



serve.



educate.



empower.

25 YEARS

OF SUSTAINABILITY

THROUGH LEARNING



2025 Annual Impact Report

Celebrating 25 Years of Education, Energy, and Opportunity

Over the past 25 years, SOLS Foundation has grown from a single classroom in Cambodia into a multi-sector ecosystem serving low-income communities across Malaysia.

Along the way, new programmes and impact organisations within the SOLS 24/7 Group were built to strengthen our mission, enabling us to expand from education into green skills training, rural electrification, digital learning, and long-term community development.

The timeline below highlights the milestones, partners, and innovations that made it possible for SOLS Foundation to continue creating impact.



2000

SOLS 24/7 founded in Cambodia

Non-profit organisation focused on education founded by Teacher Raj Ridvan Singh (TR) and his family.



2003

SOLS smart launched

The launch of training services for government ministries, agencies and corporates.



2006

Expansion to Timor Leste

Operations expanded internationally with TR establishing SOLS in Timor Leste and building the first youth training centre in Dili.

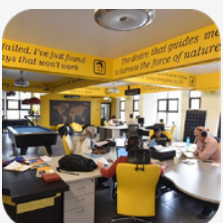


2007

SOLS 24/7 launched in Malacca, Malaysia

The Foundation was set up in Malacca, later expanding nationally.

SOLS Youth Academy launched.



2010

HQ moves to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Centralised operations to support nationwide programmes.



2011

SOLS smart resumed

Delivered English, Math, and Business skills training for Yayasan Peneraju Tunas Scholar Development and Tunas Geliga.



2014

SOLS Solar Academy launched

A TVET - Solar skills academy established by the Foundation for low-income households youth.



2015

SOLS Energy

A renewable energy arm established under SOLS 24/7 Group to expand access to solar solutions.



2017

SOLS edu

Launch of SOLS edu app to deliver scalable learning in native languages.

Social Empresa

A solar equipment distributor and installation partner for companies across Malaysia



2022

ChargeSingh

Delivering affordable home EV charging solutions for EV users across Malaysia.

2023

SOLS Green

An online marketplace making renewable solutions accessible across ASEAN.

2023

SOLS 24/7 rebranded

Officially changed SOLS 24/7 naming to SOLS Foundation

2024

SOLS Life

Innovative solar-powered solutions that make off-grid living simple and accessible.

SOLS Suria X

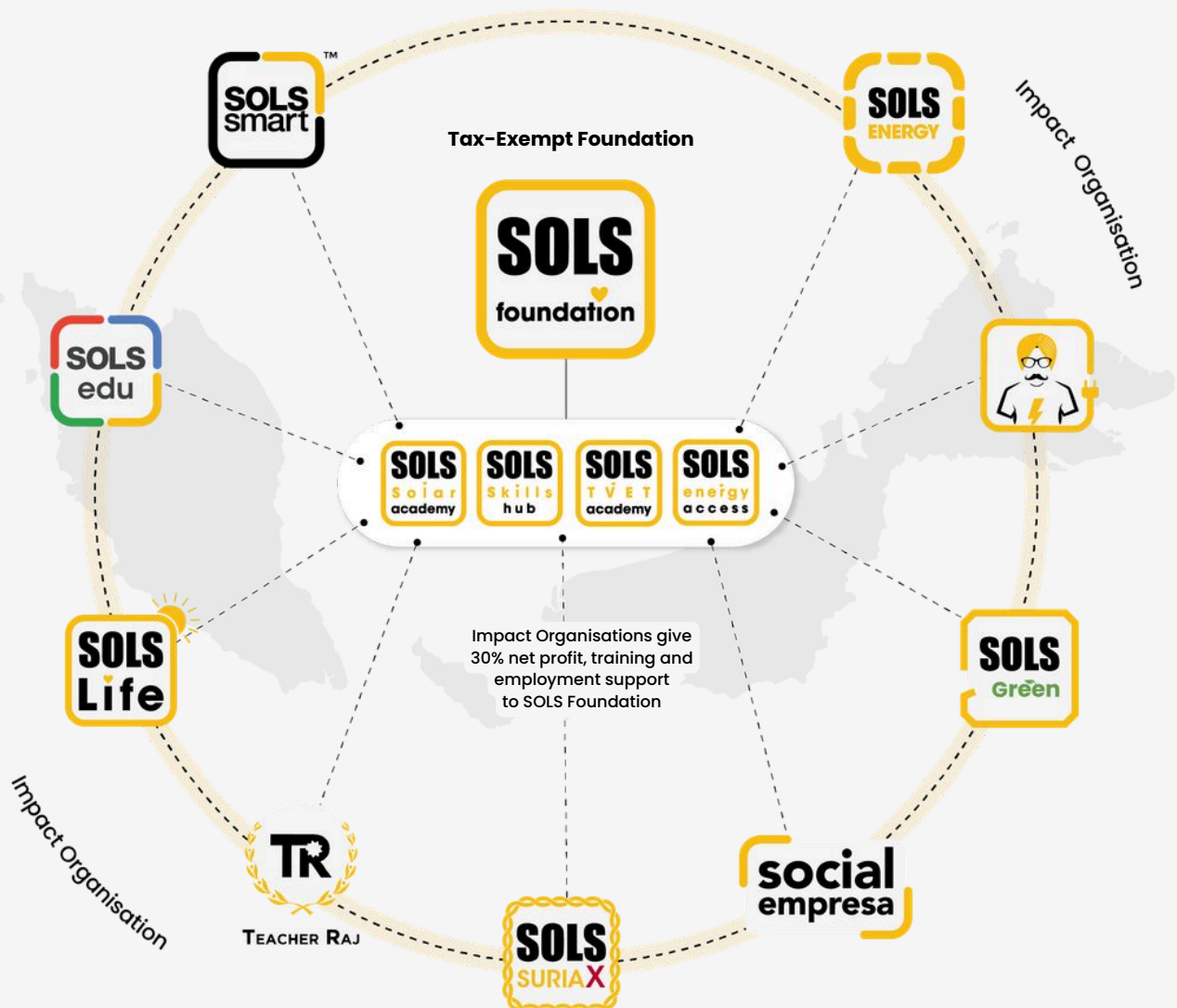
Expanding clean energy solutions in Indonesia through industrial, commercial, and off-grid solar.



Celebrating The SOLS Ecosystem: 25 Years of Innovation Built Around One Mission

Over 25 years, an entire ecosystem of impact has grown around SOLS Foundation, from renewable energy companies to tech-driven education initiatives. Each organisation within the ecosystem plays a role in sustaining our mission and ensuring that communities receive not just support, but opportunities to thrive.

Across this ecosystem, 30% of annual net profits are channelled back into SOLS Foundation to expand access to education, clean energy, and community empowerment for low-income and Orang Asli/Asal (Indigenous) communities.





Twenty-five years is a long time to be working on the same problem.

In 2024, 11,412 secondary school students dropped out across Malaysia. Over half a million SPM leavers between 2020 and 2023 never went on to study further. When numbers are so large, it's easy to forget that every figure represents a person with hopes, dreams and fears.

This year, 72 young Malaysians from low-income communities graduated from Solar Academy. Within a month of completing the programme, 86% were employed or in further education. Their average household income rose by 22%. Behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life looks different now. One of those graduates is Bah Safrey*, a Semai youth from Tapah who didn't have the confidence to explore outside his village. He is now a full-time Solar PV Installer, no longer afraid as education opened the door to a bigger world.

Across Malaysia, 5,494 Orang Asli (Indigenous) people felt the relief of lights and charging facilities at the flick of a switch, many for the first time.

**Find out more about Bah Safrey's life journey on page 8.*

In five states, 402 Indigenous participants attended financial literacy and conflict resolution workshops that most didn't have access to before.

We also deliberately paused Skills Hub online mid-year. What we built over six years now lives inside every programme that followed.

Twenty-five years in, we know it was never quite the same problem. People change and their barriers shift. We stay close to the communities we serve, to learn which ones to run toward first. That isn't humility for the sake of this letter. It is what keeps us useful.

If you believe in what you have read, please act on it. Partner with us, donate, or share this report with someone who should see it.

DANUTCHA CATRIONA SINGH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Who We Serve

We are dedicated to serving youth from low-income backgrounds in Malaysia, with a particular focus on Orang Asli and Orang Asal (Indigenous) communities, as well as youth pursuing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Low-Income Communities

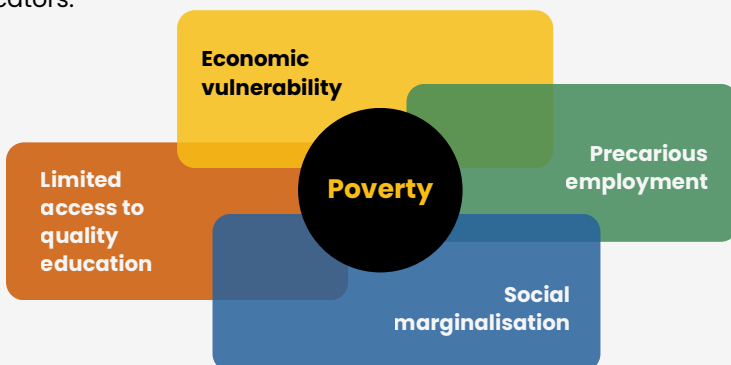
In Malaysia, low-income communities are commonly referred to as the Bottom 40% socioeconomic strata or B40, representing households with monthly incomes below RM5,250. This group encompasses approximately 3.2 million households. Within this group, further classifications are defined as:

Relative poverty	Households earning below half the national median income (RM3,509/month)¹ .
Absolute poverty	Households earning below the Poverty Line Income (RM2,705/month)¹ , the minimum income required to meet both food and non-food essentials for a healthy and decent life.
Hardcore poverty	Households earning below the Food Poverty Line Income (RM1,236/month)¹ , insufficient even to meet basic nutritional needs.

Source: 1. Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2024 Report, Department of Statistics Malaysia

Poverty is Multidimensional

In line with international practice, we recognise poverty as multidimensional, encompassing not only income but also economic vulnerability, limited access to quality education, precarious employment, social marginalisation, and broader wellbeing indicators.



For a deeper understanding of the landscape, scan the QR code to explore our

B40 characterisation map



Why We Serve

Low-Income Communities

In Malaysia, low-income communities face systemic socioeconomic challenges, with access to quality education remaining a critical barrier. Youths from low-income households are at higher risk of not completing the Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM, the national high school leaving examination), due to financial hardship and limited support systems.

In 2024 alone, 11,412 students dropped out of secondary school,¹ reducing their pathways to skilled employment and further education. Moreover, over half a million SPM leavers between 2020 and 2023 did not pursue further studies,² limiting their ability to develop employable skills for stable careers and placing them at disadvantage in today's competitive labour market.

These gaps reduce their chances at educational and economic progression and hinder long-term social mobility, which ultimately perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Source:

1. Ministry of Education Malaysia, as reported by *Bernama* (2025, February 4)

2. Ministry of Higher Education, as reported by *New Straits Times* (2025, February 21)

What We Do

At SOLS Foundation, we create alternative pathways to education, employment, and community development for youths from low-income households, empowering them to progress out of poverty and build sustainable futures.

Our programmes focus on:



Our Vision

SOLS Foundation envisions a world where individuals from low-income backgrounds are able to move out of poverty and reach stable middle-class outcomes while contributing to the nation's development.

Our Mission

Our mission is to **serve, educate and empower** low-income communities across Malaysia with **FREE** education, personal development, employment support and energy access for rural Orang Asli and Orang Asal (Indigenous) communities.



Impact Meta Model






STRATEGIES:

SOLS Foundation drives transformational change through four strategic interventions targeting individual empowerment, ecosystem development, sector enablement, and energy access. These interconnected strategies create sustainable pathways to middle-class outcomes for Malaysia's low-income communities.

			
Strategy 1:	Strategy 2:	Strategy 3:	Strategy 4:
Individual Empowerment	Ecosystem Enhancement	Sector Advancement	Energy Access Innovation
Equipping youths from low-income households with comprehensive development opportunities through structured education, professional training, and targeted employment pathways that accelerate their journey toward sustainable income growth.	Strengthening the support infrastructure through mentorship programmes, professional development opportunities, and safety net mechanisms that ensure sustained progress and prevent regression for vulnerable participants.	Catalysing systemic change by sharing evidence-based insights, establishing strategic partnerships, and building collaborative networks with government agencies and changemakers to scale proven impact models.	Democratising clean energy access through community-based solar initiatives that reduce household energy expenditure, reduce the burden of household chores, and create sustainable opportunities for remote communities.
   	  	  	   

SOLUTIONS:

Our solutions deliver outcomes through education, training, employment support and opportunities, continuous support system, as well as early intervention.

				
Solution 1:	Solution 2:	Solution 3:	Solution 4:	Solution 5:
Holistic Skill Development	Economic Activation	Industry Integration	Progressive Support System	Early Intervention
Delivering comprehensive training through our three-pillar approach: technical competencies for job readiness, life skills for personal effectiveness, and professional capabilities for career growth.	Converting educational achievements into tangible economic outcomes through structured employment pathways and entrepreneurship support that enable immediate income generation post-programme.	Maintaining dynamic alignment between our programmes and market needs through active employer engagement, trend analysis, and continuous curriculum adaptation to ensure our participants meet evolving industry requirements.	Providing adaptable, long-term support mechanisms that evolve with our participants' needs as they advance toward and establish themselves in the middle-income group.	Inspiring and engaging school-age youth through visible impact in their communities, creating early awareness of educational and career pathways that can transform their economic future.

2025 By The Numbers

Here is the breakdown of how we contributed to SDGs in 2025:



- We address poverty by expanding access to education, skills development, employment support, and renewable energy in low-income communities.

Metrics :

- 9,955 direct beneficiaries
- 9,380 indirect beneficiaries




- We improve the quality of life for off-grid households and community institutions by expanding access to clean, renewable energy.

Metrics :

- 5,494 beneficiaries
- 1,469 households
- 3 NGOs/ welfare



- We deliver education programmes that respond to different learning needs within low-income communities.

Metrics :

- 102 online classes
- 19 self-study courses on SOLS edu platform
- 821 in-person classes
- 37 in-person workshops
- 475 TVET lecturers trained



- We promote gender inclusion by supporting women's participation in skills development and employment opportunities.

Metrics :

- 70% of our programme participants are female



- We train participants and support their transition to formal employment, providing opportunities for career progression and income growth.

Metrics :

- 85% - 95% secured employment or further study (Solar Academy & TVET Academy)
- +22% change in average income after graduating from Solar Academy
- 78% of TVET students used IBM credentials in seeking employment opportunities (DVET - Rakyat Digital)



- We narrow the rural-urban gap by expanding access to education, employment opportunities, and clean energy for Indigenous communities in remote areas.

Metrics :

- 66% of direct beneficiaries across all programmes are Indigenous

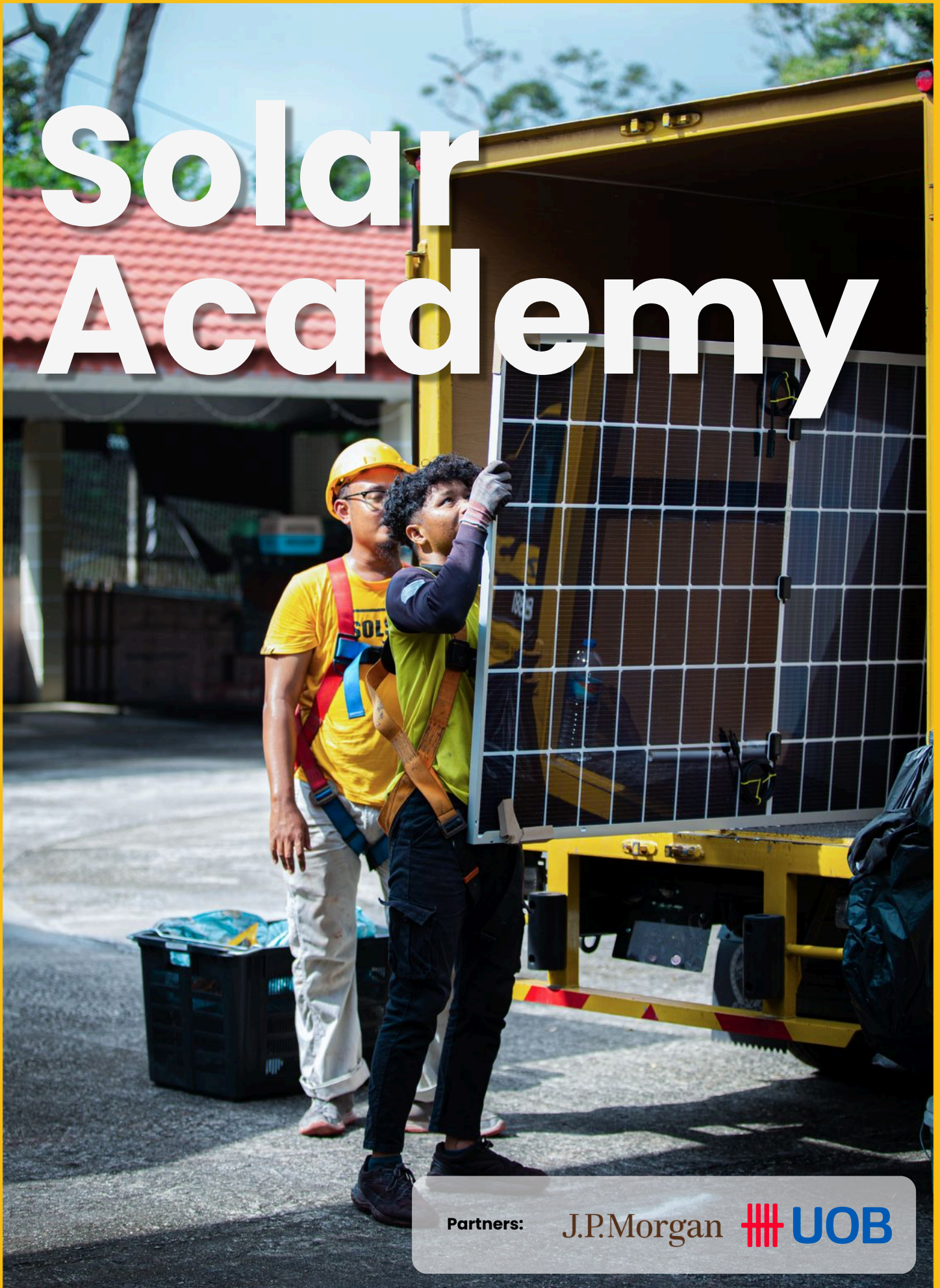



- We strengthen community collaboration and work in partnership with ministries, government agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations, and local leaders.

Metrics :

- 11 implementation, coordination & delivery partners
- 9 ministries & government agencies
- 17 funding partners
- RM3,024,790.99 fundraised

Solar Academy



Partners:

J.P.Morgan  UOB

Solar Academy Highlights

In 2025, SOLS Foundation continued delivering Solar Academy for the twelfth year, supporting youth from low-income backgrounds to transition into the solar workforce. Beyond technical training, Solar Academy emphasised character building, confidence, and a future-oriented mindset.

Through a combination of hands-on training and real-world exposure, Solar Academy equipped participants with practical skills and workplace discipline needed for job retention, career growth, and life progression. It aimed to support graduates not only in securing employment, but in building sustainable careers with the potential to move towards middle-income outcomes.



Solar Academy students undergoing digital skills class



In 2025, there were:



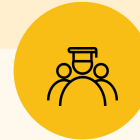
72

Graduates



86%

Secured employment or continued studies within one month of completion*



49%

Orang Asli/Asal (Indigenous) ethnic origin

*Based on 1-month follow-up survey among alumni (63 respondents)

All-time reach: 920 participants since 2014



Solar Academy Cohort 2024/2025 graduation ceremony

Stepping Forward Beyond the Village



Bah Safrey is a 20-year-old Semai youth from Tapah, Perak. After completing SPM, he took on daily wage work cutting grass in his village. At the time, he was hesitant to leave home. "I didn't want to go outside my village. I didn't feel motivated to study further either," he shared.

When the work no longer felt suitable, he stayed at home. He later attempted to join the police force but did not pass the interview. "I was very disappointed. I lost my self-confidence and started to doubt my decisions," he recalled. He returned to his village while trying to figure out his next step.

He learned about Solar Academy through his family and decided to give it a try. "I didn't really know what Solar Academy was about. Sitting idle at home, I didn't have much choice. I just wanted to try," he said.

Through classroom learning and hands-on training, Bah Safrey began building skills in solar installation. "When I first started practical training, I didn't know anything. I just followed instructions," he recalled.

Today, he is a full-time Solar Installer, applying what he learned on real installation sites. "Now, when I come to work, I already know what to do and how to do it. I am more independent, but I still follow instructions," he shared.

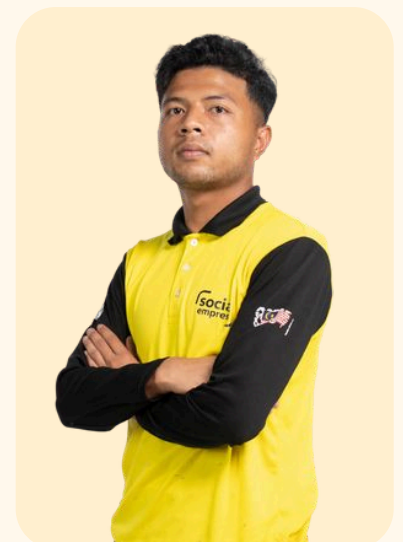
With a steady monthly income, he is able to save for emergencies and daily needs while contributing more consistently to his family.

Looking ahead, he hopes to retake SPM, specialise in wiring, and build a more stable future.

Reflecting on his journey, he shared a message for other youths with similar experiences: "How long do you want to stay afraid of the outside world?"

“
When you
step out, you
will see how
big the world
really is.

**Bah Safrey A/L Bah
Bawchi**
Tapah, Perak



Solar Academy - Impact

Bah Safrey's experience reflects broader patterns seen across Solar Academy participants. Participant feedback highlights gains in practical skills, confidence, and workplace readiness. Together with the outcomes below, these voices show how Solar Academy supports life-changing transitions into skilled and stable employment.

86%

Secured employment or continued studies*

+22%

Change in average monthly income compared to before joining Solar Academy*

81

Estimated household members supported**

*Based on 1-month follow-up survey among alumni (63 respondents)

**Household members supported is estimated using Malaysia's average household size of 3.8 persons (Source: DOSM), excluding the primary beneficiary.



Solar Academy students attending mentorship session with UOB Malaysia volunteers



Solar Academy students undergoing Drone class



I value the practical work experience I gained through Solar Academy. It helped me build confidence and become more independent. I have always wanted to be a technician, and the solar industry fits this goal well. Now, I know this is the path I want to pursue.

- Fatienismatulain A/P Ismail
Maran, Pahang



I gained solar technical skills that I had never been exposed to before. I also learned discipline, teamwork, and the importance of asking questions when I do not understand. The allowance I receive helps cover my personal expenses, and I hope to one day take better care of my parents.

- Muhammad Shahaudin
Gerik, Perak



Solar Academy gave me a new perspective on how solar companies operate and helped me build a wider professional network. What I learned about understanding people has helped me stay calmer and respond more effectively at work.

- Kellex Kelvon Sikau
Kudat, Sabah

Skills Hub



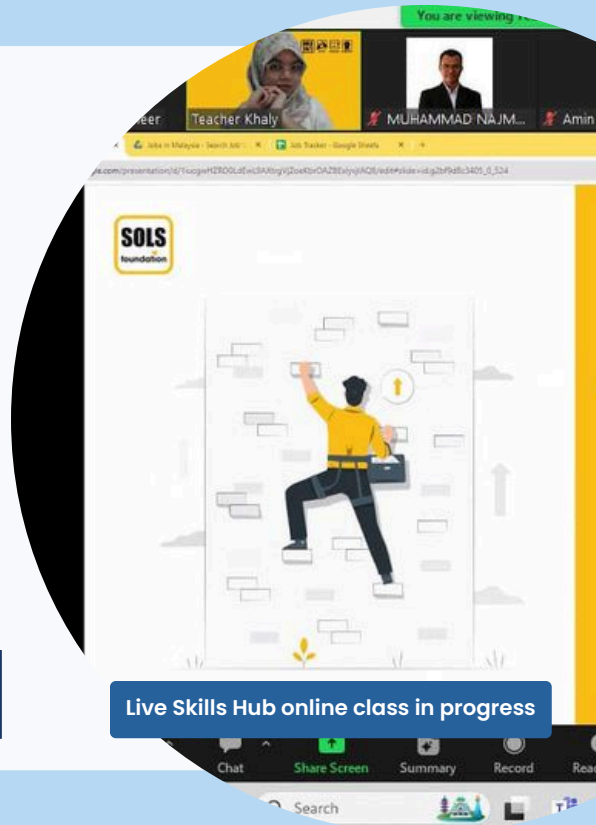
Partners: IBM SkillsBuild



Skills Hub Highlights

Many youths from low-income households in Malaysia face barriers to affordable education and practical training, leaving them unprepared for the demands of today's job market. Skills Hub was established to close this gap by providing access to hard skills, digital skills, life skills, and professional competencies essential for stable employment and upward mobility.

Through Skills Hub online platform and Rakyat Digital – DVET initiatives, we delivered courses in job readiness, career development, professional communication, and more, empowering learners to transition confidently into the workforce. Through collaboration and shared vision with government, industry, and community partners, Skills Hub continues to build pathways for inclusive and quality education, advancing a more equitable and sustainable future for all.



In 2025, there were:



18,605

People reached through online and in-person trainings



9,955

Participants trained in digital, professional, and job application skills



232

Education institutions participated across Malaysia



Rakyat Digital - DVET programme launch with government and industry partners

One Click to a Lifelong Learning Journey



Growing up in Sabah as the youngest of four siblings, 24-year-old Hans Azmeer always believed that education could change his life. After earning a Diploma in Screen Arts from University College Sabah Foundation, he began exploring ways to deepen his skills.

One day in his college library, he noticed an advertisement for the Skills Hub online platform on Instagram. "Out of curiosity, I signed up for a course called 'Create an Interactive YouTube Video'," he recalled.

"I felt so impressed with the way the class was conducted. Simple, structured, and easy to follow." The course content proved immediately relevant to his field, helping him understand video engagement and presentation design. Encouraged, Hans explored further. "I was surprised it was free and unlimited. I told myself, 'I'll never stop learning with Skills Hub.'" Within two weeks he received his first certificate—"Wow, this is real!" he remembered.

Since then, he has completed over 100 courses on Skills Hub online, strengthening his digital, communication, and professional skills.

The session that left the deepest mark was 'How to Develop a Positive Mindset', which helped him feel more optimistic about his future outlook.

Even when faced with weak internet or schedule clashes, the platform's flexibility allowed him to rebook and learn at his own pace.

"Everyone deserves unlimited access to education," he said. "Education helps us go further and become better people." Today, Hans works as a content creator and aspires to continue learning, perhaps even to a PhD. His journey shows how accessible, self-paced learning can ignite lifelong learning and open pathways to sustainable growth.



For me,
education
doesn't stop at
the school level,
it continues
and evolves
throughout life.

- **Mohd Hans Azmeer
Bin Mohd Khanafeh** -
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah



Skills Hub online platform - Participants feedback

Hans' persistence illustrates the strength of Skills Hub's design: accessible, adaptive, and focused on real-world employability. By enabling flexible learning and integrating career-relevant content, the platform ensures users gain practical value from every session. Participant feedback reinforces this, reflecting strong learner satisfaction and confidence in the platform's effectiveness.

4.7/5.0

Average score of relevance and usefulness

+66

Net promoter score (NPS)*

*NPS measures how likely users are to recommend the platform to others, ranging from -100 (no one would recommend) to +100 (everyone would recommend).

What others say about Skills Hub online:



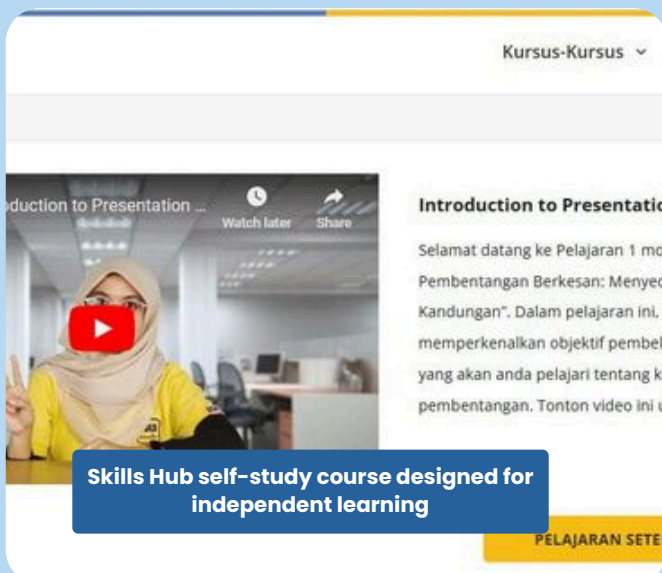
I can get **certification** just through online learning and about to earn a **credential** which can be **linked to social media** - all these could **help me through my job hunting!**

- **Nur Husnina Binti Amiruzaidi** -
Seri Iskandar, Perak



The lessons were **clear, practical**, and easy to apply in **real work environments**. I now **feel more confident** handling sensitive information at my workplace.

- **Muhammad Faqhi Bin Husaini** -
Bachok, Kelantan



The class was very interactive, and I gained many useful inputs from it. The slides were concise yet informative, with explanations that were easy to understand, and the session ended with questions to test participants' understanding, which was very good.

- **Ainur Aqilah Binti Mohd Aris** -
Batu Berendam, Melaka

Skills Hub online platform - Implementation

2025 was a year of growth and new possibilities for Skills Hub. Beyond reaching more learners through 114 classes nationwide, we celebrated a major milestone with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Politeknik Port Dickson. This partnership marks the beginning of stronger pathways in vocational and community education, paving the way for even greater impact ahead.

Born out of the pandemic, Skills Hub online became the solution to bringing free education access nationwide. Since 2020, it has opened doors to learning for hundreds of thousands across Malaysia.

By June 2025, we paused the programme to innovate and bring its impact even closer to communities. Reaching learners in every state, Skills Hub online laid a strong foundation that now guides our next chapter: expanding learning through more community-rooted, sustainable formats, while preparing for its next evolution. The programme is expected to be relaunched in 2026 with focus on AI application.

In 2025, there were:



10,857

People reached



3,464

Participants trained



Beyond Diploma: Career Growth with SOLS job interview workshop



Our online participants come from all over Malaysia

Since 2020, there were:



107,762

People reached



37,369

Participants trained in English communication, digital, professional and personal development skills



3,171

Classes delivered through online and in-person trainings across >150 modules

Multiplying the Learning: Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers



Mr. Megavarnan, a lecturer at IPG Kampus Ipoh, entered the Rakyat Digital – DVET programme with a simple belief: AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini were “just tools to make it easier to search content”.

What he discovered during the training changed his understanding completely. Through the programme, he learned about different types of AI and how they could support teaching, content creation, and information management. He also explored key concepts in data management, including structured and unstructured data.

“Only after the programme did I realise how much more AI can actually do,” he recalled. With this new clarity, he began using AI to organise lecture notes and design more effective learning materials.

Receiving the IBM certification gave him a strong sense of recognition. “I felt appreciated, just like how I feel when my students receive their certificates,” he shared.

Supported by his Head of Department and campus director, he conducted teach-back sessions for both lecturers and students.

His students, who will become primary school teachers, have now adopted AI in their lesson planning and classroom material design. Many also explored additional learning through IBM SkillsBuild and IBM Watson Studio.

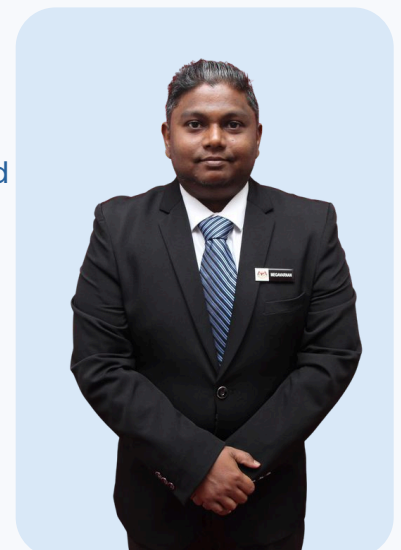
This created a learning cascade: from SOLS trainers, to Mr Megavarnan, to future teachers, and eventually to the students who will benefit from AI-enabled learning in their classrooms. He describes the programme as a golden opportunity that strengthened his professional growth and reaffirmed his commitment to continuous learning.

Motivated by this experience, he plans to advance his use of AI in research on language and remedial education for primary school students.



AI can make teaching easier and faster when used wisely. Seeing my students use it in their own learning has been the most rewarding part.

- Mr. Megavarnan Jagadesan -
Ipoh, Perak



Rakyat Digital – DVET Impact

Mr. Megavarnan’s journey illustrates how Rakyat Digital–DVET equips educators to engage with increasing AI adoption across the TVET sector. The programme combines in-person workshops conducted nationwide with online deliveries via Skills Hub online platform. Since launch, over 1,100 TVET lecturers have participated, with 56% extending the learning through IBM SkillsBuild. As a result, AI-ready TVET graduates enter the workforce with stronger skills and higher confidence.

56%

TVET lecturers continued digital learning after the workshop

68%

Teach-back participants continued digital learning after the workshop

78%

Teach-back participants leveraged IBM credentials to seek new employment opportunities

What others say about Rakyat Digital – DVET:



Rakyat Digital –DVET session with TVET lecturers in Kedah



The topics are presented clearly and are easy to understand, making AI no longer seem complicated. The Rakyat Digital – DVET provides highly valuable content, especially in understanding the basics of Artificial Intelligence (AI). **I am now more confident in exploring this technology and applying it in my field.** Highly recommended!

- **Mohd Faizul Afzan Bin Mamat** -
TVET Lecturer | Bayview Hotel Georgetown, Penang



Participating in this workshop was a **transformative experience**. The supportive environment encouraged collaboration and creativity, making the entire learning process enjoyable. I highly recommend this workshop to anyone looking to **enhance their digital skills and stay ahead in today’s tech-driven world.**

- **Ahmad Firdaus Bin Ariffin** -
TVET Lecturer | Hotel Casuarina@Meru, Ipoh



TVET lecturers in Penang participating in Rakyat Digital – DVET training

Rakyat Digital – DVET Implementation

Launched in July 2024, the Rakyat Digital–DVET programme built digital readiness in Malaysia’s TVET institutions by training 1,105 TVET lecturers and 5,680 TVET students in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and the ethical use of technology. The initiative—delivered with IBM SkillsBuild and supported by the Ministry of Digital and MyDIGITAL—was delivered directly to lecturers, who then transferred their learning to students through a structured teach-back model, multiplying the programme’s impact across classrooms nationwide. The 6-month long programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of educators and learners to participate meaningfully in Malaysia’s digital transformation.

Rakyat Digital continued its mission in 2025 to train and upskill TVET lecturers in digital technology. The session in Penang saw the highest participation with 150 instructors in attendance and was officiated by YB Jagdeep Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of Penang. Additionally, participants from Penang and Kedah conducted the highest number of teach-back sessions with their students.

In 2025, there were:



7,748
People reached



475
Direct participants
(TVET lecturers) trained



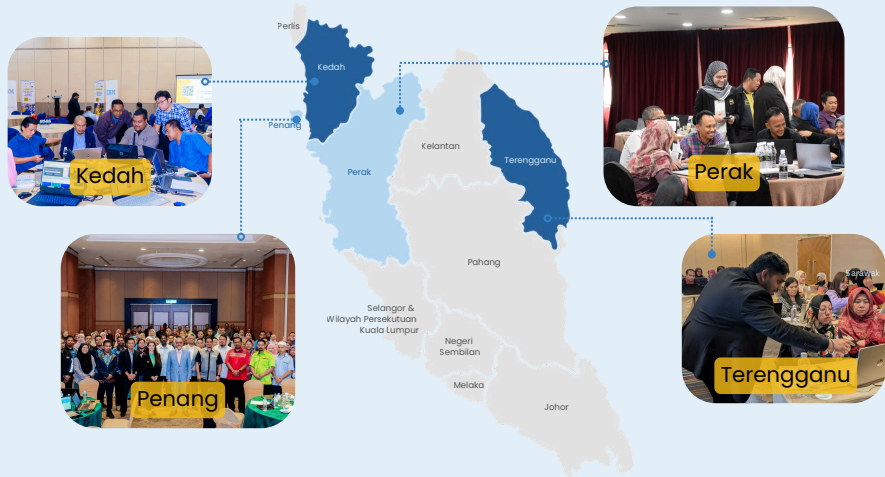
4
In-person
workshops delivered



5,396
Indirect participants
(TVET students) trained

Scaling AI Readiness Among TVET Lecturers Nationwide

In 2025, Rakyat Digital–DVET was implemented across four locations, covering four states. Since its launch in 2024, the programme has reached a total of ten locations across nine states nationwide, reflecting a phased rollout approach focused on building institutional capacity and regional participation.



Since 2024, there were:



252
Teach-back
sessions (in-person
& online)



1,105
Direct participants
(TVET lecturers)
trained



5,680
Indirect
participants (TVET
students) trained

TVET Academy



Partners:



TVET Academy Highlights

In the 2024 cohort, TVET Academy supported 103 final-year TVET students from three institutes as they transitioned into the workforce, with a focus on building professional skills, confidence, and readiness for early careers.

Six months after programme completion, follow-up data indicates early employment, job retention, and monthly earning outcomes. These results indicate that participants are not only securing employment but sustaining it, with earnings in the entry-level range.

To deepen understanding of longer-term employment pathways, SOLS Foundation will continue tracking this cohort over time, where feasible.



Students from IKBN Peretak undergoing TVET Academy programme



Six months after programme completion:



95%

Secured employment or continued studies within 6 months after graduation*



33%

Retained job for at least 6 months



60%

of employed respondents earn between RM2,000 - RM3,000 per month

*Based on 6-month follow-up survey among alumni (62 participants)



Students from IKBN Sepang undergoing TVET Academy programme

Energy and Rural Education Access

Partners:



Energy & Rural Education Access Highlights

In 2025, SOLS Foundation supported Orang Asli/Asal (Indigenous) communities through integrated energy and education initiatives. By combining access to solar infrastructure and community development, these programmes addressed everyday needs while strengthening practical knowledge and collective participation.

Energy Access included two intervention areas: the installation of solar home systems in off-grid villages, alongside Decarbonise, a programme that supports welfare homes and non-profit organisations to reduce energy costs through solar adoption. In parallel, Rural Education Access delivers short, community-based life skills workshops focused on basic financial literacy, communication, and collaboration. Together, these efforts reached villages across different regions through locally grounded implementation and partnerships.



Solar home system installed in KOA Redip, Pos Hau, Kelantan

In 2025, there were:



5,494

People who gained energy access



69

Villages gained energy access



3

NGOs/welfare homes equipped with commercial rooftop solar PV systems



Villager briefing before solar home system installation in KOA Rengang/Regang, Pos Sinderut

Lighting the Way Forward



Mr Aning Jilih, 44, lives with his family in Kampung Munungan, Beluran. The village is home to the Orang Asal (Indigenous) Sungai Tombonuo ethnic group. For the community, access to reliable electricity was once a daily challenge. Before receiving a solar home system, his household depended on a petrol generator for lighting and basic needs.

Running the generator was costly. Each month, Mr Aning spent around RM300 on fuel alone. The generator was noisy, unreliable, and could only be used for limited hours. "We had to plan everything around the generator," he shared. "If there was no fuel, there was no light."

The installation of a solar home system changed this routine. With consistent electricity, his household expenses fell significantly. Monthly energy costs dropped to about RM100, easing the financial pressure on the family. "The savings make a big difference," he said. "Now, we don't worry about fuel every day."

For Mr Aning, the impact goes beyond convenience. The reduced energy cost has allowed him to prioritise his children's education. With stable lighting in the evenings, his children are able to study at home, and household savings can be redirected toward school-related needs.

Access to clean and reliable energy has also brought a sense of dignity and stability to daily life. With solar power, the family no longer depends on fluctuating fuel prices or limited generator hours. For Mr Aning, electricity is not just about light; it is about creating a safer home, supporting education, and planning for the future with greater certainty.

“

As a father, I feel more confident knowing I can support my children's learning.

—Aning Jilih
Beluran, Sabah



Energy Access – Impact

Mr Aning’s experience reflects how access to reliable energy shapes daily life in off-grid communities. Beyond lighting, solar electrification reduces household energy costs, makes daily chores easier, and lowers environmental impact. The outcomes illustrate how clean energy supports stability, productivity, and sustainability in their daily lives.

RM17,349,420

Estimated energy cost saved using solar system installed

92%

Easier access to charge phones*

90%

Villagers feel doing house chores is now easier*

*Based on follow-up surveys among villagers (543 respondents).



Solar home system installation in Muadzam Shah, Pahang

“

Dulu nak mengemas telefon kena pergi rumah kakak ipar, tapi sekarang tidak lagi kurang beban pada suami dan tak perlu menumpang rumah orang. Dapat jimat duit juga.

Ros

KOA Jeram Kedah, Lenggeng, Negeri Sembilan

”

Bersyukur sebab memang guna solar sepenuhnya, tak perlu guna lilin dan pelita, boleh simpan duit. Saya jimat sehingga RM200 sebulan, guna untuk yuran sekolah anak-anak, kos transport ke sekolah, dan kecemasan.

Wah Itam

KOA Ulu Kepayang, Gopeng, Perak



Solar home system installation in Sungai Miak, Pahang

“

Dulu, waktu malam nak ke tandas susah takde lampu, takut binatang buas. Sekarang, malam lebih selamat dan jimat duit. Duit yang dijitam beli barang dapur dan anak sekolah.

Norli A/P Mat

KOA Binjai, Muadzam Shah, Pahang

Energy Access Implementation

In 2025, SOLS Foundation installed solar home systems in 69 off-grid Orang Asli (Indigenous) villages across 5 states in Peninsular Malaysia, focusing on households without access to grid electricity. These systems provide basic and reliable energy for lighting, phone charging, and essential household needs in remote communities where conventional infrastructure remains limited.

The installations benefitted 5,494 individuals across 1,469 homes, improving daily living conditions and enabling safer, more reliable access to electricity for families living in geographically isolated areas.

By replacing kerosene, diesel generators, and other carbon-intensive energy sources, the programme also contributes to environmental sustainability. To date, the systems have helped avoid carbon emissions equivalent to 2,518 tCO₂, supporting a transition to cleaner energy in rural communities.

In 2025, there were:



5,494

People who gained energy access



1,469

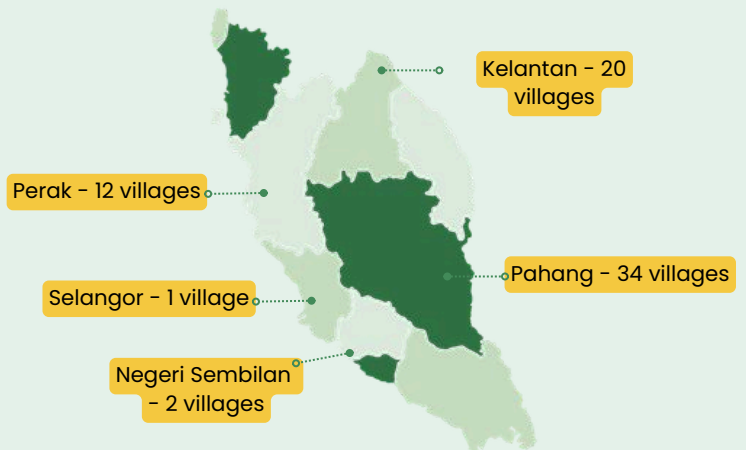
Homes electrified



Solar home system installation in Rompin, Pahang

Energy Access Across Off-Grid Communities

In 2025, solar home systems were installed in 69 off-grid villages across five states. The map highlights the distribution of communities served, with the largest concentration in Pahang, followed by Kelantan and Perak.



Since 2022, there were:



5,622.17

tCO₂ avoided



17,458

People who gained energy access



4,668

Homes electrified

Learning to Build Together



Linda binti Lee, locally known as Kak Linda, is a rubber tapper from KOA Rakoh, Pos Lenjang in Kuala Lipis, Pahang. Like many families in her village, her household income depends on seasonal crops and fluctuating commodity prices. "Our income changes depending on the harvest and rubber prices," she shared. "What we earn is mainly used for daily groceries."

In 2025, she took part in a three-month Project for Peace initiative under the Rural Education Access programme, which focused on effective communication and collaboration. Through asset-based mapping activities and specially-designed board games, the workshops brought villagers together to reflect on leadership, shared resources, and how they could work collectively when challenges arose.

"I remember learning how to communicate more effectively with our village head and identifying the resources we have in our village," she recalled.

Over time, Kak Linda noticed a shift in how neighbouring villages responded when opportunities emerged. Following the workshops, communities across the Pos Lenjang cluster came together in a gotong-royong effort to build a *balai adat* for shared use. "We helped each other because it was needed," she said.

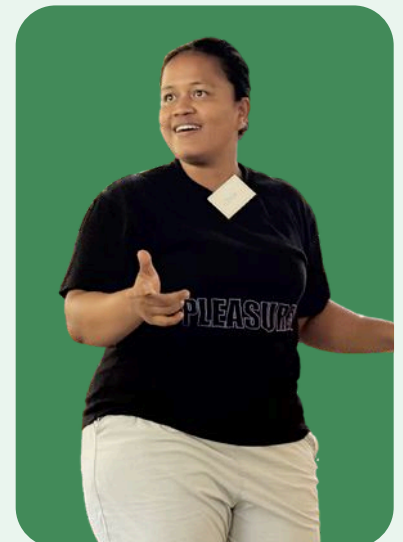
The collaboration extended beyond a single activity. Several villages also worked together to establish a joint hill paddy plantation, pooling land and effort on a larger scale than before. The harvest is expected in early 2026, and villagers hope the cooperation will lead to better yields over time.

For Kak Linda, the experience was about learning how villages can work together when opportunities arise. She is optimistic that these workshops have created a foundation for more cooperation ahead.

“

I see more willingness to work together with nearby villages now.

Linda binti Lee
Kuala Lipis, Pahang



Rural Education Access – Implementation

In 2025, SOLS Foundation continued to deliver community-based learning activities for Orang Asli (Indigenous) communities in rural and remote settings. The programme introduced practical life skills through short workshops adapted to local contexts and everyday realities.

Financial literacy workshops introduced basic budgeting, spending awareness, and personal financial decision-making, addressing skills that are often inaccessible in these communities.

In selected villages, the Project for Peace initiative provided deeper engagement centred on resource and conflict management, communication, and community connections. This was delivered through asset-based community development and game-based learning approaches.

Together, these activities supported both individual awareness and community-level capacity, highlighting the value of accessible learning spaces that enable Indigenous communities to continue building skills, relationships, and collective problem-solving.

In 2025, there were:



402

Workshop participants



22

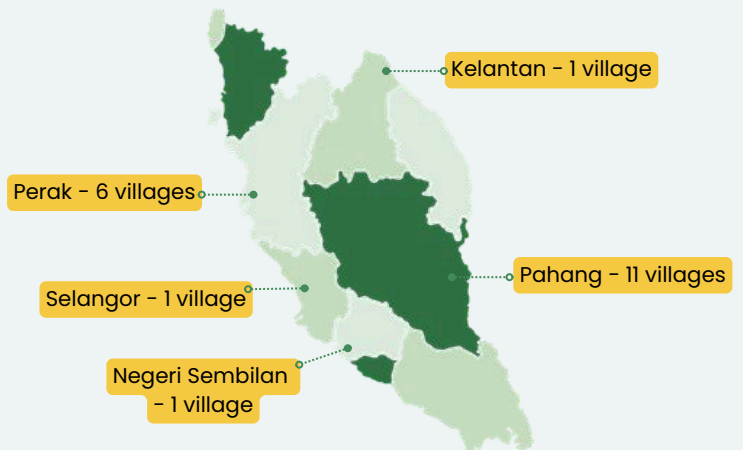
Workshops delivered



Financial literacy workshop in KOA Kelian 12, Perak

Education Access Across Rural Communities

In 2025, Rural Education Access workshops were conducted in villages across five states, reaching Indigenous communities in remote areas. The map shows the distribution of workshops across these locations, with the highest number of sessions held in Pahang, followed by Perak.



Since 2023, there were:



1,194

Direct beneficiaries



49

Workshops delivered



8,642

Indirect beneficiaries*

*Estimated indirect beneficiaries: household and community members assumed to benefit from participants' learning.

Organisational Learnings

At SOLS Foundation, our mission is to serve, educate, and empower low-income communities to achieve lasting developmental transformation. Through free education, personal development, employment support, and access to clean energy, we work alongside communities to create pathways towards dignity, resilience, and opportunity.




As our programmes have grown and evolved, so has our understanding of what it takes to deliver sustainable impact. The organisational learnings below reflect insights drawn across our education, skills training, employment pathways, and community-based energy access initiatives, guiding how we continue to refine our approach and look ahead.

Organisational Learnings:-

	
<p>1. Integrated Approaches Strengthen Outcomes</p>	<p>2. Community Ownership Drives Sustainability</p>
<p>We have learned that sustainable transformation is strongest when education, personal development, employment support, and energy access are delivered as interconnected solutions rather than isolated interventions. When individuals are supported holistically and households have the infrastructure needed to thrive, learning translates more effectively into improved livelihoods and long-term wellbeing.</p>	<p>Our work has shown that programmes are most sustainable when communities are active participants in learning, implementation, and long-term use. By building understanding, confidence, and shared responsibility, particularly within rural Orang Asli and Orang Asal (Indigenous) communities, we strengthen local ownership and reduce reliance on external support over time.</p>
	
<p>3. Practical, Contextual Learning Drives Participation and Retention</p>	<p>4. Partnerships Extend Reach and Resilience</p>
<p>We have seen consistently higher engagement when learning is practical, relevant, and grounded in participants' lived realities. Short-format, hands-on education that is linked directly to personal development, employability, or household needs enables individuals to build confidence and apply skills meaningfully in their daily lives.</p>	<p>Partnerships with local organisations, institutions, and community leaders have been critical in extending our reach and strengthening programme delivery. These collaborations enhance trust, contextual relevance, and our ability to respond to diverse needs—ensuring that impact is not only achieved, but sustained.</p>

Looking Ahead: Strategic Priorities

Guided by these learnings and our commitment to serving, educating, and empowering Malaysia’s low-income communities, we are focusing on the following priority areas as we move forward:

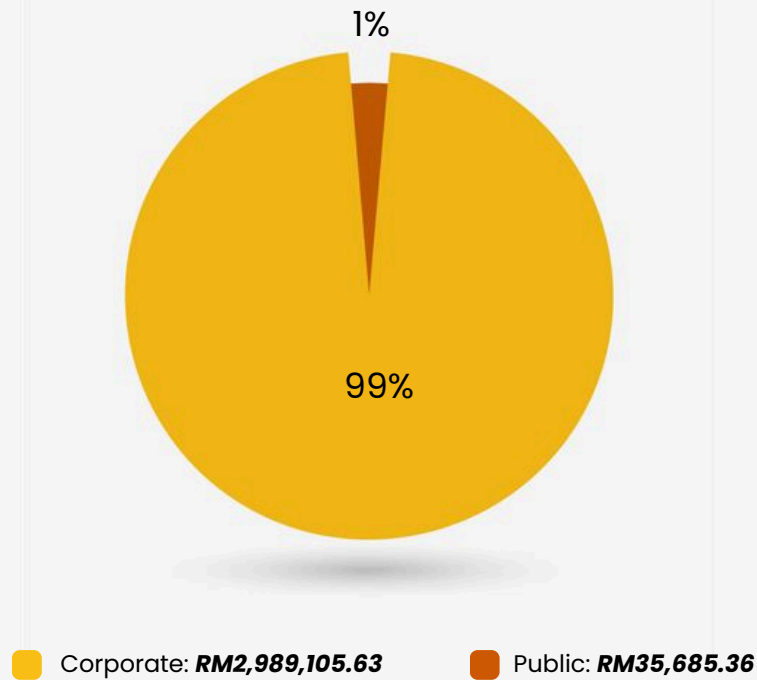
	<p>Refining Integrated Models to Address Community Needs</p> <p>Our approach to integrated programming has been shaped by what we have learned alongside communities over the years. Before COVID-19, we ran community centres that coordinated education, personal development, livelihoods, and community infrastructure under one model. When the pandemic forced their closure, that experience did not go to waste. The ASLI Centre builds on that foundation. Designed with a five-year horizon, it starts with foundational literacy and skills, and progressively grows with communities as they build the confidence and capacity to lead their own development journeys.</p>
	<p>Deepening Sustainability Through Local Capacity and Ownership</p> <p>Our previous community centres demonstrated what deeply coordinated, community-rooted support can achieve. SOLS ASLI Women Academy (SAWA) takes that learning further, with a sharper understanding of what sustains it. By training Orang Asli (Indigenous) women to become Community Centre Managers within their own villages, local leadership is not brought in; it grows from within. This is how we aim to ensure that community spaces, learning initiatives, and support systems remain active and relevant long after our direct involvement ends.</p>
	<p>Piloting for Quality, Scaling What Works</p> <p>We prioritise piloting and continuous improvement to ensure quality, relevance, and impact. The ASLI Centre and SAWA are deliberate expressions of this approach, each designed to be learned from before it is expanded. Both models have clear, measurable endpoints that tell us when we are ready to scale. Insights from these pilots will guide future decisions on refinement and scale, ensuring that expansion is grounded in evidence, mission alignment, and outcomes that hold up over time.</p>
	<p>Building Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>We continue to value and deepen our collaborations with existing partners who support programme delivery, community engagement, and long-term impact across our work. In addition, we plan to implement new initiatives such as Future-Proof with AI in partnership with ministries and educational institutions. Through this programme, participants will learn to use artificial intelligence responsibly for productivity, creation, and career development. This ensures that future-ready skills are delivered through accessible and credible learning platforms.</p>

Looking forward, learning remains central to how we work: ensuring that our programmes continue to evolve alongside the communities we serve, and that every intervention contributes to lasting developmental transformation.

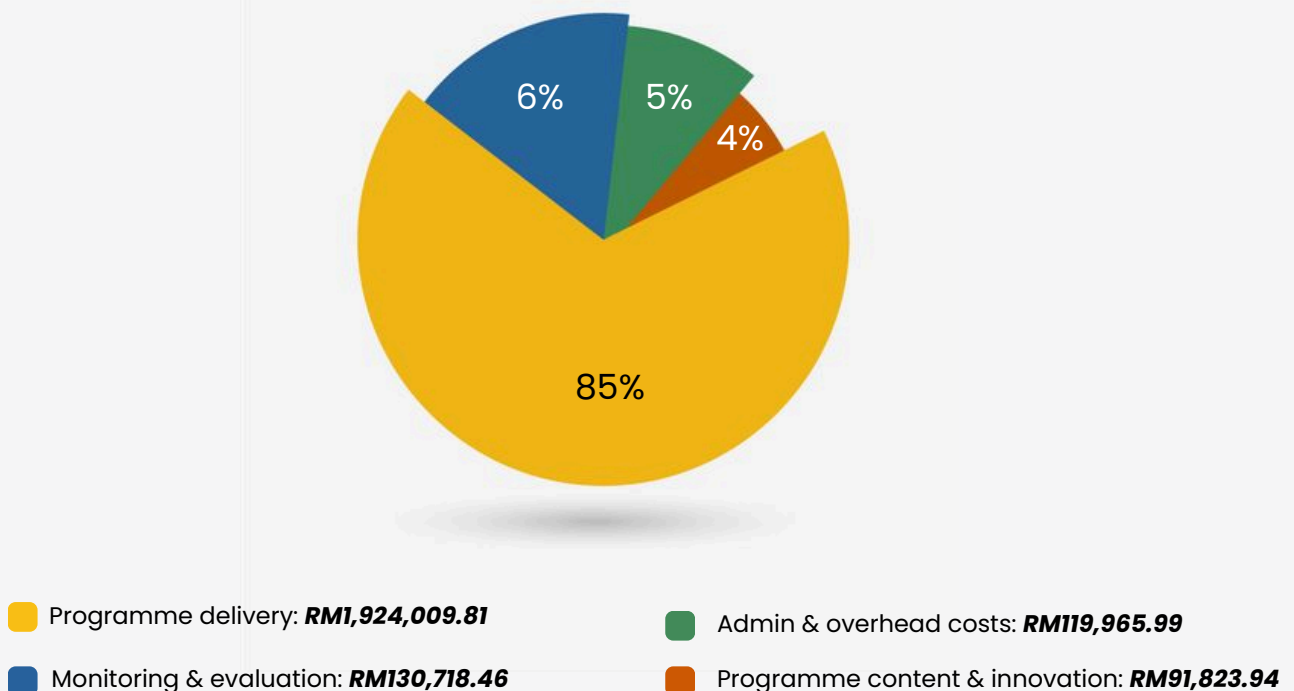
Financial Overview 2025

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous corporate donors and the public for their invaluable support. Your contributions have made a significant impact, enabling us to continue building pathways to education, employment, and energy access alongside the communities we serve.

Sponsorship



Expenditure



Organisational Structure, Partnerships & Acknowledgements



Funding Partners

We are deeply thankful to our esteemed funding partners for their unwavering support and belief in our mission.



IBM SkillsBuild



JPMorganChase



The Vasenta Selvanayagam Enrichment Fund



PARAMOUNT



YAYASAN KEBAJIKAN NEGARA MALAYSIA



TEACHER RAJ



Implementation & Coordination Partners

We are immensely grateful to our implementation partners for their invaluable support.



KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA



JABATAN KEMAJUAN ORANG ASLI



JABATAN PERHUTANAN SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA



JABATAN PERHUTANAN NEGERI PAHANG



JABATAN PERHUTANAN NEGERI PERAK



JABATAN PERHUTANAN NEGERI KELANTAN



IBM SkillsBuild

Board of Trustees

We would like to thank our trustees and advisors for being partners on this journey. They have been instrumental in helping us set an actionable mission and inspiring vision for the organisation.



DANUTCHA CATRIONA SINGH
MANAGING DIRECTOR
SOLS Foundation



TEACHER RAJ RIDVAN SINGH
FOUNDER-CEO
SOLS 24/7 Group



SARAH LIAN LAY TING
CO-FOUNDER
Suppagood



SYED IDROS SAYED AGIL
DIRECTOR
iMinda Training Academy



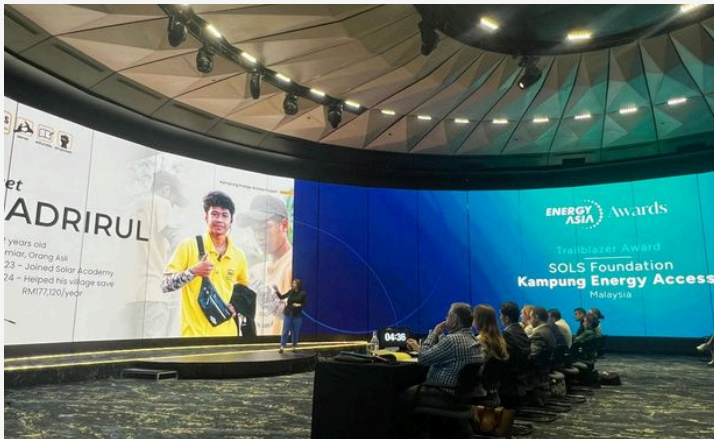
DATIN AIZAH MAHMOOD
PHILANTHROPY

Awards & Recognition

SOLS Foundation was named Winner of the Changemakers category at the Life At Work Awards (LAWA) by TalentCorp. This recognition highlights the Foundation's commitment to driving sustainable change, empowering low-income communities, and creating measurable social impact through its programmes.



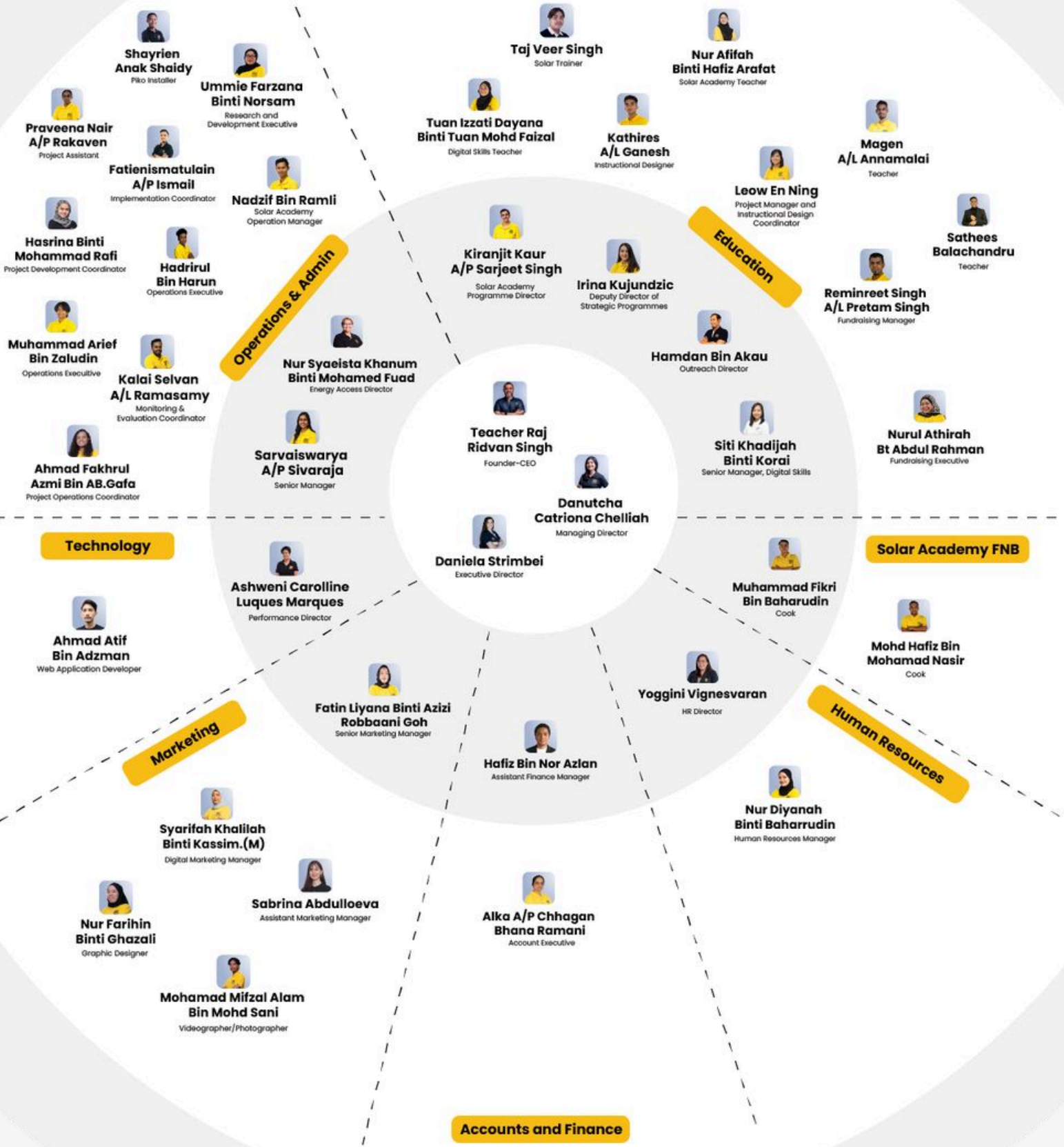
In addition, SOLS Foundation was recognised as a Top 3 finalist for the Trailblazer Award at the inaugural Energy Asia Awards 2025 by PETRONAS. Selected from over 150 entries across 20+ countries, and as one of only two NGOs shortlisted, this accolade celebrates the Foundation's impactful work in advancing a just energy transition through education, environmental initiatives, and improving energy accessibility for low-income communities.



News Features:



SOLS Foundation Team



Our Credo

People. Planet. Prosperity.



Be Happy & Grow

Growth, happiness and development mindset, with work-life-balance.



Be Excellent

Speed of delivery with high quality implementation.



Be Responsible

We are inclusive and always responsible to our team and those we serve.



Be Agile

Always open to change, question, experiment, not afraid to make mistakes and learn fast.



Be Zero Waste

Smart use of resources and zero waste.



We Are Kind & Respectful

Always communicating with respect, kindness and empathy.



We Care

We genuinely care about our team and those we serve.



We Take Ownership

We are all responsible for success. We only win as a team.



We Are Partners

Compensation that is competitive, generous and within our means.



We Create Impact

We serve, educate and empower the B40. Our Impact Organizations direct 30% or more of profits towards B40.

How You Can Help

1. Partner with us

Whether you represent an organisation, foundation, ministry or state government, or you're an individual interested in fundraising or bringing our programmes to your community, we'd love to hear from you.

For all partnership and collaboration enquiries, please contact:



danu@sols.foundation
Danutcha Catriona Singh
 Managing Director

2. Spread the word

1

Tell your friends and family about the challenges faced by low-income households in Malaysia:
<https://sols.foundation/b40-characterization-map>

3

Check out internships and job openings:
<https://sols.foundation/careers>

2

Spread the word about scholarships for low-income individuals to work in solar industry:
<https://go.sols.foundation/akademi-solar-sols>

4

Follow us on Social Media:



3. Make an Impact

We have multiple campaigns that we fundraise for throughout the year on our website.

How to Donate :

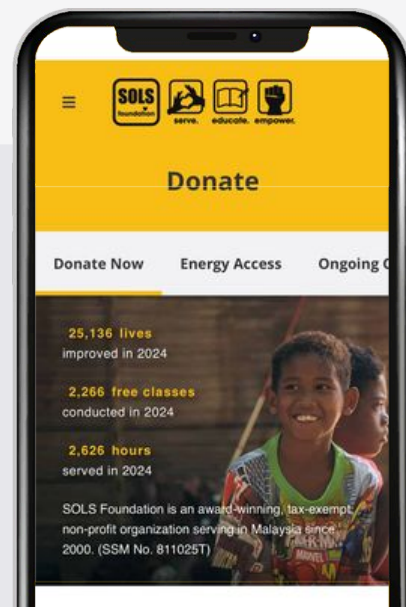


Simply make an online donation at
<https://donate.sols.foundation/>



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Please be aware that SOLS Foundation does not authorise donation collections via third parties or any unofficial channels. All donations must be made directly through the SOLS Foundation donation website.



2025 Event Highlights



■ Rakyat Digital Penang Officiation Ceremony

On 17th January 2025, SOLS Foundation officiated the Rakyat Digital – DVET programme at Bayview Hotel Georgetown, Penang. Officiated by YB Mr. Jagdeep Singh Deo, Penang Deputy Chief Minister II, and joined by Executive Director Ms. Daniela Strîmbei, the event brought together 150 TVET lecturers to advance AI-powered digital education across Malaysia's TVET sector.



■ TechnoMech Family Day Fun Walk

On 15th February 2025, SOLS Foundation joined TechnoMech's Family Day Fun Walk, celebrating a partnership dedicated to bridging the digital divide and uplifting underserved communities. Executive Director Ms. Daniela Strîmbei represented SOLS Foundation at the event, reflecting both organisations' shared commitment to inclusive growth and community empowerment.



■ UOB Donation Drive

From 28th February to 17th March 2025, UOB conducted a donation drive collecting 831.09kg of essential items including clothing, stationery, toys, household goods, and food. All donations were distributed to Solar Academy students and Orang Asli (Indigenous) villagers, bringing meaningful support directly to the communities SOLS Foundation serves.



■ Q1 Celebration & Santapan Raya

On 25th April 2025, the SOLS Foundation team gathered at HQ to celebrate Q1 achievements and welcome the Raya season. The event featured a Raya potluck, quizzes, and friendly challenges, marking a moment to reflect on the quarter's progress and come together in celebration and appreciation.



■ **UOB CSR event**

As part of SOLS Foundation's ongoing solar home system installations across Orang Asli (Indigenous) communities, UOB volunteers joined the effort across three sites in Gerik and Negeri Sembilan between February and July 2025. Representatives from their Vietnam delegation also participated, joining the installation at KOA Kelian 12, bringing international participation to the mission of delivering clean, reliable energy to off-grid homes.



■ **Project for Peace workshops**

Running from June to August 2025, Project for Peace brought together community members from different villages for workshops on resource and conflict management, communication, and community connections. Delivered through asset-based community development and game-based learning, the initiative fostered cross-community collaboration and equipped participants with practical skills for greater self-reliance.



■ **LOI signing with Politeknik Port Dickson (PPD) at Majlis TVET Madani**

On 24th June 2025, SOLS Foundation signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with PPD at Majlis TVET Madani, held at PPD. The LOI marks a meaningful step toward a long-term collaboration, outlining a shared commitment to skills development and graduate employability, alongside a cost-sharing framework to support its implementation.



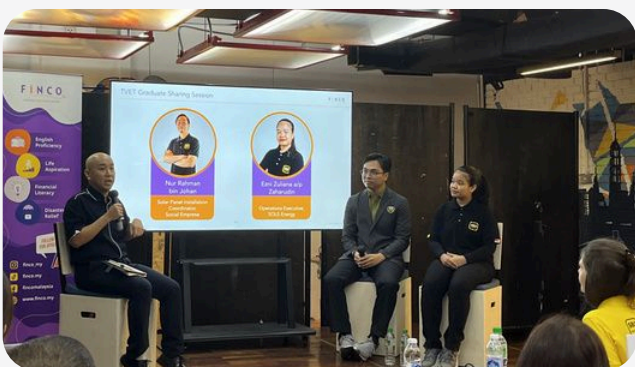
■ **Hong Leong Bank Fundraiser**

On 7th August 2025, SOLS Foundation joined Hong Leong Bank's Pop-Up Market in conjunction with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Manning a booth at the event, SOLS Foundation raised awareness and funds to bring solar power and financial literacy to off-grid Indigenous communities across Malaysia.



■ **Financial Literacy Dialogue ft. OpenAcademy**

On 10th November 2025, SOLS Foundation joined OpenAcademy's panel discussion titled "Are Malaysians Financially Literate?" held at Sasana Kijang, Bank Negara. Executive Director Ms. Daniela Strîmbei joined fellow panellists to explore Malaysia's financial literacy challenges, ongoing initiatives, and the consequences of inaction.



■ **FINCO Roundtable Discussion**

On 18th November 2025, SOLS Foundation joined FINCO's Roundtable Discussion: Bridging Gaps in TVET at Mereka, Publika. Solar Academy alumni Nur Rahman bin Johan and Ezni Zuliana binti Zaharudin joined the student panel, bringing real-world experience to conversations on practical, industry-aligned learning for underserved youth. Meanwhile, Executive Director Daniela Strîmbei spoke on strengthening the TVET-to-employment pipeline.



■ **Tokio Marine Shoe Donation for Solar Academy**

In November 2025, Tokio Marine sponsored new shoes for SOLS Foundation's Solar Academy students, ensuring they were properly equipped for practical training and apprenticeship. The contribution supported students in staying safe and comfortable as they continue building hands-on skills in the field.



■ **Christmas Potluck & Secret Santa**

On 18th December 2025, the SOLS Foundation team closed the year with a Christmas Potluck and Secret Santa at HQ, sharing food, exchanging gifts, and celebrating the year's milestones together.



serve.



educate.



empower.

As we reflect on 2025, we honour the communities and individuals who gave meaning to our work, the Indigenous custodians who have lived, worked, and cared for this land since times immemorial, as well as the government, partners, and supporters who drove our momentum. Nation building is only possible if we walk this path together.

