



2013 country annual report

**International Emergency and Development Aid
(IEDA Relief)**

Global Operation

May 2014

IEDA Relief Inc

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THE YEAR AT GLANCE-2013

Mali

The end of 2013 finds Mali recovering from armed conflicts and a complex humanitarian emergency that significantly impacted the social and political life of the country. This crisis triggered the significant displacement of northern populations both within and outside of the country borders. At the end of July 2013, it was estimated that more than 521,651 individuals, including 342,033 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 175,627 refugees in neighboring countries, had fled their homes. IEDA Relief worked in the most affected communities in northern Mali to ensure vulnerable people enjoy their right to protection through a Protection Monitoring Program.

Burkina Faso

As a result of the political conflict in Mali, an estimated 50,000 Malian refugees settled in Burkina Faso in search of security. In 2013, IEDA Relief in partnership with UNHCR relocated refugees from spontaneous settlements sites to consolidated camps (Goudebou and Mentao) away from the insecure borders. IEDA Relief worked alongside refugees in their time of hardship, assuring Camp Management and Coordination, Food Distribution and implementing Community Services in favor of the refugee community.

The Philippines

In the aftermath of the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan, IEDA Relief Philippines deployed to the affected area to provide essential interventions in response to the effects of Typhoon Yolanda and contribute towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected regions. As of December 12, 2013, there were 5,982 reported fatalities; more than 80 percent were from the three Leyte towns of Tacloban, Palo, and Tanauan. A further 27,022 people were reported injured, with 1,779 persons still missing. Since November 2013, IEDA Relief Philippines has actively participated in Camp Coordination/ Camp Management (CCCM) activities in Tacloban, supporting day-to-day management of evacuation centers and liaising with the government disaster response arm, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, participating in various cluster meetings for effective response.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The DRC has been at the epicenter of armed conflicts for over a decade. In 2013, IEDA Relief continued to provide services to people affected by these recurring conflicts through various projects including the monitoring of protection in partnership with UNHCR, the restoration of agricultural production with funding from pooled funds and rehabilitation of nutritional centers in Rutshuru territory; emergency WASH for IDP in Bunia, NFIs for IDPs and their Host families in the Province of Maniema.

CORE VALUE, MISSION AND VISION

Mission

The mission of IEDA Relief is to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people by tackling the underlying causes of poverty so that people can become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

Vision:

Our vision is to establish a stable environment with sustainable solutions that benefit the population in need. We empower communities to become self-sufficient and to decide how better improve and save a life while bring about change that is culturally acceptable and building upon existing efforts and successes.

Values:

We are committed to working in the most difficult conditions to reach the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. We believe that investing in people and their abilities to support themselves and their families is critical to the long-term process of reducing poverty. We work to empower communities in conflict-torn and disaster-affected areas to save lives, sustain human dignity and restore a healthy community. We serve vulnerable people in need, regardless of their belief, culture, language, custom, sect, ethnicity and/or political affiliation.

IEDA RELIEF IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

IEDA Relief in Mali

Statement from the Head of Mission

IEDA Relief's unique organizational model allows our staff to be present and alongside citizens in the hardest-hit areas of the north, many of which are still unstable, to identify incidents of post-conflict protection, as well as ensure the continual monitoring and follow-up of incidents of protection that have been documented from the 2012-2013 conflict. IEDA Relief is therefore on the humanitarian "front-line"; creating and reinforcing an early warning system that shares critical and timely information to ensure the rapid mobilization and effective response of humanitarian actors for victims of human rights abuses.

IEDA Relief Mali's protection activities for 2013 focused on timely identification, documentation, and referral of victim of protection incidents to specialized actors working in direct service. We also carried out information and awareness campaigns to reinforce prevention at the community level using facilitated focus group discussion, video projection and mass awareness campaigns on human rights and the importance of peaceful coexistence. The project assessed the level of access to basic rights and services in refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) areas of origin and shared this information with the humanitarian actors for better programming and targeting.

IEDA Relief's highly flexible program model enabled us to rapidly deploy deep into the field to respond to the Malian crisis and provide critical and timely information on protection issues. Our recruitment model, which privileges the use of local staff from each region that have an understanding of the unique characteristics of the communities in which we work enabled us to access conflict-prone areas and document protection issues. The cultural and geographic proximity of our monitors to project beneficiaries has allowed our teams to detect and document incidents of protection that would otherwise have gone unaddressed.

- David Hershberg, Head of Mission 2013

About the country program

International Emergency And Development Aid (IEDA Relief) has been present Mali since March 2013, when the organization led a multi-sectorial assessment in the northern regions affected by armed conflicts. In April 2013, IEDA Relief signed a Sub-agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the implementation of the Protection Monitoring and Profiling of Zones of Return in the North of Mali project. In 2013, IEDA Relief employed over 110 international and national staff and had field offices in the northern regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Segou and Kidal, with a coordination office located in Bamako.

Operational Context

The end of 2013 found Mali recovering from a complex humanitarian emergency that has significantly impacted the social and political life of the country. In January 2012, armed conflict broke out between rebels of the National Liberation Movement of Azawad (MNLA) and the Malian army. MNLA acted with the support of known terrorist groups, including Movement for the Oneness of Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Ansar Dine, and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), who took advantage of the confusion and political uncertainty prevailing in Bamako after a coup led by the military on March 22, 2012 to occupy the northern regions of Mali: Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and a large part of the region of Mopti. Shortly thereafter, the Islamists sidelined the MNLA and imposed varying degrees of theocratic governance, including Sharia law, on local populations before a military intervention in January 2013 led by French troops and a multinational peacekeeping force re-conquered the north and dispelled terrorist elements from major population centers. During the occupation, rebels committed atrocities against the civilians in the occupied territory, triggering massive displacement of the population both within the country and outside of Mali in neighboring countries such Burkina Faso, Niger, Algeria, Mauritanian, etc.

As Mali recovers from conflict and stability is gradually restored, the country faces a new set of challenges compounding the post-conflict reality. Northern and central Mali have seen large movements of spontaneous returns of both refugees from neighboring countries, as well as IDPs from southern Mali. As of December 2013, an estimated number of 140,000 IDPs have returned to their areas of origin and 14,000 Malian refugees have returned from neighboring countries (UNHCR Mali January 2014). IEDA Relief's rapid community appraisals of zones of return carried out in 2013 have demonstrated the precarious

conditions and limited social services many returnees face upon their return to their communities. Moreover, due to persistent insecurity in areas of return, IDPs and returnees are faced with many human right abuses and threats to their well-being upon their return such as arbitrary arrests, kidnapping, unexploded remnants of war, racial discrimination, lack of access to documentation, and the continued threat of ethnic conflict.

Project activities

Protection Monitoring and Profiling of Zones of Return in Northern Mali, Gao, Tombouctou, Segou and Kidal.

This project had two main activities:

(i) Protection Monitoring, which includes working at the circle, commune, and village level with citizens in the northern regions who have been affected by the 2012-2013 conflict. We carry out information campaigns on human rights awareness and peaceful coexistence through film, radio, and focus group discussions. Our protection monitors identified, monitored, and referred cases of human rights abuses to the authorities and international humanitarian actors for appropriate response.

(ii) Profiling of zones of return consisted of carrying out rapid community assessments and other ad hoc evaluations to inform UNHCR and the humanitarian community on the conditions and the availability of basic services in the communities affected by the conflict. The project shared findings of these evaluations on the security conditions, level of availability of basic services like functional, access to water, and functionality of public institutions such as hospitals and schools with UNHCR and international humanitarian community for appropriate and targeted interventions. This information also enabled UNHCR to better inform the refugee population and IDPs so that could make informed decisions on their voluntary return.

Problem Statement facts

During the 10 months of occupation, the population of northern Mali experienced a traumatic period of generalized insecurity and grave human rights violations committed primarily by groups of coalition rebels. These abuses included summary and extrajudicial executions; gender based violence and deliberate gender-based discrimination and deprivation of health, education, property, and economic opportunities; forced recruitment of children for sexual exploitation and trafficking, abduction, and engagement in armed conflict; deprivation of the rights of freedom of expression and assembly; and looting, occupation and destruction of public infrastructure (schools, hospitals, government buildings). These arbitrary acts of violence against civilians triggered the significant displacement of northern populations both within the country and outside of Mali's borders in search for protection. At the end of July, 2013 it was estimated more than 521,651 individuals were displaced, including 342,033 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 175,627 refugees in neighboring countries (Protection Cluster, Revised Strategy).

Impacts:

In 2013, IEDA Relief teams identified and documented **204 incidents of protection**. Victims of several of these incidents were referred to service delivery structures for appropriate responses and IEDA-Relief Protection Monitors continuously monitored their situation to ensure effective response. To assure a more dynamic presence at the community-level to monitor incidents of protection as well as share critical information with beneficiaries, IEDA Relief also opened and ran **26 consultation centers** (Centres d'ecoute) at the community level in each region wherein IEDA Relief field staff carry-out sensitization activities, protection incidents documentation and victim referral.

Our protection monitoring activities contributed to the establishment of an early warning mechanism that continuously collected and shared disaggregated data on protection incidents, mobilizing various actors for timely, appropriate and effective response to protection issues. Database on incidents of protection that the project generated, allowed UNHCR and other humanitarian actors to analyze and better understand the trends of different protection issues and thus better orient their advocacy and protection interventions.



Film Projection Sankore (Timbuktu) on peaceful coexistence



Highlights of IEDA Relief's impacts in Mali in 2013 include:

IEDA Relief's carried out a widespread media campaign on human rights utilizing local radio stations and traveling throughout communities in the northern region to project films on peaceful coexistence, reconciliation, and human rights for all. In total, we carried out **864 radio transmissions on local radios** and **60 film projections** that reached **100,000.00** people

In 2013, IEDA Relief organized **229 focus groups and sensitization sessions** on the conditions in communities of return. These sessions reached a total number of **122,985 people affected by armed conflict**. We also Carried rapid needs assessments in 447 villages in Northern Mali and shared the reports with UNHCR and the humanitarian community to help mobilize resources for people affected by conflicts

In summary, this project has enabled vulnerable people to find solutions to their protection problems as identified by IEDA-Relief protection team in the most conflict affected areas in the north of Mali. The project served as a source of reliable information for displaced persons enabling them to make informed choice on their voluntary return to their areas of origin. The project also helped mobilize support for basic services in return areas.

Number of beneficiaries

IDPs: This project targeted about **137,064** IDPs distributed as follows by region: **25,977** and **Segou:** Timbuktu: **21,764**, Gao. **45,599**.

Repatriated: **14,271** people in Gao, Tombouctou, Segou and Kidal

Non-Displaced population/Residents: The project activities also benefited non-displaced people that were victims of human rights violations.

Partnership and Program Funding

IEDA Relief is a lead implementing partner for Protection Monitoring and Profiling of zones of Return under a Sub-agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since April 2013. IEDA Relief Mali is an active member of the Protection Cluster and a key member of the Protection Monitoring Technical Working group.

Challenges, Gaps & Proposed Activities for Future Intervention

Challenges and Gaps

Logistics The main challenges during the project implementation in 2013 and in the first months of the follow-on project in 2014 are related to the vast distances that must traversed for operations; in total, the northern regions include an area in excess of 750,000 Km². More resources are required to ensure broader protection and strengthen IEDA Relief's presence at the community level.

Security Though the security situation has improved since 2013, there are several areas where IEDA Relief operates which remain unstable and undergo periodic attacks from bandits and armed groups. Our access to these areas is hindered at times, and requires attentiveness and prudence for our teams on the ground.

Need for more operational partners During project implementation in 2013 and the course of the current project this year, we have often found that protection cases are identified and reported by our teams, but that there is often not another humanitarian actor in the area to whom we may report the incident for follow-on, direct service. More advocacy is needed for the deployment of humanitarian partners who can directly take cases such as GBV, child protection, and access to justice onto their caseloads. Despite limited resources, a concerted effort to strengthen the coordination between implementing partners of the UNHCR and other UN agencies will ensure effective care for a population who remains vulnerable. Adequate assistance for this population will, in the end, be the difference that ensures a peaceful and sustainable resolution to conflict.

Proposed activities for future interventions

In addition to our current protection activities in 2014, much potential exists for IEDA Relief Mali to capitalize on its widespread geographical presence in the north of Mali, as well as the rich contextual knowledge within our staff of the needs the most vulnerable populations. IEDA Relief is in a unique position to develop strategies to provide effective and sustainable responses for post-conflict recovery such as improvement of access to basic social services, peaceful coexistence and community re-integration, and strengthening socio-economic activities. Selected project ideas and concept notes that have been developed include:

Child Protection: Improving the child protective environment through the rehabilitation of schools in post-conflict communities in the circle of Ansongo and Menaka in the region Gao. Focus on increasing an access to documentation (Birth certificate) for children from repatriated households, born in exile.

Livelihoods and Early Recovery-Economic Recovery and Resilience in Northern Mali, Region of Gao, Communes of Ansongo, Gourem and Menaka—Objective: The primary objective of this project is to build economic resilience of conflict affected communities in northern Mali and facilitate livelihood restoration through income generating activities and skills transfer

Peaceful Coexistence and Reintegration-Sport for Peace in Tombouctou, Communes of Tombouctou, Goundam and Dire- Objective: To promote early recovery from armed conflict in communities in the North of Mali by using sports as a positive vehicle to connect and successfully reintegrate youth aged 10-25 to their communities

Recommendations

- Diversify donor base to allow for project funds to retain qualified national and expat staff and human resources.
- Houston office should draft and release a personnel manual for staff, which clarifies HR policy.
- Houston office or Regional office should release guidance on financial management.
- Share information with expat African staff (in French) on how they can access health care services while in the field.
- Diversify donor base to allow for project funds to retain qualified national and expat staff and human resources.

The Mali country team

IEDA RELIEF MALI

Country Management Team

Jean Ives Bonzi, *Head of Mission*
Claude Chofi, *Protection & Program Officer*,
Esther Lutonde, *Admin-Finance Officer*,

Administrative & Program Staff

Benjamin Mambo, *Information Management and Database Officer*,
Kakidja DIARA, *Comptable*

Field management team

Siaka Soulama, *Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Head of Field Office in Gao*,
Guillaume Coulibalay, *Acting Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Head of Field Office in Timbuctu*,
Coumba SAMAKE, *Protection Assistant, Acting Head of Field Office in Segou*,
Manayet Ag MOHAMED, *Protection Assistant, Acting Head of Field Office in Kidal*,

IEDA Relief in Burkina Faso

Statement from the Head of Mission

IEDA Relief initially sent a team to Burkina Faso in June 2012 in response to an increasing number of Malian refugees crossing the border into Burkina Faso. Since then, IEDA Relief Burkina Faso has established a headquarters in Ouagadougou and field offices in Dori/Goudoubo, Djibo/Mentao and Bobo-Dioulasso. In 2013, IEDA Relief was active in providing aid and services to nearly 50,000 Malian refugees and asylum seekers in all official camps and in multiple spontaneous refugee sites, working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Burkina Faso government (CONAREF) and other implementing partners. IEDA Relief continued to operate in its camp management/camp coordination role, provided various community and protection services in each refugee site and also took on the responsibility of distributing food and non-food items. Our work has helped to ensure that, despite increasingly limited funding for this region, Malian refugees have a safe place to call home and access to essential services in Burkina Faso. Looking forward, we hope to continue to support the Malian population in Burkina Faso and to facilitate their return to Mali when the conditions allow. Given our extensive experience in Burkina Faso, it is also important for IEDA Relief to explore opportunities to help the Burkinabe population meet its development objectives.

- Phil Manuulwa, Head of Mission 2013

Operational Context

Beginning in January 2012, the Malian population experienced periods of unrest and hostility brought about by multifaceted conflicts involving the National Liberation Movement of Azawad (MNLA) and its support from terrorist factions, the Malian army who completed a coup d'état in March 2012 and various Islamist movements that began to exert increasing power following the coup d'état. In January 2013, a UN-sanctioned multinational intervention led by France's military troops was implemented to reclaim occupied territory in northern Mali and expel terrorist forces from the most populated areas.

During this period, Malians fled the environment of violence and human rights violations in their homeland to seek refuge in neighboring countries, including Burkina Faso. It is estimated that nearly 200,000 Malian refugees fled to neighboring countries,¹ of which nearly 50,000 settled in Burkina Faso². In response, the Burkinabe government opened its borders to the Malian refugees, and UNHCR began organizing a strategic plan to aid these refugees according to its humanitarian mandate. In July 2012, IEDA Relief began operating closely with UNHCR as one of several implementing partners to facilitate the support of this new refugee population in Burkina Faso.

Given the increasing tensions in Mali in late 2012, the Burkinabe government requested that refugees located within 50km of the Malian border be relocated to camps in a more central location, in accordance with UNHCR protection standards. IEDA Relief played an integral role in helping to consolidate the refugee population into the Mentao and Goudoubo camps between October 2012 and June 2013. During this time, we also on took on more responsibility within the camps with respect to the distribution of food and non-food items and protection services.

As of April 2014, the situation in Mali has somewhat stabilized, but returning refugees still face insecurity and a lack of basic infrastructure and services in their homeland. IEDA Relief continues to support the Malian refugee population in Burkina Faso through their camp management activities and various community/protection services, and plans to facilitate the return of refugees to their homeland if and when they are ready to leave. Additionally, IEDA Relief's activities will increasingly strive to meet the needs of the host population in Burkina Faso even after refugees have left the area.

Programs/Projects

Camp management / camp coordination, community services and food distribution for Malian refugee population

From July to December 2012, IEDA Relief played an important role as a partner of UNHCR in the reception and settlement of Malian refugees. In 2013, as the crisis in Mali continued to unfold with the intervention of French troops, it became clear that a large number of Malian refugees would settle in Burkina Faso for the remainder of 2013. At the

¹ Sahel Humanitarian Response Plan, Feb. 2014

<http://www.unocha.org/cap/appeals/sahel-humanitarian-response-plan-2014-2016>

² <http://data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation> 22 April 2013

request of the Burkinabe government and in accordance with UNHCR protection standards, many of these refugees were relocated from spontaneous settlements sites to consolidated camps (Goudebou and Mentao) away from the insecure borders.

The Malian refugee population in Burkina Faso is diverse – the crisis caused young and old to flee their homeland, hailing from urban and rural settings and with various professions/ livelihoods and levels of education. Within the population there are a number of particularly vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, female heads of households, child-headed households, children separated from their families, unaccompanied children and the chronically ill and elderly. These vulnerable groups represent over 18% of all refugees in Burkina Faso and require extra attention when organizing humanitarian programs.

Thus, working with UNHCR, CONAREF and other humanitarian partners, IEDA Relief's activities in 2013 focused on:

- Facilitating refugee resettlement to consolidated camps;
- Establishing and maintaining various protection and community services in the camps, including services for people with special needs
- Improving food security by distributing food and non-food items to refugees;
- Strengthening peaceful coexistence between refugees and the communities that host them;
- Protecting children against exploitation and abuse
- Building, improving and maintaining shelters and infrastructure in the camps
- Empowering women and raising awareness of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)
- Maintaining and optimizing the organization's standards and operations as camp manager and coordinator

Highlights of IEDA Relief's impacts in Burkina Faso in 2013 include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assisting with Level II and III registration to keep track of incoming and returning refugees and their needs as well as services provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 49,975 refugees registered 2. Consolidation of refugees to Mentao and Goudoubo camps to meet UNHCR protection standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9302 refugees (3059 households) relocated from various spontaneous sites 3. Improving food security and providing refugees with necessary non-food items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6617.9 tons of food distributed in camps and spontaneous sites between February and December 2013 - 13 monthly food distributions and 6 NFI distributions in | <p>Goudoubo and Mentao camps and in Bobo-Dioulasso in 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved technical methods such as scooping implemented to ensure adequate quantities according to refugees' calorie needs - Program put in place to provide new refugees with hot meals for 2 days before their plot allocation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Improving and maintaining camp infrastructure to ensure safety and organize access to basic services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3785 plots drawn, allocated and addressed in camps - Total of 34 pieces of infrastructure constructed and 67 pieces of infrastructure maintained in all refugee sites, including hangars, community centers, distribution centers, |
|---|--|

- depots, latrines and drainage systems
5. Maintaining protection and community services to ensure a healthy, peaceful camp environment with access to basic needs and opportunities, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable people in each site:
 - **2150 people with special needs identified**, met with and oriented with regard to available services: 950 individuals and 60 families received services/aid, including 150 pregnant women
 - **401 income-generating activity projects** for people with extremely limited access to livelihoods financed and monitored
 - **25 football matches organized** – 10 in Mentao, 10 in Goudoubo, 8 in Sagnioniogo and 5 in Bobo-Dioulasso
 - **Environmental workshops completed and 8100 trees planted** in Mentao, Damba and Gandafabou to restore camp environment
 - **5 community days organized to**
 6. Establishing and supporting camp governance to ensure the refugee population's autonomy and provide a forum where they can express their needs and resolve their differences
 - **75 camp management meetings** held in 2013
 - Community Liaison Agents from refugee population recruited to facilitate communication with the community
 - 3 refugee committee elections completed to engage and represent the different groups within the refugee population, with **3 training workshops** for committee members
 7. Engaging the host population to facilitate peaceful coexistence
 - **190 local laborers** from the host population in Burkina Faso employed to serve the refugees during the monthly process of food and NFI distribution

Number of Beneficiaries:

| Age group | Men | | Women | | Total | |
|----------------|--------------|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 0-4 | 3998 | 8 | 3798 | 7.6 | 7796 | 15.6 |
| 5-11 | 6897 | 13.8 | 6397 | 12.8 | 13294 | 26.5 |
| 12-17 | 3298 | 6.6 | 2899 | 5.8 | 6197 | 12.4 |
| 18-59 | 10145 | 20.3 | 10595 | 21.2 | 20740 | 41.5 |
| 60 + | 1049 | 2.1 | 899 | 1.8 | 1948 | 3.9 |
| Total: | 25387 | 50.8 | 24588 | 49.2 | 49975 | 100 |
| Project sites: | | Goudoubo, Mentao, Sagnioniogo, Bobo-Dioulasso, Déou, Dibissi, Tin Hejar, GoromGorom and Damba | | | | |



IEDA Relief organized several rounds of refugee committee elections in each camp

in 2013 to ensure that various groups within the Malian refugee population (e.g. women and youth) are represented and can contribute to the decisions regarding camp governance and services.



Camp management: IEDA Relief organizes regular coordination meetings. These meetings allow all humanitarian partner organizations in the camp and elected members of the refugee committees to reach agreements on proposed activities and resolve any concerns.



IEDA Relief manages the implementation of income-generating activity (IGA) programs financed through UNHCR. Before receiving financing, this woman and her co-beneficiaries thought their only option for making a living was farming. Thanks to the IGA program, they have used this refrigerator to set up a modern and successful beverage shop in the camp.



IEDA Relief manages monthly distributions of food and other basic non-food items to sustain the refugee population provided by the World Food Program (WFP) and UNHCR. This man and his family have received their rations and will carry them back to their home in the camp together.



Thanks to AGI financing, this woman feels more important and productive. Raising goats keeps her busy and because of this activity she has learned to read and practice basic accounting.

Partnership and Program Funding

In Burkina Faso, IEDA Relief operates under a sub-agreement with UNHCR and a tripartite agreement with UNHCR and the World Food Program (WFP). IEDA Relief also works closely with its Burkinabe government partner CONAREF and other implementing partners in each camp.

Challenges, Gaps & Proposed Activities for Future Intervention

The biggest challenges faced by the IEDA Relief team in Burkina Faso are:

- Ensuring food security
- Organizing income-generating activities for the camp population, particularly women, youth and the elderly
- Assuring the long-term resiliency of host communities to support the population and the environment surrounding the camp

Proposed activities for future intervention include:

- Expand income-generating activities to more members of the refugee population
- Add activities to increase awareness and enhance the capacity of the refugee population to prevent and combat malnutrition
- Facilitate relocation and reintegration of refugees who wish to return to Mali
- Support integration of Malian refugees who choose to stay in Burkina Faso
- Facilitate transition from humanitarian services to sustainable development projects for the Burkinabe population

Recommendations

General recommendations for activities going forward include:

- Work with regional IEDA Relief offices (e.g. Mali and Niger) to monitor and support the Malian refugees' return to their homeland in 2014 and 2015
- Develop new programs focused on the Burkinabe population in partnership with government agencies and/or other local or international NGOs

Stories From Our Staff In The Field

As part of the IEDA Relief team in Burkina Faso, we get to interact with Malian refugees in various sites on a regular basis. Being part of the humanitarian response to the crisis in Mali has allowed us to discover a lot about Malian culture as well as the current situation in their homeland. For example, we have learned that there are important perceived differences that lead to discrimination within the population; women are often seen as lesser than men, and the indigenous Bella and darker-skinned Tuaregs tend to be considered inferior by the Arab and 'Red' Tuaregs. We were also surprised to learn that, rather than being a source of shame or disappointment, divorce can be a cause for celebration in the community. To make sure we can establish relationships and communicate effectively with the refugee populations, we have even started learning words in Tamasheq and Arabic. Interacting with the Malian refugees in this way has enabled us, along with the rest of IEDA Relief's staff in Burkina Faso, to understand how

we can best support this population. Understanding their customs – from traditional meals to family and community structures – ensures that we can plan and implement culturally sensitive activities that target the most vulnerable members of the population. Although every day presents new challenges for us, we continue to learn from each other and work together to help the Malian refugee population in Burkina Faso overcome their obstacles and make the best of their current circumstances.

- Maïmouna Ouedraogo, Camp Manager, Sagnioniogo
- Edmond Soro, Program Assistant, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Zié Ibrahim Achille Ouattara, Program Assistant, Monitoring & Evaluation

The Burkina Faso country team

Country Management Team

- Phil Maanulwa, *Head of Mission*
- Alice Helbing, *acting Head of Mission*
- Epiphane Lucien Yelome, *Operations Manager*
- Justin Kantole, *Camp Management Program Officer*
- Ibrahima Bangoura, *Community Services Officer*
- Dominique Simba, *Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood Officer*
- Herve Mbouri, *Camp Field Support Officer*
- Ghislaine Ghato, *Finance & Administration*

IEDA Relief in the Philippines 2013-2014

Statement from the head of mission

IEDA Relief Philippines is one of the most recent country programs of the International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA) Relief Inc. It is our organization's first presence in Asia and thus represents an important milestone in its history. It demands from IEDA a dramatic significant shift – a change in not only in cultures and languages but also in development perspectives. With its Asian presence to its established missions in Africa, Caribbean and the United States, IEDA can now practically embrace the world and make real its vision of helping communities become more self-sufficient.

Helping build better communities from the ashes and debris left by the devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan is no easy feat. In the face of a natural disaster of such catastrophic magnitude – the strongest tropical cyclone in recorded human history – one cannot but ask how the herculean task of rebuilding lives and communities can begin. So much has to be done with limited resources, too many problems for seemingly finite solutions to deal with, so many tasks to be done by so few hands available. With almost ten thousand dead and tens of thousands left homeless and with their means of livelihood damaged, starting all over again – the task of recovery and rehabilitation could take years and the people of the Philippines would need every help to make it happen.

It is amidst this human drama that IEDA Relief Philippines has made its presence and extend the shared mission that have changed lives and built communities in Africa, in Haiti and even among immigrant communities in the United States. What has inspired the work that our organization has done in the aftermath of conflict and violence has begun to sow seeds of hope among those affected by typhoon Haiyan.

After five months of operation in the Philippines, IEDA Relief Philippines is happy to present this year's country report. Despite the fact that our country program continues to contend with challenges and limitations, we has made modest accomplishments and contributed significantly to the overall post-disaster and early recovery efforts. Even with limited funding and despite being solely dependent on internal funding sources, we were able to deliver programs and projects that have made significant impact among communities affected by the recent disaster.

IEDA Relief Philippines is very thankful to the International Emergency and Development Aid for the support and guidance that we have received in the last months. We would like to assure everyone of our continuing and unwavering commitment to the mission that brings the worldwide IEDA family together. On a more personal note, being survivors of typhoon Haiyan ourselves, we are very grateful for all the help that the international community has extended to us in our time of greatest need.

Six months after typhoon Haiyan, so much remains to be done towards building back communities better. We will continue to need more of your support and guidance – and the inspiration to continue to be at our best in helping communities become self-sufficient.



JUDE AVORQUE ACIDRE
Acting Country Director

About the country program

The **PHILIPPINE COUNTRY PROGRAM** of the **INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY AND DEVELOPMENT AID (IEDA)** officially commenced on November 2013 following an assessment trip made by Mr. Phil Maanulwa, the current Chief Executive Officer of the International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA) Relief, Inc. in the aftermath of the typhoon Haiyan, the strongest tropical storm in recorded human history. The damage and destruction left by the typhoon triggered the largest reconstruction effort in the history of the Philippines after the Second World War.

The **IEDA Philippine Country Office** is located at Unit 17-IJ-01, Burgundy Corporate Towers, 252 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, 1200 Makati City, Metro Manila. The main hub for our recovery and reconstruction operations is at the **Eastern Visayas (Leyte-Samar) Field Office**, J&C Building, 108-A P. Paterno Street, 6500 Tacloban City, the regional center of the Eastern Visayas region, which was severely devastated by typhoon Haiyan.



The IEDA Relief Philippines regional field office in Tacloban City, the main hub for its post-Haiyan operations.

At the helm of the IEDA Country Office in the Philippines is the acting Country Director, Jude Avorque Acidre. In addition, the senior management of IEDA Philippines is composed of Sharilee Angela A. Gaspay-Mauro, Senior Operations Officer and Jenifer C. Padual, Regional Field Coordinator. Until March 2014, the Country Office was also ably assisted by Jameson Gadzirai as Technical Advisor. Both offices are currently manned by a local staff. IEDA Philippines is also present in two other coordination hubs, Ormoc City on the western side of Leyte province and Guiuan, Eastern Samar, both areas also severely affected by typhoon Haiyan.



IEDA Relief founder and CEO Phil Maanulwa with the local staff of IEDA Relief Philippines during his assessment visit to the Haiyan affected areas in November 2013

The International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt and not-for-profit international non-government organization registered in the United States of America and in Belgium under the label of IEDA Relief Belgium. IEDA Relief is incorporated in the State of Texas in the United States of America under the Federal Tax ID (EIN/Tax ID Number: 26-3977484). The IEDA International Office is located at Bray Oaks Towers, 10101 Fondren Road, Suite 325, Houston, Texas 77096 USA, PO Box 711370 Houston, Texas 77271 USA. IEDA is currently working in the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Niger and the Philippines.

In the Philippines, IEDA is registered as a non-profit non-government organization under the Securities and Exchange Commission (CN201-404780/TIN No. 008-731-310) under the corporate name of **IEDA Relief Philippines Inc.** Its national Board of Directors is composed of Phil Maanulwa as chairman, Jude Avorque Acidre as vice-chairman, Thony Ngumba of IEDA USA, Daciano David C. Palami of Tacloban City and Alexis V. Yu of Basey, Samar as members. Acting as the organization's corporate secretary is Atty. Al C. Bonghanoy.

The vision of IEDA Relief Philippines is to establish a stable environment with sustainable solutions that benefit the population in need. It aims to empower communities to become self-sufficient and to decide how better improve and save lives while bring about change that is culturally acceptable and building upon existing efforts and successes. IEDA Relief Philippines is committed to working in the most difficult conditions to reach the world's poorest and most vulnerable people and believes that investing in people and their abilities to support themselves and their families is critical to the long-term process of reducing poverty.

Operational context

Over the course of less than 24 hours on November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan cut a swath of destruction across the central part of the Philippines, severely affecting parts of Eastern Visayas. The typhoon also precipitated a storm surge in the seas around the coastal towns of Eastern and Western Samar and Leyte, in particular the city of Tacloban that led to grave loss of life and massive damage to property. It was one of the strongest storms ever recorded with wind speeds of more than 300 km/h and storm surges of over four (4) meters.

An estimated 12.2 million people (2.6 million families) were reported to have been affected by the disaster, with more than 90 percent coming from the Visayas region. As of December 12, 2013, there were 5,982 reported fatalities; more than 80 percent were from the three Leyte towns of Tacloban, Palo, and Tanauan. A further 27,022 people were reported injured, with 1,779 persons still missing.

A total of 1,192,091 houses are reported damaged, of which 593,785 are reported to have incurred more than 50 percent damage, leaving behind tens of thousands of internally displaced individuals. The total damage and loss from typhoon Yolanda has been initially estimated at PHP 571.1 billion (equivalent to US\$ 12.9 billion). The impact of strongest typhoon in recorded history was most heavily felt by the economic and social sectors, which together sustained nearly 93 percent of the total damage and loss.

In the aftermath of the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan, IEDA Relief Philippines has positioned itself to provide essential interventions in response to the effects of Typhoon Yolanda and contribute towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected regions. Since November 2013, IEDA Relief Philippines has actively participated in CCCM activities in Tacloban, supporting day-to-day management of evacuation centers and



Gift-giving and organized play activity in Barangay Buntay, Dulag, Leyte, a coastal community affected by typhoon Haiyan

liaising with the government disaster response arm, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, participating in various cluster meetings, and engaging potential partners on multi-cluster interventions. Furthermore, it is committed to assist and contribute toward

mainstream efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction that currently being undertaken.

IEDA Relief Philippines has conducted a series of assessments in affected areas and has produced reports highlighting key livelihoods support needs among affected people living in evacuation centers within Tacloban City. The organization has also facilitated camp cleaning activities through food and cash for work programs, erected latrines and a cooking area, and has effectively participated in multi cluster meetings and workshops relating to intervention strategies for 2014 under the UN cluster system.



However, consistent with its goal to create self-sufficient communities, IEDA Relief Philippines intends to engage those living in the affected communities to participate more effectively in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. To this end, it strives to ensure the participation of those who will benefit from the projects from the planning stage to its actual implementation. At every step of the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, mechanisms for increased participation are being employed to guide the various components of the program and to ensure ownership of the project by the communities involved. Instead of simply rebuilding those communities damaged by the typhoon, IEDA Relief Philippines is geared towards a significant shift in the rehabilitation paradigm by engaging and empowering the people themselves to work together, not to simply rebuild but rather to “build better communities” IEDA Relief Philippines hopes to provide a nurturing environment that will support the recovery and growth of communities and individuals affected by the typhoon. In delivering social services and other support interventions, it intends to integrate and reinforce the values of compassion, competence, character and confidence that would enable individuals and communities to live happy, healthy, satisfying and productive lives.

The goal of IEDA’s post-disaster presence and activity is to foster the building of better communities through interventions that would help them go beyond immediate relief and recovery efforts and attain long-term human development. For this reasons, all interventions made by IEDA Relief Philippines are made following a careful assessment and study of existing gaps, needs and opportunities. Identifying which intervention is to be undertaken for a particular community must be based on a balanced and thorough assessment of the situation. All interventions must be community-driven not leader-driven. As much as possible, it should be focused towards strengthening entire communities in order to enable them to



Clean up activity organized by IEDA Relief in one of the evacuation camps in Tacloban as part of its camp management activities

help themselves using their own resources. While leaders help motivate and inspire the rest of the community, the implementation should be a result of a collective community effort. For this reason, projects should be directed as a result of collective decision-making processes. It is very important to measure damage and losses with care and professionalism. It must also be remembered that the damage and losses resulting from the disaster may be different from the needs of the community.

As its core philosophy, IEDA Relief Philippines will not attempt to simply solve existing problems or the effects caused by the disaster. Rather, it seeks to identify and create new opportunities for social and economic growth by capitalizing on the assets available to the community and the strengths and potentials of the population. Instead of simply determining and addressing risks and problems in the community, it will seek to highlight what the community can do better in terms of improving social and economic conditions and to enable the population to achieve a standard of living that befits human dignity. By furthering community development from an asset-based and proactive perspective, it is hope that the community will not only address the risks and problems that surround them but more importantly uplift and improve significantly their political, social and economic condition. Likewise, participatory mechanisms must be in place to ensure that those who will benefit from the programs and projects will be empowered to contribute in designing, creating, implementing and evaluating them. In this way, the communities will be able to shape solutions and responses according to the realities and opportunities present in them and implement them in a more effective and coordinated manner. This will also foster ownership of these interventions and in the end, contribute to its long-term sustainability.

Programs, projects and activities

During the first five months of its operation, IEDA Relief Philippines was able to realize significant accomplishments in terms of camp management and coordination, protection monitoring and mental health. All of these activities were funded through the operational fund of IEDA Relief Philippines.

1. **Camp Coordination and Camp Management in Evacuation Centers in Tacloban** (November 2013 to March 2014)

Problem Statement

Typhoon Haiyan affected 1,016,467 families or an equivalent of 5,053,838 persons. A total of 219,857 families lost their homes and 420,197 houses were either totally or partially damaged. Several evacuation centers were set up in Tacloban City, Tanauan, Palo, Basey and other municipalities to serve as emergency shelter sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs).



Clean up activity organized by IEDA Relief in one of the evacuation camps in Tacloban as part of its camp management activities

Hence, the coordination and management of these evacuation centers became a pressing concern during the post-disaster phase.

In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), IEDA Relief Philippines conducted **Basic Camp Coordination and Camp Management Training** on 26 November 2013 at the UN-OCHA Operations Center, Leyte Sports

Development Center, Tacloban City. Soon after, trained camp managers were assigned to the biggest evacuation centers in the city - Tacloban City Astrodome, Rizal Central School, San Fernando Central School and Kapangi-an Central School as well as secondary evacuation centers such as the Leyte Normal University Dormitory Complex, Avon Building, Sto Nino SPED Center, Panalaron Central School.

Program Impact

The deployed IEDA Relief camp managers focused on identifying gaps in the management of evacuation centers and augment CCCM efforts by IOM and DSWD. In addition to standard camp management activities, the camp managers also spearheaded protection monitoring activities as well as focused group discussions with IDPs in evacuation camps, creation of WASH committees and conduct of clean up drive activities. Focused group discussions with IDPs on camp management were conducted which provided an opportunity for household leaders to ensure the proper internal organization within the evacuation center. IEDA Relief camp managers also assisted the DSWD camp managers in carrying out conflict resolution between IDPs and between IDPs and the school officials regarding the proper implementation of the house rules within evacuation center, including the monitoring of IDPs with psychological or mental condition living within the evacuation camp. IEDA Relief camp managers were able to report one GBV case that is the incestuous rape of a 15 year old girl.

Specific CCCM activities conducted also include the provision of WASH facilities at the People Center evacuation camp including bathing and cooking area. Construction was done through a community driven method with the IDPs themselves building the facilities. IEDA Relief Philippines provided the construction materials. The project was completed 31 January 2014. Likewise, in line with its camp management roles, IEDA Relief spearheaded the conceptualization, creation and implementation of the Community Management Information System, a comprehensive database on the status and profile of IDPs in key evacuation centers in Tacloban City - Tacloban City Astrodome, Rizal Central School, San Fernando Central School, Kapangi-an Central School and People Center. The data gathering was completed 31 January 2014 while the data analysis was conducted on 8 – 14 February 2014. The CMIS output was shared with government agencies and other INGOs working in Tacloban City. This data was later used as the basis for the early recovery initiatives undertaken by IEDA Relief Philippines.

Number of Beneficiaries

In the last four months, despite the lack of a stable external funding source, IEDA Relief Philippines has contributed significantly to the overall post-Haiyan response and recovery efforts. In its camp management activities alone, it has served 5,439 IDPs in Tacloban City. IEDA Relief camp managers have conducted interviews to 945 heads of households, which contributed to the CMIS database. The WASH facility provided at the People Center evacuation center served more than two hundred (200) households.

Success Stories

“Thank you so much IEDA!” is a familiar line that IEDA Relief staff and camp managers would always hear every time they met people during their work in the evacuation centers and also during community meetings in the different evacuation centers or temporary shelter areas it co-managed with IOM and DSWD under the CCCM cluster



Bathing area being constructed by the IDPs at the People Center evacuation camp with the support of IEDA Relief Philippines

But, what literally are the reasons behind such an inspiring commendation?

“We have been referring our concerns inside the camp to many other agencies and/or INGOs visiting and asking us details. So, we told them our needs for washing, bathing and cooking area! However, the response has been quite slow for reasons that we honestly don’t totally understand. The fact is we really needed it at the soonest possible time, to avoid or minimize further problems. Thus, such a dilemma remains for quite a time, the persons responsible seem to be running around the bush.

But, when the IEDA Mobile Camp Managers came to assess our evacuation, they found those problems themselves. So what they did is coordinate with the daily camp managers and discussed possible solutions to respond to our concerns. Then, in few days time, they



Cooking and washing area at the People Center evacuation camp constructed by the IDPs with the support of IEDA Relief Philippines

were already calling for meetings and talking with us to work out things to our benefit. They gave us with their full material supports to provide practically inexpensive but effective solutions.

Thus, in two (2) weeks time, with our volunteer and manpower support, IEDA Relief was able to provide us the washing, bathing and cooking area we need. They were even able to encourage the other evacuees to observe proper waste management and responsible community-life in emergency, to better and strengthen a significantly better environment within our evacuation center.”

- Jerome Espino, IDP leader of the People Center Evacuation Center

2. Psychological First Aid (PFA) Activities

(31 January 2014 to present)

Problem Statement

Typhoon Haiyan caused significant psychological trauma among the survivors and thus, they were in need of



Psychological first aid group counseling sessions being conducted for women in Palo, Leyte and nine other municipalities affected by typhoon

psychological relief. Given the magnitude of the effects of the typhoon and the number of individuals affected, it was difficult to conduct one-on-one and regular debriefing sessions. To this end, psychological first aid activities were designed and conducted to provide the needed psychosocial relief to the typhoon survivors particularly women and children.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) decided to conduct such PFA activities in ten (10) municipalities in the province of Leyte. IEDA Relief was tapped as a partner for this program. A **Psychological First Aid Training** conducted by the University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College (UPVTC) through Prof. Ervina Espina on 22 February 2014 at the IEDA Eastern Visayas Regional Office, Tacloban City. As of 5 May 2014, PFA activities have been conducted in the municipalities of Tolosa (31 January), Tanauan (13 February), Palo (21 February) and Alangalang (13 March).

Program Impact

In each town, IEDA Relief provided PFA counseling to not less than sixty (60) women in women-friendly space after which they are given a free haircut, manicure and pedicure courtesy of the UNFPA.

Thus, the organization and its funding partner helped those different communities in coping up with the fear, anxiety and any other traumatic emotions and/or experience of the affected populations as a result of the severe devastation typhoon Haiyan brought to their lives through focused interpersonal discussions and counseling. In addition, they were also afforded the kind of relaxation and comfort they need to better ease out the tension and negativity pooled inside each participant.

Number of Beneficiaries

Under its PFA activities, IEDA Relief Philippines has provided counseling to more than 240 women so far. Wherein, organized play therapies have also benefited around three hundred children such as artworks, group presentations, etc.

Success Stories

“The service that IEDA Relief brought to our community in cooperation with the UNFPA is definitely one of a kind. While most of us have already undergone series of unending counseling sessions full-packed with hearing stories from our side and paper workshops, honestly what we need are some sort of motivational words or stories that would enlighten us with new perspectives and inspire us to pursue our lives and, some sort of relaxing activities during we can exchange ideas and/or plans with the visiting partners and/or donors without much pressure!

This is what the IEDA Relief’s PFA Activity has actually delivered to our community! Here, we discussed and shared our experiences, thoughts and plans with the counselors without much barriers and pressures. With direction of what our counselors,



Interview of IDPs living in the evacuation camps being conducted in line with the preparation of the Community-based Monitoring Information System

we were enlightened on how we could make better as we continue to face our difficult realities, even for just like an hour and a half.

We were also given a free haircut, manicure and pedicure in another area. This also gave another opportunity for informal conversations among ourselves while relaxing while trying to break from the stress typhoon Yolanda brought upon us! Finally, some of our neighbors were able to earn some income as haircutters, manicurists and pedicurists and hired by UNFPA. And, that is one great idea!”

- Felina Ramos, resident of Alang-Alang, Leyte

3. Protection Needs Assessment and Monitoring Initiative

(February to March 2014)

Problem Statement

The extensive damage caused by typhoon Haiyan increased the vulnerability levels of different affected communities in the region. This created the need to constantly assess and monitor protection needs during the transition and even in the post-disaster phase of the crisis.

The Philippine Protection Cluster – Eastern Visayas Coordination Hub have then saw the importance of conducting a needs assessment and monitoring initiative in the Tacloban Hub, covering Eastern Leyte and Western Samar or equivalent to 29 municipalities get a general overview of the protection status in the said areas. However, the pooling of resources for the said needs assessment and monitoring initiative is on voluntary basis. UNHCR, Help Age International, CFSI and IEDA Relief then cooperates each other beyond limited resources with UNHCR mainly providing the logistical supports to realize the project. Coordination role was vested with IEDA Relief with its strategic office location and conduciveness.

Program Impact

The deployed IEDA Relief Protection Field Officers, having expressed their full commitment to the initiative, were split into two (2) teams and covered the area with the biggest number of municipalities equivalent to ten (10) – and mostly, having the remotest and vulnerable communities in it. Moreover, the protection officers also spearheaded random community livelihood survey alongside the standard protection monitoring. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with affected populations were conducted which provided an opportunity for household and community leaders to voice out and discuss their protection concerns as well as their early recovery and livelihood plans; barangay and site key informant/s interview were also conducted simultaneously to complement FGDs. IEDA Relief also provided local barangay officials some plastic rolls for public infrastructure roofing purposes such barangay halls, chapels, day care child centers and/or multipurpose halls.

As such, the organization was able to distribute a total of forty eight (48) plastic rolls to some fifteen (15) barangays courtesy of the UNHCR Protection Items distributions. Likewise, in line with its mission to help communities become self sufficient, the IEDA Relief staff also provided practical technical support to the different communities it visited and assessed proposals and ideas of recovery and rehabilitation programs and projects such as on organic farming, short-term cash for work and other such similar initiatives.



Assessment of camp management activities in one of the evacuation camps in Tacloban City

Number of Beneficiaries

Within a month period of regular field needs assessment and monitoring, a total of ten (10) municipalities on the top fifty (50) vulnerable towns and/or cities out of the 173 local government units affected by the typhoon, were assessed and monitored. This included 33 barangays, which were selected, based on the top three most vulnerable barangays from each municipality.

Actual number of key people and commoners whose concerns were properly considered and accounted into the assessment and monitoring were estimated be more than 800 respondents.

IEDA Relief Philippines is the first INGO under the project to have completed its share of protection monitoring and assessment activities.

Success Stories

“We are happy that you have considered our barangay into your assessment and monitoring to get the general overview of the problems and issues that we continue to face after typhoon Yolanda.

At least, we believe that the important information and insights we shared with you will definitely help the Protection Cluster and the different NGOs in the near future. It is also a good opportunity for us to share ideas and experiences as well as get more information from development partners like you.

Also, we will always welcome and be willing to cooperate with any further activities such as this. You have made us feel an important part of your assessment and monitoring.”

- Antonio Labajo Jr., Barangay Chairman, Brgy. Astorga, Alangalang, Leyte

4. Sports Therapy for Psychosocial Support, Relief and Community Development

Problem Statement

Sports have proven to be a powerful tool for social change. More than a hundred days after typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), recovery and rehabilitation efforts are underway, although much work has to be done. On the other hand, there is a great need to provide relief and community recreation through sports. The main objective of the activity is to provide capacity building to the participants on the methodologies of using sports to provide psychosocial support, relief and community development – thereby creating local resources for the use of sports therapy.

Thus, in cooperation with the Sports Management Council of the Philippines (SportPhil) and University of the Philippines – Diliman College of Human Kinetics through its Center for Community Recreation, IEDA Relief Philippines conducted seminar work shop dubbed “RePLAY, ReLIVE, ReNEW” – a seminar-workshop on Community Recreation through Sports on 10 March 2014 at the Graduate School Auditorium, Eastern Visayas State University, Tacloban City. March being a month for women, there was also an added emphasis to involve women coaches, would-be trainers and students for the seminar-workshop. The participants are fortunate to have among the speakers, Dr. Sarah Hillyer and Dr. Ashleigh Huffman from

the Center for Sports, Peace and Society (CSPS) of the University of Tennessee, whose programs in service learning and community development through sports, notably the Global Sports Mentoring Program sponsored by the US Department of State that was voted as among the top ten diplomatic programs in the world by the Public Diplomatic Council.



Program Impact

With the commitment to empower the few individuals who responded and shared the belief that sports can be a powerful tool in realizing innovative social change and community development in their respective

communities more than 60 coaches, PE teachers, athletes and students. Furthermore, they committed to provide manpower and technical support to IEDA Relief on programs related to sports therapy on call basis.



Moreover, IEDA Relief was able to distribute a number of sports equipment such as basketballs, volleyballs, soccer balls and table tennis sets to the different schools and local sports organizations through the material support of SportPhil.

Number of Beneficiaries

During the training workshop on the use of sports, more than 130 young seminarians have been equipped with the skills to use sports as a method for psychological relief, with an additional 42 teachers, coaches, and sports trainers. A total of twelve (12) local organizations were also provide with the basic sports

materials available for distributions from partners.

Success Stories

“With the learning that we have gained as well as the new sports equipment that we have received from you, our team of athletes will be willing to share the powerful idea of using sports to reach out to the affected communities especially with the children and youth and instill in them a positive and hopeful attitude that could strengthen us to go beyond the crisis we are still experiencing.

- Dimple Figer, Professor and Coach, EVSU Women Basketball

5. Livelihood Skills Enhancement and Empowerment Program (LSEEP)

Problem Statement

Concluding at a regional perspective, the lack of employment opportunities following typhoon Haiyan will be one of the major factors that will contribute to the increasing poverty of the region and its snail-paced economic growth. More families are expected to move below poverty threshold as there has been a corresponding loss of sources of income among the affected families in the devastated areas. Aside from loss of livelihood, other problems such as health, housing, inflation, etc. also hinder the families leading then to slow phase of recovery. The huge magnitude of poor families were in the province of Leyte which is the heavily disaster affected area, recording the highest number of affected families at 43.71% (441,588). The poverty incidence in the province of Leyte is expected to rise at 24.28% considering the affected population will migrate to urban areas for employment and livelihood opportunities.



Food packs were distributed to evacuees who participated in the clean-up activities in the evacuation camps

With this challenge in view, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Sustainable Livelihood Program Division tapped IEDA Relief Philippines as the operational partner on the pilot implementation of a Livelihood Skills and Enhancement and Empowerment Program in the transitional shelter areas in Tacloban City. This program is the Philippine Government’s main intervention in the recovery phase. Each beneficiary shall undergo skills trainings under a food for training scheme and livelihood starter kit. IEDA Relief Philippines will spearhead the social preparation of the program beneficiaries and augment the implementation staff organized by the DSWD. It is hoped that after this pilot implementation, IEDA Relief Philippines and the DSWD, will be moving to the different places within Eastern Visayas to deliver the same comprehensive livelihood program in an effort to provide immediate alternative or supplemental sources of income for affected individuals and their dependents.

Program Impact

The poor are the most vulnerable during disasters. In Eastern Visayas, poverty incidence has been constantly increasing even before the onset of the disaster. Over one million of affected

families joined the ranks of the poor owing to the typhoon. Using the 2012 data, poverty incidence for Eastern Visayas in 2013 is projected to increase at 24.25% considering the magnitude of poor families of 2012 (PSA-NSA VIII) and the number of Haiyan-affected families (DSWD VIII).

For this reason, the livelihood skills programs is geared to provide jobs and alternative means of livelihood that could possibly serve as a source of income to the many displaced individuals. These should be made available to catch up with the eventual termination of the relief phase and the cash-for-work and emergency employment schemes.

Number of Beneficiaries

This enhancement and empowerment program through livelihood intervention aims to directly benefit 3,00 individuals representing the same figure of families in one (1) evacuation center – San Fernando Central School and three (3) bunk house complexes – National Housing Authority (NHA), IPI and Abucay; all within Tacloban City.

The program began 21 April 2014 and the pilot implementation in Tacloban City is scheduled to be completed by July 2014. The second phase of implementation will be conducted in bunkhouses outside of Tacloban City – Ormoc City, Tanauan, Tolosa, Palo in Leyte, Basey, Sta Rita and Guiuan in Samar.

Partnerships and program funding

In carrying out its various programs, activities and projects, IEDA Relief Philippines has established several formal and informal partnership arrangements with various stakeholders working the post-Haiyan rehabilitation and reconstruction. To date, the Philippine Country Program has worked with the following agencies and organizations:

1. **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** – Under an informal working partnership, IEDA Relief Philippines and IOM has worked on the training of local camp managers and the sharing of camp management best practices. IEDA Relief Philippines supported and provided augmentation to the camp management efforts of IOM and DSWD.
2. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** – Under an informal operational partnership, UNFPA has tapped IEDA Relief Philippines in the conduct of psychological first aid (PFA) interventions for women in ten (10) municipalities in Leyte affected by typhoon Haiyan. IEDA Relief Philippines has provided trained PFA counselors to provide the PFA counseling component of the program.
3. **Sport Management Council of the Philippines (SportPhil)** – A private consortium of sport management stakeholders in the country, SportPhil led by its president, Ms Geraldine Go-Bernardo has partnered with IEDA Relief Philippines in conducting training workshops on the use of sports for psychological and social relief and community development. An initial training workshop conducted by sport science experts from the University of Tennessee (USA) was product of this partnership. A series of workshops and organized game activities as well as donation of needed sports equipment and rehabilitation of damaged sports facilities are also envisioned under this partnership.

4. **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** – In line with its commitment under the Protection Cluster and in its role as the implementation coordinator for the Protection Needs Assessment and Monitoring Initiative (PNAMI), UNHCR has provided additional operation support to IEDA Relief Philippines in terms of capacity building for protection monitoring, additional office equipment and free use of additional vehicle for the duration of the PNAMI implementation.
5. **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** – As one of the key government agencies working on the post-Haiyan reconstruction and rehabilitation, DSWD through its Sustainable Livelihood Division (SLD) has tapped IEDA Relief Philippines as a co-partner in the implementation of the Livelihood Skills Enhancement and Empowerment Program which is a key initiative of the Government of the Philippines under its recovery and rehabilitation plan. The initial implementation of the project will cover about 3,000 displaced households presently living in temporary shelters in Tacloban City.

In line with the UN cluster system, IEDA Relief Philippines is an active member of the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Cluster, the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, the Protection Cluster, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster, the Shelter Cluster and the Communication with Communities Cluster. It is present in two main hubs – Manila and Tacloban as well as two coordinating hubs – Guiuan and Ormoc City.

Since it commenced operations last November, the Philippine Country Program continues to position itself with potential funding partners. At the moment, IEDA Relief Philippines continues to rely on its internal core funding and has yet to receive funding from external sources.

Challenges, gaps and proposed activities for future intervention

Being a new country program, an immediate challenge for IEDA Relief Philippines is the need to increase its profile in the local community of international and local humanitarian agencies and organizations. Primary to this is the need to develop a good and credible performance track record for the agency. Having established a stable presence in the country is a substantial step towards that direction. However, even prior to typhoon Haiyan, there have been several international and local non-government organizations that already have an extensive presence and experience working in the country. Thus, benchmark for what international humanitarian agencies can and must deliver is relatively high. Therefore, it is also important for the agency to be able to initiate and implement effective and efficient programs, activities and projects that will result in a significant impact on the overall recovery and rehabilitation efforts being undertaken by the international and local humanitarian agencies and organizations now working in the country.

It is of paramount importance also for IEDA Relief Philippines is to tap a stable funding partner to provide the needed financial resources that will support the implementation of its programs, activities and projects. This is particularly challenging considering that it is a new country program without any extensive presence and track record in the country. The fact that there are also several international and local NGOs already working with international funding partners limits the window for new international NGOs to access existing channels to funding partners. Another reason for the difficult access to funding sources is the apparent fair

response to the UN funding appeal to post Haiyan Strategic Response Plan. The lack of available funds among UN agencies further aggravates the situation.

Another area of concern for IEDA Relief Philippines is to sustain the increase in the technical capacity and capability of its local staff. As it continues to expand its involvement in the post-Haiyan recovery and rehabilitation, there is an increasing need for more specific technical skills to undertake and implement programs, activities and projects. For this reason, the country program management is also focused on acquiring and improving these skills by identifying opportunities for workshops and trainings provided by other humanitarian agencies working in the country. Equally important in this respect is to provide insofar as practicable an improved compensation package for the local staff and the provision of mandatory employment benefits.

Finally, another key priority for IEDA Relief Philippines is the need to strengthen its linkages and widen its local network among international and local stakeholders working in the post-Haiyan recovery and reconstruction. This will enable the country program to have access to possible additional resources in terms of skills, knowledge and funds as well as allow the country program to communicate more effectively to the international humanitarian community its accomplishments in the Philippines as well as the gaps and challenges that it continues to confront.

Furthermore, in line with its role in the post-Haiyan recovery and rehabilitation, IEDA Relief Philippines would like to propose the implementation of the following interventions, all with an integrated application of the generally accepted principles on programs and projects Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL):

1. **Early Recovery and Livelihood.** A debilitating consequence of the damage caused by Typhoon Yolanda is the loss of livelihood and other sources of income especially those dependent on agriculture and the trade sector. It is important to note that the typhoon's impact is concentrated on some of the poorest provinces in the country. Data in 2012 show that the average household income in the severely affected provinces was only 75 percent of the national average. Over 50 percent of the household incomes in the affected provinces are largely dependent on agricultural incomes and remittances. With the damage caused to the loss of income, affected families likely to experience other non-income effects of rising poverty and vulnerability that include food insecurity and worsening nutrition; disruption to education and loss of human capital; out migration; increased child labor and other exploitative labor practices; and increased levels of indebtedness.

While emergency and short-term income support has been set in place to help address immediate household needs for food, shelter, and other necessities, there will be a need for more stable and sustainable interventions that would help households to progressively regain and rebuild their sources of income. Therefore, skills empowerment programs that would help boost available manpower skills and equip households with new marketable skills, especially those that will be essential to the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort. These new work skills, coupled with entrepreneurial and character development trainings could empower individuals in gaining an additional or complementary source of income for these households.

Also crucial to the recovery efforts is the emergency of new entrepreneurs and small enterprises that will not only provide additional income for individual households but also generate new jobs. These proposed enterprises should preferably focus on complementing existing industries and agricultural activities and on strengthening local

produce as well as local knowledge and indigenous technology. Another potential aspect in the recovery effort is to strengthen ecotourism enterprises as a source of alternative community-based livelihood. Strengthening local enterprises could be an effective way to also create a more divergent economic structure, therefore resulting in economically more resilient communities. Of particular concern are women or young persons who are heads of households especially those who belong to various levels of vulnerability.

Likewise, the proposed interventions include capacity-building for local government units as well as the local private sector to facilitate and support jobs creation and other employment generation efforts. This will include not only technical assistance for local employment offices but even financial assistance for related infrastructure projects such as construction of training facilities implemented through community-driven development mechanisms.

- 2. Food Security and Agriculture.** Agriculture was severely affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda. A total area of about 600,000 hectares of agricultural lands has been affected and an estimated 1.1 million MT of crops have been lost, of which 80 percent has been reported to be in Region VIII. Principal crops in the most badly affected areas of Regions VI, VII, VIII were: *palay* (16% of crop area); corn (4% of crop area); and, coconut (73% of crop area). The most significant damage was for coconut, where damage was recorded over a wide area on 441,517 hectares, of which 161,400 hectares is considered totally damaged. In addition, losses were reported for livestock, agricultural equipment, post-production facilities and fishing vessels and equipment losses, as well as damage to irrigation systems, and rural infrastructure. According to the reconstruction plan presented by the Philippine Government, the Reconstruction Assistance to Yolanda (RAY), total damage to the agriculture sector, based on partial reports, is estimated at PHP 31,130 million, including damage (production losses) to crops, fisheries and livestock of PHP27,070 million and damage to infrastructure of PHP 4,058 million, including irrigation systems and other facilities

In line with the goal to “build back better”, interventions to rehabilitate the agricultural sector present an opportunity not only to repair the damage caused by Typhoon Yolanda but also to address existing challenges and gaps. It is important to note, for example, that an overwhelming majority of our farmers and fishermen live below the poverty line. Most of them also use less efficient and therefore less productive farming and fishing methods and techniques. Therefore, interventions that focus on the reinforced mentoring and training for farmers as well as the distribution of farm inputs such as seeds, tools and equipment, when and where needed is crucial to the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort. These new farming skills, coupled with entrepreneurial and character development trainings could empower local farmers in achieving higher farm productivity and therefore, a significantly increased income for their families. Likewise, providing additional means of livelihood for the families of farmers and fishermen will not only ensure food security and increase individual household income but also to diversify existing farming activities, resulting in more resilient agriculture-based communities.

The need to train and capacitate emerging young farmers is an important factor in the rehabilitation of the local agricultural sector. An overwhelming majority of local farmers are already in their late adulthood, with the median age of 55 years old. This significantly affects not only their individual level of productivity but also their capability to engage with current farm technology and maximize the use of modern farming

techniques and methods. Hence, there is a need to train more farmers who will have the knowledge, skills and competencies to produce even more and more food.

By providing a more structured farmer education mechanism, the emergence of professionally trained farmers will not only serve to increase the productivity of local farms but more importantly will attract more young people to undertake farming as a future occupation. To this end, it is important to consider alternative and even creative learning delivery system such as the radio that will keep farmers in the field and provide them with an enhanced experiential learning approach that could provide a solid foundation for farmer education. With more well-trained farmers in the local farms, it would be possible to achieve higher farm productivity and therefore, a significantly increased income for their families and could result in a more diverse and therefore, more resilient agricultural sector.

In rehabilitating local agriculture, widening the access to modern farming facilities and equipment is crucial not only to recover lost productivity but more important to capacitate and enable farmers to integrate more modern farming methods and practices and allow them to achieve a significantly higher farm productivity. For example, the lack of adequate and functional community-based irrigation systems in the majority of the affected areas is major reason behind the low productivity of local agricultural farms. With the absence of needed irrigation systems, the capability of farmers to maximize planting patterns becomes limited. Hence, there is a need to provide community-based irrigation system that farmer associations can share among local farmers in order to apply more efficient, effective and sustainable methods of increasing agricultural yield.

Agro-entrepreneurship and agribusiness enterprises also play an important role in the rehabilitation of the agriculture sector. By providing opportunities for local food producers to engage in enterprises that will add more value to local agricultural and marine products will help increase local agricultural productivity. For example, an example would be to provide capital grants for agriculture and marine-based enterprises. Another example of a community-based enterprise would be the creation of agriculture or marine-focused tourism enterprises that could not only provide additional income at a community scale but also bring more attention to the agricultural sector.

Strengthening the role of agriculture in the reconstruction effort requires a significant paradigm shift and a more open attitude toward the potential gains of a modernized agriculture sector. This includes the need to increase the level of awareness, skills knowledge and capability of the youth who are our future farmers. Thus, it is very important for other community stakeholders such as schools and local government units to be fully involved in undertaking broad-based efforts to increase agricultural productivity and to integrate these efforts into actual programs and projects.

- 3. Education.** Among those that have been extensively damaged by the typhoon is the education sector, most especially in Eastern Visayas. The total damage in the education sector is estimated at PHP 21, 679, 700,000, with damage to public basic education school infrastructure at PHP11.4 billion. About 5,898 classrooms were fully damaged and 14,508 partially damaged in 2,905 public elementary and 470 public secondary schools in the most affected areas. There are about 4,357 elementary schools, 888 secondary schools, 350 colleges and universities and 631 technical-vocation schools with a total enrollment of 1, 167,466 at the elementary level, 498,220 at the secondary level, 141,033 in colleges and universities, and 25,745 in technical-

vocational schools as of June 2013. Most schools in the elementary and secondary levels are government schools while most colleges and universities as well as technical-vocational schools are privately owned. Aside from the destruction caused to school infrastructure, the typhoon also damaged school equipment and facilities such as school infrastructure, computers, learning materials as well as technical-vocation tools and equipment, amounting to a total estimate of PHP 2.68 billion.

The damage caused to the education sector could seriously hamper the capacity of schools to deliver quality education and limit the access of students especially those belonging to vulnerable sectors. Unless properly addressed, these challenges can have long-term consequences not only on the level of literacy among children of school age, but these could also hamper the quality of their learning and skills development. Before the occurrence of the typhoon, access to education has been already a matter of concern in Eastern Visayas. Actual attendance of in secondary schools as well as achievement scores in the National Assessment Test already fall at 11.79% and 19.75% below the targets set for 2010. A significant dropout rate in elementary and secondary schools has also been observed. In fact, as of 2009, the actual accomplishment towards achieving a 100% elementary net enrolment and basic literacy rate in line with the Millennium Development Goals still falls at 76.20% for elementary net enrolment and 90.10% for basic literacy.

The reconstruction and rehabilitation initiatives following typhoon Yolanda should not only involve efforts to restore damaged school infrastructure and equipment, but it should also be an opportunity to introduce significant improvements that would help increase the quality of learning and instruction as well as widen the access of school-age children to schools including alternative learning systems for out-of-school youth. Likewise, considering the experience during the typhoon, during which schools served as emergency evacuation camps, it is important to consider strengthening the capability of school communities, teachers and students included, to participate in post-disaster response activities.

4. **Shelter.** In the aftermath of typhoon Yolanda, nearly 30 percent (4.4 million) of the total population of 16 million in the 14 most affected provinces were displaced. A total of 1, 012,790 houses were damaged; of which 493,912 were partially damaged and 518,878 were totally damaged. A significant number of houses that were damaged by the typhoon belonged to informal settlers who lived in makeshift houses along the coast or the rural poor living in remote areas. The loss of homes and assets has caused the displacement of several thousands of families who are now temporary sheltered in evacuation camps or temporary houses. The poor living conditions in these evacuation centers suggest the lack of adequate physical protection and may further mitigate the vulnerability of those affected by the typhoon.

Providing material assistance or non-food assets for displaced individuals or those with damaged home is a key intervention in restoring shelters. This may include but not limited to distribution of galvanized iron sheets, plywood, lumber, nails and other construction materials and equipment. However, it is very important that a proper assessment of the resettlement site be made and that disaster-prone areas should be avoided. In this regard, coordination with the local government unit is of vital importance.

The use of indigenous housing materials, which are cheaper and locally available, should be partnered with recent building technology. Creating business enterprises that focus on the production of *nipa*, bamboo and other indigenous housing materials could

be a potential alternative source of livelihood for resettled households or even for those families with damaged homes. By providing cheaper and locally available housing materials, these enterprises would make it easy for affected households to reconstruct damaged homes.

Finally, it is very important to consider the living conditions of individuals and families living in temporary shelter communities. While temporary housing is but a short-term intervention, ensuring proper, safe and humane living conditions for these families should nevertheless be a key priority. For example, it would be helpful to distribute sanitary and hygiene kits to internally displaced women who are leaving these temporary shelters.

5. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.** Typhoon Yolanda has also damaged water utilities and other sanitation facilities in affected areas. However, much of these facilities have been immediately restored and repaired. Most communities have now been provided with potable water supply. Nonetheless, water, sanitation and hygiene remain an important concern in temporary shelter communities. It is also important to introduce interventions that would upgrade and improve the efficiency and resilience of local water and sanitation facilities.

Access to safe water and sanitary toilets has been an important concern even before typhoon Yolanda struck Eastern Visayas. For example, the proportion of households with access to safe water is only 86%, while proportion of households with access to sanitary toilets is much lower at 74.64% in 2009. Furthermore, households in the Samar provinces fall way below the regional average.

The post-Yolanda reconstruction effort should be an opportunity to provide solutions to water, sanitation and hygiene problem. A participatory and community-based approach in the production, distribution and maintenance of sanitary toilets should be an effective way of integrating safe sanitation practices into rural communities who do not have access to sanitary toilets. Another strategy along this line is to construct community-based purification and filtration facility for potable water. Engaging communities in the conceptualization, implementation and assessment of these projects through a community-driven development mechanism will significantly ensure its efficiency and effectiveness as well as deliver a more focused impact on the community.

Finally, sanitation and hygiene education for schoolchildren is of vital importance in building better communities. However, the lack of appropriate washing facilities and access to potable water remains a challenge in most government schools. Providing washing facilities and installation of faucets and potable water facilities in government schools will promote safe and hygienic practices such as proper hand washing.

6. **Nutrition.** Responding to malnutrition among children is an important component in building better communities. The health and nutrition conditions in those areas affected by typhoon Yolanda has been plagued by incidents of underweight and underheight children, overweight adults and micro-nutritional deficiency and disorders among vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Even before the occurrence of the typhoon, malnutrition has already been a serious problem in most local communities, in most cases aggravated by the incidence of poverty, low income and poor access to affordable food supply. Lack of proper nutrition adversely affects the physical growth and development of children, including their cognitive and learning ability.

Nutrition teaching can effectively solve malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies among school children. Providing school-based nutrition education alongside nutritional feeding activities not only for school children but also for mothers can be an effective tool in combatting childhood malnutrition. Likewise, it is very important to ensure that nutrition teaching makes use of local food products and food preparation practices.

7. **Protection.** The post-disaster response following typhoon Yolanda also revealed critical gaps in the disaster response strategies implemented in affected communities such as the inability to integrate gender sensitivity into the response effort and to deal effectively with protection concerns and issues. Several post-disaster response strategies failed to meet needs specific to women and children. In building back better communities, the need to come up with gender-appropriate and gender-sensitive strategies should be given importance.

To this goal, it is important to increase awareness among local government units as well as other disaster response stakeholders on the need for protection monitoring. Training disaster response teams on reporting protection incidents can be valuable in addressing protection issues that oftentimes occur in disaster response interventions. It is also important to integrate gender sensitivity in disaster response planning and management in order to ensure that gender considerations, based on balanced and sound gender analysis, are mainstreamed into the creation and implementation of disaster response plans.

Most protection incidents following a disaster involve sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Thus, it is important to heighten awareness on SGBV protection especially among women and children. An advocacy campaign can effectively prevent the occurrence of these incidents and thus minimize the prevalence of SGBV incidents.

8. **Camp Coordination and Camp Management.** The post-Yolanda disaster response has shown the need for the need to increase and upgrade the capacity and capability of local government units and other disaster response stakeholders. It is very important that disaster response stakeholders are properly capacitated to undertake disaster response interventions, especially coordination and management of evacuation centers. Local government units should be able to provide a safe, secure and dignified place for displaced persons to live in and to provide an efficient and timely coordination of camp services. Effective camp coordination and management also allows for a rationalized identification of gaps and monitoring of services that would avoid duplication and help maximize resources.

Local government units should also ensure the social preparation of internally displaced persons as they transition to permanent relocation sites. They should be ready to anticipate problems and constraints and propose contingency plans. Sound camp coordination and camp management mechanisms should likewise be integrated into disaster response plans.

Recommendations

In order to enable the Philippine Country Program to carry out its mission and purpose, it is very important to tap stable funding partners. While the local country program management will continue to identify local sources for funding grants, given the current situation, there is a need for the IEDA International Office to come up with a consolidated funding appeal for the Philippine Country Program. Most of the limited funds that are channeled through UN agencies

are already earmarked to pre-identified implementing partners who have already been working with these agencies and have extensive track record in the country. Hence, an alternative plan to apply for funding grants at the international offices of UN agencies and other potential funding partners should seriously be considered. The Philippine Country Program is committed to assist in whatever way it can towards the realization of this consolidated funding appeal.

Likewise, the Philippine Country Program will move towards strengthening its organizational structure as well as adopting formal administrative processes. Ad hoc roles in the organizational structure must be increasingly replaced by more substantive positions. Currently, IEDA Relief Philippines is in the process of preparing its operational manuals. The next important step is to adopt and implement them. It is also important to create monitoring and assessment mechanisms. However, it is very important to provide opportunities for continuing professional development as well as increased capacity building. It is also important to institute professional human resource mechanisms especially in terms of providing a progressive and competitive compensation package and mandatory employment benefits.

Another recommendation is the need for the Philippine Country Program to clarify its future direction in respect to the overall goals of IEDA as an international organization. Communication channels between the Philippine Country Office and the international office must be strengthened. Opportunities for shared action especially in resource mobilization must be explored. The expectations of the international office must be carefully defined and a stable feedback mechanism from and to the Philippine Country Office must be set in place.

Lastly, an important goal for IEDA Relief Philippines is to come up with a sustained and effective mechanism of communicating the work and activity of the Philippine Country Program. To this end, it aims to produce a monthly online newsletter detailing its current and planned programs, activities and projects.

The Philippine Country Program is IEDA's first country program in the Asia-Pacific region. In the first three months of its existence, it has shown the promise of a strong and vigorous presence not only in the post-Haiyan recovery and rehabilitation in the Philippines but likewise in the rest of the Southeast Asian region. From its Manila office, IEDA can expand its presence towards the developing post-conflict countries of the Mekong region and towards the disaster prone areas of Indonesia and Malaysia.

IEDA Relief Philippines has much to contribute towards the shared mission of building back better. Despite its limited resources, it has achieved much in building linkages with other humanitarian agencies and has been equally recognized in contributing towards the recovery efforts and in developing a rehabilitation framework that is consistent with IEDA's identity. With this end, it is highly important that IEDA strengthens its nascent presence in the Philippines. IEDA's philosophy of helping communities to become self-sufficient strengthened by its extensive experience in sub-Saharan Africa and Haiti echoes significantly not only in recovery and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, but more importantly in pushing for economic and social development in communities in the Philippines and in the rest of Southeast Asia.

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IEDA Relief in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 2013

Country program summary

IEDA Relief has been active in DRC since 2008 in the provinces of Maniema, Katanga, Nord Kivu, Equateur and Kinshasa. In 2013, IEDA Relief carried out operations in 4 provinces, North Kivu, Maniema, Equateur and Katanga.

In north Kivu, IEDA Relief has implemented three projects that focused on protection monitoring, agricultural production recovery and nutritional rehabilitation.

Protection Monitoring: In partnership with UNHCR, IEDA Relief focused on protection monitoring activities in the territories of Rutshuru, Masisi, Beni, Lubero, Nyiragongo as well as the six Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps around the city of Goma. IEDA staff members monitor protection-related incidents and refer victims to various centers for adequate care, such as psychosocial support for victims of sexual violence or advocacy organizations who can advise on other types of incidents.

Agricultural Production Recovery: With financial support from the Pooled Fund, IEDA Relief's activities support people living in Rwanguba area in establishing and increasing methods of local food production. The support enabled returnees, IDPs and others affected by the M23 occupation to ensure their own food production.

Community management of acute malnutrition: In Birmabizo and Rwanguba, IEDA Relief ensured that parents whose children were malnourished received support from community through contributions from local farmers and markets to fight against this condition. This support was complementary to existing food security activities in the area.

In the province of Maniema, IEDA Relief implemented two projects:

Emergency assistance in the form of household articles for IDPs and host families in the territory of Pangi, notably in Kalima. Using a market approach to provide these Non Food Items (NFIs), IEDA Relief enabled thousands of people to continue their lives with a certain level of dignity. This project also contributed to boosting the local economy by injecting in cash through various local suppliers;

The emergency project to clean Punia allowed thousands of displaced Kasese and residents of the city of Punia to consume quality water, which prevented the spread of waterborne diseases. The establishment of hygiene structures improved the living conditions of the area's inhabitants.

In the province of Katanga, IEDA Relief focused on protection monitoring, supporting urban refugees, the DAFI program and food security.

Protection monitoring: IEDA relief conducted surveys on the living conditions of IDPs, returnees, refugees who are under UNHCR's mandate with regard to the protection of basic rights (e.g. health, education, property, and justice).

Supporting urban refugees: IEDA Relief managed the needs of urban refugees under the technical supervision of UNHCR, mainly focusing on the implementation of socio-economic

support for refugees and asylum seekers in and around the urban settings of Lubumbashi, Kipushi, Likasi.

DAFI: IEDA Relief provided scholarship, and medical support to Congolese student returnees from Zambia. IEDA Relief also organized training and informational seminars for the public to raise awareness and encourage universities, local NGOs, and social networks to advocate for the integration of program graduates and other returnees into local jobs and socio-professional networks.

Food security: With financial support from the Pooled Fund, IEDA Relief put in place a program to assist IDPs and/or non displaced malnourished individuals within Malemba Nkulu. This program focused on fishing and agriculture. IEDA relief also co-funded a project with the WFP to help returnees in Kipushi with the same principal components.

In the province of Equateur, IEDA Relief implemented a Protection Monitoring project in partnership with UNHCR.

Achievements per Province

1. North Kivu Province:

Operation context:

In 2013, the security situation in North Kivu remained extremely difficult, with the increased presence of both domestic and foreign-armed groups causing devastation and forcing the civilian population to leave their homes and settle in various IDP camps. Groups like the FDLR (Rwandan Hutus who fled to DR Congo after the 1994 genocide in their country), the ADF Nalu (Ugandan armed group active in the territory of Beni), multiple mai mai factions who regularly confronted each other and the rebel group M23 that occupied part of the territory of Rutshuru all played a part in creating security threats for the people of North Kivu.

The presence of all of these groups has resulted in killings, looting, rape, human rights violations, the destruction of social infrastructure, excessive poverty and massive displacement of populations to host families and/or the 42 IDP camps scattered throughout the province. In November 2013, the number of displaced persons was 1,123,446, up from only 920,784 in March of the same year. In November 2013, the military victory of the Armed Forces of the DRC against the M23 rebels allowed a few thousand people to move back to Rutshuru territory. However, the majority of IDPs remain in camps.

IEDA Relief responded to the increased insecurity and numerous human rights violations committed by the various actors by implementing a project in partnership with UNHCR to collect and document all protection incidents. According to the nutrition survey conducted by the IRC and PRONANUT, the rate of malnutrition was already high, and the pressure on resources increased with the many displaced people and returnees living in the area. To address this issue, IEDA Relief also put in place projects to boost agricultural production and nutritional rehabilitation in order to save the lives of the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict, particularly women and children.

Programs/Projects

Implementation

In 2013, IEDA Relief was present across the province of North Kivu with field offices in Lubero, Beni, Masisi and Rutshuru. The permanent field presence of 86 Protection Monitoring officers, 6 social workers specializing in sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), two agronomists and a nutritionist ensured effective implementation of IEDA Relief's Projects in the province. The field staff was locally recruited and completed various training programs in order to accomplish their work effectively. A team of supervisors in IEDA Relief's Goma office supervised the various interventions of these field teams.

Beneficiaries

Taking into account the limited means available and the immense needs within the North Kivu province, only a fraction of those in need were helped by IEDA Relief's activities. However, IEDA Relief's monitoring and protection activities had an impact that indirectly benefited the entire population of 4 million people in the province.

Achieved Results per Project

Protection:

- Verification and registration of 13,085 households (62,820 individuals) in 9 camps;
- A total of 33, 270 protection incidents recorded across all territories of North Kivu, with the exception of Walikale;
- A total of 1808 cases of sexual violence registered, with 1726 referred to external direct service delivery facilities in three territories, and the city of Goma
- 1140 people completed training to serve as focal points in the 31 camps and 9 sites outside camps in the territories of Masisi, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, Beni and Lubero; these people were able to inform and train 84,072 individuals on the prevention of SGBV;
- 125 community leaders completed training on components of SGBV in Beni, Lubero, Rutshuru, Masisi and Nyiragongo territories;
- PNC and FARDC judicial police officers completed training in Masisi, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, Beni and Lubero territories;
- Community protection committees comprised of community leaders, teachers, pastors, nurses, young men and women, and people with reduced mobility put in place;
- 200 vulnerable women (considered at risk or survivors of previous incidents) from Kahe and Mungote completed training in alternative 'briquette' fuel technique as well as sales and marketing, resulting in the production of 27,842 briquettes
- 100 vulnerable women (considered at risk or survivors of previous incidents) from



A beneficiary harvesting vegetables in her garden in Rwanguba



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Training of protection monitors in Goma

Kahe and Mungote completed training in bread baking as well as sales and marketing; with the construction of 2 ovens and 2 dryers and the supply of ingredients,

- 2500 clay homes built by the project beneficiaries;
- 162 female sex workers received informational training in camps in Lushebere, Bihito, Kalinga and Kilimani camps in Masisi territory;
- 10,500 emergency shelters, 9 sheds and a community kitchen shelters were built in camps
- 76,938 people received essential household items during distributions of non food items (NFI);
- 13,550 hygiene kits were distributed to girls and women of reproductive age and 139,392 condoms were distributed;
- 7 buildings to house the CLCS (local committee of pacification and reconciliation) were rehabilitated in camps of Matanda Biiri , Kichanga (in Masisi territory) Katsiru, Gisigari, Mbinza (in Rutshuru territory) and Kibumba in the Nyiragongo territory ;

Food security:

- 4200 beneficiary households in 15 villages identified through door to door surveys according to established criteria across 4 axes of vulnerability in the Rwanguba area
- 8400 hoes distributed to 4200 households; 63,000 kg of seeds (42,000kg beans, 21,000kg corn) distributed (10 kg of beans and 5kg of corn for each beneficiary), resulting in the production of 60 tones of beans and 672 tones of maize;
- 1,748 tones of vegetables, including 870 tones of cabbage, 280 tones of leeks, 487 tones of eggplant and 110 tones of amaranth were collected from beneficiary locations;

Nutrition: 689 cases of severe acute malnutrition treated; 120 cartons of Plumpynut as well as medicine and other equipment provided by UNICEF were distributed

Challenges encountered

The main difficulty has been and remains insecurity in the region. Other challenges include ensuring logistics for protection monitors' travel; insufficient monitoring personnel (often 1 monitor per population group and sometimes for 2 groups); lack of means to attend to more than a tiny part of the needy population; and a lack of judicial/legal support for victims of human rights violations.

Recommendations

As peace is gradually being restored in the province of north Kivu, there is need for funding that will focus on recovery projects such as income-generating activities and the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure to facilitate the transition to sustainable development.

2. Maniema Province

Operation context:

In 2013, Maniema province faced a continual security problem especially on its eastern borders with the provinces of North and South Kivu. For example, at the Pangi border with the Shabunda territory of South Kivu, the activism of armed groups like the Rahia Mutomboki and the Rwandan Hutu FDLR caused the displacement of people in Shabunda

to the neighboring area of Pangí. Both the commission of population movement in Maniema and the CPIA indicated that Pangí housed the majority of the displaced in the province of Maniema; 8861 displaced households from Shabunda were registered in the Pangí and the majority was concentrated in the area of health Kalima.

Following clashes between Raia Mutomboki fighters and FARDC in Kasese (Punia territory) in December 2012, 7825 displaced households were identified between Kasese and Punia in addition to the 53,670 residents of the city of Punia. Apart from other vital needs that were lacking, the lack of safe roads and water formed an urgent need on which thousands of lives depended. To relieve the suffering of the population in this area, IEDA Relief worked with financial support from the Pooled Fund and UNICEF to carry out its projects in the area.

Programs/Projects

Implementation

The Maniema province is not an easy place to implement project due to the lack of road infrastructure. Aircrafts are the only means available to succeed in Punia or Kalima. Project inputs and household items are not available on the local market, and must be supplied from either Bukavu in the South Kivu Province, Kisangani in the West or Goma in North Kivu. These considerations mean that the costs of project implementation in the area are very high. IEDA Relief had an office in Punia and Kindu. The staff has been recruited locally for the implementation of these projects (WASH technicians, animators, trainers, masonry workers, etc.).

Beneficiaries

The provision of emergency assistance and essential household items enabled IEDA Relief to improve the living conditions of 2220 households. Emergency WASH support provided drinking water for 92,795 individuals, 39,125 of which were IDPs from Kasese and 52,670 of which were residents of Punia.



Achieved Results

- 2220 households were able to buy the NFIs of their choice through a market approach, thereby improving their living conditions;
- 1776 women and girls of childbearing age received hygiene kits;
- 22 water chlorination points established at various water collection points
- 15 safe water sources established

- 12 emergency public latrine blocs built in schools and health clinics;
- 200 family latrines built,



Water point and public latrines built by IEDA Relief in Punia territory Maniema

Challenges

The main challenges for these projects were the poor conditions of road infrastructure and the distance between the project implementation sites and the supply points for project materials and other essential articles.

Recommendations

The Maniema province requires more development projects, given that it lacks all basic infrastructure (roads, schools, drinking water distribution) and that its population already suffers from a high rate of malnutrition, a lack of food supply and a low literacy rate.

3. Katanga Province

Operation context:

In 2004 a rebellion began in the Katanga province, specifically in the districts of Tanganyika (Manono and Nyunzi territories), Haut-Katanga (Mitwaba and Pweto territories), and High Lomani (Malemba Nkulu). The rebel group decided to use their arrows, spears, knives and other weapons not only against the FARDC but also against the civilian population. These armed conflicts would spread throughout the above territories and this irregular group would install its headquarters on the border of three territories (Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto). This place has been called the 'triangle of death' because of multiple massacres that have been perpetrated against civilians there. A group of pygmies also decided to take up arms against the FARDC including civilian authorities (Bantu). These unregulated armed groups would be named mai-mai and they would continue to launch systematic attacks in all these territories, burning villages, looting property, and carrying out massacres, torture, kidnapping and rape of the civilian population. In addition, heavily armed FDLR elements present in the northern part of Katanga do nothing but wander from village to village with the aim of committing human and material damage (theft, looting, rape, torture, kidnapping, killing). The insecurity caused by these different armed groups has caused massive displacement of the civilian population in Katanga.

Upon the repatriation of Congolese refugees living in Zambia, UNHCR sought and obtained a scholarship for 23 students. At the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, only 19 remained eligible for this scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year. Providing support to these students is a serious concern due to the precarious socio-economic situation returnees' parents. In accordance with Agenda for Protection adopted in December 2001 by the signatories of the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the OAU in March 2000, one of the main objectives of the UNHCR Representation in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - in close collaboration with the Congolese State - is to improve the legal framework for protection and to search for durable solutions for persons under UNHCR's mandate in DRC. The majority of urban refugees are Burundians and Rwandans still reluctant to return because of the volatile security situation in their countries of origin. Meanwhile, the declaration of the cessation clauses on the status of Rwandan refugees indicated that beyond 30 June 2013, many Rwandans would be deprived of protection and assistance. However, efforts have been made to grant a continued refugee status for urban refugees as a proposed durable solution for this population group.

Programs/Projects

Implementation

The implementation of this project was carried out by IEDA Relief by staff in its five offices in Lubumbashi, Kalemie, Pweto Lwambo, Manono and Malemba Nkulu. The Lubumbashi office served to coordinate the activities in Katanga and supervise Pweto and Lwambo offices; the Kalemie office reports to the Lubumbashi office and oversees the offices in Manono and Malemba Nkulu. These antennas were managed by Office Heads that worked closely with UNHCR field offices for technical support in order to achieve project objectives. To enable effective action and ensure holistic care, psycho-social care has been integrated into the project and psycho-social workers were placed in the Lwambo, Pweto, Kalemie, Manono and Malemba Nkulu sites. Also, care centers were constructed and equipped in these sites to provide an adequate environment for hearing the testimonials of victims of sexual violence. In order to ensure the effectiveness of protective activities, 15 monitors sent to work in these sites, including 6 monitors in Kalemie, 2 in Manono, 2 in Lwambo, 3 in Pweto, and 2 in Lubumbashi as well as 1 judicial monitoring coordinator in Lubumbashi. Furthermore, IDPs in the territory of Kambove (Lwambo, Mulungwishi and Mwadingusha) were profiled and registered during the third quarter in order to update the statistics of IDPs in this area.

January 2013: Responsibility and activities set out below were executed under the technical supervision of UNHCR and in strict compliance with the provisions relating to confidentiality and respect for the dignity of beneficiaries. The implementation of socio-economic support for refugees and asylum seekers located in and around the urban settings of Lubumbashi, Kipushi, Likasi consisted of: providing access to medical care; providing funeral support services in case of deaths; providing hygiene kits to women and girls of child-bearing age; assisting the most vulnerable (people with special needs) through the payment of housing and subsistence allowances; enrolling children in primary and secondary schools; and organizing voluntary repatriation. The work was carried out under the responsibility of a program Officer and two social workers (one for medical care referrals and monitoring of health care, the other for education and hygiene) and in collaboration with other partners under UNHCR's mandate.

Beneficiaries

IDPs: The protection monitoring project targeted 224,084 IDPs including 129,969 women in the following territories: Kalemie, Mitwaba, Manono, Malemba, Nyunzu, Pweto, Lubudi, Kambove, Likasi and Kasenga.

Urban Refugees: The urban refugees project, originally planned for 730 beneficiaries Lubumbashi and Kipoushi, was changed to reflect updated registration figures in February 2013, resulting in a total of 577 beneficiaries.

Returnee students: 19 including 8 women.

Achieved Results/Project

Protection monitoring: Thanks to multiple informational/outreach sessions (127), the community was able to welcome the IDPs who had experienced general violations of human rights in general and sexual violence. The beneficiaries of these sessions changed their behavior to break the silence and a culture of denouncing perpetrators of such crimes was born.



Other results include :

- Identification of 3635 total protection incidents in its areas of operation, of which 669 were victims of sexual violence
- 542 victims of sexual violence who were identified by IEDA relief were referred to medical/psychosocial support facilities as needed
- 55 victims of sexual violence benefited from judicial assistance and 80 benefited from socio-economic support in the form of agricultural subsidies
- 16 days of activism for human rights organized:
- With regard to psychosocial support for victims of sexual violence, 280 victims benefited from psychosocial support, of which 62 were in Kalemie, 121 in Lwambo, 29 in Malemba-Nkulu, 33 in Manono and 25 in Pweto
- To treat the trauma of victims of sexual violence, 41 sessions of psychological education were completed: 6 in Kalemie, 4 in Lwambo, 6 in Malemba-Nkulu, 8 in Manono, 17 in Pweto. To further support these victims 4 victim support centers were constructed in Manono, Kalemie, Lwambo and Pweto.
- With regard to legal assistance, 21 legal cases were referred to relevant authorities in Manono, 6 in Pweto, 15 in Lwambo and 2 in Kalemie. Thus, a hearing was held at Manono center by the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Kalemie, which resulted in 6 judgments being pronounced; 1 hearing in Pweto resulted in judgments for 3 of 7 cases; and finally 1 hearing Lwambo in which 8 judgments were delivered by the Court of Kipoushi.
- As part of the prevention of human rights and sexual violence in the fight against impunity in the Tanganyika Territory and particularly in Manono, IEDA Relief provided the building materials of the fence prison Manono in partnership with

UNHCR.



DAFI : The project had a large impact on the beneficiaries; 19 students received support for expenses such as purchase of books and research, course fees, transport and subsistence allowances. Through monthly meetings with 19 students, they were given a framework to express the difficulties they encountered as well as to find guidance and possible solutions. The health status of 19 students has improved. These students received medical care from health clinics that were supported by the project.

- Of 11 targeted students, tuition fees were paid for 5 graduate students who completed their internship
- Of 5 students targeted, the balance of the fees were paid and 5 students were registered in graduate studies
- 19 of 19 targeted students received their transport costs and their monthly subsistence allowances for the first semester; for the second semester, only 18 students received these due to one student losing the scholarship
- the health of all 19 students improved after receiving appropriate health care at the Centre de Santé Saint Esprit; 18 students benefited from free care at the health center and saw their health improve (1 student who failed no longer benefited from these services)
- Of the 2 planned informational sessions for the public to encourage universities, local NGOs and social networks to integrate program graduates and other returnees into jobs and the socio-professional environment, one was realized. The delay in the start date of the *DAFI* program prevented the other session from being held.
- 191 of 19 students in the first term received their exam participation fees and money to pay their exam sheets
- 14 of 14 students returning for their 2nd term received their exam participation fees and money to pay their exam sheets
- 19 of 19 students received payment for the costs of renting a home for the vacation period (August- October)

At the beginning of the academic year 2012-2013, one student did not meet the program standards and therefore no longer benefited from the scholarship. During the second semester of the academic year 2013-2014, 18 remaining students (internal and external) received their annual lodging and academic costs, a hot plate, their monthly transport costs, course fees, grant research costs, research costs, book purchase fees, memory card and various other supply costs as well as medical care at the Saint Esprit health center.

People with special needs (PBS)

- Of 60 targeted individuals, 47 individuals (10 elderly - 7 women and 3 men, 8 chronically ill – 5 women and 3 men, 1 mentally ill and 28 unaccompanied minors benefited from housing and subsistence allowances
- 10 vulnerable households (HIV AID Victims) benefited from food donations related to the 16 days of human rights activism
- 3 former unaccompanied minors received their rent guarantee fees and goods to equip their home
- 36 vulnerable people each received a 25 kg bag of maize flour from the remaining stock of the distribution on World Refugee Day celebrated in June 2013.
- Home visits organized for 46 refugees with special needs requiring social surveys during the quarter.
- A Somali refugee with various protection-related problems saw her condition improved through support received for living expenses, rent and rent guarantee costs
- An Ethiopian refugee relocated Kinshasa Lubumbashi received support in living expenses and rent guarantee.
- 39 persons entitled to refugee status in December 2012 received installation costs to enable them to take responsibility in terms of rent and living expenses.

Providing return assistance

In order to promote the repatriation durable solution, a former unaccompanied minor of Rwandan nationality was repatriated to his family in Kigali.

Supply of sanitary supplies

- o The hygiene of 124 women and girls of childbearing age (of planned average of 136) was guaranteed monthly since February 2013 through the distribution of sanitary pads consist of two pads and a medicated soap or 1,046 hygiene kits distributed during the year: a 95 kits in February, 103 kits in March , 92kits in April, 90 kits in May, 132 kits in June, 105 kits in July, 117 kits in August , 104 kits in September; 104 kits in October , 104 kits in November and December 2013.
- o Of the 27 planned births, 17 births (of which a large number took place in medical trainings not targeted by this project) received baby kits, each comprising: 1 plastic bassinette, 1 plastic seal, 1 towel rail, 1 set of matching clothes, 1 baby singlet , 6 baby diapers ,10 diaper covers , 1 waterproof diaper, 3 fasteners , 4 pairs of baby socks, 1 bra, 1 baby powder, cream and soap for baby.

Challenges

Protection monitoring : difficulty of access to logistical tools (IT tools, car tires, etc.) and insecurity in some areas. The major constraints are related to the limited coverage of monitors in the territories of Malemba Nkulu (presence of IDPs), Nyunzu (presence of children working in the mines) and Kabalo and Kongolo (many reported cases of rights violations perpetrated by the FARDC and other state agents), MOBA (with the presence of IDPs).

Recommendations

Support for Urban Refugees

- o We seek capacity building activities in the UNHCR's mandate,
- o Provide the means for the informational training by budgeting additional theme day(s)

- Increase funds for IGAs to enable us to reach a large number of beneficiaries
- Increase the funds of school fees

Protection monitoring

- Covering high above mentioned areas by instructors,
- Strengthen logistics to facilitate activities
- Increase the capacity of monitors
- Raincoats and visibility

4. Equateur Province

Operation context:

In 2013, the security situation in Equateur evolved favorably, with the support of the international community to allow for repatriation. An agreement was signed between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo (ROC) and the High Commission of the United Nations for Refugees (UNHCR) for the voluntary repatriation of some 143,000 refugees in four main areas : Kungu , Bomongo , Libenge and Mbandaka. At the end of 2013, a total of 108,885 refugees had returned to the province of Equateur, 62,527 of which returned in 2013. The strategy to facilitate their reintegration focused on reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, the construction of shelters and especially the provision of basic services (education, health/AIDS support, WASH) with protection monitoring as an essential component to ensure the rights of refugees returning to Congolese soil.

With regard to assistance to refugees fleeing various rebellions Central African Republic (CAR), the DRC received three waves of refugees from CAR in December 2012 and in January 2013 in Mobayi Mbong, in March 2013 in Zongo with the fall of President Bozizé and in April 2013 in Libenge. To address this situation, the Congolese state recognized CAR refugees with prima facie refugee status and requested the assistance of UNHCR, which opened three camps in the North and South Ubangi (Inke, Boyabu and Mole) to ensure the safety and protection of refugees. By the end of 2013, an estimated 51,509 individuals from CAR were living in DRC, of which 21, 129 were living in camps and 26,380 in sites outside the camps in the two districts.

Programs/Projects

The project is implemented directly by IEDA Relief in refuge areas of CAR refugees outside the camps in Zongo, Libenge, Gbadolite and the surrounding area and in Congolese returnee areas, including in and around the city of Mbandaka and the Libenge, Bomongo and Kungu territories. IEDA Relief's activities are coordinated from its office in Mbandaka. Field offices are managed by the Field Office Heads who are responsible for the preliminary analysis of data collected by the monitors. These field offices are under the technical supervision of the program managers and coordinators and managed directly by the UNHCR Office throughout the process of data collection, analysis and reporting. Major protection issues are raised with the UNHCR to provide a sufficient response. Activities have been extended to monitoring detention centers and administrative borders for better

monitoring of population movements. Collaboration with other humanitarian actors is reinforced through a harmonized approach to coordination (working groups), with field office heads representing IEDA Relief and working with local authorities and members of local civil society to improve project implementation.

IEDA Relief monitors the implementation of activities through the collection tools made available by UNHCR, and through other tools developed by the organization. Data verified by the Field Office Heads are stored in a reliable database and transferred to IEDA Relief's Provincial Coordination Office for analysis, from which reports are sent to the UNHCR in strict compliance with humanitarian principles and standards of protection. Supervising visits are regularly organized for close monitoring and evaluation of activities and periodic evaluation takes place in meetings with UNHCR. The staff of UNHCR protection points out priority areas to IEDA Relief as its partner; UNHCR owns all monitoring data and reserves the right to share it with other members of the humanitarian community. IEDA Relief can explore other areas it considers a priority and inform UNHCR in advance. Close cooperation has been established with other protection agencies in targeted and thematic working groups addressing the issue of protection and sexual violence.

Beneficiaries

Returnees (refugees and IDPs returning to Equateur) : 62,000, including 30,249 women in Kungu, Bomongo and Libenge, Zongo territories
Central African Refugees: 30,000 including 14,700 women.

Achieved Results

Between 2 January 2013 and 31 December 2013, **5,383 protection incidents** were registered in the different areas covered by IEDA Relief, of which **3244 affected residents of the area and 2139 affected those under the UNHCR mandate:**

Victim status

- Residents were victims of **3244 protection-related** incidents, or 60 % ;
- Refugees were victims of **1074** protection-related incidents, or 20%;
- Returnees were victims of **1069** protection-related incidents, or 20%

Violations of property rights : In all areas covered by the project, **1698** violations of individual/collective property rights were registered; **313** cases committed against returnees and **648** against refugees,

Violations of the right to life and physical integrity : With regard to the rights to life and physical integrity, 1,471 violations were recorded; 241 against returnees and 146 against refugees

SGBV : 599 incidents were reported over the course of 2013, of which **169** against returnees and **78** against refugees.

Violations of the right to movement/freedom **530** cases were reported, **124** cases involving returnees and **22** cases involving refugees.

Challenges

Logistical difficulties (Mobility and communications) remain a major concern for the province of Equateur for the implementation of the monitoring project on the one hand. Additionally,

the insufficient presence of monitors on the ground limits the availability of real time information.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen training of people on human rights, particularly on access to justice;
2. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities in the protection of persons under UNHCR's mandate;
3. Maintain awareness of peaceful coexistence ;
4. Ensure the prevention and response to SGBV; fight against impunity and ensure medical care for survivors of sexual violence
5. Given the need to cover large areas and the large number of people of concern to UNHCR, the following are important considerations:
 - a. Increase the number of monitors for a full geographical coverage to meet the needs of persons of concern to UNHCR ;
 - b. Resolve mobility issues on the field in different zones to facilitate activity speed;
 - c. Raincoats and visibility
 - d. Strengthen logistics to facilitate activities and strengthen the capacity of monitors.