

**DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM**  
**Eastern Visayas, Philippines, 2013**

**Initial Report**

December 31, 2013

Our initial response to the two major disasters that devastated the Eastern Visayas, Philippines late in 2013 centered on 4 major areas: earthquake damaged island of Bohol, and typhoon damaged islands of Samar, Leyte and Northern Cebu. Acute needs included: food, medicines, water filters for potable water and temporary building materials for shelters. Additionally, for longer term needs, we donated medical supplies and assistance in the repair of fishing boats fishermen needed for their living.

In Tacloban City, Leyte, we sent monies to the convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Help which housed and fed over 2000 homeless people.

The displaced people in Guiuan, Samar were given monies for food and building materials for temporary housing or repair of their homes. In the surrounding shore towns, monies were given for materials for fishing boats for their food and livelihood.

In Palo, Leyte, medicines and the 40 water filters were distributed in the Barangays and the Schistosomiasis and General Hospital. This week additional packages of medicines are being forwarded from Manila. The Hospital was severely damaged and is one of 2 hospitals targeted for continuing assistance with scheduled shipments of supplies and major hospital equipment through Balikbayan boxes and container shipments.

In Northern Cebu, medicines to combat diarrhea and infections were sent through our contacts who schedule relief distribution and local medical clinics.

In Bohol, a preliminary team of 3 volunteers went to initiate assistance. They distributed food and medicines, working with local health professionals. They also helped a few families make their abodes livable through donations of building materials. This was followed by a more formal medical mission with 9 doctors and nurse coordinator from the States working with local doctors, dentists and nurses from the Provincial Hospital and health centers in various towns including the small remote Tres Reyes Island. Eight (8) major surgeries were performed, and 749 patients were served in the medical and dental clinics.

One of the clinics was in Loon, Bohol which was the area suffering the worst damaged from the earthquake. The hospital is completely unusable and the temporary hospital is a large tent. This Hospital in Loon will be the other hospital earmarked for major equipment and supply donation in 6 months after a good portion of the hospital is rebuilt.



Six Balikbayan boxes of medical supplies and medicines are due to arrive this month in the hospital in Guiuan, Samar and six boxes in Loon, Bohol. We are

preparing to send 10 Balikbayn boxes of supplies to the Schistosomiasis and General Hospital in Palo, Leyte. We are now in the process of asking donations of used and new medical equipment for our scheduled 40 foot container.

We would like to thank all our generous donors for making this disaster relief effort possible and to the many dedicated local Filipino counterparts making all the efforts a reality. Our efforts at rebuilding and rehabilitation will continue for the next several months and we will keep you updated.



**Tony S. Racela Jr. M.D.**  
**Board Chair and Medical Director**



**Jerry Smith**  
**Executive director**