



The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations Inc. - SUNGO -

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PRESS RELEASE

The Shipment of Two Hundred Solar Units for local Homes, have finally arrived on Samoan Soil.

8th February 2023, SUNGO Office, Vaitele Tai – After many years of waiting, the Shipment of Solar Home Lighting Systems have arrived in Samoa and have been delivered to the SUNGO Office at Vaitele Tai.

From Samoa, the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) sent four women (now Solar Mamas) to India for Training, as solar technicians. These four solar mamas are Mekala Sasala from the Si'uniu Falealili Community, Lolelai Ti'iti'i from the Village Community of Vaotupua in Falealupo, Faaali Taufao from the Piu Falealii Community, and Peseta Saofaigaalii from the Community in Tapua Falealupo. These four technicians were given an opportunity to be trained for six months in India, started from 2012 in September to March of 2013. They also attended a refresher training in Fiji. Since then, these technicians have been waiting for the shipment to arrive.

These solar home lighting systems are a Donation of the Prime Minister of India to Samoa, through the Barefoot College.

Now that the shipment has arrived, the local implementing agent will wait for a Team from India, who will be travelling to Samoa, to conduct a refresher course for the solar mamas, before the solar lighting units are distributed to the communities.

Barefoot College is a non-profit organization based in India that has been working for more than 40 years to lift the rural poor over the poverty line. They've empowered women in over 70 countries to be self-sufficient agents of change in their communities. Barefoot's Solutions include solar electrification, clean water, education, and livelihood development.

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