



Camillian Task Force - Central

Quarterly Bulletin

CROSSOVER



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CTF LATIN AMERICA WORKSHOP: *Collaborative Inquiry and Social Mobilization*

Meeting again the people who worked together during emergencies around the world, offering their lives for the mission that Saint Camillus has initiated, has been always a source of joy to every soul that seeks social justice through the merciful message of Jesus' love for all the suffering victims of disasters around the world.

On the 13th of August 2012, in Lima, Peru, a workshop on disaster management with the Latin American Camillian Task Force was organized. It was attended by CTF representatives from Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Peru, the host country. The workshop was organized by the CTF Central (Rome, Italy), and facilitated by a Canadian expert Prof. Daniel Buckles of the Carleton University of Ottawa-Canada. He guided the intervention and the strategic planning in emergency and disaster situations.

The first day was a national situationaire given by Ms. Miluska Tatiana Collas and Ms. Rosario Muñoz, representatives of INDECI (National Institute of Civil Defense), a government agency responsible for prevention, intervention and emergency management in Peru.

All the participants - religious men and women, lay Camillian Family and professionals were inspired by the merciful love of St. Camillus, with the great challenge of giving witness to the merciful love of Jesus to all those who are suffering through a concrete response in case of emergency and disaster.

The workshop proper began on the second day. The aim of this session was to learn and practice the tools of collaborative inquiry, planning and managing of disasters' and emergencies' risks.

As first activity, the participants were asked which

agencies in their country that they can possibly collaborate with and in particular when, where and how. In response to the question, the participants were divided into four groups, according to their country of origin:

Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Peru.



Participants of the SAS2 Workshop's culminating activity

The groups had identified public and private agencies involved in emergency and disaster management, where in the CTF can collaborate.

As second activity, the facilitator asked the participants to choose a type of disaster that occurred in their country, identifying the type, describing the area and

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analyzing how it happened. Starting with this information, the groups developed activities on how to prevent risks in the future.

The day ended with identifying three common examples of disasters that occurred in their countries (earthquake, tsunami and flood) and identifying three to four risks related to each phase and ordering it according to the degree of importance following the three phases of the cycle of disaster (prevention, response and recovery).

Starting from the theme which was discussed during the first day regarding the most important dangers when a disaster occurs, Prof. Daniel Buckles, facilitator of the workshop, has presented the "Cycle of Disaster," with its different phases: prevention, preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

He asked the participants what is the most urgent and necessary phase/s that the Latin American CTF has to focus. Various phases were discussed and the group has considered prevention and response as one of the most urgent steps to undertake. This emphasized the importance of strengthening local actors to ensure that the aid or intervention is effective and identifying the available resources in order to achieve a long-term intervention.

Then, the group was divided into two according to gender. Each group has received a list of the most important hazards that may occur during emergencies. The hazards have been ordered according to their importance based on the opinion of each group. Then, the list was re-ordered according to their importance based on the criteria that each group considered relevant to the other group.

At the end of the group work, the participants formed two (men and women) rows and began comparing the results. The priorities of each group have been compared and identified the three most significant differences: incompetence, absence of escape routes and safe places as commonly agreed and understood. Men and women showed different criteria of giving priority to the most important hazards in the disaster response phase. To resolve the differences, a dialogue was utilized.

By Sebastian Maldo Vivar, Marcelo Valentim de Oliveira, MI, Andrés García Vasquez, MI

Moro community-based organizations strengthened

With the aim of strengthening community-based organizations to ensure stakeholders' participation and local ownership of the project, each formation of Suara Bangsamoro (Voice of the Bangsamoro)—an existing community-based organization

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Rebuilding the lives of Muslim minorities



The name CROSSOVER was inspired by the gospel of Mark (4:35-41) when Jesus invited his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake and their boat was battered by heavy storm that it almost sank. Fear had overshadowed them and Jesus rose from sleep and calmed the sea. Just like St. Camillus in his time who crossed over the confines of the hospitals and came to rescue the victims of floods, war and pestilence. The enormous strength and enduring compassion of the Camillians are demonstrated during these times of war and calamities.

CROSSOVER attempts to bring to you the news and events of the CTF in the world. It envisions to enrich the memory of our past through the present realities and challenges us to propel the steering wheel onwards and actively engage in the signs of the times.

Everybody is invited to contribute their stories, views, reflections and news in the field of humanitarian and pastoral mission. Please send to ctf@camilliani.org.

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in the beneficiary villages of Iligan hinterlands—conducted their respective assemblies.

In their respective assemblies, the chapters finalized the project components and drafted policies governing the project implementation. Each formation created Committee on Production that will administer the details of the project implementation while the organization is busy attending to equally-important tasks of education, campaigns and conflict resolutions in their communities. The Executive Committees at the village level will supervise each Committee on Production, and at the supervisory point, will monitor and evaluate the project, and will learn lessons from its current implementation and craft relevant resolutions to better execute other components of it in the future.

Seeds and farm tools dispersal

Variety of seeds and farm tools were distributed each to the beneficiary communities to a total of 850 families. Seeds that distributed were in array relative to what suits the land conditions of every village—eggplants, chives, onions, tomatoes, pechay, squash, bitter melon, string beans, corn, etc. Farm tools include bolo, weeding bolo, and scythe.

The Committee on Production of each formation of Suara Bangsamoro facilitated the distribution, with the aid of community members contributing manpower for the hauling since areas like Lanipao, Dulag and Kalilangan are remote hinterland areas and roads are impassable by big vehicles.

Initial Impact Assessment

The beneficiary communities have yet to fully-recover from the havoc wrought by TS Washi. Many international NGOs and other humanitarian organizations did not stay long after the cameras have left Northern Mindanao. As a result, hunger, as an

immediate effect of the loss of livelihoods and farms of the people, is still felt.

Combined with other interventions of RMP-NMR, the project found its place in the long struggle for recovery of the affected communities. The recovery of their farms, as the beneficiaries believe, is the most sustainable initiative that will ensure food for the table in the future. While most of the communities have been able to start planting, RMP-NMR mobilized resources from CARE Nederland to implement cash-for-work activities to fill-in the gap in ensuring present needs for food while the farmers are waiting for the harvest.

Unlike the dole-out approach of the local government and other humanitarian organizations during emergencies, early recovery and rehabilitation project in this RMP-NMR and CTF-Mindanao initiative have been incorporated in community empowerment and development to see to it that interventions do not reduce beneficiaries as mendicants—relying to charities without discovering their potentials as a group of people with capacities to collectively change their lives ruined by disasters.

The project, at this very early stage, helped in uniting the people to collectively resolve the misery that they have, and improved their sense of community. Because of this intervention it enabled them to have a say on what kind of project the donor should extend to them through consultation as a beneficiary community, it helped promote direct democracy—the hallmark of indigenous culture that can be seen in the *ijima* (consultation) and *shur'a* (consensus) being practiced by the community. With this project supporting this democratic processes of the community, thereby empowering them to have a voice in the rehabilitation process, local ownership and sustainability of the project is ensured.

Chapters of Suara Bangsamoro are now being further strengthened to ready the community in managing other on-coming components of the project such as the livestock dispersal and cooperatives.

by RMP- NMR



TYPHOON GENER (SAOLA) BATTERED METRO MANILA - CTF ON THE MOVE

Weeks of non-stop torrential rains have killed 51 people across the Philippines and forced thousands of residents to flee their homes on Tuesday (7 August 2012). The heavy floods covered half of the Philippine capital Manila and pounded the nearby provinces. Water levels reached over some residents' head in several districts, where rescue workers brought those ma-

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(TYPHOON GENER ... from page 3)

rooned by rubber boats to higher ground. The flooding crippled traffic, shut down the stock market, and prompted schools and government offices to close. Welfare department said over 20,000 affected people across Manila and nearby provinces are staying in evacuation shelters, which are converted by schools and sports gyms. The floods raised fears of a disaster on the scale of Typhoon Ketsana in 2009, when 80 percent of Manila was flooded, and more than 700 people were killed.

The Camillians immediately responded to the flooding actively addressing the plight of the affected people, especially those living in the neighborhood of our communities in Metro Manila, namely: Phase 9 Brgy. Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, Dulong Parola and Tawi-Tawi, Cainta Rizal, parts of Tumana, Marikina City and Makati. With active stand, Camillians have gained everybody's appreciation and many individuals have voluntarily donated goods and food to the Camillians, knowing that they would distribute to those in need. The relief work carried out by the Camillians falls under the coordination of the local Camillian Task Force, a Committee set to coordinate the Camillian response to natural and man-made calamities.

by Dan Cancino, MI

CTF PHILIPPINES IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE URBAN POOR OF CORAZON DE JESUS

Brgy. Corazon de Jesus (The Village of the Heart of Jesus) in San Juan, Manila is a small village of which majority are slum dwellers, or as popularly called "informal settlers". According to their accounts, most of the informal settlers have started to develop the place since 1930's as their shelter. It is a public land, or government property and during that time, there were no high rise buildings or commercial establishments. The place was very conducive to live in because there were plenty of fruit bearing trees, a clean river, and people can plant vegetables.

After several years, San Juan becomes one of the richest municipality in Manila, commercial buildings, hotels and businesses have established in a short time. One of the richest clan, the Estrada family have been in control of the local government for years and they have accumulated properties, especially on land acquisition. The informal settlers in their attempt to protect their shelter, have filed petitions in early 1970's to the government, until former President Marcos declared that parcel of public land occupied by the informal settlers was to be given to them. This proclamation was honored by the succeeding Pres. Corazon Aquino. But when Pres. Joseph Estrada assumed presidency, this proclamation was not anymore recognized, but instead, the whole public land was appropriated for government use. This worsened the already deplorable condition of the informal settlers in Corazon de Jesus.

The forcible eviction on January 13 was one of the most violent experiences of the informal settlers being done by the local authorities. The government mobilized hundreds of policemen, hired demolition and security guards, and military men in full battle geared. All the peo-

ple that resisted in demolishing their houses were physically harassed, violated, and threatened. Others were arrested and detained. They also used high powered firearms, teargas and bulldozers in evicting families. Such actuations are in violation of the established laws and blatant violations of human rights. Despite all efforts of the people in preventing the demolition, the local authorities successfully destroyed all structures including personal properties of the people.

To escape further illegal arrests by police authorities, the victims were forced to find a place shelter for their beloved children, women and the sick members of their families. Before the midnight of January 13, 2012, 60 families were accommodated by TFUC at the Kanlungan Shelter. Despite its simple office, the TFUC was forced to accommodate the 60 families who were victims of forced eviction in Brgy. Corazon de Jesus. Most of the families have children and babies. There were five pregnant women and lactating mothers, and sick elderly. The Kanlungan Shelter has only five big rooms, so in every room there were almost 8 to 10 families that shared together. The male members sought vacant places in halls at night where they can sleep so that children and women will occupy the rooms. Every nook and cranny was saturated. Eights tents were temporarily constructed in every vacant places outside the shelter for 15 families. They creatively made necessary adjustments to make the temporary shelter a tolerable place to live in. Each family has its own corner where they can cook food, eat

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together, and rest.

The services provided by the Kanlungan Shelter After a week of conducting family evaluation, TFUC tried to address the different needs of each family by tapping different networks and benefactors. The most urgent then was food, health care and clothing. Through the CTF Philippines, the center was able to provide the following services: health program and medication, food and financial assistance for livelihood, children's playgroup and therapy, educational assistance, therapy sessions for de-

pressed mothers, and facilitated legal assistance, reflections and sharing as one way of conducting group therapy.

It is very enriching and healing experience for the families to speak out, to express their emotions and fears. Compassion abounds.

They felt stronger in the midst of injustice and tragedy. They were working as one big family in the Kanlungan Shelter. It took five to six months to prepare and start a new life outside the Kanlungan Shelter.

by TFUC

Last June 5-6, 2012, the CTF Central has organized in Burkina Faso a promotion program on disasters response. It was facilitated by Bro. Luca Perletti (CTF Central, Roma). The activity was attended by religious and lay people from Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo.

The aim of the program was to promote awareness of the increasing impact of disasters and its challenges ; an awareness of the increasing connection between natural disasters and injustice and poverty, and the integration of the Camillian Task Force mission, apart from the ordinary activities of the Camillians.

During the first day, an introductory presentation on the general themes and terminology of disasters was presented by Dr. Konkobo Modets, of Red Cross Burkina, followed by P. Jean Baptiste Ouedraogo, MI who developed an interesting presentation on the theological aspects of suffering in particular the innocent suffering in the African context. In the afternoon, Bro. Luca has presented the CTF pastoral perspective.

The second day aimed to identify the appropriate response . An exercise was conducted by Bro. Luca to identify the available resources, to prioritize the response, case study analysis of the situation of refugees in Mali and a presentation of the CTF program and protocol.

At the end of the two days, the participants expressed their desire to continue exploring the tools in disaster management, like the Social Analysis System 2 (SAS2) .

It was hoped that the issue of disaster response will act as a driving force for collaboration between the Vice Province of Burkina and the Delegation of Benin - Togo.

By Luca Perletti, MI

CTF Promotion Program in Western Africa

BURKINA FASO



PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION FOR THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS OF SAN FELICE SUL PANARO (MO) BY CCF

San Felice sul Panaro is a city with 11,135 inhabitants located in the province of Modena at about 35 km away from the capital and a few kilometers from neighboring towns of Mirandola and Finale Emilia. It is part of the Modena Cities North Area Union.

On May 20, 2012, an earthquake has struck the provinces of Modena, Ferrara and Mantova with its epicenter at Finale Emilia. A week after (May 29), another earthquake hit the northern part of Italy with its epicenter at the area between Mirandola, Medolla and San Felice sul Panaro. On May 31, another 4.0 magnitude earthquake hit the lowlands of Reggio Emilia and the Po river (Mantova) with its epicenter in Rolo and Novi di Modena which has been already hit previously. These tremors were followed by a series of aftershocks of varied magnitudes. The two major earthquakes have left a total of 27 victims mostly employees of the destroyed factories. In response to this event, a tent city was organized.

Contribution of the Camillian Formation Centre of Verona

The Camillian Task Force has contacted the staff of the Camillian Formation Centre of Verona (CCF) to plan a psychosocial intervention program in one of the tents in the tent city coordinated by the Confraternity of Misericordie in San Felice sul Panaro.

On June 2012 the CCF team launched an intervention program with the following objectives:

- To provide the population in the tent (workers, volunteers, and the victims) with professional help by trained volunteers;
- To activate playrooms for children and space wherein they could ventilate and share their horrible experiences and overcome their fears;
- To provide counseling to the victims who are preparing to return to their homes as identified by the staff;
- To assist the tent city staff in organizing evening activities.

Fifteen (15) counselors, trained in Pastoral Counselling by the CCF had joined the project. The counselors had listened and accompanied them at the tent city from July to August on Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends.

There were forty tents in the tent city with big tents for dining and playroom, kitchen, laundry, bathrooms and showers, clinic and the administration. Each tent was equipped with air conditioning unit. Common areas, especially bathrooms and showers, were cleaned and disinfected regularly by volunteers throughout the day.

In the tent under the care of Misericordie, 80% of the victims were migrants belonging to 16 different ethnic

groups and the 20% were Italians from South of Italy (Naples in particular). Of these, 236 were adults and about thirty were minors.

The counselors held the children's activities in the playroom doing clay moulding, miming songs, solving puzzles and listening to their experiences. The adults were given an opportunity to ventilate their experiences in the coffee bar and in the counseling room to help them ease their tensions. They shared about their horrible experiences and their difficulties perceived in returning to normal life and their complains on the condition of the tent for various reasons.

The prevalent emotion that surfaced was the fear of coming back to their homes; the uncertainty of the situation thinking that the worst might happen; anger over the lack of clarity about rebuilding their houses, and desperation due to loss jobs and houses. The event has aggravated their problematic situation then.

The listening activity was also extended to the rescuers who were also in need of support and guidance. Joining with them during lunch has given them opportunities for an informal sharing and listening to their experiences.

At the organizational level, there was a certain difficulty of coordination between the CCF volunteers and the field-in-charge. The field leader is changed almost every week and the new comer has no idea of the ongoing activities. It has been felt that the volunteers' presence and contribution (CCF) were not fully maximized.

The people were grateful for the friendship that has been created which reveals the efficacy of the counselors' intervention.

Malaika Ribolati, CCF - Verona



Misericordie volunteers during an exercise with the children in the camp

ENGAGING IN PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER INTERVENTION

This phase is a continuation of the program we had for the past six months. The targeted 7 villages remained the same: Hodhan, Alimaow, Barwaqoo, Maalim Salat, Makoror, Gotade and Jogoo. The food stuff given were rice, beans and oil. We served a total of 900 people where each individual beneficiary receives a ration of 12 kgs. rice, 6 kgs. beans and 1 litre of oil. The parameters used for the selection of the beneficiaries were body mass index (BMI), Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) in centimeters and the general health condition. Clients who were not present physically during the Phase I Intervention were excluded in order to have a good follow up and consistent recording.

However, individuals who were excluded from the phase II program received some food supplies donated by the Rotary Club, Italy. This included pasta, sardines, sugar and kids food. We served a total of 1,500 individuals (900 adults/600 children) with each getting a ratio of 2.5kgs pasta, 4 cans of sardines and 1kg of sugar. They all received with great appreciation from the donors. The kids food has helped a lot of children who had feeding difficulty due to oral thrush. An improvement of these among children was noticed by Sr. Catherine, the one in-charge of the dispensary.

The mobile clinic has targeted the same villages that we carry out the nutrition program. The CTF team did not only emphasize on the curative aspect but also on prevention, i.e., health education on prevalent diseases such as diarrhea, worms infestation, suppurated otitis media, arthritis and the way forward on prevention and social support required.

So far, we have served 4 villages (Alimaow, Barwaqoo, Gotade, and Makoror), with relatively good turn out in each village. This exercise has been facilitated by the two CTF clinicians (Br. Joseph, Mr. William), a nurse Ms. Mary Mwangi, Deacon Wasike and Mr. Barud who helps in translation. In summary, we were able to treat a total of 466 patients, of which 200 were children (1 month - 12 yrs.) and 266 adults in a span of nine visits. Respiratory Tract Infections (RTI) had high incidences in

children as well as pneumonia, common cold, suppurative otitis media and tonsillitis. Other diseases of concern were fungal infections, helminthiasis, gastro enteritis and conjunctivitis. Among adult cases are arthritis, pneumonia, hemorrhoids, malaria and enteric fever were more common.

Food Security/Production program (FSP)

The CTF established green houses at Maumau about 5 km. from Wajir town. However it was noticed that some tomato seedlings that were put in the nursery did not germinate well due to the salty water that was used at the initial stage. The Amirans Kenya Company that supplies the seeds advised for planting of other new seedlings and use of fresh water. Other seeds have been brought and already planted with all precaution taken.

Community Based Health Care, Health and sanitation Programs

These two programs are yet to kick off due to extensive planning and organization at the community level. There is still more negotiations between the CTF office on one hand and the Public Health office, the community on the other hand. The proposed training of the CHEWs is scheduled in the next few weeks. The sanitation program is about to start by constructing latrines in the villages using Ecosan Toilets.

CTF Team's Challenges

Some challenges encountered are the following:

1. Inter-clan rivalry and wars in some villages like Maalim Salat and Hodhan
2. Crash programs with other NGOs who are engaged in similar activities hence frequent rescheduling
3. Cultural and traditional beliefs on medicines
4. Break out of war in the neighboring Somalia country over Alshabaab militias
5. Language barrier during community meetings leading to lack of proper communication
6. There is some laxity from the public health office that we are liaising with in terms of CHEWS training. For example, they keep on changing the dates for training since they are rarely available yet, don't delegate it to other trainers.

by William Njagi Mureithi, Br. Joseph Khiyaniri, MI





CROSS OVER

Camillians

Camillians are powerful agents of humanization. They have unique knowledge and skills that could be crucial when addressing the victims of disasters, caring and sharing with them.

13 OCTOBER 2012
WORLD DAY
OF THE VICTIMS OF DISASTER

What can YOU do?

- ⇒ Organize an event in your community
- ⇒ Promote the celebration through internet (mailing list, banner, web site,...)
- ⇒ Produce multimedia tools to accompany our reflections (video, powerpoint,...)
- ⇒ Create formative tools for learning and formation
- ⇒ Insert this flyer in any Camillian publications to inform and raise funds for the Camillian Task Force

- To promote global awareness on disasters with special attention to the issues of social justice and health;
- To awaken and inform the Camillians and our partners about disasters as "signs of the times";
- To raise funds for emergency purposes as well as for ongoing emergency interventions worldwide;
- To sensitize and mobilize volunteers
- To share the Camillian charism according to the original spirit of Saint Camillus;
- To accompany our Confreres working in disaster areas.

Cross Over as Saint Camillus did - "carrying the victims of disaster on his back", & show us how we can face together the new challenges.

LET US KNOW what you're doing... and SHARE your actions and ideas with us!

Camillian Task Force

IF YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH OUR MISSION

Please send your donation to:

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Witnessing the merciful love of Christ to the victims of natural and human-made disasters.