



**CFSI**  
Rebuilding Lives.

# NewsBrief

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*Left to Right: CFSI Staff Miriam Acosta, CFSI caregiver Laga Padi, 92-year old IDP Bai Gimbang Padi, and Ms. Margarita Frederico in Sitio Tabulong, Carmen, Cotabato.*

## Margarita Frederico conducts Mindanao project evaluation

by Vladimir Hernandez

Consistent with its project design, the CFSI-WB Mindanao project is undergoing an independent evaluation by Margarita Frederico of La Trobe University. The purpose of the evaluation is to document the findings

developed from the project reaches the key institutions and external opinion leaders; (5) Acknowledge for an external audience the contributions and expertise of CFSI team members, research partners, partner NGO's, Government departments and most especially the displaced people themselves in working towards and achieving the project's goals.

The evaluation is a 3-part review done in the context of documenting and informing an external audience on the best practices vis-à-vis existing

of the project so that the knowledge developed and lessons learned can be integrated with existing knowledge of post conflict approaches and inform policy on approaches to internal displacement. The overall aim of the evaluation is to ensure that the knowledge developed from the project reaches a broad international audience. Specifically, the evaluation is seeking to: (1) Identify the core components of the project, which have impacted on positive outcomes for displaced persons; (2) Recognise the role each project component has in effecting the outcomes of the project and to document the role of the research components in informing the outcomes; (3) Identify, explore and document the operationalising of the principles which inform the project; (4) Ensure the lessons learnt and the knowledge

*"to inform future policies on approaches to internal displacement"*

ones for the purpose of influencing future policies on internally displaced people. The first part was concluded in December 2001 and involved the review of documentations and statistical data at CFSI headquarters, interviews with Executive Director Steven Muncy, Director for Humanitarian Affairs Luis Ongsiapco, and Senior Research

Officer Donna Doane. Stage 2 was conducted from January 19 to 29, 2002 and highlighted by Margarita's mission to Mindanao where she had firsthand experience of CFSI's humanitarian work. The final stage of the evaluation will include a mission to Manila on May 2002 by Ms. Frederico, consolidation and analysis of data, comparison with existing literature and completion of the final report. The report is expected to be available by end of June of 2002.

*the internal  
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## Pop Quiz

### Psychosocial what?!

The term psychosocial has been used in most, if not all, CFSI projects. It has been the centerpiece of many proposals, projects, and a whole lot of different papers that abound the workplace of a CFSI staff. However, it was noted that the term has been loosely used to refer to a wide range of definition. Everyone

seem to have their own interpretation of what psychosocial is. In order to come up with an acceptable unified definition, an adhoc committee was created to draft a CFSI definition drawn from the collective interpretation of CFSI staff. Everybody is therefore requested to share their thoughts and send it to: [eespiridion@cfsi.ph](mailto:eespiridion@cfsi.ph).

# CFSI concludes WHO research project in Pangasinan and Payatas

by Vladimir Hernandez



*Top: Payates residents doing a social map of their community.*

*Right: Dump truck going into the Payatas dumpsite.*

*Bottom: CFSI staff, Mila Batalao and Chris Domingo braving the Agno River in Pangasinan.*



CFSI ends research on disaster communities in Bayambang, Pangasinan and Payatas, Quezon City in February 8 2002.

The World Health Organization (WHO) funded research entitled "Experiences of Poor Communities Recently Exposed to a Disaster" started in September 2001 and ended November 2001. It aims to provide policy-makers with grassroots

input that will enable them to devise more efficient and responsive policies on disaster management. The research serves as an account of the people's experiences and, at the same time, documents the

otherwise muted voices of the poor. In addition, the study is a parcel of the WHO multi-country research that covers the Philippines, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

Though time is very short and schedule hectic, the project staff delivered promptly and fulfilled the contract requirements of the project in a timely manner. Having completed all contractual requirement of the project, CFSI took the project a step forward by taking the initiative to come up with a Tagalog version of the report. On February 8, 2002, CFSI will formally close the project through a presentation of findings and recommendations to the barangay council. CFSI will also distribute copies of the report (Tagalog version) to members of the communities. In addition, CFSI will be turning over a boxful of donated old toys to the day care center in Bayambang, Pangasinan as a gesture of goodwill and gratitude to the people of the community.

## CFSI welcomes new intern

The new year brought not only a new look to CFSI headquarters but it carried with it a new addition to the CFSI family and was welcomed with as much enthusiasm as the year 2002. The new intern, Ms. Ageno Betty Ochola, is British by nationality, African by ethnicity, and is currently based in Thailand where she is taking her Masters degree in Gender and Development at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok under a scholarship grant from the European Commission. "Amoo", as she is commonly called, took her BA Honors in Theology degree at the Durham University in the United Kingdom. She has worked as a volunteer for different international agencies including, the UN Office of the Special Representative of Children in Armed Conflict in New York, the Population and Community Development Association in Bangkok, and the United Nations Association of Durham University. She is also the incumbent President of the Student Union of the Asian Institute of Technology.

Being a refugee herself, Amoo is interested in refugee issues. She fled Uganda in 1988, together with her family, for fear of political persecution and sought refuge in the UK. She experienced first hand the devastating effects of

war and refugee crises in countries plagued with armed conflicts such as Romania, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, and Sudan through her work with refugee organizations. Her academic background on gender and development makes her specifically interested in working on matters about women refugees. At present, plans are on the way to involve her with the Urban Refugee Project for a mutually beneficial internship program.

## News Bits

CFW submits proposal to British Embassy on the training of professional social workers and community-based service providers of children in need of special protection (CNSP) in Manila.

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Dr. Fred Balleza escorts repatriated Vietnamese refugee and joins CFSI's Thinh Nguyen and other refugees on their flight back home - Viet Nam.

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DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman met with ED Steven Muncy and DHA Luis Ongsiapco and agrees to endorse CFSI proposal to the World Bank for the 2nd phase of the Mindanao project.

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CFSI Cotabato and ED Steve Muncy meets World Bank representative in Davao City, February 1.

contributions,  
suggestions, and  
comments are  
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