



ARMS ARE FOR HUGGING: Promoting Education for Peace and Development in Central Mindanao

CFSI is helping up to 500 out-of-school children and youth exercise their right to basic education for at least one academic year. These children come from impoverished communities displaced by war in Mindanao, Philippines. Within their communities, illiteracy

rates are high and the level of education low. Special efforts are required if these children are to finish primary school.

The people of Barangay Inug-ug in Pagalungan, Maguindanao—the beneficiaries of the project—are excited and actively participating in this new initiative. CFSI has received strong support from barangay, municipal, provincial, and regional officials. The business community has also expressed its willingness to contribute to this effort.



One of the residents of Inug-ug has very recently donated 2,500 square meters of land to the Barangay as the site for the first ever school in Inug-ug. A significant amount of lumber has been donated and many of the residents of this impoverished

community are voluntarily contributing their time and energy to the construction of the temporary classroom structure comprised of three rooms. Whilst CFSI will pay for this structure, the organization hopes to mobilize external resources by the end of 2002 for the construction of the permanent school building comprised of six classrooms.

Seven Teachers, seven Tutors, and six Extension Workers have been recruited. Resource development efforts to meet the cost of their salaries and benefits are already underway.



Immunizations will be provided for those children who have not been immunized and a halal school lunch programme as well as nutrition education will be organized.

Efforts are being undertaken to integrate the features of the public school system and the Madrasah system. The curriculum will be

enhanced with components on child rights, basic public health, psychosocial care, as well as peace and reconciliation. Emphasis will be placed on teaching children and youth that “arms are for hugging”—not violence—with the aim of promoting a culture of peace.



A school logo has been designed through participative processes. It reflects appreciation for the faith and culture of the people of Inug-ug as well as their hope for peace and development.

This project includes an income-generation component that will result in community-produced uniforms and school bags for the students as well as increases in family incomes and vocational skills.

Significant effort will be devoted to promoting the psychosocial recovery and well-being of these war-affected Muslim children and youth.

For more information or to make a contribution, please contact the Executive Director at headquarters@cfsi.ph or MCC-PO Box 2733, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines



PROMOTING THE TRANSITION FROM CONFLICT TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT



Community and Family Services International (CFSI) is assisting thousands of Filipinos displaced by armed conflict in Mindanao rebuild their lives. This effort is supported by the World Bank's Post Conflict Fund. The project period is 01 January 2001 through 30 June 2003.

There are two general objectives:

01. Make a difference in the lives of Filipinos displaced by armed conflict by working with the affected communities to develop enabling conditions that encourage safe return or settlement, facilitate the process of transition and stabilization, and provide a foundation for peace building and sustainable development.
02. Contribute to the existing knowledge base by developing and testing models that will inform approaches to the transition from conflict to peace.

Activity is focused on 6,759 families (33,550 persons) in five municipalities in the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato. The majority of the population served by CFSI is from Maguindanao, which is in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The work involves confidence building initiatives at the community level and enhanced field-based partnerships, thereby strengthening cooperation between those most directly affected by the war and those engaged in relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development. The empowerment-focused programme components include: (a) community organizing, (b) information, (c) peace education, (d) psychosocial care, (e) start up livelihood assistance, and (f) research. Networking and advocacy are other key elements of this project. Efforts to contribute to the existing knowledge base involve participatory action research in

"... I already got old, my palms thick with blisters, and my nails blackened by years of toil as a farmer . . . perhaps through this meeting, my words will help pave the way for our community's progress. . . "

--- elderly man from North Cotabato

collaboration with the affected communities and two Mindanao-based academic institutions.

CFSI has been assisting communities affected by armed conflict in Mindanao since 2000 through support provided at various times by UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, and the World Bank's Post Conflict Fund. Since June 2002, through funds provided by the Consuelo Foundation, CFSI has been working with out-of-school children in Maguindanao Province. CFSI is also the Convener of the Philippine Network for Internally Displaced Communities, which is comprised of NGOs working with displaced persons in Central Mindanao. CFSI envisages playing a greater role in Mindanao over the course of the next five to ten years with a particular emphasis on capacity building at the community and institutional levels.



produced by:
Vladimir Hernandez
vhernandez@cfsi.ph

Community and Family
Services International

Manila, Philippines
MCC PO Box 2733
Tel +63(2) 5101046
Fax +63(2)5512225
headquarters@cfsi.ph
www.cfsi.ph