



# Community and Family Services International NewsBrief

June 2013

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Welcome to Community and Family Services International's "NewsBrief" e-newsletter, providing information on the latest CFSI activities, events and programme highlights.



## SWEP-Viet Nam Partners in Manila

CFSI's partners in Viet Nam will be better able to address the future psychosocial dimensions of disasters following a regional social work conference focused on climate change and disaster risk reduction. Dr Bui Xuan Mai, Dean of the Social Work Faculty of the University of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, and Mr Le Chi An, Head of the Social Work Unit of the Faculty of Social Work at Ho Chi Minh City Open University – both of whom are partners in CFSI's Social Work Education Project (SWEP – Viet Nam) – will examine ways to integrate psychosocial responses to disasters into Viet Nam's university curricula after taking part in the 2013 Asia Pacific Social Work Conference entitled "Social Work in climate change, disaster risk, reduction and response: Building capacity and global partnership" held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City from 4-6 June, 2013. Read the full story on the CFSI website at [www.cfsi.ph/swep-vietnam-partners-aim-to-add-a-human-dimension-to-national-disaster-response/](http://www.cfsi.ph/swep-vietnam-partners-aim-to-add-a-human-dimension-to-national-disaster-response/)

## Philippines: World Refugee Day 2013



CFSI, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Philippine Department of Justice, commemorated World Refugee Day on June 20 with the launch of a special art exhibit at Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City, Manila. The exhibit, entitled "Through Our Eyes: The Refugee Experience", featured works of art by refugees in the Philippines, including those from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Eritrea. Following the official launch, the exhibit ran for the following week, from 21-27 June. Photos from the event launch can be seen on CFSI's Facebook page at <http://on.fb.me/13c7Nyk>

## Switzerland: UNHCR NGO consultations



CFSI Executive Director Steven Muncy (*pictured second from the left*) and Philippine Programme Director Vladimir Hernandez took part in the annual UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11-13 June. The 2013 consultations - this year themed "Advocating Together for Protection" - involved more than 400 representatives from 220 NGOs around the world. In the session on "Strengthening the Implementing Partnership Framework", Mr Muncy made a presentation on "Selecting and Retaining Partners".

## Philippines: CFSI hosts coordination training



CFSI hosted a Manila workshop for the "Building a Better Response" (BBR) project, which aims to strengthen the capacity of national NGOs to engage with the international humanitarian system. BBR is a training initiative carried out in multiple countries by the International Medical Corps (IMC), Concern Worldwide and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. About 30 representatives from national and international NGOs working in different parts of the Philippines participated in the workshop, held from 6-7 June. The training featured resource persons from IMC, Concern and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Philippines.