

## Another day in Baseco

Last Saturday on February 20, the people of Baseco got a break from waiting in their make shift huts. A fire had consumed all their belongings 6 weeks ago (Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 2010). They are suffering from the extreme heat of the season and have very little water available.



Little has happened since the fire, except from occasional trucks coming in and dumping construction material to raise the level of the ground to prevent future flooding. Nobody seems to know when the land will be ready for distribution to the residents so that they can begin to rebuild their lives. On and off politicians have come to donate some relief goods and a toilet facility has been built together with a water source. This toilet facility is open only from 6am to 6pm. We are not sure why it is closed at night and what people are supposed to do to relieve themselves should the need for it be between 6pm and 6 am.



Make shift toilet

But last Saturday was a good day for the people because they received many presents. Our team was made up of 30 Hope Worldwide volunteers who organized the set-up; including tents, security, cooked the hot-meals and packed the goodies.



The Philippine Christian Foundation sent 10 volunteers and 330 bags of clothes for all 330 families, plus additional children's clothing and toys.



Springboard's medical advisor Caroline Cliff came with her medical and hygiene team of over 25 people.



Many came to play with the children, it was especially pleasing to see many young children come to entertain and play with the children of Baseco.

More than 10 Military men came to help with peace and order and they brought a large military tent for us to conduct the medical mission in. The Barangay team was also present. Lane moving provided 3 tents and tables for our registration booths, relief distribution and a washing station. Springboard provided 330 storage bags, the funding for 330 hot-meals and one cooking set (gas-tank with burner), 330 re-usable containers for the hot-meals, 300 children's slippers, 660 apples, 1850 bananas, 1000 dalandan (local mandarins), 250 bukos (young coconuts), water bottles for diarrhea solutions, 330 bottles of vitamins for children, 150 wash cloths, 6 wash basins, 2 large buckets, 6 dippers, aprons, 100 lice combs, toys and games for playing and 2 truckloads of water.

All families who have identification papers were able to receive the relief goods. Long lines of people were waiting patiently for the goods to be distributed.



The volunteers really enjoyed the foot and hair washing of the children. Since they have so little water for themselves many were in dire need of a good clean-up. They came in very long lines and relished the feeling of being clean again, especially when they received new clothes and slippers after they were washed. Head lice are rampant and the treatment of the hair was greatly appreciated.



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The people still need our help, please donate towards the emergency relief for Baseco.