



## APBAid Annual Activities 2014 Report

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Overall co-ordination of works carried out by the staff - Kabi Gangmei, Feraz Legita and Anderson Tokbi, with the Chair of APBAid Committee, Victor Rembeth

### Introduction

It's a great privilege to share about busy and exciting year of APBAid. Much of the year's activities had been taken up by Haiyan and Phailin recovery projects, and capacity building of our partners which brings deepening of our experience in Christian holistic outreach. For this, I would praise the Lord who not only bless us but sustain us through the year. I would also express great thanks to the Churches and global Baptist bodies who stood with us in this outreach.

### Finance

Thanks to Les and Allan who had been holding the fort of keeping the accounts of APBAid and helping the office receiving and disbursing funds regularly. Les had prepared our accounts in details separately. In 2014 we received a total contribution of US \$561,128 and we spent \$555,358 under several projects; it may be noted that much of the expenditure (\$419,910) was related to Haiyan projects. By the end of the year we were holding a balance of \$424,162 under varied heads of accounts, including amount \$157,653 pending transfer.

### Office

I, my esteemed colleagues Feraz Legita, Deputy Director and Anderson Tokbi, the Project Officer had been working hard to accomplish the tasks assigned to us. I had spent at least 50 days on official visit and travels – mostly on relief initiatives, project visits and consultancy works. Anderson also logged 72 days on official travels. He assisted in DRM trainings, supervises relief and development projects. Feraz had focused on disaster response in Philippines. I may mention an opportunity for me and Feraz to join Baptists community in the BWA Annual Gathering in Izmir, Turkey on July 4 – 11, 2014. It was great to be with several Baptist leaders from different countries and got refreshed by listening to the messages. On the other hand, regret to mention that with my health issues and due to paucity of funds, planned staff's meeting in Bangkok and DRMs at several places were cancelled.

### Interactive website for APBAid

We are thankful to Bijoy Sangma, Chairman of APBF Committee for Communications who had given us a good guidance to the website "ADRI MIS" maintenance. Ojims Daimai, an IT student assisted us in the office part time. For this year we were able to renew annual fee payment of \$8,247 which would last us to 18 months, till March 2016. It was discussed that we should review maintenance of this website, and how we can raise fund to pay annual fees.

## A. Responding to disasters

### 1. Haiyan Relief and Rehabilitation Program, Philippines

On November 08, 2013 super typhoon Haiyan struck and devastated Central Islands of Philippines. Under the leadership of Feraz, APBAid by supporting Baptist Churches responded immediately to the relief need, and organized a meeting with APBF member Conventions and came out with a coordinated Baptist response plan on December 12-13, 2013. Thanks to the generous contribution from global Baptist bodies such as ABC(American Baptist Churches), BWAid, BMS, Baptist Union of Nederland, CBF, EBM-GBU, Diakonia, CBM, GBIM (General Baptist International Mission)and APBF member Churches 13 projects were kick started by January 2014. For this period, the projects were able to help rebuild houses of 1,748 families and 1,458 families were provided with livelihood assistance for their farm needs like rice seeds and fertilizers; animal raising like piglets, goats, chickens and ducks; capital

assistance for small business like vending fresh and dried fish, cooked food, vegetables etc and fishing gears. Children trauma care was undertaken in 11 villages of 3 municipalities in Capiz and trauma care for survivors in Guian, eastern Samar by ABWU. Besides this with the support of Diakonia through its Asia Regional Office, a DRR seminar was conducted on October 6-9, 2014 for the benefit of key leaders involved in disaster response of the APBF member Conventions and the ABWU. Yearlong great efforts culminated by holding one year anniversary of Haiyan with over 500 young people lighting candle of hope and prayer of thanksgiving. This was done at the closing of CBYFP General Assembly, facilitated by the APBAid and CPBC team headed by Feraz and Ms. Henna Caipang, Director of CPBC Development Ministries in Iloilo on October 31, 2014. (CBYFP means Convention Baptist Youth Fellowship of the Philippines)

## **2. Phailin Recovery Program, Orissa, India**

Powerful cyclonic storm, named “Phailin” swept through eastern Indian States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh on October 12, 2013 and it was followed by devastating floods. About 12 million people were affected and thousands lost their homes and livelihood. As an emergency relief APBAid and International Ministries of American Baptist Churches (IM-ABC) granted \$10,000 each assisting Bengal Orissa Bihar Baptist Churches Association (BOBBCA) in providing roofing materials to 193 families. APBAid also facilitated a livelihood recovery project worth \$54,009 with the support of European Baptist Mission-German Baptist Union (EBM-GBU) to help 761 families. Along with capacity building training they were given 20 fishing nets, 100 goats and 2135 chicks.

## **3. Other Relief efforts**

### **(i) Karenni camp fire**

On March 22, 2013 an accidental fire occurred at Karenni camp, situated along Thai-Myanmar border. Many of the inmates were left homeless, and young children were about to miss their schooling. With the contribution from Baptist brethren in Korea and Malaysia, APBAid help Karenni Women rebuild their nursery school worth \$12,000. There were 5 teachers and 122 students attending in 2 shifts daily. The camp leaders expressed heartfelt thanks for the timely assistance to the nursery.

### **(ii) Ethnic conflict in Karbi Anglong, Assam**

In December 2013 ethnic violence erupted in Assam’s district of Karbi Anglong (NE India) when two insurgency groups belonging to Rengma Naga and Karbi attacked each other. Consequently, 18 lives were lost, over 100 homes burnt and a total of 3131 villagers took shelter in 9 relief camps. APBAid with a small grant of \$2000 joined Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) and Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention (KABC) in helping 1035 families with immediate relief assistance. It also joined peace initiatives, starting with a meeting convened at Diphu on February 19, 2014 in which leaders from 13 Baptist Associations and APBAid officials Kabi Gangmei and Anderson participated in the meeting.

### **(iii) Flash floods and landslides in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia**

Flash floods and landslides hit several locations in North Sulawesi on January 15, 2014, and it left 18 people dead, 1000 houses damaged and 4000 people evacuated. Within a week’s time Rebana team, unit of Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches (UIBC) together with the local Baptist churches took up relief assistance to 100 households in 4 villages, and provided health services to 95 persons. APBAid made enablement grant of \$3000 to Rebana.

### **(iv) MTC Reconstruction in Manipur, NE India**

An accidental fire burnt down the main building of Manipur Theological College (MTC) on April 19, 2014. Nothing could be retrieved from the administrative office, chapel, reference library section and study rooms. To help in reconstruction of the building, APBAid provided \$2000, and facilitated an assistance from EBM-GBU with a grant of \$21,366. The rebuilding was completed last August, and the academic session resumed without delay. It may be noted that MTC is the main institution of Baptists to train leaders in the State Manipur.

**(v) Flash Flood in Garo Hills**

In September 2014, unexpected flash flood swept through Garo Hills in the State of Meghalaya (NE India). Altogether 59 lives were lost, 33 persons injured and over 50,000 households affected. Garo Baptist Convention (GBC) along with the government agencies carried out rescue works and hand out immediate reliefs. APBAid facilitated a rehabilitation project worth \$26,333 with the support of EBM-GBU, and joined them with a grant of \$4000 from its own fund. This rehabilitation project will enable 250 families to rebuild their homes with the provision of roofing materials. As an integral part of the project APBAid and GBC will organize DRM training for the benefit of local Baptist leaders.

**(vi) Humanitarian assistance to Kachin IDPs**

Renewed civil unrest in Kachin State of Myanmar resumed with intensity and by August 2013 there were hundreds of casualties on both sides, and devastation around in the affected areas. In Putao area (N Myanmar) due to intense fighting 100 families were taking shelters in the temporary camps, and they were not able to go back to their village. Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) had been supporting them from their regular budget, but from May 2014 there was serious shortage of foodstuff to assist them. APBAid in combination with EBM-GBU initiated a small relief project of \$11,266.

**(vii) Typhoon Hagupit, Philippines**

Another major typhoon named as “Hagupit” struck central Philippines on December 6, 2014. Those seriously affected were communities in eastern and western Samar where the churches of Visayas Convention of Southern Baptist Churches (VCSBC) and Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches (LCSBC) were located. In coordination with the BWAid, relief proposal worth \$63,600 was submitted to Rev. Rothang Chhange, Director of BWAid and it was approved immediately for implementation. APBAid also joined the relief assistance with a grant of \$3,000 to VCSBC.

**B. Development Projects**

**1. Lydia Project, Mizoram**

The project was launched in 2011 in collaboration with the 3 Baptist Churches in Mizoram (NE India), namely Baptist Church of Mizoram, Lairam Jesus Christ Baptist Church and Zomi Baptist Church with the support of Baptist Union of Norway (BUN). With the current revolving capital of \$69,358 for Micro-credit fund it has formed 111 SHGs, benefitting 1107 Chin migrant/marginalized women. Basic and capacity trainings were given to the local women leaders and SHG members. After completion of Phase-I in December 2013 an organisational review was carried out by the donors in March 4-17, 2014 with focus on internal control and financial risks aspects. There were follow-up action in changing the staff, and improvising the account software. BUN has agreed to extend financial assistance to the project for another two years (2014 and 2015). APBAid role is to assist the project as consultant till 2015-end. There has been a concern for project sustainability.

**3. Mentawai DRR Project, Indonesia**

Mentawai Islands, Bengkulu and Lampung areas are on the West Coast of Sumatra, and are disaster-prone and high risk zone, especially from earthquake and tsunami. There had been a

number of earthquakes happened in the recent years. Since June 2012, with the support of BWAid and APBAid, Rebana had been working to reduce vulnerability of various aspects experienced by community in those areas. Amount involved in the project is \$42,013; this support comes mainly from BWAid.

Activities of the project are -

- (i) capacity building and campaign among Children and Communities in 5 sub-villages of Mentawai Islands thereby reducing the risk of disaster through a year's DRR activities;
- (ii) capacity building and awareness campaign among the Churches and Church's network in Bengkulu and Lampung provinces along with DRR practices. Crucial area of psychosocial support was introduced during the campaigns.
- (iii) developing pre-school and elementary school tutoring activities followed by seminars on Children Protection Law and Convention rights of a child.

#### **4. Community Development through Micro-Finance activities, Aceh, Indonesia**

Earthquake and tsunami in 2004 devastated economic aspects of Aceh. In order to help a small part of the affected communities Rebana had initiated a micro-finance program that had shown effective in community recovery. The project is located to target 200 households in Banda Aceh & Aceh Besar areas. By the end of 2014 project was able to help 132 families who got access to capital and develop their business capacity. By doing this they were able to take care of family need such as health and children education. Rebana also able to form a Cooperative, named "Rebana-Aceh Cooperative" for the benefit of the community/beneficiaries. The cooperative was started with 20 members, and the body is with full structure- Board of trustees and office bearers. It was registered with the authorized notary Deed Husna SH, M.Kn No. 06, dated September 3, 2014. The project, worth \$32,676 is supported by GBU and BWAid, and APBAid is assisting to monitor it.

### **C. Capacity building and training**

#### **1. Consultation on Peace**

"APBF Theological Educators & APBAid Forum on Peace" was jointly organized by APBF Committee on Theological Education and APBAid at Peace Studies Centre, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Yangon on January 12-16, 2014. Altogether 89 participants from 20 different countries in Asia Pacific Region attended the Forum. An additional 39 local participants came to join on the day of the Roundtable. It provided an opportunity for theologians and peace-builders to reflect on the issues of peace in view of drafting educational strategies to equip the church leaders for peace-making skills in all dimensions of life. Peace is not only something to cultivate in personal relationships but also a Biblical culture to construct through relevant and concrete education, especially in places where justice is intangible and conflict is frequent (such as Myanmar). These objectives were covered in the program by addressing -

- (i) Shalom in the Bible/Scripture (Overview);
- (ii) Shalom in Context (Issues and Cases)
- (iii) Shalom in Action (Toward Declaration)

At the end of the Forum, the "Yangon Declaration on Peace" was drafted and affirmed. It captures the depth of theological reflection and articulates recognition of practical needs for peace-building skills.

#### **2. Evaluation-cum-Participatory Workshop**

Eight officials from Lower Assam Baptist Union (LABU) and Boro Baptist Churches' Aid (BBCAid) along with APBAid officials and resource persons came together for Evaluation -cum-Participatory Workshop in Gauhati, Assam on February 1, 2014. The objective of this consultation was to enhance the skills of LABU and BBKA development workers in relief situation which would become later an

integral part of APBAid outreach. The workshop started with highlights of evaluation report on Lower Assam Ethnic Violence Relief and Rehabilitation Project (which APBAid supported) followed by interaction on lessons learnt (finance, proposal writing, target communities, peace-making, strength and weaknesses etc). It continued on with session on Project Strategy and Networking. Rev Kabi Gangmei, Mr Joshi Tuisum (Action Aid, Gauhati) and Mr Sushil Narzary (CMAI, Shillong) were the resource persons.

### **3. Phils Diakonia DRR Seminar**

In the past 3 years, 3 major typhoons consecutively hit the Philippines and the magnitude of these typhoons got stronger, the latest of which was super typhoon Haiyan that devastated central Philippines Islands of Leyte and Panay. As Baptist Churches were responding for early recovery, APBAid in partnership with CPBC conducted a seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program with the support of Diakonia (Sweden) in Iloilo city on October 6-9, 2014. Altogether 55 delegates from 5 Baptist Conventions and delegates from Asia Baptist Women Union (ABWU) came to attend the seminar. Based on community preparedness and resiliency the focus of the seminar was to encourage Churches to develop DRR plans, besides touching on core relief standards such as HAP, Red Cross Code of Conduct and SPHERE. It also introduced essential practices of 'trauma care' in time of disaster.

### **4. DRR program with MTC community**

Manipur Theological College was burnt down accidentally and Kabi in connection with supervision of the reconstruction paid a visit to MTC campus on September 26, 2014. On the same day Manipur Baptist Convention, the parent body of MTC, conducted a DRR seminar as integral part of the relief assistance. About 100 participants - the students, faculty, hospital staff and the populace of the Kangpokpi Mission Compound attended the seminar. The sessions brought new insights to many, and participants were alerted with possibility of disasters as fire, landslide and fallen trees during storms. The compound authorities had taken up preparatory measures, and the communicated to the families. Kabi also led in checking whether MTC management team had followed basic measures – such as proper 'earthing' of electricity, escape outlets in the buildings, clearance of tall trees around buildings, proper drainages for rain water and proper insurance coverage.

### **5. Human Trafficking**

There has been discussion on human trafficking as major issue for the Churches across Asia-Pacific region, and APBAid was not able to initiate any significant plan for this. It was in our thinking that at least to start involve ourselves in this issue in the Philippines, Myanmar and North East India, because they are physically nearer and they are hit hard by human trafficking in various forms. It is assumed that over 2 million, mainly women are trafficked through and from these countries. Though a serious violation of human rights and inconsistent with the Biblical values, the Churches in the region has not awakened to it. In 2014 Kabi and Anderson attended a 2-seminar on Human Trafficking organized by Miglat Ministry of Women dept of Nagaland Baptist Churches Council at Dimapur (NE India) from October 7-8, 2014. Some 68 participants from 18 Baptist Churches and associations attended the consultation. Rev. Dr. Luran Bethel (Founder and Director of International Christian Alliance for Prostitution, and ABC consultant on human trafficking) was the main resource person. An action plan document was drafted and participants affirmed by joining hands to combat human trafficking. Following this Kabi will be attending as observer in the sessions of India Mission Baptist Leaders' Meeting in Guwahati, Assam on March 23-26, 2015 .

## **Conclusion**

I remain ever thankful to the support and encouragement of APBAid Committee members. With your prayer support and with God's grace I recovered back from my sickness and continue my work. I would also express great thanks to my colleagues Feraz and Anderson who shoulder much of the tasks during the year. It is encouraging to see consistent supports coming from Churches in Australia-NZ, Malaysia, Japan, NE India and others. We also remain greatly thankful to the continued support and partnership with ABC, BWAid TAI, BMS, BUN, CBF, EBM-GBU, and others.

We praise God for what we achieved, and we remain committed to the tasks set before us. We request your prayer for the challenges that lay before us.

Rev.Kabi Gangmei  
Director, APBAid

January 20, 2015