



One Million Lights
PHILIPPINES

2017–2019
REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Change you can see. These words embody the mission of One Million Lights: to empower underprivileged communities with clean, safe, and affordable energy.

We have come to understand that light is an invaluable resource in daily life; we view it not as an end, but as a means of uplifting Filipino families. Light can be used to enable **livelihood** by helping fisherfolk in coastal communities. It can help improve **education** by enabling children study even during the evening. Furthermore, light can be used to alleviate **poverty** by allowing families to save the money that would have otherwise been used for purchasing kerosene fuel.

Over the last 9 years, we have empowered over **15,500 families** in 40 different provinces across the Philippines. Through our projects, we have been able to help a single family save up to PHP 7,200 annually, while augmenting their income by PHP 11,000 each year.

However, there is much left to be done. As of now, **12 million Filipinos** living in isolated communities throughout the country still lack access to basic infrastructure, including electricity.

Nevertheless, we are ready to tackle the challenge before us head-on, driven by our goal of improving the lives of our fellow Filipinos and spreading the light to others.

- **One Million Lights Team**



Mark Lozano
Co-founder



Paulina Ocampo
Country Director



Raffy Tanpho
Executive Director



Sean Angsanto
Partnerships Director



Sary Valenzuela
Marketing Director



Gabie Tanjutco
Digital Director

Members of the OML PH team and Megaworld Volunteers huddling in a distribution in Carnaza Island, 2019.



CHAPTER 1

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

Thousands of Filipinos' lives were made brighter in 2017 to 2019. Here, we discuss the facts and figures on the impact that creates.

2017

Distributions: 12 | Lights: 1022 | Communities: 9

Year	Month	Volume	Light Model	Communities	Province	Local Partners	External Partners
2017	January	50	Schneider Electric Mobiya S-120	Sampaloc Cove	Zambales	Jason Tarrayo	Jason Tarrayo
2017	February	107	Schneider Electric Mobiya S-120	Cawit	Marinduque	Marinducare Foundation	Lady's Choice (Unilever)
2017	February	80	D.Light S300	Isla Verde	Batangas	Gela Petines	CWT Travel
2017	April	50	D.Light S20	Barangay Sapang	Cavite	Charlie	Ms Cristobal
2017	April	200	D.Light S20	Bais	Negros Oriental	Daisy	CWT Travel
2017	April	9	Niwa	Bais	Negros Oriental	Daisy	CWT Travel
2017	April	14	Pharos Home Systems	Gaspar Island	Marinduque	Marinducare; Agrea	Pharos-Off Grid
2017	April	100	Schneider Electric Mobiya S-120	Mangyan Indigenous Community	Mindoro	Mangyan c/o ICA	ICA
2017	May	198	D.Light S20	Buda; Samal	Davao del Sur	Ateneo De Davao University, DCBC, JCI Kadayawan	Megaworld Foundation
2017	June	100	D.Light A1	Zambales (RPEnergy AO)	Zambales	Department of Education c/o RP Energy	RP Energy
2017	August	112	D.Light S20	Panuran	Iloilo	Department of Education	Perez Family
2017	August	2	Schneider Electric Mobiya S-170	Bukidnon	Bukidnon	Fulbright Scholars	Fulbright Scholars



Above: Volunteers and community in a group photo in Bais.

Right: Volunteer teaches community member how to use a S20 solar lamp.



In 2017, OML completed **12 distributions across 11 off-grid communities in 9 provinces**, directly impacting the lives of more than **5,000 Filipinos** with the **1,022 solar-powered lights** and energy sources that were dispensed during this period.

Strong partnerships with Unilever, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Megaworld foundation, and other external partners allowed OML to reach more harder to reach places in the country.

2018

Distributions: 9 | Lights: 804 | Communities: 7

Year	Month	Volume	Light Model	Communities	Province	Local Partners	External Partners
2018	March	66	D.Light S30	Sitio Nagsasa	Zambales	Social Action of Zambales	BSM
2018	April	100	D.Light S30	Sitio Nagsasa	Zambales	Social Action of Zambales	ISM
2018	April	70	D.Light S30	Tagaytay	Laguna	-	BSM
2018	May	50	D.Light S30	Brgy. Puray	Rizal	Mt. Purro Nature Reserve Foundation	Personal donation (Lance and Tricia)
2018	June	50	D.Light S30	Brgy. Puray	Rizal	Mt. Purro Nature Reserve Foundation	OML
2018	June	100	D.Light S30	Mangyan Indigenous Community	Mindoro	-	Personal donation (Monica)
2018	August	18	D.Light S30	Sitio Balon	Rizal	Camp Explore	Personal donation (Rosary)
2018	August	150	D.Light S30	Sitio Paglitaw, Apia	Rizal	Camp Explore	Mela Bautista
2018	December	200	D.Light S30	Camp Explore	Rizal	Camp Explore	Rachell Allen Review Center

OML’s 2018 activities saw the execution of **9 distributions in 7 off-grid communities across 4 provinces**. Roughly **4,000 Filipinos** have benefited from the **804 solar-powered lights** that were distributed in this year.

With a focus on giving support to indigenous communities, our work with Mangyan Indigenous communities continued in 2018. We also reinforced our commitment to reaching indigenous groups by partnering locally with Mt. Purro Nature Reserve Foundation and Camp Explore, groups familiar with Dinagat and other tribes in the the Rizal mountains.



Above: Volunteers and community in a group photo in Nagsasa.



Left: The women of Sitio Nagsasa and their new S30 Lamps.

2019

Distributions: 12 | Lights: 920 | Communities: 9

Year	Month	Volume	Light Model	Communities	Province	Local Partners	External Partners
2019	February	50	D.Light S30	Camp Explore	Rizal	Camp Explore	Eagle Broadcasting Corporation
2019	March	100	D.Light S30	Carnaza Island	Cebu	LGU of Carnaza	Megaworld
2019	May	80	D.Light S30	Camp Explore	Rizal	Camp Explore	BSM
2019	August	20	SM100	Gaspar	Marinduque	Marinducare	Kiwanis Club
2019	August	80	D.Light S30	Gaspar	Marinduque	Marinducare	Kiwanis Club
2019	August	100	D.Light S30	San Felipe	Zambales	SAC Zambales	ISM
2019	September	204	D.Light S30	Suyac Island	Negros Occidental	Diotay (Individual)	Diotay (Individual)
2019	October	100	D.Light S30	Mt. Purro Communities	Rizal	Camp Explore	V&A Law
2019	October	10	D.Light S30	Mt. Purro Communities	Rizal	Camp Explore	OML
2019	November	105	D.Light S30	Ateneo de Zamboanga Partner Communities	Zamboanga	Ateneo de Zamboanga	Ateneo de Zamboanga
2019	November	56	D.Light S30	Brgy. Puray	Rizal	Megaworld	Megaworld
2019	November	15	D.Light S30	Sagada	CAR	Southridge	Southridge



Above: The community of Gaspar listens to a volunteer explain their new solar lights!

OML organized **12 distributions in 9 communities across 7 provinces** in 2019. The provision of **920 solar-powered lights** lead to visible impact to the lives of around **4,500 Filipinos** who have no access to the grid.

Gaspar Island, which was visited in 2017 was returned to for additional distributions in their off-grid island community. More returning projects include those in the Rizal province with Camp Explore. One new location included is Zamboanga, facing the after effects of the 2013 bombings which has reinforced instability in the region, leaving many behind.

Looking at the Maximum Potential Impact in 5 Years*

**assuming that each light does not break within the first 5 years.*

2017

Distributions: 12 | Lights: 1022 | Communities: 9

FINANCIAL SAVINGS

Total Savings of all households with access to OML lamps

P 7,358,400 in savings per year

P 36,792,000 in savings for 5 years

REDUCED CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) EMISSIONS

102,000 kg CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere per year

510,000 kg CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere for 5 years

2018

Distributions: 9 | Lights: 804 | Communities: 7

FINANCIAL SAVINGS

Total Savings of all households with access to OML lamps

P 5,788,800 in savings per year

P 28,944,000 in savings for 5 years

REDUCED CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) EMISSIONS

80,400 kg CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere per year

402,000 kg CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere for 5 years

2019

Distributions: 12 | Lights: 920 | Communities: 9

FINANCIAL SAVINGS

Total Savings of all households with access to OML lamps

P 6,624,000 in savings per year

P 33,120,000 in savings for 5 years

REDUCED CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) EMISSIONS

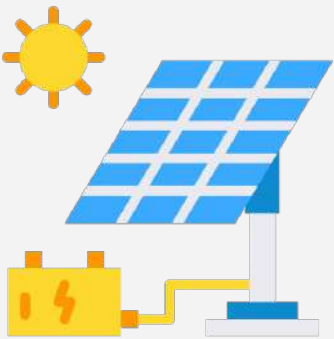
92,000 kg CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere per year

460,000 kg CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere for 5 years

OUR LIGHTS AT A GLANCE

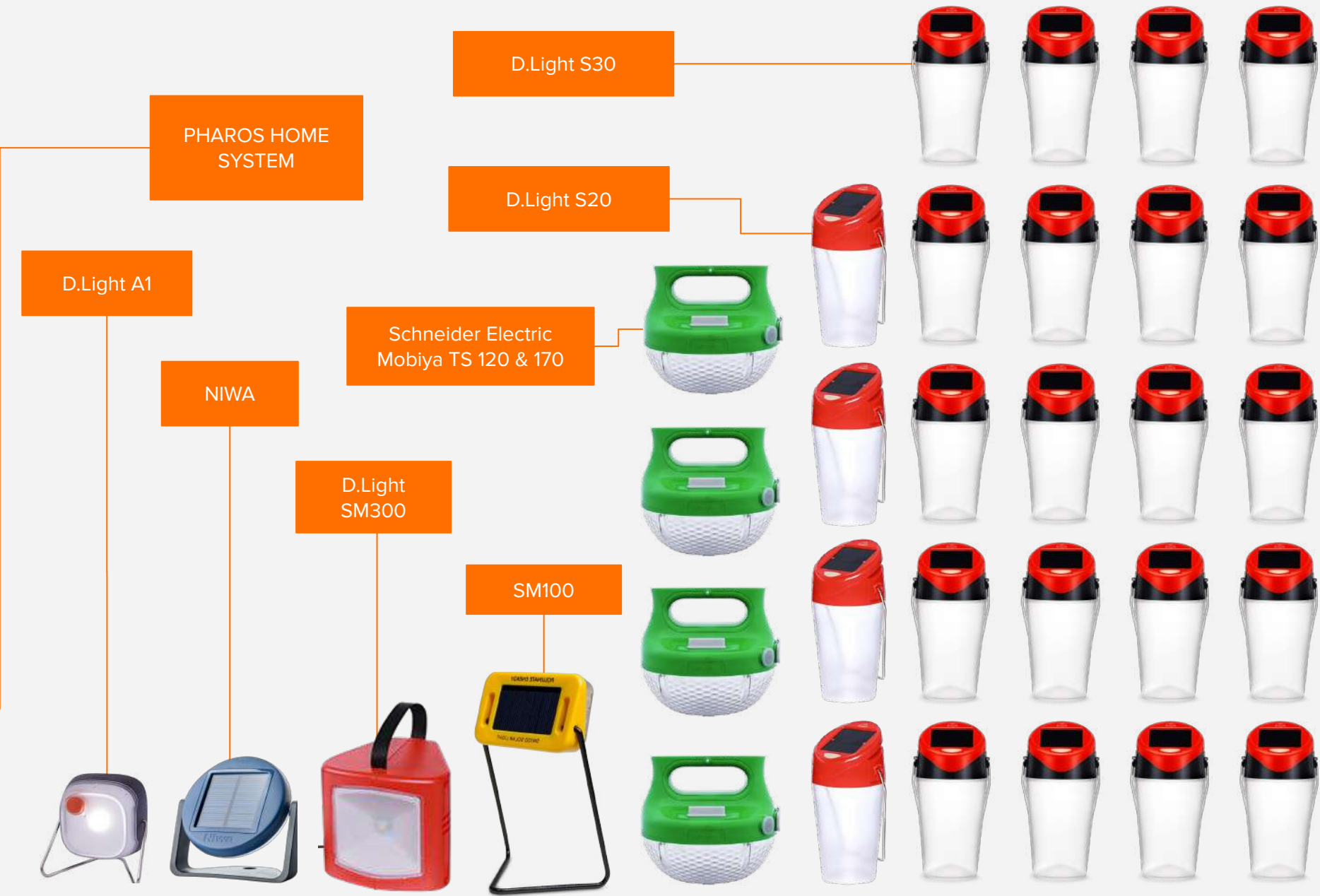
Between 2017-2019, OML distributed **2,746 solar-powered lamps across 33 locations and directly impacting 13,730 lives.** To make that work we do possible, OML is heavily reliant on strong partnerships with suppliers and manufacturers for solar-powered lamps. Thus, we go through a thorough process of screening the quality and reliability of the lights that will end up in the hands of our communities. The last three years have seen the organization use 8 different forms of lighting and energy sources from different partners such as D.Light, Schneider Electric, Niwa, and Pharos.

The graphic below illustrates the share of solar lamp models we've distributed by community (not total amount of light) and the type of lamp we distributed there (more info can be found on pages 5-6).



The **Pharos Home Systems** were distributed in Gaspar Island in partnership with Pharos Off-Grid. With 4x5 solar panels and a PV Power System, the Pharos and its multi-light system was able to **light up healthcare centers and classrooms in the island community.**

The photo above shows local partners and school teachers with the 4x5 panels that light up their classrooms!



OUR IMPACT

Over the past 9 years, we've given lights to a total of 15,732 families in 72 different communities in 40 different provinces of the Philippines.

With the help of corporate sponsors, local NGOs and government units, and a loyal team of volunteers, OML PH has successfully delivered solar-powered lights to off-grid mountain, wetland, and coastal communities all over the Philippines.

These solar-powered lights save a significant amount of income for families living in extreme poverty. With a safe and stable source of light, students are able to study in peace and those who work at night are safer.

Today, we continue to bring light communities that need them and find new ways to empower off-grid Filipinos further.



%30 OF INCOME SAVED

By relieving families living in extreme poverty from spending on kerosene, a solar-powered light can increase savings by as much %30.

₱7,200 IN YEARLY SAVINGS

The amount one family can save from switching from kerosene to solar-powered lamps

₱600 ON KEROSENE PER MONTH

The amount one family can save from switching from kerosene to solar-powered lamps

155,100 kg of CO₂ PER YEAR

With solar lamps, we've managed to stop approximately 155,100kg of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere per year

> 100 kg of CO₂ PER LAMP/YEAR

A kerosene lamp used four hours each night releases more than 100 kg of carbon dioxide each year

Works Cited:
Mills, E. (2005). MillD.Light S2005.pdf. Science Magazine, VOL 308.
Torralba, A. (2018, July 31). Electricity finally arrives at a remote village in Cavite. CNN.
<https://cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/2018/07/31/solar-power-cavite.html>

72
COMMUNITIES

40
PROVINCES

PARTNER
COMMUNITIES

15,732
LIGHTS GIVEN

70,000+
LIVES IMPACTED



CHAPTER 2

2017-2019 IN REVIEW

The past three years have taken us to various off-grid communities across the country. We'd like to show you what that was like.

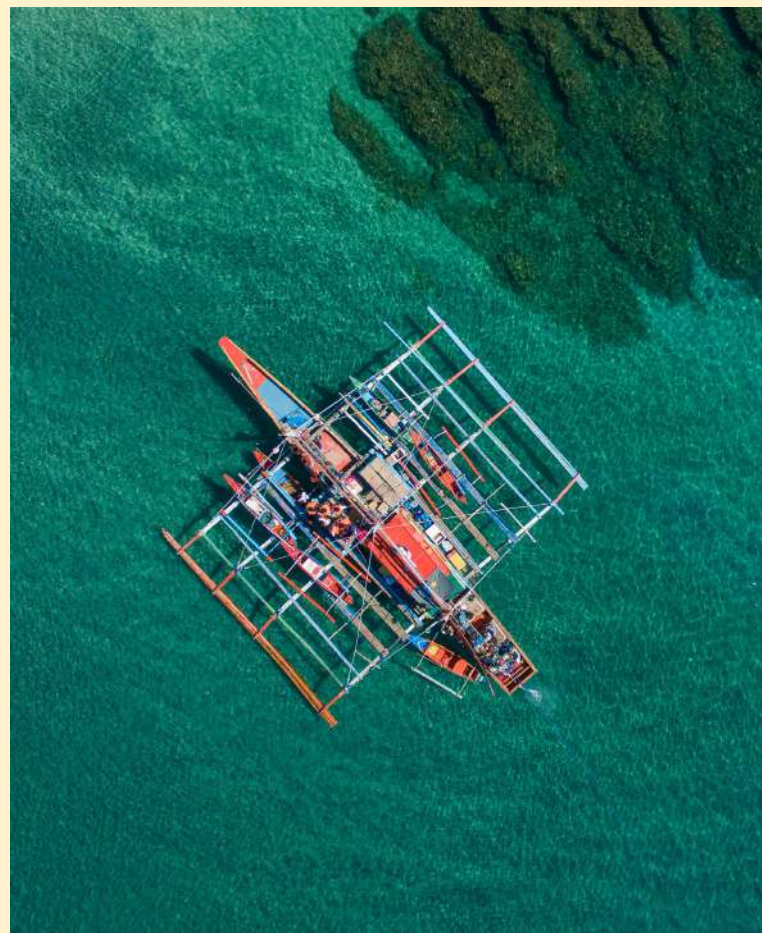


BAIS, DUMAGUETE | 2017
209 LIGHTS

In partnership with Carlson Wagonlit Travel, the OML team traveled to Dumaguete to equip the Bais City Bantay Dagat or the local volunteer shore patrol to better protect a 50-hectare marine and mangrove sanctuary with seaworthy, solar- powered spotlights. Over a hundred local fishermen and their families also received smaller lighting units.



THE BEST OF 2017 - 2019



SAMPALOC COVE, ZAMBALES | 2017
50 LIGHTS

In coordination with National Geographic Asia producer Jason Tarrayo, the OML team travelled to one of the less developed areas of Zambales, only accessible through a two-hour boat ride.

While close to popular tourist destinations, the community is often neglected as it is less known and scenic than its neighboring coves, as well as its relatively remote location. Despite being in mainland Luzon, it is not accessible by car or foot as it is separated by a large mountain without a main road.



BUDA & SAMAL ISLAND, DAVAO | 2017 100 LIGHTS

With the help of Megaworld Foundation, Davao Christian Bible Channel, JCI Kadayawan, and Ateneo De Davao University, OML was able to reach out to three indigent communities in the Davao region.

The Lumad beneficiary communities in the Davao-Bukidnon (Buda) border were victims of the long-standing armed conflicts in Mindanao. OML was originally prevented from visiting their living situations, as several bombings were conducted by insurgents a day prior to our distribution. The beneficiaries had to travel for several hours over kilometers of rocky terrain, some with infected and swollen feet (as some have no footwear) to meet us.

Similar considerations were had for selecting the community in the hills of Samal Island, and the often-neglected indigenous Badjao community along the Davao coast.



THE BEST OF 2017 - 2019



BARANGAY CALAWIS, RIZAL | 2018 100 LIGHTS

In partnership with Mount Purro Nature Reserve, Mela Bautista decided to spend her 50th birthday sponsoring a solar light for 100 families of Barangay Calawis, Rizal.

Despite inclement weather, some beneficiaries hiked 3 or 4 hours by foot (many including nursing mothers and their infants) in order to receive the gift of light. Each family received one solar lamp and a large bucket of food and basic supplies.

Bautista, along with 20 of her closest friends and family, led the program which began with the teaching of lights, followed by a mass, then a meal shared by both volunteers and beneficiaries.

NAGSASA COVE, ZAMBALES | 2018
50 LIGHTS

In the summer, students of the OML British School Manila Chapter fundraised and organized a distribution with a community of fishermen from Nagsasa Cove, Zambales.

The students listened to the stories of the fishermen and their wives and learned more about the culture living in an island an hour away by boat from the nearest town center.

Beneficiaries received a light and a reusable water bottle, as the students also educated the importance of keeping our seas clean and avoiding single-use plastic.



GASPAR ISLAND, MARINDUQUE | 2019
100 LIGHTS

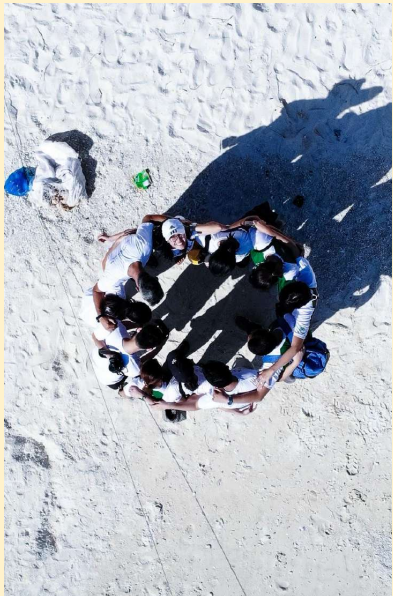
The seas calmed down on one sunny afternoon to allow the safe passage of the OML volunteers to Gaspar Island to distribute solar lights, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club.

Locals shared their stories of how they must cross the ocean to buy food and visit the nearest health center. This poses a problem during the rainy season when turbulent waters encircle the island, preventing travel to the mainland and vice versa for up to two weeks at a time.



THE BEST OF 2017 - 2019





Carnaza Island, Cebu | 2019
100 LIGHTS

OML, together with the lively employees of Cebu Megaworld, sponsored the gift of light to 100 Cebuano families, talked about important public health practices, and played games with the community to get to know them more. It was a fun filled day for both our volunteers and beneficiaries.



THE BEST OF 2017 - 2019

IN SUMMARY

2,746 Lights
33 Locations
13,730 Lives



CHAPTER 3

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

2017-2019 have been exciting years for OML. In the next chapter, we share the news and our plans for the coming year.

OML ISM Chapter bags first place at the 2019 United Nations SGD Film Festival

UN Headquarters, NYC— OML International School Manila (ISM) Chapter wins first place out of a thousand applicants for best short film at the second annual UN Sustainable Development Goals (SGD) Film Festival.

The SGD's in Action Film Festival is a global competition that seeks short films that highlight how people and organizations around the world are taking action for the 17 global goals. It is held every July at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

In 2018, High School students from ISM fundraised and helped organized a distribution of 65 solar lights in Pundaquit, Zambales, a small, beautiful island isolated from the rest of its province.

Later that year, they submitted a documentary-style short film of that project and bested over 1000 applicants for their category.

Co-founders Lorenzo Yao-Bate and Carmel Limcaoco, along with volunteer and film-maker Andy Sanda, were flown from the Philippines to New York City in 2019 to present their film, along with the other finalists of the film festival.

How did you get involved in One Million Lights?

Carmel: Back in 2016 when I was a freshman in High School, I was introduced to the One Million Lights Philippines organization by my good friend Lorenzo Bate and he brought us into contact with Raffy Tanpho, the executive director of OML PH.

From there, we went on a solar lights distribution in a province in the Philippines as volunteers of OML PH, and it was there that we realized how much we take light for granted. You don't realize how important light is to a person until you enter a community that literally has none.



(Left to Right) Andy Sanda, Carmel Limcaoco, Lorenzo Yao-Bate at the UN SGD Film Festival in New York City

From there, we went on a solar lights distribution in a province in the Philippines as volunteers of OML PH, and it was there that we realized how much we take light for granted. You don't realize how important light is to a person until you enter a community that literally has none.

After that service trip in 2016, we came back and decided to start our own youth branch of the organization. We were able to gather 10 youth volunteers from our school and since then, we've fundraised and organized our own distributions, including this one in Zambales.

For Lorenzo and Carmel: What was it like to lead your own chapter?

Since we had very little experience leading anything at this scale, there were a lot of new experiences and learning opportunities. It was quite difficult at the start and I found it very daunting since we were just freshmen taking on this massive task.

However, with the support of our team, the OML Philippine chapter, and our parents, we managed to raise money and travel to our first distribution in Rizal. This gave us a boost of confidence, motivating us to successfully plan several distributions and fundraisers. I felt that overcoming these initial hardships and seeing the impact of these lights on the communities made this whole experience extremely rewarding.

Where will OML ISM go from here? What's next?

In our distribution last year, we brought a group of ISM students from the year below in order to introduce them to the procedure of planning and executing a distribution — these incoming seniors will be leading the organization until they graduate. Given this current difficult situation, their plans for distributions and large fundraisers are put on hold, which is quite disappointing for them. I'm sure when it is safe again, they'll be very eager to jump right into it.

What's your message for the youth who want to also make a difference?

The biggest discovery is finding something you're passionate about. The passion you find will really act as a motivating factor for yourself and for others to join you in your cause. For me, one difficulty was keeping myself motivated, especially back when we were still trying to build the chapter. My driving force was to remember why I started this in the first place — to give back to the community in a unique way, through something so common in our everyday lives. My passion to help the less fortunate really pushed me to never give up.

“You don't realize how important light is to a person until you enter a community that literally has none.”



GIVE POWER PARTNERSHIP



Kishor Rimal from GivePower in Brgy. Puray, Antipolo

GivePower is a non-profit organization based San Francisco, California. Its mission is to develop clean water and energy systems in communities across the world.

With the work of engineers, developers and clean energy thought leaders, GivePower has deployed 2,650 renewable energy systems in villages across 17 different countries and in underdeveloped areas of the United States. These systems provide food, water and light to those who need it most.

GivePower's green technologies empower communities, preserve biodiversity, enable conservation efforts, and provide a blueprint for global infrastructure solutions.

OML takes GivePower's Solar Trek Program to the Philippines

In Q4 2019, OML PH and US-based non-profit GivePower had been able to solidify a partnership to bring solar-power systems to off-grid communities in the Philippines.

Among the different renewable energy NGOs in the Philippines, GivePower has chosen OML PH to be their partner in initiating their Solar Trek Program in the country and Southeast Asia.

The program takes volunteers to underserved, geographically isolated communities to build a solar-power system that can light up schools, community centers, clinics, and empower livelihoods.

These long-term projects aim to strengthen communities by bringing opportunities in education, health, and social development through renewable energy. OML PH sees this to work towards true sustainability and long-term security for its partner communities.

The initial projects are slated for 2020, with the first in Concepcion, Iloilo.

The proposed system is explained in the next page.



SOLAR POWERED CHARGING STATIONS

One Million Lights will provide **portable, weatherproof solar power stations with a 5.1 kWh lifelong battery**, that are capable of powering appliances, charging phones and batteries, and providing light.



MISSION 5100

- ☀️ 3000W pure sine wave converter
- ☀️ Solar charge controller with digital panel meter
- ☀️ Assorted outlet ports
- ☀️ Portable and weather-proof

community centers

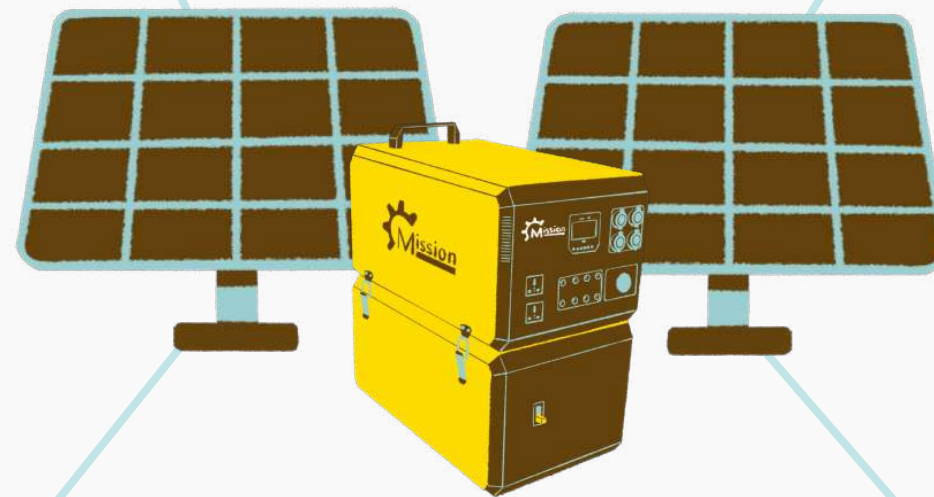


The solar-power station can be used by the LGU, school, other centers, and community events.

homes



The solar-power station can be used to conveniently charge large batteries and portable lights, which can be used by the whole family.

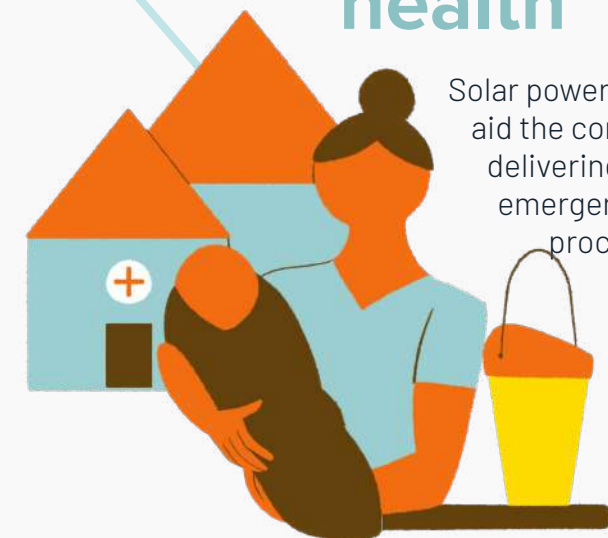


work & livelihood

Solar power will aid the community through the provision of a safe source of light and can allow opportunities to augment income with the use of tools and appliances.



health



Solar power can be used to aid the community with delivering babies and emergency medical procedures.



CHAPTER 4

FEATURED SPONSORS

Through the help of generous sponsors, OML is able to bring light to off-grid Filipino families. In the next pages, we present some of these partners.

UNILEVER PHILIPPINES



Unilever Philippines, one of the biggest companies in the Philippine, is subsidiary of the British-Dutch FMCG corporation.

The company has over 400 brands, manufacturing laundry detergents and soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners, toothpastes, deodorants, skin care products, household cleaners, and toilet soaps with an annual sales of over 40 billion pesos. It employs over 1,000 people nationally.

UNILEVER PHILIPPINES' LADIES CHOICE PROVIDES LIGHT FOR 107 FAMILIES IN NEED

In February 2017, the Ladies Choice team from Unilever Philippines distributed lights to 107 families in Cawit, Marinduque.

The project was their second with OML PH, their first being a distribution of 121 lights in Rizal the previous year.

Cawit, Marinduque is home to many off-grid families. Due to the poor infrastructure and lack of roads in the province, many communities are still accessible only by hike and have yet to be connected to main power lines.

Brave volunteers from Ladies Choice made the trip to Marinduque to be able to give the lights themselves and meet the community—hearing their stories on what it means to live without light.



RACHELL ALLEN PROFESSIONALS



Rachell Allen Professionals is an international company that provides review courses for nurses applying to work abroad.

Their course offerings include review classes for the NCLEX-RN/PN for USA and Canada, the UK-CBT for the United Kingdom and HAAD, DHA, MOH, Prometric-RN for the Middle East.

RACHELL ALLEN PROFESSIONALS SHARE LIGHT, HEALTH, AND KNOWLEDGE WITH DUMAGATS FROM RIZAL

OML PH and volunteers from Rachell Allen Professionals held a distribution with 200 families from various communities in the Brgy. Calawis basketball court in December 2018. Two hundred lamps, alongside basic health and hygiene kits were given to representatives from families without electricity.

Many of these families belong to the Dumagat indigenous group– some of which live as far as a four hour hike away from the barangay center.

Most of the volunteers from Rachell Allen are nurses by profession and were able to give helpful medical tips for treating health concerns in isolated areas and prevention of illnesses.



MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Megaworld Corporation is one of the biggest real estate developers in the Philippines.

The company is known for building residential condominiums and commercial properties in the urban centers of the Philippines. It's vision is to We uplift lives, impact society and help shape the nation.



MEGAWORLD CORPORATION CEBU VOLUNTEERS SHARE LIGHT WITH CARNAZA ISLAND

In November 2019, OML accompanied volunteers from Megaworld Cebu to Carnaza Island to share a solar-powered light with 100 families.

Despite being hours of travel by land and sea away, a group of volunteers from Megaworld Cebu chose to spend their weekend to bring lights to the residents of Carnaza Island.

The distribution was done in the island community's *barangay* hall and was capped off with a meal of gratitude from the community.

Carnaza is an island 2-3 hours by boat from the mainland of Cebu. Because of this, it is not as popular with tourists as nearby Malapascua Island, which is easier to visit. Carnaza's geographic inaccessibility makes it difficult to electrify. The island's residents have intermittent or no access to electricity.



MEGAWORLD



CHAPTER 5

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY STORIES

Sharing light makes life brighter not only for our partner communities, but our volunteers as well. Here we share a few testimonies from our beneficiaries and team.

COMMUNITY STORIES

“There is no other way to reach our little island except by boat. We have to make sure to keep enough food and supplies because sometimes when it rains, the waves are too strong to cross for days. If there is an emergency, our boys take the 30 min boat ride anyway. If the boat sinks, they have to swim back to the island.

Swimming is essential when you live here. It’s one of the first things we teach our children.” - Ate Earna, sari-sari store owner, Gaspar Island, Marinduque

Ate Earna, 32

Sari-Sari Store Owner

Gaspar Island, Marinduque

COMMUNITY STORIES

I've had this generator for 3 years but I don't really use it. When you connect, you need to pay for one week. If you don't pay, they will cut you off. Sometimes, we pay, sometimes we don't. When we have money, we will connect again, that's how it is. Gasoline is very expensive, especially when you live by yourself. If you live with other people, you only pay P25 a day. Alone, you pay P200. And when you pay, sometimes the light is already gone by 9pm. That's the biggest problem, but there is no choice.

The solar light will help, because obviously when there is no more light, you can still see. You can cook in the night, or take care of the baby, you don't have to use a lamp anymore. The generator lasts for a very short time, but you can always use this light.

We've been waiting for these lights for two years, only now has it been approved. It's been so long. This distribution got postponed three times— January, February, March. In April, it finally happened.

All of us wanted this so much. That's why we waited.

Melita Delos Santos, 69

Pundaquit, Zambales





VOLUNTEER STORIES

"If you ask me why I continue to work for OML, I think about the state of the world and get scared for our future. But for now, I believe in two things. First, it's that if you can do something to help, you should. Second, I want to enjoy life as much as I can without hurting anyone or the planet.

One Million Lights let's me do both those things. We're a young team that believes in creating change today. We're working on a better future not just for ourselves, but for off-grid Filipino communities. And with One Million Lights, I get to learn a little more about the world and it's people every day. So the question is, why should I stop?"

Paulina Ocampo, 25

Country Director 2019 - Present

Volunteer - 2018 - 2019





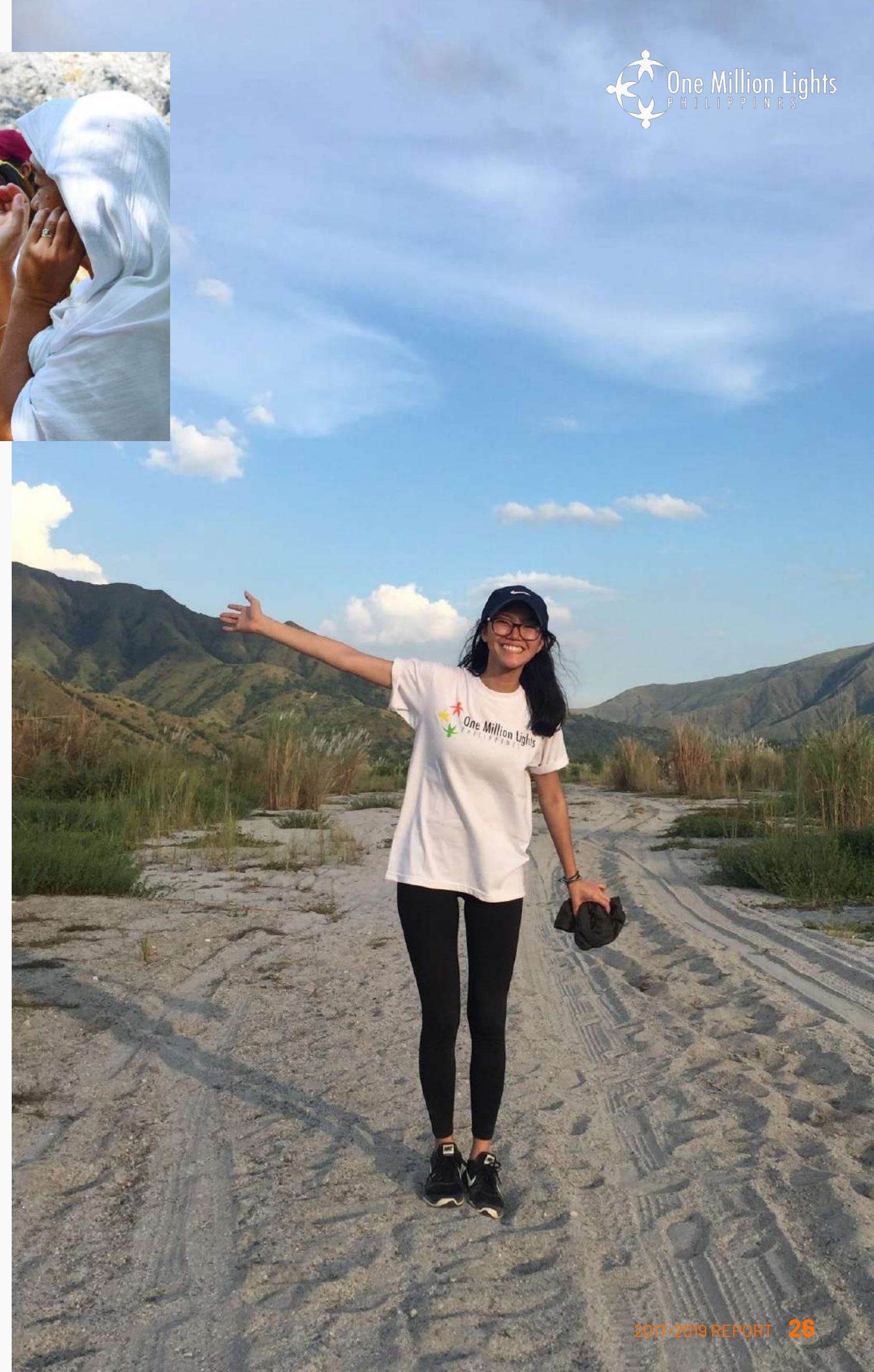
VOLUNTEER STORIES

“From water, land, and sea, to boats, trikes, planes or by foot, we meet families from different communities, enhance their quality of life, and create new opportunities with what we take most for granted: light.

In only a few hours, the impact I can create with OML is what strikes me. I don't remember all their names, but I always remember their faces I remember their gratitude, sometimes confusion, and hopes for better futures.

OML gives me the opportunity to help and if I can positively impact the life of just one person, the work is something I'll always be willing to do. No matter how long and rough the journey even on no shower days, the experience is always worth it.”

Luisa Gamboa, 25





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