



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

See more alliances at www.usaid.gov/gda

ALLIANCE FOR MINDANAO OFF-GRID RENEWABLE ENERGY (AMORE)

THE CHALLENGE

A remote island 200 miles from the mainland Philippines, Mindanao has endured three decades of struggle as its southern region has sought independence. The resulting civil strife and violence have displaced many families in a region where 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Though Mindanao has its own power grid, much of that electricity does not reach the most remote villages, or *barangays*. Lack of electricity curtails productivity at work and in households and makes outdoor areas unsafe after dark.



THE APPROACH

Since 2002, the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) has provided Muslim Mindanao with affordable solar energy systems. Partners include the Mirant Corporation, whose Filipino affiliate has contributed \$4 million, and Winrock International, which oversees the management of the project. Solar energy recipients form groups – Barangay Renewable Energy and Community Development Associations (BRECDAs) – to care for their solar panels, manage their maintenance funds, and expand services to other families. Though the panels are subsidized by the Filipino government, the people of Mindanao pay for upkeep by depositing five pesos per day – far more cost-effective than a five-peso candle that lasts just a few hours. Productivity has increased: farmers can prepare their crops for market at night; women are liberated to pursue other endeavors, knowing they can finish chores after sundown; and students can study without inhaling fumes from kerosene lamps.

PARTNERS

Philippines Department of Energy, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Embassy of Japan, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of the United Kingdom, Mirant Philippines Corporation, Shell Solar, Sunpower, Winrock International

RESULTS

- AMORE has provided electricity to more than 10,000 households in 340 remote communities of Mindanao
- 300 renewable energy-powered street lights have been installed and 142 community centers have been illuminated
- Social violence has been reduced. A former separatist leader has renounced violence and now serves as chairman of a BRECDA and promotes Christian-Muslim understanding



SUNPOWER



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL
Putting Ideas to Work