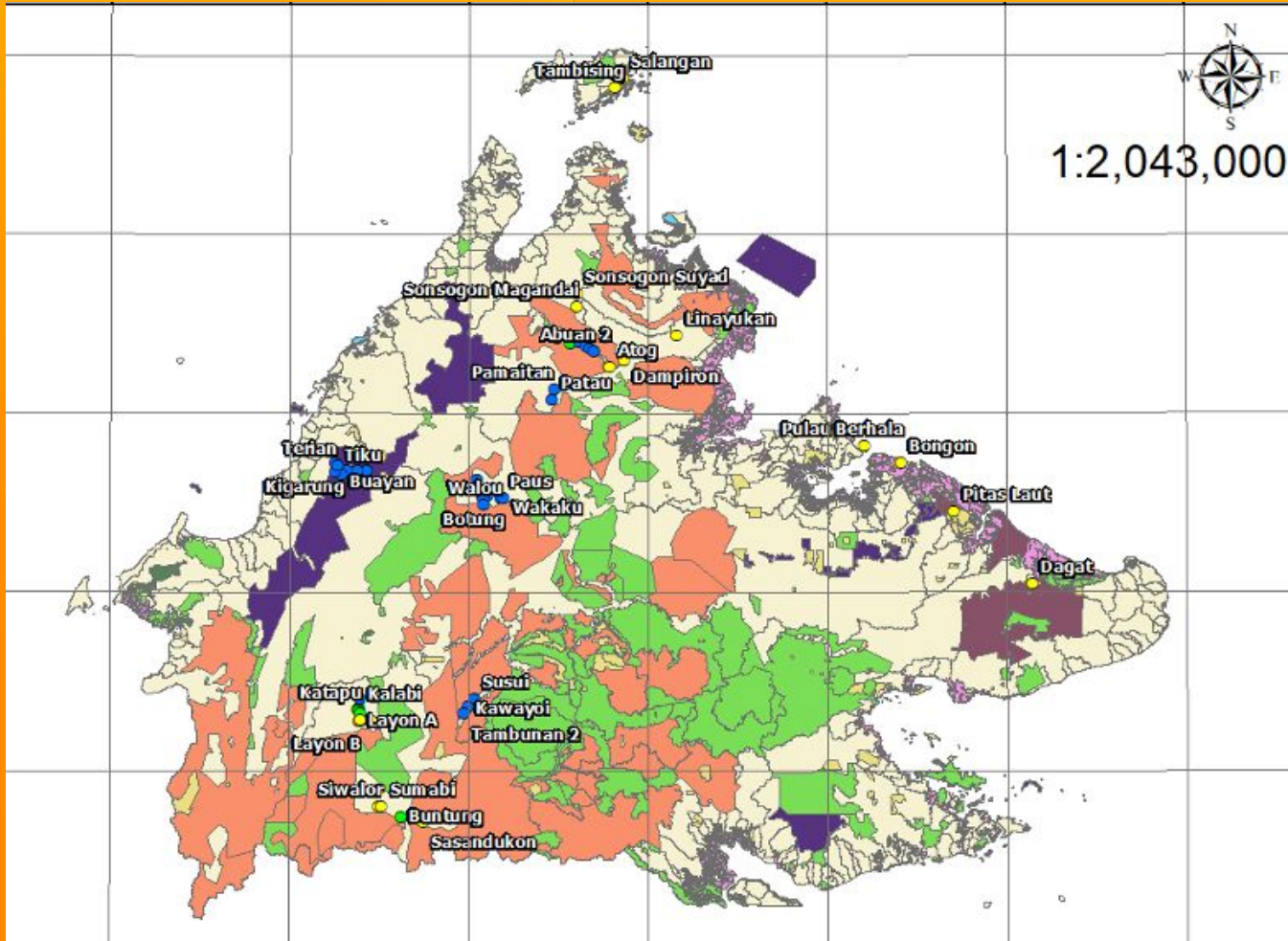
- 120 kW

## Estimated Cost

- \$2,500,000

*The 10 kampungs in Paitan, a sub-district of Beluran, were selected for discussion as an important accessible cluster, along a single river system to simplify logistics and collaborative training in one of the poorest districts of Sabah. 7 are in RMK12; due to high potential for Micro-Hydro Power, we studied and present a comparison.*

## Phase 2: 2024-2026



### Key Aims

- 28 mini-grids completed
- 5 new contracting companies trained to work on mini-grids
- “Mock” debt financing covers minimum of 30% of the costs of all mini-grids
- Village productive end-use activities supported in (at minimum) 9 of the villages
- Payment for ecosystem service (PES) models piloted in 9 villages
- Clear standards established for mini-grid development and contracting procedures

### RE Output Targeted

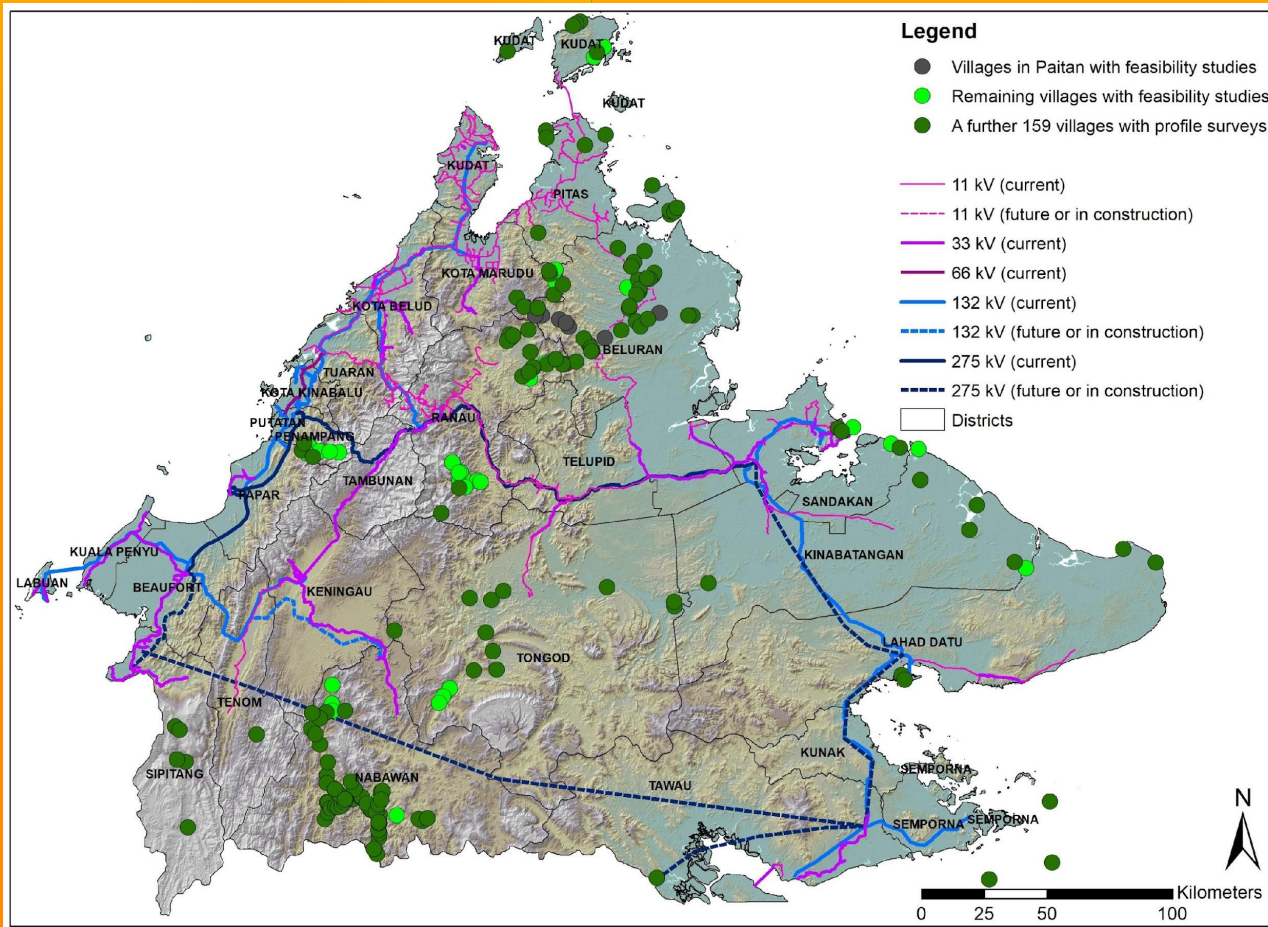
- 580 kW

### Estimated Cost

- \$9,140,000



# Phase 3 - 2026 to 2030



## Key Aims

- 160 mini-grids completed
- Aspirational Model roll out
- Policy Framework established

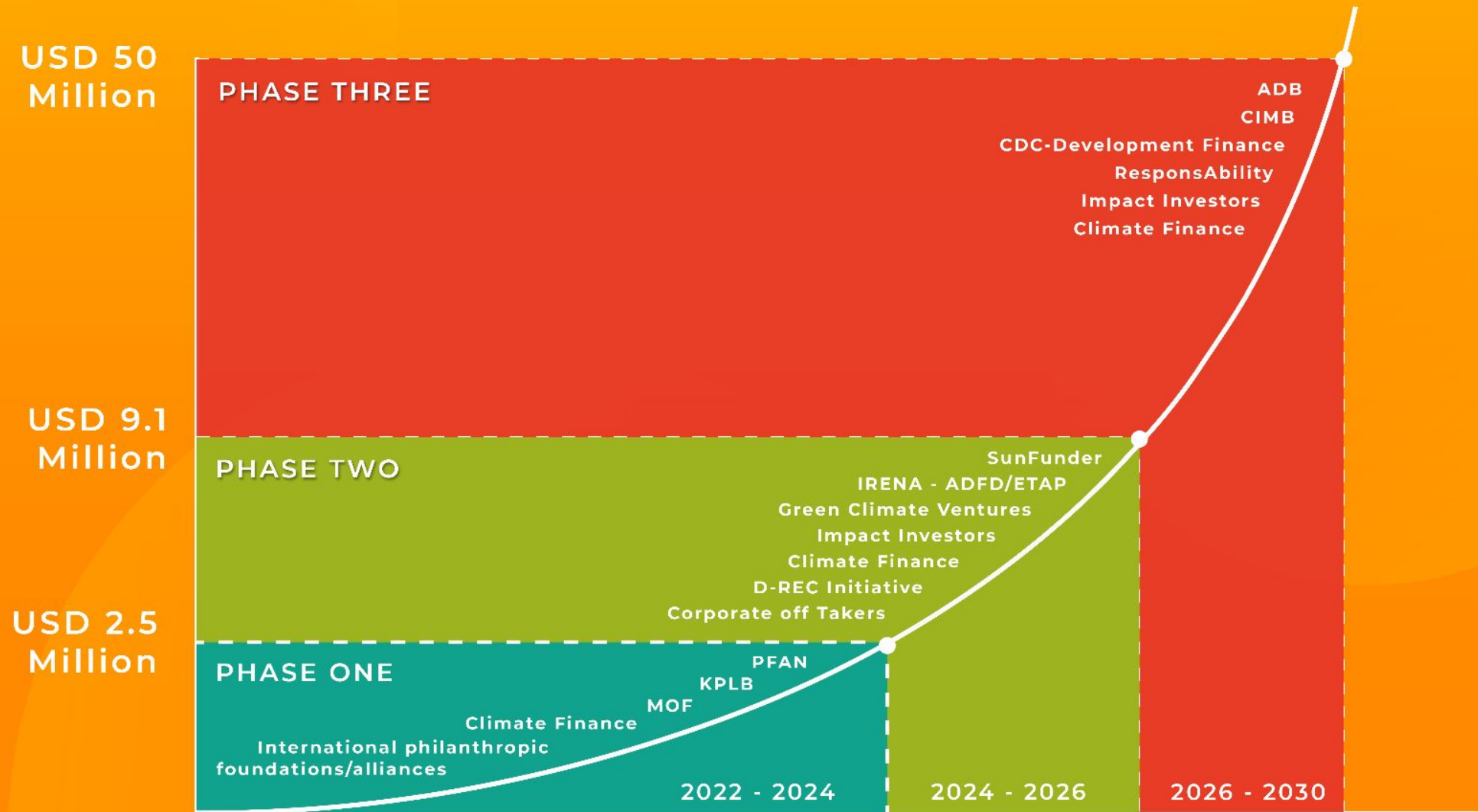
## RE Output Targeted

- 3,000 kW

## Estimated Cost

- \$50,000,000

# Potential Funding Partners





# Immediate Next Steps

Jan to June 2022

Socialization amongst finance advisory group for feedback and fine-tuning

Deeper discussions and decisions with Government Partners on Phase 1 - locations, district/s, partnerships, timeline

Socialization amongst Government partners - along with other components of the Roadmap - for input

Specialized expertise to collaborate on Fundable Proposals for Phase 1

Key discussion and decision with Government Partners around Launch and Aspirational Models, Selection Criteria and Phased Approach

Continued engagement with potential funding partners

# For More Info

Sabah Renewable Energy Rural Electrification Roadmap

[www.sabahre2roadmap.org](http://www.sabahre2roadmap.org)

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