



# 2012-13

## The Rehabilitation Project: Teamwork in action!



**Brot**  
**für die Welt**

PAGBAG-O  
NEGROS ORIENTAL  
October 2013



## The Rehabilitation Project in Negros Oriental – A Team Effort

A 6.9-magnitude undersea earthquake occurred off the coast of Negros Oriental, Philippines, on Monday, 6th February 2012 with the epicentre approximately 72 kilometres (44 miles) north of Dumaguete City. The earthquake also triggered landslides which buried people and houses; 42 people were reported dead. Tragically, this came soon after the Typhoon “Sendong” which also caused devastating damage over the Southern Philippines when it struck on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2011.



Immediately after both disasters **PAGBAG-O** assessed the extent of the damage through the help of its Peoples Organisations (POs) and within hours had initiated a relief effort to bring food and essential supplies to the devastated areas. PAGBAG-O's principal funder **Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)**, now merged into **Brot für die Welt (BfdW)**, agreed to allow part of their reserve fund to be released to support this effort.



It soon became apparent that the damage was worse than expected; with many families left homeless or in need of help to repair their damaged homes and livelihoods.

EED - asked it's funded NGOs in the region to submit a proposal for a rehabilitation project to support the needs of the typhoon and earthquake victims. The **Community Empowerment Resource Network (CERNET)** was designated as the Project Holder. Each NGO was given responsibility for a particular area, which in the case of PAGBAG-O consisted of the municipalities of Ayungon, Bindoy and Sibulan. The proposal was drawn up and



finalised following a careful assessment of the affected areas and consultation with Local Government Officials, the POs themselves and the Mayor's office. EED approved the proposal and PAGBAG-O was given the responsibility to plan and execute the rebuilding of 125 houses in its allocated municipalities.

The term "rehabilitation" reflected the need to not only repair or rebuild houses, but also to rebuild lives. Education and trauma healing/counselling were required, together with the provision of livelihood options chosen by the affected PO members. In the case of PAGBAG-O the majority chose to receive farm inputs like bio-fertilizer, assorted vegetable seeds and livestock. For those living in the coastal areas, fishing nets, and capital to facilitate fish vending and the buying and selling of livestock were preferred.

The municipalities were encouraged to support the project and through signing of Partnership Agreements with PAGBAG-O, roles and responsibilities of the parties were defined. Of particular need was the transport of building materials to remote villages.

### **Feed The Children- Philippines**

(FTC-Phil) is a long time partner of PAGBAG-O, facilitating the implementation of programs to support the nutrition of malnourished children in areas where PAGBAG-O is active. Six month feeding programs were introduced into the typhoon affected Barangays of Ajong in Sibulan as well as in the earthquake affected Barangay of Danao. Without these programs families would have been unable to feed their children properly during the aftermath of the disasters.





**Danao**

One particular community that illustrated the devastating impact that an earthquake can have, is the Barangay of Danao in the municipality of Bindoy.

Set among the mountains above Bindoy, about 156 households have to work extremely hard to eke a living out on the stony and infertile soil. Transport is always difficult, with the community being virtually cut off during the rainy season.

The earthquake shattered their lives. Many houses as well as the school were destroyed and an ongoing risk of further landslides remained. Although no lives were lost, many villagers suffered severe trauma and had no wish to see their houses rebuilt in the same area that the earthquake struck.

PAGBAG-O asked the Mayor of Bindoy (Hon. Valente D. Yap) for assistance. A two hectare plot of land was identified and purchased by the municipality (1.0 hectare for the school, 0.6 hectare for the housing and 0.4 hectare for the Barangay hall).



Mayor: Hon. Valente D. Yap



Temporary Shelters



They then rebuilt the school (6 classrooms) on the new land through the “Bayanihan” efforts of the Parents Teachers and Community Association (PTCA). Support from carpenters was paid for by the mayor, the building materials were purchased by Congresswoman Jocelyn S. Limkaichong and heavy equipment for landscaping sent by the Province.

As a result, the re-building of the elementary school was completed in its new location on June 7th 2012, enabling all the 243 children to return to school less than 4 months after the earthquake had struck. The graduation ceremony held on the 18th March 2013 together with the culmination of FTC - Phil’s feeding program, was a particularly moving event.



Temporary School



New School



Graduation

While the school was being rebuilt, PAGBAG-O had arranged for the preparation of foundations in readiness to start building 31 houses funded by EED. Over the next few months, despite heavy rains and very rough roads, building materials were brought up the mountain and construction was completed by early August.



BEFORE (Foundations)



AFTER





Houses were built in such a way as to provide enough space to accommodate a kitchen garden to sustain the feeding of the children. PAGBAG-O's Sustainable Resource Management group helped to establish these gardens, providing biofertilizer and seeds to get things started. They were able to install pipelines to facilitate irrigation of the vegetables.



Help was also given to the school by PAGBAG-O to establish its own vegetable garden. This will be used to show the children and their families the importance of good nutrition and food security.

The Culmination of the project was celebrated on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. PAGBAG-O and CERNET attended together with Municipal, Barangay and local officials. The Mayor, Hon. Valente D. Yap, and the Barangay Captain, Franklin Lerio, were among those addressing the celebration.

PAGBAG-O will continue with its support in Danao, by mentoring the PO in organizational development and providing help with the development of livelihood and sustainable/organic farming projects.

As part of the follow up PAGBAG-O has run two Disaster Management Workshops. Representatives from all its 22 POs attended, who then ran local workshops in their respective communities. This will help participants better understand the potential impact of factors such as climate change, how to be better prepared for future events and steps to take when a disaster occurs.

**The rehabilitation project funded by EED has seen a total of 427 houses rebuilt in Negros Oriental. 125 of these were project managed by PAGBAG-O. The goodwill that has been generated by all, reflects not only the generosity of the funders but also the power of team work in the region.**

