Catholic Peacebuilding Network

INTER RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
Breakout of conflict between government and the MNLF (1970s)

Thousands displaced, killed, rendered homeless, malnourished children, repression of human rights and dignity;
VIOLENCE CONTINUING IN KIDNAPPING AND VARIOUS FORMS OF CRIMINALITY

POOR GOVERNANCE

AN ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION, BIAS, PREJUDICE.... DISTRUST
Christian communities unorganized

Lack of Catechesis

People searching for PEACE ....

Lay too dependent on hierarchical church; low empowerment
The Church answers the call of the times
• People were asked to return to their lands.

• Communities of Muslims and Christians were organized.

• A Muslim - Christian Brotherhood of religious leaders was formed.

• Programs on evangelization were organized.

• Basic Christian Communities began to be built.

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE INSTITUTIONALIZED
• Basic services were provided: housing, water, farm implements, roads and bridges, health, education, agricultural/ecological development etc.

• Relief and rehabilitation carried out.

• Social Action programs initiated.
Our Unique Offering

- Institutionalizing Interreligious Dialogue in the structure of the church
- Emergency and relief to all peoples without discrimination
- Forgiveness and reconciliation thru psychosocial stress debriefing and trauma healing
- Active non-violence as a way of responding / resolving conflict (dialogue, negotiation and mediation)
- Organizing of multi-cultural communities and sectors like women and youth
- Environmental awareness and care
Challenges

- Deep seated biases & prejudices against Christians working in multi-cultural communities even among their own people;
- Collaboration of all stakeholders in addressing conflict (interreligious dialogue of leaders and communities)
- Integration of interreligious dialogue in the curriculum
- Catholic religious leaders and laity involved in the mission of interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding
- Cultural diversity among people of Basilan
- Deprivation of people’s basic rights
Lessons learned

• Starts where the people are.

• Activities are community-based (e.g., community reflections and analysis of the conflict, psycho-social debriefing activities, shared efforts/work towards a common issues identified by the community or sector)

• Programs or components are anchored on accurate data and felt/expressed needs.
Lessons Learned

• Involvement of all stakeholders in the process of identification, ownership and Collaboration (Pagtabangan BASULTA)

• Interreligious dialogue and peace education integrated in all programs & components (technical skills, micro-finance, disaster mgt., etc.)
Creating impacts on the wider search for peace through….

A. Educational Awareness

• Mindanao Week of Peace Celebration

• Peace Education integrated in the different components and programs

• Peace camps

• Culture of Peace sessions in communities and schools
B. Peace and Community Development

- Mutual Concerns in addressing issues of violence
- Organizing of Interreligious group, e.g. Muslim and Christian Brotherhood
- Psycho-social stress debriefing and trauma healing sessions and rituals
- Community dialogue

Creating impacts on the wider search for peace through....
Other Peace and Development Programs

- Non-formal education and technical skills for Out of School Youth
- Organizing Women and Widows of Basilan
- Literacy Program for women
- Micro-Finance for women and farmers
- Recycling War Trash
- Supplemental Feeding for Pre-schoolers
- Water provision
- Scholarship
• Interreligious dialogue now not just by the church but adopted by other programs & sectors outside the Catholic Church;

• Biases & misunderstanding being addressed thru constant dialogue, shared work and celebration;

• No outbreak of religious conflict due to established relationship among different faiths and tribes;

• Sense of Commitment and service growing among common people.
MUCHAS GRACIAS!

MAGSUKUL