

MEDOR'S SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM

There is no electrical grid in Medor. For most residents of Medor, nightfall means total darkness, since few can afford kerosene to power lamps or small generators. Even when families can afford to use candles or kerosene lanterns, they are dangerous because of the risk of fire and illness from inhaling smoke and soot. Due to the remoteness of the area and the difficulty in getting materials to Medor, there are no street lamps. Students cannot study at night, household chores must stop, small businesses must close, and community members must walk over the treacherous mountains in darkness.

OLQP supports Medor's Solar Energy Program, which is a sustainable, long-term, and affordable way to provide light to this isolated mountain community. Solar energy is cheap and sustainable, and "Enèji Pwòp" (Haitian Creole for "clean energy").

Previously, the parish's only electricity was supplied by a gas-powered generator (gasoline must be hand-carried up the mountain and is very expensive). The generator was used to power the rectory and, on special occasions, the church.

Starting in 2013, OLQP and St. Joseph parish began working with Technosol, a Haitian company, to install solar panels in Medor. That year, electricity from solar panels began to power the secondary school's computer lab and the rectory. In 2016, Technosol installed panels that provide electricity to the convent, the church, the parish clinic, and the secondary school office. Currently, plans are underway to expand the system to provide solar power to the secondary school library.

The current solar panels provide light and power to the parish buildings in the village of Medor itself. There is still more important work to be done. The 60 students who live in the student dorm are clamoring for solar power so that they can study at night. Since most students must help with chores during the day, night time is the optimum time for them to study. Without light, evening study is impossible. Furthermore, Medor's twelve outlying chapel buildings, including four schools, are currently without light or power, other than that provided by small solar lamps, which means it is impossible for these schools to use computer learning tools.

Until sufficient funds are raised, the students in the dorm and members of the 12 chapel communities must rely on 30 Panasonic solar lanterns (provided in October 2017). OLQP's Haiti Committee will continue to partner with the people of Medor to bring light to their community.



Père Luckson displays the solar panels installed on the roof of the church.



Girls in the student dorm study at night with solar lanterns.