



## Solar panels reach isolated village

**MAF helps provide electricity in South Sudan's eastern mountains.**

In February, MAF Pilot Wim Hobo landed at Lotimor — in the south-eastern corner of South Sudan — with solar panels, cables and batteries for a remote primary school. The village is a two-day walk to the closest market, without phone or internet signal. Most students sleep in the classrooms because their villages are too far for them to walk every day.

Lotimor was completely cut off until 2015, when missionaries from the Pentecostal Church of Sweden raised funds to build a road connecting it with Kapoeta, a 12-hour drive away. The Kapoeta road is known as one of the most dangerous in South Sudan, with



PHOTO: JENNY DAVIES

weekly reports of vehicles being ambushed.

An airstrip was commissioned by MAF Sweden and opened in 2019 to safely fly teachers, medics and cargo from Kapoeta to Lotimor in just 45 minutes.

On 9 February, Swedish missionaries Filip Lidström and Magdalena Waern landed to provide electricity for the first time; the solar panels carried proudly by local ladies on the final 2-mile climb to reach the hilltop school. The installation took 3 days in blistering 37°C heat.

MAF's Communications Officer Jenny Davies reports: 'Head Teacher Daniel was so happy. He is looking forward to being able to print exam papers and send them

off for marking, which will revolutionise his work. Head boy Patrick Mapuon can now study in the evenings using electric lights. This means he might complete his studies sooner and return to his family, 28 miles away.'

The majority of Lotimor's 260 pupils are boys. Jenny explains: 'In local culture, child marriage is practiced, and girls leave home in exchange for dowries. Education is seen as a poor investment that interrupts the traditional way of life.'

Jenny concludes, 'With electricity, the school can qualify for the World Food Programme's School Feeding initiative. Turning on lights in the pitch-black surroundings makes the school shine on the hillside like a beacon of hope.'

### Pause for prayer

Give thanks for the invaluable gift of electricity, made possible by MAF's air service to Lotimor. Pray for thousands of children across South Sudan — many of them vulnerable young girls — who are still in desperate need of education, training and support.

### Keep MAF flying

You can help MAF flights reach more remote, inaccessible villages like Lotimor by making a gift to MAF today. Every donation helps vital cargo like solar panels transform the daily lives of remote communities. Visit [www.maf-uk.org/give](http://www.maf-uk.org/give) to assist our valuable work today.

### For the Sake of the World (FTSOTW)

FTSOTW is a mission-focused prayer movement, facilitated by MAF, to unite churches to pray for our world. Launched in April 2022, MAF invites you to join the initiative by attending its bi-monthly, online prayer sessions. To find out more, email [info@forthesakeoftheworld.com](mailto:info@forthesakeoftheworld.com)