

24 May 2020

ES Newsletter

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Typhoon Ambo Response – Eastern Samar

On 23 May 2020 Impact Nations responded to the cry for help of the victims of Typhoon Ambo in the town of Jipapad, Province of Eastern Samar, Philippines through its coordinators in the province - Ps. Robert, Psa. Ronnalyn, Ps. Nathan and Bing.



The team distributed 11 sets of water filters to 4 Villages that were greatly affected by the flush flood. Village Chairpersons, Councilors and Health Workers gathered at the Municipal Hall for the demonstration of use and maintenance of the water filters. The thrilled and grateful Municipal Mayor also spared some of his time to pay attention to the demo, and extended his deepest gratitude to Impact Nations for responding first to his plea for help especially with the state of their water right now. The village officials also shared the same sentiment and their claps and smiles summed it up.

Jipapad is one of the poorest towns in the province of Eastern Samar that is situated around mountains and two rivers, which is why after the recent typhoon, the entire town was submerged in flood, that resulted to loss of houses, food, livestock and livelihood, including contamination of their water source and water system. "But the truth is, even without flood, our water is not safe for drinking. Every year our children will suffer from water borne diseases, and we are afraid more so this time", a village councilor said.

Demonstration



Water for demonstration was fetched from the muddy river.



“Our water system was just recently restored, but we can’t drink it.”

-Municipal Social Welfare & Development Officer



Distribution

“Our town is very far, and coming alone is not just an ordinary thing, it is a gift of love. And coming to our aid makes me very grateful, because this was my biggest concern, the effect and harm on our water after the typhoon.”

Thank you for bringing us this natural and healthy water filtration system.”

-Mayor Benjamin Ver



Present Situation

“We can survive for the next few months, but after all the food pack distributions, we have nothing to get our food from.”

-Chairperson Orus, Brgy 2



People lost their crops and their newly harvested rice grains were soaked in water. They trying to salvage some to sustain their family until the next cropping season next year.



Coconut was their main source of income but are now damaged, which will only recover after 3-5 years.



Hundreds of houses were totally destroyed, and families living in make-shift houses.

People would fondly call their crisis as "CoMbo" short term for COVID-19 and Typhoon Ambo crisis. But behind their laughs are anxiety on how they can bounce back from the COVID-19 work restrictions and now Typhoon Ambo's aftermath.