

Catholic Peacebuilding Network

BASILAN

INTER RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE



Breakout of
conflict

govt army
the
(195

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.

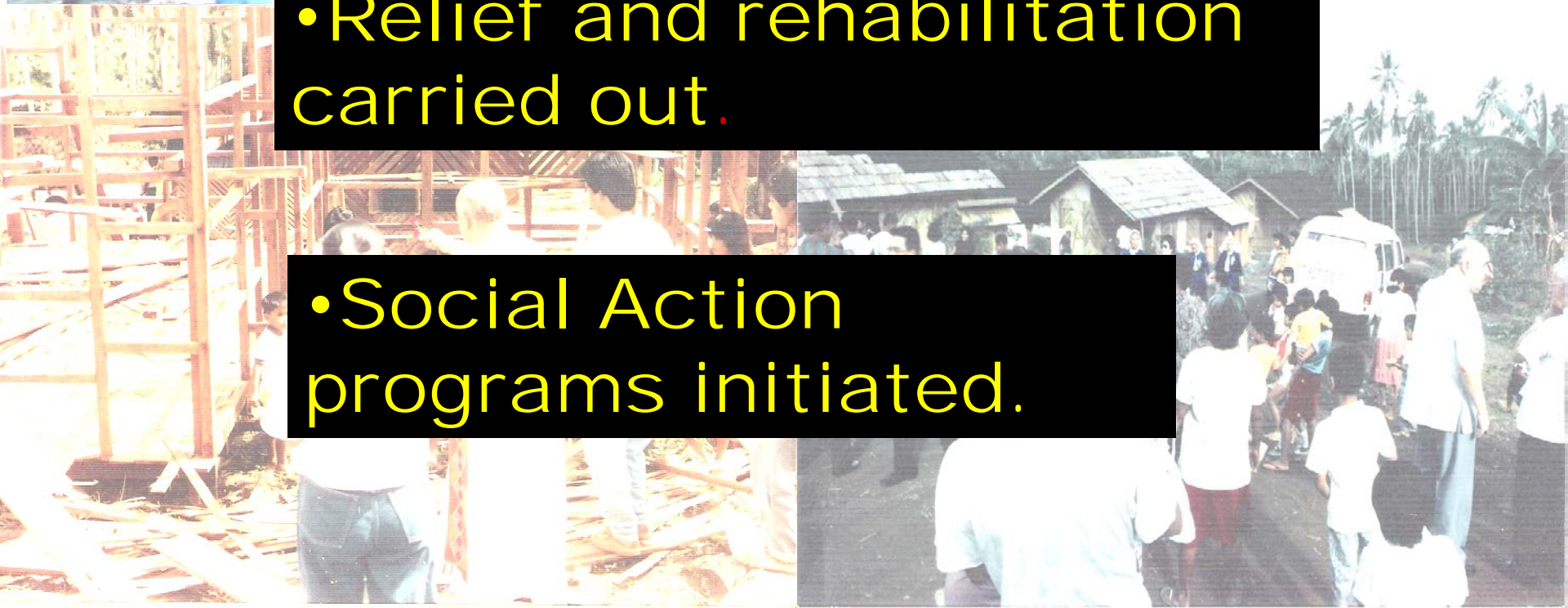
- Basic Christian Communities began to be built.

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

- **Instutionalizing Interreligious Dialogue in the structure of the church**
- **Emergency and relief to all peoples without discrimination**
- **Forgiveness and reconciliation thru psycho-social 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



Creating impacts on the wider search for peace through....

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



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!

MAGSUKULL