Through innovative finance SunFunder will unlock an off-grid solar revolution and help bring sustainable energy for all by 2030.

“SunFunder makes it easy for anyone to invest in high-impact off-grid solar projects around the world and help provide access to clean, affordable energy to the world’s poor.”

The inclusive business venture

SunFunder is a finance company connecting investors to high-impact solar projects in low-income, off-grid communities around the world. By vetting, selecting and monitoring loans to solar companies, the company catalyses private sector financial flows to meet the funding needs of solar companies.

SunFunder’s customers are solar companies and project developers providing off-grid solar solutions to low-income communities in developing and emerging countries. SunFunder provides their customers with short-term working capital and project finance loans. Projects funded include lights and mobile phone charging, PV systems for homes, school, hospitals, micro-grids and cell phone towers. The funding is sourced from impact and institutional investors as well as private individual who wish to put their money to high-impact use while getting repaid their principal amount.

To keep the cost of financing low for the customer SunFunder will need to manage its risk and scale operations. The IAP funding will be used to develop a Risk Management Toolkit, which will be used to systematize how SunFunder vets, monitors and scales its loan portfolio in an efficient and transparent manner.

The funding will facilitate investments into off-grid solar projects impacting 60,000 people in the first year. A successful solar-funding model could reach a total of 40 million beneficiaries in five years and lead to substantial positive environmental impact as households switch from kerosene to solar lighting.