Helping keep the Aeta community alight

In the remote mountains of Luzon, the largest island of the Philippines, live a community of indigenous people – the Aeta. They survive on their skills in agricultural farming, but historically, they've struggled for light and electricity.

This changed a few years ago when the matriarchs of the Aeta tribe travelled to Barefoot College in Rajasthan to learn how to power their community sustainably. The women trained as engineers and learned to make, install, and maintain solar-powered lamps.

These women became known as the Solar Lolas.

Having lit their communities with their lamps, they've increased productivity and been able to become more financially independent. But today, they need funds to keep their community alight.

Since 2015, we've supported the Tanging Tanglaw Solar Lolas initiative, raising money and creating sustainable change through:

Financial literacy programmes to share entrepreneurial skills and encourage independence.

Seed funding of US$20,000 to get new initiatives off the ground quickly and effectively.

Future ideas sessions to encourage the Aeta people to envision the future of their community – such as running water, electricity and a better road network – and to make those dreams a reality.