

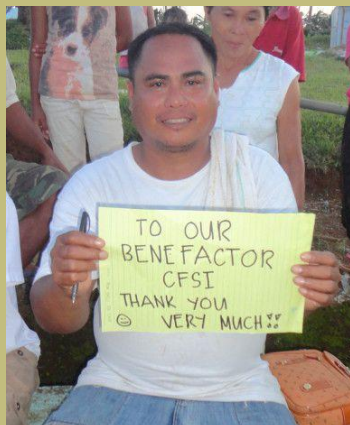


Community and Family Services International NewsBrief

February 2014

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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.



Rebuilding lives in a devastated community

Located in the mountainous area of Giporlos municipality in Eastern Samar is the small community of Barangay Santa Cruz; a village that can only be reached by four-wheel drives or motorcycles. It's one of the sites we visited in January as part of an area assessment, and it's here that I met Mary Ann Caranyagan, a 22-year-old mother and village councilor. Read the full story at www.cfsi.ph/rebuilding-lives-in-a-devastated-community/



CFSI team meets with Zamboanga City Mayor

Staff from CFSI's Psychosocial Support to IDPs Project in Zamboanga City paid a courtesy visit to Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Isabelle "Beng" Climaco on February 14, 2014, to introduce CFSI and the project. Read the full story at www.cfsi.ph/cfsi-project-team-meets-with-zamboanga-city-mayor/

Philippines: Distributing hygiene kits to stranded island communities



On February 14, a team from CFSI's Field Office in Guiuan – in coordination with partner UNHCR and with assistance from local government units – embarked on a three-hour boat trip across rough seas to Homonhon Island to distribute 1,289 hygiene kits to families in eight barangays: Culasi, Pagbabangnan, Habag, Casuguran, Bitaugan, Cagusuan, Canawayon, and Inapulangan. Read the full story at www.cfsi.ph/distributing-hygiene-kits-to-stranded-island-communities/

Philippines: Smiles and songs help overcome hardship



It has been an ongoing struggle to improve the quality of life for residents in the municipality of Kananga in Western Leyte, which was hit by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in November last year. But for 11-year-old Angelica Fuentes, every day brings with it a new reason to celebrate life and the simplest of joys. The youngest of four children, Angelica was born with both physical and mental disabilities and is blind in one eye. Read the full story at www.cfsi.ph/smiles-and-songs-help-overcome-hardship/

Philippines: Assisting typhoon recovery in isolated mountain community



On the second day of February, together with my CFSI colleagues Venus and Edison, and Tukkier from UNHCR, we left Guiuan around five in the morning bound for Barangay Maybunga – a poor community situated on top of a mountain in the municipality of Balangiga in Eastern Samar that was hard hit by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), which struck the Central Visayas region of the Philippines on November 8. Read the full story at www.cfsi.ph/assisting-typhoon-recovery-in-isolated-mountain-community/

Philippines: Toys and slippers for displaced children in Zamboanga



CFSI's Child Protection and Education Project (CPEP) and new donor the Sarang Bangun Learning Center distributed toys and slippers to displaced children sheltering at Joaquin F. Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex in Zamboanga City. The children are among the more than 60,000 who were displaced following conflict between the MNLF and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in September. Read the full story at www.cfsi.ph/toys-and-slippers-for-displaced-children-in-zamboanga/