

Desa Naileu

Human Interest Story with Dan Nenohai – Head of Village

Desa Naileu has finally got the electricity grid going through a part of the Village. Mr Dan Nenohai, the head of the Desa, is happy it has finally arrived, but it will only benefit a small number of households. As about 50% of the village in hamlet B, live too far away from the main road, so it will be a few more years before the State Electricity Company, PLN, extends the grid to Hamlet B. Then there is another problem, he says, “a household has to pay IDR 1,650,000 to have the house connected to the main power line, and this payment must be made in advance, prior to having the connection installed”. We later found out that the 39 households, who want to be connected to the grid paid their IDR 1,650,000, two years ago and have not yet been connected, even though the transmission line was installed 18 months ago. Mr Nenohai believes not many people will connect their house to the grid, as they will find it very hard to accumulate the initial connection fee, let alone the monthly payment of about IDR50,000.

Desa Naileu, was one of the first Desas in TTS, through their partnership with the National Poverty Eradication Commission (TNP2K) to receive a simple household solar system in 2016. Whereby the poorest households up to the 20% decile were granted a household solar system through public donations. 85 households benefited from this program, and after almost three years the systems are still operating. Each month, the beneficiary household pays the village fund IDR25,000, as a fee to have access to the system.

AUTHOR



David Shirley, Co-Project Manager

David Shirley is the Managing Director of the Springfields group. He has over 15 years of development experience much of which is focused in eastern Indonesia. He focuses his efforts on innovative practices to underprivileged communities by improving information flows and aligning creative expertise with traditional development approaches.

Mr Nenohai wants the 105 households who did not receive a household solar system in 2016 or live too far away from the grid or cannot afford the PLN installation cost to have a household solar system, that will provide about three lights, solar panel and battery. The Head of the Desa is currently piloting the Solaris PAYG system and believes it is ideal for his needs. The village is now planning to purchase up to 105 units this financial year through their Village Fund allocation.

Mr Nenohai says the benefits of the solar systems are significant. We do not have to purchase 7 to 10 litres of kerosene a month to fuel the lanterns, thus saving between IDR 35,000 – 50,000 a month. The house is no longer full of black smoke, and the children can easily study at night, with the pure white light. People are now busy at night socialising and working processing products and weaving cloths, instead of retiring to bed when it gets dark. He said, “one enterprising woman is making IDR 5,000 for every phone she charges during the day. On a good day, she is charging up to ten phones”.

