

March 2011

- **Message** from the Executive Director
- **Staff Articles**

- The Big Well of Baybay
- My Blister Was Gone
- Reaching IDP's in their return communities
- A Life Saving Mission
- WASH in Islamic Context: A Combination of Technical and Spiritual Concepts
- Counterpart to Responsibility for Sustainability
- ASDSW + Beacon School Kids = WaSH Learning and Community Project

- New Contact Details
- Ongoing Projects Details

March 2011
Contributors:

- Teofilo Viguela
- Estelita Navidad-De La Cruz
- Princess Aleja Ibrahim
- Erika Era Ybas
- Fatima Salik
- Esther Magwa
- Mary Grace Obliaar

A wave of changes within **A Single Drop for Safe Water** marked the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011.

In early **November 2010** ASDSW was recognized by the **Tech Museum and the Katherine M. Swanson foundation as an innovator for Equality**. The awarding of this prize took place in San Jose, California with an audience of leading technologists from Silicon Valley, fellow social entrepreneurs as well as other members of the public. During this event it became clear that I should not be in front of a camera, even with a world renowned director in charge (documented on **youtube** of course). **Ms Judy Swanson** rescued me from myself during one even by helping me **perform the Haka** (Maori war dance from New Zealand). **Seriously, I was humbled to accept the award on behalf of the staff and board as well as all of our partners that we have worked with over the last four years.**

January 2011 marked the end of our **Fellowship with Echoing Green** with the last conference in Austin, Texas. **It was great to reconnect with people working all over the world and for the class of 2007 to thank Echoing Green for their assistance to start all of our organizations.** With changes in Echoing Green and the bonding of the class, future partnerships and collaborations are sure to follow.

February 2011 marked the **moving of the Puerto Princesa Office from our "cute" building near the airport to a "real" office** in the business district. We are the first tenants and construction is ongoing around us. However the extra room is a blessing and access to business services is much easier. **Also the new web site was launched at www.singledrop.org and establishes our identity much clearer.**

The Cotabato Office has moved again!!!! With the work ongoing in **Mindanao** with our partners **Oxfam, MTB and KFI** we have rapidly expanded the number of staff and this requires additional office space. **This project is moving from the previous responses to displacement of conflict affected people to capacity and infrastructure building of returning IDP's.** Capacity building (Maguindanao and North Cotabato) includes: Water Quality monitoring (biological and chemical), Engineering trainings, Municipal Wide WASH Planning as well as having communities identifying their water contamination issues and providing technical trainings to improve sources or implement household water treatments. The exit strategy will also include a WASH Forum where users will advocate with local chief executive to prioritize WASH and providing low cost alternatives

In the **Puerto Princesa Office** we are currently finishing up barangay-size water supply projects in **Bataraza, Palawan and Sual, Pangasinan** with our corporate partners **RTNFI and Team Energy**. We have also started working with the **LGU of Buhi, Camarines Sur and Latter Day Saints Charities** in a large project **providing water to nine barangays.**

The **Humanitarian Response Consortium** moves into its 2nd year with ASDSW as the coordinating agency. **Its first test was assessment of Typhoon Juan where we worked with our partners to assess 6 provinces with one of our partners implementing livelihood assistance to farmers in the affected areas of north Luzon.**

And finally, **Ms. Gemma Bulos the Founding Director** of ASDSW has resigned to pursue new opportunities elsewhere. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

ASDSW is now organizationally and financially independent and is rising to this challenge with focus and determination from the staff and the newly revamped Board of Directors.

From our staff in the field comes the real stories..... **Tang** tells the story of Borongon that was completed mid 2010 while **Engineer Fyles** relates the trials and tribulations of a project that has not proceeded smoothly. **Meg** describes the reactions from students in Beacon School to our description of the reality of the Water and Sanitation situation here in the Philippines. And from Maguindanao our new staff **Aleja, Erika and Fatima** talk about their program, introduction to working in the field and a discussion about Islam and WASH. **Esther** will relate the Funders experience working in southern Palawan

Enjoy!!!
Kevin Lee
March 2011



ASDSW is Moving and Changing

Head Office

2nd Floor, Unit 1 G7 Building
National Highway Brgy San Pedro
Puerto Princesa City, 5300
Palawan, Philippines
Ph/Fax 048-434-1101

Cotabato City Office

#15 Jose Lim Sr. St.
Biruar Compound
Bagua Mother Barangay,
Cotabato City 9600
ARMM

Keep up to date with ongoing work,
please log on to:

www.singledrop.org

or join our Facebook Group:

[A Single Drop for Safe Water inc.](#)

The Big Well of Baybay Engineer Teofilo Viguela

Baybay Norte. This small fishing village on the northern coast of Sual in Pangasinan is home to 98 families of fishermen, farmers and traders. Water is one of the identified priorities during the WASH Inventory. Being close to the beach, saltwater intrusion is a common occurrence in some wells. Most wells tested positive for *E.coli* due to its close distance to latrines and of the sandy soil that separates them. But the most difficult situation is during the dry season months of March to April, “*amamagaan la may bubon*” (wells are dry).

The absence of springs nearby means the only other practical and feasible option would be to tap the deeper aquifer. The georesistivity survey conducted prior to drilling revealed that the geologic characteristic in the project area is primarily gabbro or fractured rock with very limited water. Add to that the very small recharge area because the site is located on a peninsula. Drilling was attempted twice but the rock layer proved to be too much for the equipment and the will of the drilling team. A 3 meter diameter well was then constructed. The idea was to have a bigger storage and to increase the chance of encountering more fissures with ‘underground spring’. That was not without difficulties. Multiply the volume of hard rock encountered in drilling tenfold.

All the delays due to the changes in design, changes in method, resistivity study, the hard layer and delayed delivery of materials caused some uncertainty to the barrio people. And then the handpumps around the big well starts to dry up. Now we understood why this quaint little beach settlement had been left out by other aid agencies, it is just too difficult to find water. But the PODS graduates persevered with Team Energy’s support. Digging for the pipe trench was now more than a kilometer. People lined up working make the already amazing beach view perfect.

During one of those slow days, an elder suggested consulting a water witch- a water diviner. Walking in trance with a flexible stick in hand, I think he did say there is water here but never how deep and how much. But then this is indigenous knowledge that usually doesn’t clash with high technology. We dug at that spot next to one vertical sounding point, a spot now a big gaping hole. Yes, why not? A sprinkle of a little supernatural might do good. This is their Baybay afterall. This is their water system and we want them to be part of it and claim it.

So now the big well is a meeting place of people in the morning, all with all sorts of stories and tales and gossip. We have just tested again for the well recovery – how fast it fills per unit time and it is doing well. Finally, we are confident all will go well for everyone in Baybay Norte during April and El Nino. It shows once again, ***if there’s a will, there’s a well.***

My Blister Was Gone!

Facilitator Estelita Navidad-De la Cruz

“Water is from nature and it must be free of charge!” These are some of the usual words we hear every time we assist in organizing a Barangay Water Sanitation Association. In June 2010, A Single Drop for Safe Water (ASDSW) Inc. in partnership with the Latter – Day Saints, worked with the four barangays of Borongan, Eastern Samar for the construction and rehabilitation of different water systems and put in order the management thru People Offering Deliverable Services (PODS) Training which is represented by the selected community members.

Humans cannot live without water. In fact, in other parts of the world, it is more precious compare to other commodities. But, as per ASDSW's experience in bridging access of community to water through water systems, the work is not that easy as one would think it is. One hard part is how to get the consensus of the whole community because as the saying goes “you cannot please everybody” .

Looking back at my Borongan experience, at first most of the community members from the four barangays were hesitant or unsupportive to the collection of connection and monthly user's fee. According to some “no one owns the water and you can have access whenever you want, it's free after all”. Although receiving comments and having critics, the implementing community organization remained firm to the advocacy of sustainable community water system. They inculcated to the community members the importance of user's fee for the maintenance of the water system. Through extensive communication and discussion the community signified their approval. Just recently, the four organizations have an average collection of 50 to 90 percent of fees. All in all, they have provided Level II connections to 294 households and level III to 34 households - .

“Before, I used to walk 40 – 50 meters every morning to fetch water for my family, but now my life became easier, we have faucets in the house and finally the blister on my hands (*paltos in tagalog*) was gone” quoted from Medina Nable, community member and collector of Barangay San Jose Water System Association.



“Even before we started our **GCAP**, I knew that the Philippines never really had a good and sustainable way of fixing the horrible water crisis that is affecting so many people throughout the country. I also knew that there were many people who weren't even aware of what was happening. Initially, I thought that the Water Crisis was an impossible problem to fix, however, listening to the speakers from ASDSW, made me realize that there is a solution. But this solution can only truly help the situation if everyone works together and personally make an effort to help. I really appreciate how the ASDSW group teaches many people from different communities what should be done to help fix the issues in their own communities, instead of just fixing it for them. I personally believe that teaching the Filipinos what to do instead of just doing everything for them will really make an impact because it will teach them how to address the problems on their own.”

Sabie R, 14 years old

8th Grade Student
Beacon School



Reaching IDPs in their Returned Communities

Facilitator Princess Aleja Ibrahim

“Assalamu Alaikum,” (greetings of peace), is our greeting as we enter the different IDP (Internally Displaced People) sites in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. Our objective is to stress the significance of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and how to improve the quality of life by improving the WASH situation. While we build rapport with the community, there are many reactions.... combinations of query, excitement, enthusiasm and curiosity. Their faces were asking, **“Why?”**; **“What would you do?”** and **“How will you be able to help us?”**

We started with a presentation of all the possible transmission routes of different pathogens entering our body. The participants realized through different activities that our healthy body lies in our hands. We can avoid having serious illness by prevention. By doing these activities participants were able to reflect on those activities and were able to discuss and echo the messages and lessons learned.

Meriam Ulangkaya, a mother of two boys and two girls and resident of Brgy. Pamalian, Pikit, North Cotabato said, **“It was really a difficult situation for us when we were in the evacuation center, we cannot plant in our fields and that was the only source of our income. We felt that we really need support. Good thing they provided bags for the children but there were no free medicines given.”** Meriam stayed in the evacuation center for a month. Her family was from Tapodoc , Aleosan and transferred to Sitio Tuka, Pikit, North Cotabato after the conflict. **“Now I can see the importance of learning WaSH, it's for the betterment of our lives, so we don't spend money for hospitalization,”** she continued.

As the day passes by, we heard different reactions from participants. **“This topic we learned was beautiful and very satisfying. We will never forget this. This WaSH really helps,”** said by **Ali Tino**, a resident of the same barangay. Hearing these words inspired us to reach more IDP communities. We may never see each other again but we know, at least, a message was delivered that **“Clean water really sustains life”**.



A Life-Saving Mission

Facilitator Erika Era Ybas

Many years have passed but still, war is in our land. It continues to destroy natural resources and cause unnecessary deaths in conflict affected areas such as Maguindanao. I thought that only war causes death in such areas until I was hired by **A Single Drop for Safe Water (ASDSW)**, this opened my mind to the real scenario and the realization that we have a scarcity of safe water. My first opportunity to see this in the field was in conducting Household Water contamination and treatment community workshops to identify sources of contamination, behaviors that contaminate water and create plans to remedy these situations.

Being in the field for the first time made me feel excited and anxious at the same time, yet the experiences were memorable. Upon arrival in Sambulawan, Midsayap, North Cotabato, I felt nervous at first because this was my first time in a conflict affected area.

ASDSW's vision that water can be a unifying element for peace, gave me determination to promote peace through water. I was eager to promote Household Water Treatment and peace at the same time to the communities where we were assigned, and for the first time I witnessed the different faces of people who were deeply affected by war. Further, I had seen the need for safe water in the areas where I have been for the past few weeks of field work. People were contented with the quality of their water, even though they knew that it is not safe. We told them about different Household Water Treatments, its purpose and benefits. Simple dug well improvement and the Bio-Sand Filter were two of the simple technologies introduced to the communities. The people in the community were very eager and enthusiastic to learn more about how to implement these interventions. They also shared their experiences regarding lack of safe water, including diarrhea, typhoid, malnutrition and various skin diseases.

It is indeed sobering to know that while we are enjoying an abundant supply of water from our local water system, some of our fellows in remote areas suffer complex illnesses due to a lack of safe water. Through this reality, I thoroughly absorbed the real essence of doing and promoting Household Water Treatment because there is a need to supply safe, affordable, sufficient and accessible water to all communities in the remote, and war affected areas of Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

More than half of the world's surface is water. Thus, water seems to be everywhere. But is it safe? Can we drink it? Well, we can do many things to make it safe. It is not yet too late to promote and implement Household Water Treatment. Together let us make a difference and let's value life through water because after all, **“Water is Life”**.

WaSH in Islamic Context: A Combination of Technical and Spiritual Concepts

Facilitator Fatima Salik

How is WASH viewed in Islam? Let us analyze the meaning of each letter of the word in Islamic perspective.

Wa stands for Water. Water is life. It keeps human beings alive. Rain was provided to nourish the plants so that humans can eat from them. Water in Islam is very important. Physically, it sustains the human body. Without water, we would die. But, water spiritually has a role. It is believed in Islam that prayer is the key to paradise; likewise, there is a key to prayer, which is purification. Without purification, prayer will not be accepted; hence, paradise will not be achieved. Water impacts us spiritually in many ways which cannot be explained and it has healing powers. When a person is believed to be possessed by evil, water is used to combat evil. Shaytan in Islam is fire. Water combats fire, so is shaytan, also when a person got hysterical, water is used to calm them.

S stands for Sanitation. There are many Hadiths in Islam which pertain to proper sanitation. Bad habits prohibited in Islam include, urinating in running and stagnant water as well as in pathways or shaded places. **“Beware of the three acts that cause others to curse you: relieving yourselves in a watering place, on foot paths or shaded places”, reported by Ahmad.** In this respect, the **Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said “None of you should urinate in still water and then perform Ghusl (ablution) in it”.**

H stands for Hygiene. In Islam, cleanliness is half of faith. The attention to hygiene is an essential part of being an Islam believer. Cleanliness is inseparable to Muslim's life. It is also preferable for the Muslim to clean his body regularly, particularly when he meets his fellow Muslims in congregational prayers.

This respect by Islam on WASH has always been considered by ASDSW in all its interventions on WASH in Muslim areas. Its current implementation of Household Water Treatment Sessions under the project “WASH Promotion Assistance for Returned IDPs in Conflict Affected Areas In Maguindanao and North Cotabato” has integrated the topic “WASH in Islamic Context” to the session. In every barangay, ASDSW team requested messages from their Ustadz or learned person in Islam to share some Islamic concepts on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene with the community..

During the sessions in Barangay Pageda, Talitay on February 23-24, 2011 and Barangay Tapodoc, Aleosan on March 2-3, 2011, Ustadza Pindaulan Balambag from Noorusalam, a national organization of Aleemat and other Muslim women leaders, was a guest speaker conveying the teachings of Islam regarding WASH. The community was very interested with Ustadza Pindaulan's message. It was very interactive and lively as most of the participants were women and children. They even asked her to give the last message at the end of the activity. They also requested her to visit their community again to reinforce the Islamic perspective on WASH.





1ST TAPSTAND installed for the Katutubo Cluster

Counterpart to Responsibility for Sustainability Engineer Esther Magwa

Despite the struggles that Sandoval Level 2 water system project had experienced, the pump-operated water system from Taliong spring is almost operational. With the spring box and Ferro-cement tank complete, pump & electrical connection installed, only pipe laying of distribution pipes and tap stands is left to finish. At this moment, the system's only major problem is for the generator to work so the whole system can operate. This will be handled by BLGU of Sandoval.

During the information drive of RTNFI last February 12, 2011 they mentioned that SDMP projects aim to prepare the community for resiliency once the company stops operation. In the case of this project, it prepares the community by teaching them sustainability thru ownership of the project and management and maintenance of the water system by themselves. RTNFI also mentioned that inspectors of RTNFI projects of 2010 recommend replicating this in their other areas of operation.

A SMALL HELPING HAND CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!!!

The background picture is a 9-year old boy who helps in guiding horizontal wires during the ferro-cement tank construction

BEFORE



Before it was the coolest area for laundry

Now it's "Laundry prohibited"



AFTER

“After listening to the speakers of ASDSW, I left the room with a lot more knowledge and information about water scarcity in the Philippines. I knew it was a big problem, but never in like in a whole lot of detail. The people talked about how difficult it is to get water for some of the less fortunate people, and how they only have a limited water supply to use for the whole day. They showed us how the water cycle in the Philippines is (I learnt that some people excrete their feces near water and contaminates it) and examples of how expensive it is to get sick using people from the audience, and I think this really got people's attention. I think I liked that part the most because I think it was the most effective and interactive and allowed the audience to take part. All in all, I think the speakers really helped me to get a better insight on how water scarcity really is a big problem not only here but in all other part of the world too.”

Sam P, 13 years old

8th Grade Student
Beacon School

ASDSW + Beacon School Kids = WaSH Learning and Community Project

By Mary Grace Obligar

It was a 2 hour (or less) fun and amazing experience with the 8th Grade Students that result to a more fruitful endeavor.

Last year October 2010, Kiwi and I were invited for a 2 hour WaSH activity with the 8th Grade Students of Beacon School, Manila. Mr. Christopher Ray invited us to talk about Water Scarcity. Water Scarcity is their chosen theme for Global Citizens Alliance Project (GCAP). The goal of GCAP, which is an across-disciplinary project, is for the students to consider themselves as agents of change within their local and global communities by crafting practical and sustainable solutions to a global issue.

We did not limit the talk on the Water Scarcity but more on the Water Issues (Quality, Quantity, Access, Affordability), importance of WaSH to the development of Philippines and what we can do to help solve those issues. The Kids are from the upper class families so we highlight more on the rural communities especially in remote areas that we are working with. This gives them more details on what is going on outside Metro manila.

The F Diagram that we showed and discussed gives them a vivid description the fecal oral transmission route for common disease causing germs.

We also did 2 interactive activities: one of which, is we asked one of the boys to fetch water using a medium size pail, it took him almost 5 minutes and he only got a liter. This gives the kids an idea how much water can he get in an hour, how much time, how far he needs to walk from the water source to his home and how does it affects other young kids their age who have to walk at least a kilometer back and forth just to get a pail of water which is only enough for 1 person per day.

The Money Game activity excited them most because we asked the kids to play their part. We got the kids to play a Mother with lots of kids, a Jeepney Driver, a Doctor, a Pharmacist and the kids. The story is about a Mother who got sick because of water borne disease, rides a jeepney to the clinic, a doctor examines her, went to the pharmacist to buy medicine and rides a jeepney back home. When a mother is sick, she cannot attend to her family's needs and spend more time going to the doctor, the money spent on medicine instead of buying food and other needs of the kids, the family suffers because of this etc., etc.... This gives them a clearer picture on how water affects our lives.

We went out hoping that the kids absorbed some of the points we talked about and that they would reflect on it, because this kids might be our future leaders someday, the younger they realize that they can help and make this world a better place for all, the better.

After a few weeks, Mr. Chris Ray emailed us their reflection from this activity, the kids put it in their GCAP website. Their reflection messages are really inspiring. We were both amazed "oh they got our message and this is great". But we didn't realize that there's more.....

Last February 4, in culmination of their Water Scarcity Project, they did a school activity fair entitled "No Problem is TuBIG", the fair is not just fun activities with booth's and entertainment but a fundraising and awareness raising event for water issues, within the Beacon School Community. 2 of our Board of Directors, Rick Atienza and Dick Hipe, attended this event.

Guess who they will be donating their fund raised? To ASDSW! To help us support our community projects. They targeted 20-25K donation but these kids raised in a day activity **82,000.00 Pesos!!!** That is pretty awesome Kids!

With this donation, a small community in ARMM Provinces will be benefiting. Maybe they haven't realized it yet but in their own LITTLE way, they make a BIG difference! Thank you very much kids, we are hoping to meet more kids like you.



Mr. Christopher Ray introduce us to the kids



Who wants to drink this?



The Money Game



Kiwi explains how much money you have to spend by being sick

The 8th Graders of Beacon School during the "No Problem is TuBIG" Fund Raising and Water Scarcity Awareness Fair held at the Beacon School Manila, with Mr. Christopher Ray and 2 of our ASDSW's Board of Directors, Rick Atienza and Dick Hipe.



Ongoing Projects

Location	Description	Progress	Funder/Partners
Bataraza, Palawan	Spring with pump, Tank and Distribution System	Organizational training completed 90% of infra installed, commissioning March 2011	Rio Tuba Nickel Foundation Inc Sandoval Safe Water Association
Sual, Pangasinan	Level II pumped distribution system and hand pumps	Organizational training completed 90% of infra installed, commissioning March 2011	Team Energy Centro Water Service Organization Magsaysay – Badul Service Cooperative
Buhi, Camarines Sur	4 x level 2/3 spring development and gravity fed systems governed by 2 organizations for 9 barangays	Organizational complete for one and started for 2 nd . 1 system 80% complete commission march 2011. Last 3 systems to be build starting Late March scheduled to complete by July 2011	Latter Day Saints Charities Municipal WASH Task Force (LGU Buhi) Ibayugan Water Works Associated Group (IWWAG) Mountain Crossroads Barangays Waterworks & Sanitation Association
Maguindanao, North Cotabato	Capacity Development and small scale infrastructure implementation	Ongoing activities scheduled for completion by end of April 2011	Oxfam KFI MTB OMI-HRD Gap-Hunger
Laguna, Rizal	Study of Flood Proof WASH Facilities	Started March 2011	Oxfam
Maguindanao	BSF Technical Training	Funds released	Beacon School Students Noor-us Salam
Sagada, Mountain Province	Level II/III Spring Development	MOA Signing and Starting Work April 2011	Latter Day Saints Charities
Datu Paglat, Datu Paglas, Gen. Salipada K. Pundatun, Sultan Sa Barongis, Maguindanao	Water Testing and BSF Trainings	Completed Feb 2010	Zuellig Family Foundation Municipal LGU's
Guimba Nueva Ecija	Level III Deep Well Pumped system	Piping 95% complete 36 connections installation of pressure tanks ongoing	Latter Day Saints Charities Galvan Water and Sanitation Cooperative