

# APBAid Annual Report 2013



## Introduction

The APBAid 2013 plan of Action followed the direction set in the APBAid strategic plan 2012-2013 that came out after the APBAid Committees strategic planning workshop in September 2011 held in Bangkok. One of the main points in the strategic plan is integrating peace and development ministries into one committee so as to maximize capacities and resources to effectively carry on the mandate of imparting inspiration, promoting spirit of fellowship, service and cooperation through relief, development and peacemaking. In September 2012, the consolidation of the two Committees was officially approved by the APBF Executive Committee in its meeting during the Asia Pacific Baptist Congress in Kuala Lumpur. The first meeting of the new combined APBAid Committee was held in Singapore last January 2013. At that meeting, we are saddened and concerned with Rev. Kabi Gangmei, APBAid Director that had undergone heart surgery. We praised God that now Rev. Kabi is so well and back to his post. He was able to do some work already when he felt better starting the second half of 2013.

For the past year and in 2013 the Pacific region was beset by disasters caused by flood, cyclone, earthquake, fire, conflict and other issues on social and political spheres. The disasters brought loss of lives and destruction to properties, environment, means of livelihood and trauma.

Churches are challenged to ministries of disaster response and APBAid does its share in capacity enhancement, disaster response and peace-building through the kind support of APBF member bodies and APBAid donors.

For the year 2013, the following activities were undertaken by APBAid:

### Responding to Disasters

- Assam Conflict. The support from BWAid, Transform Aid International (TAI) formerly BWAA, Assam Baptist Convention and the APBAid ERF enabled the Lower Assam Baptist Union and the Boro Baptist Church Organization in providing relief assistance of food and non-food items to families affected and also assistance for the rebuilding of houses that were burned and destroyed. The situation is about the 2012 communal conflict between the Boro and Muslims in the Boroland Territorial Autonomous Council in Assam, India that claimed 101 lives and made over 485,000 people flee from their villages and take shelter in relief camps. Funds received for this project: TAI/BWAA-USD15,000, APBAid/ERF-USD2,000, LABU-USD2,300 and BWAid-USD10,000. The proposal was sent by Rev. Kabi Gangmei in 2012
- Assam Flood. Series of three major floods happened one after another in the state of Assam during 2012; the last of which was during the month of September. Local sources indicated that altogether 0.8 million people in 23 districts were affected and the worst-hit 8 districts have water engulfed human habitation and croplands. As the majority of the population in

the state depend on agriculture, the people were left with nothing to recover their livelihood. Assam Baptist Convention (ABC) joined the state's GO and NGO agencies in mobilizing local resources in providing seeds for winter crops to 200 families in Upper Assam's area. With supports from BWAid and TAI/BWAA, families having houses destroyed were helped for rebuilding by providing housing materials specifically GI sheet. Capacity enhancement was also facilitated among the ABC personnel and community people. Funds received for this project was: TAI/BWAA-USD14,500. BWAid-USSD10,000. This proposal was sent by Rev. Kabi Gangmei in 2012.

- Jakarta Floods. APBAid responded to request to Rehana Indonesia in providing relief aid to flood victims in Jakarta that started February 16, 2013 where 42 people reported death. Rehana was able to provide Mattresses & Hygiene Kits to 100 HH, baby kits to 15 babies, school kits to 50 children and health services. Emergency Response Management training was also conducted to 40-50 volunteers equipping them in responding to disasters.
- Fire @ Karenni Camp. APBAid responded to Karenni people affected by fire that broke out at the Ban mae Surin refugee camp in Mae Hong Son province last 22 March 2013 where 26 people died. Over 400 houses were destroyed leaving 2,300 people homeless, and community buildings, schools, clinic and food warehouses were all razed by fire. The aid in the form of food and water, blankets to 100 families and clothing and slippers to 100 children was provided to survivors through Blooming Night.
- Cyclone Phailin in Orissa. This project will have a life recovery activity for 215 cyclone affected families with components of: provision of construction materials to 100 families who had partially damaged homes; and livelihood assistance to 115 families with provision of 2 goats for rearing. The proposal was developed by Rev. Kabi Gangmei and sent to and approved by the German Baptist Union/Aid.
- Super typhoon Haiyan in Central Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan is the most powerful storm ever recorded. It made landfall in the morning of 8 November in Guiguan, Eastern Samar province, causing extensive damage to life, housing, livelihoods and infrastructure across nine of the Philippine's poorest provinces. In these provinces are churches of Conventions that are members of APBF. In Samar and Leyte are churches of the Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches, in Bohol a number of General Baptist Church of the Philippines and in 4 provinces of Panay island and North Negros are majority of the CPBC churches. APBAid responded immediately by coordinating and working on the ground with the APBF member conventions. We are so thankful for the immediate and kind support of the APBF member bodies and APBAid partners that enabled APBAid with immediate response. APBAid approved the relief proposal of LCSBC amounting to USD58,640 and immediately release the initial USD20,000. Through APBAid, CPBC was provided by Diakonia-Sweden through its Asia Regional Office in Chiang Mai, Thailand USD75,000 for immediate assistance of food, water and non-food items.

With the huge coverage of disaster, the assistance of Eddy Ruble of CBF who came immediately to APBAid Philippine sub-office to assist with the work and assessment of situation on the ground has helped with planning and conduct of the APBAid coordination meeting among APBF member conventions that came out with disaster response plan. Project proposals for early recovery were developed and other is yet to process and to be developed. CBF has already sent to APBAid USD20,000 for CPBC reconstruction of houses for 100 families. CPBC has more than 6,500 families survivors. Project proposals developed are that of General Baptist Church of the Philippines for construction of community center in Bohol that will serve as evacuation center in times of disaster with budget request of USD25,000. Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches with budget of USD124,500 for reconstruction of 380 houses in Leyte and Samar, and the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches for psycho trauma care for children with budget of USD28,875 for North Iloilo and developed a proposal for Capiz with budget of USD25,000 and in Aklan, Antique and North Negros @ USD10,000 each. Proposal for recovery of livelihood is yet in process with CPBC to help the farmers, fisher folks and small vendors/business persons in the affected areas. There are big challenges and work at this early recovery and in the rehabilitation of the survivors. We have full trust that God will grant us the resources, capacities and networks to be able to respond to our sisters and brothers affected much by the disaster. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support.

#### Ongoing project and Support:

- Lydia Project Phase II is a project of Baptist Churches in Mizoram supported by Baptist Union of Norway that will empower the marginalized migrant women and poor Mizo women to be self reliant. This is a 3 year project period that will start 2014 and end in 2016 with a total budget of USD189,190. The effort was done by Anderson Tokbi when he attended the meeting of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation with assistance of Rev. Kabi Gangmei.
- JBC Japan Disaster Recovery Project II. APBAid assisted in the request of Japan Baptist Convention for the follow up recovery project and German Baptist Union positively responded and supported JBC's program on regular health screenings for children and pre-school and after school program in Fukushima and the theological and missiological forum on disasters with total budget of USD45,718 including APBAid administration. APBAid planned for project evaluation in March 2014.
- JBU Japan Disaster Recovery Project II. The project is follow up of the initial project caused by earthquake and tsunami disasters in the Tohoku region. In coordination of APBAid, the German Baptist Union supported this project with components on 1) Supply distribution, emotional counselling; 2) Handicraft for income generation and 3) Children's care. GBU released the fund last December 2013 in the amount of USD110,020.
- The Emerald Hope Project. This project had its beginning with the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami at the end of 2004, as a relief program supported by BWAid and Baptist Churches in North East India to the tsunami ravaged Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was later developed into a development project by the Nagaland

Baptist Church Council (NBCC) where federation of self-help groups organized. The project monitoring was done by Anderson Tokbi. The project ended in the year 2013 with evaluation conducted by Rev. Rothangliani Channgte, Director of BWAid in December. Anderson Tokbi Joined Rothangi in the evaluation.

#### Project Evaluation

- MBC Nargis Evaluation. The evaluation of the MBC-Nargis Rehabilitation Effort was conducted on the last week of September 2013 with Eddy Ruble of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) as Consultant. From site visits and meetings in Myanmar, his general impression of the projects is quite good. The project objectives and goals seemed to have been achieved with fair success, especially considering the challenges of the situation location, and logistics in implementing the projects. He was most impressed with the general good relationship the field coordinators had with the village leadership (VDC), pastors, and community. It was also good to hear and see evidence from MBC development branch that their focus is shifting from church based to community based development model. He was quite impressed with all of the leaders, field coordinators, compassion for the project communities and an ability to improve those communities with the assistance from APBAid.

#### Peacebuilding Program

- Peace-building and conflict transformation project of the CBCNEI Justice and Peace Department. Through coordination of APBAid, in cooperation with Partera and Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, a training in peace-building and conflict transformation was conducted by the CBCNEI Justice and Peace Department among its constituencies last October 2013. The purpose of the training is to support conflict transformation, restorative justice, and a peace-building efforts at all levels of society in situations of complex, protracted, violent or potentially violent, inter-community/intra-community conflicts within the perimeter of the CBCNEI constituent body. The training was done as a follow up of the training in Philippines conducted by APBAid in cooperation with BPFNA and Partera where Atungo Shitre, Director of CBCNEI Justice and Peace Department had participated.
- Biblical Peacemaking for Christian Educators and Peace Practitioners. A joint undertaking by Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches through its Christian Education and Development Ministries – Asia Pacific Baptist Aid/Asia Pacific Baptist Federation and Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/Partera that was conducted in last week of October to 1<sup>st</sup> week of November 2013 in Iloilo City among CPBC had participated in peacemaking trainings and workshops are now leading their churches into ministries that attempt to relevantly address the condition that breeds “unpeace”. There is still need to bring these efforts to a sharper focus, and for peacemaking to take roots where spiritual formation mostly takes place; in the churches – more specifically, the Sunday school. If we are to build a world of peace, our Sunday school attendees peace. This program hopes to provide our Christian educators with the knowledge and skills to help make it happen. The CPBC is now developing the Sunday School materials on Biblical peacemaking.

- Advocacy on Environmental, Corruption and Migrant Issues. The APBAid joined CPBC in environmental advocacy like forums, candle lighting and caravan opposing the construction of mega dam in central panay. According to environmentalists, the proposed dam on active faults in panay making the entire region prone to earthquake hazard. The dam site has high susceptibility to landslide, rockfalls and soil movements according to the mines and Geosciences Bureau. The advocacy is gaining support from the people.

Forums and awareness on migrant and human trafficking issues were also conducted and facilitated by the CPBC-Development Ministries in cooperation and coordination with the ecumenical council, catholic church, church-related development organizations, and organizations working for Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). There are also seminars that gave orientation re culture of destination countries, some tips and contrats, values to families and other related concerns of OFWs and families.

Forums against corruption was also conducted at the height of the Philippine Development Assistance Fund scam where many government officials are linked into this corruption of supposedly fund should go the social services of the people. There were signature campaigns and where the person responsible was put to jail and the PDAF was abolished.

#### Capacity Enhancement

1. DRM - Philippines. The APBAid conducted the third Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Training in the Philippines last 5-7 September 2013 and hosted by the CPBC Decelopment Ministries. Four APBF member Conventions participated in the training – the Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches, Convention of Visayas and Mindanao Southern Baptist Churches. The General Baptist Church of the Philippines and the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches. Key leaders from Baptist Conventions and Church organizations in Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka also come and participated in the training. A total of 45 persons were involves in the training. Anthony Sell, Operations Manager of TAI (BWAA) TAI and Chairperson of Operations Committee of APBAID is the major resource person in Project Cycle Management. Other resource persons are from Office of Civil Defense and Iloilo City Emergency Response Anderson Tokbi, Project Officer of APBAid based in Shillong, Northeast India is also a resource person on the Biblical and theological reflections on Disasters and Feraz Legita, Associate Director, gave the role of the church in disasters. The training enhanced skills and capacity of Convention in dealing with recurring disasters in the Philippines and Asia Pacific region and expressed a more comprehensive training in project cycle management.

2. APBAid Staff Capacity Enhancement.

Anderson Tokbi participated in the Community Transformation Training conducted by Efficor, participated in the conference conducted by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation in Kathmandu, Nepal in March 2013, where he also meet with the Baptist Union of Norway for the extension of Lydia Project in Mizoram.

Feraz Legita attended and participated the programs conducted by Micah Network: the Integral Summit for Urban Mission in Bangkok, Thailand where integral urban mission was

highlighted to be the whole of life where the connections between God, people and earth requires an integral and whole of life responses specifically on issues and concerns related to urban mission. The other is the Solidarity in Disaster.

Management Consultation held in September in Manila, Philippines that discuss and learn together about strengthening of shared responsibility in responding to disasters affecting the communities. Feraz Legita also attended the BWA Annual Gathering in Jamaica and had the opportunity of meeting Baptist bodies supporting relief and development works and their sharing of appreciation of the APBAid ministries.

The APBF Theological Education and APBAid Forum in Myanmar. The preparations for the APBF Theological Education and APBAid Forum was done by the Organizing Committee: Alan Marr, Miyon Chung, Bonny Resu, Les Fussell and Steven Smith with close cooperation with Dr. Maung Maung Yin and his local organizing committee at the Myanmar Peace Studies Center and Myanmar Baptist Convention. The forum is jointly undertaken by the Theological Education Committee and APBAid of APBF.

Interactive Website. The work was completed through the effort of Mr. Bijoy Sangma and Rev. Kabi Gangmei.

Partnership with Baptist Bodies. We appreciated the continued partnership with Baptist bodies that has been developed through the year and anew. It is important to review systems and coordination for better and efficient program cooperation.

Conclusion:

In the Asia Pacific region and around the globe, we confronted with environmental catastrophes, political, economic and social issues affecting the people especially the least of our sisters and brothers in Christ. This calls to assess and reflect the role of Churches on how to actively participate in addressing these issues. I am thankful for the concerted effort of the APBF leadership in ministries of responding to disasters and peace issues. God has provided APBAid with committed leaders and generous supporters both from APBF member bodies and APBAid partners and I trust God will always bless the ministries of APBAid and APBF.

Prepared by:

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