



CFSI assists Zamboanga IDPs

The conflict between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Zamboanga City, Mindanao, in the southern Philippines resulted in the displacement of more than 100,000 people, many of whom took shelter in more than 30 evacuation centers set up throughout the city.

CFSI has had a continuous presence in Zamboanga City since September 17 as part of a joint needs-assessment composed of Philippine Government and UN humanitarian agencies, and in order to plan interventions and install appropriate responses for internally displaced persons, particularly the most vulnerable. At present, CFSI is working closely with its partners, Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to identify and address gaps in the emergency response, initially for psychosocial support, food security, child protection, and protection for the especially vulnerable, such as persons with disabilities. CFSI's direct interventions to date include:

- A total of 279 sleeping mats have been distributed to displaced families in the affected areas.
- Sixty-eight volunteers from the WMSU's College of Social Work and Community Development were oriented in the conducting of play sessions for children.
- CFSI and WMSU formed 10 teams who conducted a total of 19 play sessions in the biggest evacuation center in Zamboanga City (Joaquin F. Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex). Sessions were divided into age groups, reaching a total of 604 children aged from three to 14-years-old.

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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.

Philippines: CFSI and BDA sign Sajahatra Programme Partnership Agreement



CFSI signed the First Programme Partnership Agreement (PPA #1) for Operational Support for the Sajahatra Project Management Team of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) – the development arm of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) – in Davao City, Mindanao, in the southern Philippines on 19 September. The Sajahatra Bangsamoro (“Blessings, Prosperity and Peace upon the Bangsamoro”) is an important step in the quest for a just and lasting peace in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. The signing of this initial one-year agreement followed many months of preparation for operations and negotiations on the funding mechanism. Read the full story at <http://www.cfsi.ph/cfsi-and-bda-sign-sajahatra-programme-partnership-agreement/>

Philippines: CFSI provides orientation for WMSU volunteers



In Zamboanga City, CFSI provided orientation for 68 College of Social Work and Community Development volunteers from its partner, Western Mindanao State University (WMSU). The volunteers were oriented in the conducting of play sessions for children; 59 were students of social work and community development and nine were registered social workers. All are being deployed in evacuation centers to conduct psychosocial sessions with children. Read the full story at <http://www.cfsi.ph/cfsi-provides-orientation-for-wmsu-volunteers/>

Philippines: CFSI staff take part in IMC humanitarian operations training



CFSI staff from Mindanao and Headquarters took part in humanitarian operations training and simulations with experts from the International Medical Corps (IMC) in Cotabato City, Mindanao, in mid-September. Oggie Radosavljevic, Omer Taha, and Maya Bahoshy from IMC shared their knowledge and experience in carrying out humanitarian operations, particularly in difficult environments. CFSI is working with UNHCR and IMC to strengthen capacity for emergency response in Asia. The recent session builds on prior training events this year, such as humanitarian coordination and security.