

## NOVEMBER 2017

### Conflict in Marawi ends after 5 months!

*Ken Copsey, of ERRP (Emmanuel International in the Philippines writes to tell us about the end of the conflict in Marawi City.*

The conflict in Marawi has finally ended, after 5 MONTHS of war! Marawi City is the Capital City of the province of Lanao del Sur, Mindanao island in the Philippines.

The Marawi crisis, also known as the Marawi City siege, is an armed conflict that started on 23 May 2017 between the Philippine military and militants of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf jihadist groups. These have tried to take over Marawi City. Finally, on 23 October, after 5 months of intense fighting, the Philippine military has declared victory.

Due to this siege, nearly the entire population of Marawi (over 239,000

people) have had to flee for their lives. Some were trapped and were taken hostage, others used as human shields. Many transient workers and families from nearby towns were also evacuated, making the total number of evacuees at more than 340,000.

*Imagine all the residents of Bradford being displaced; or everyone in Cardiff, or Coventry!*

Many evacuees were able to find temporary accommodation with nearby relatives or fellow Maranao families. Others are crammed into overcrowded evacuation centres. ERRP, along with many other agencies, have been working together to provide the relief needs of the war evacuees. Over the past few months, ERRP, in a joint effort with local churches, has been able to help almost 3000 families or 15,000 individuals.

Once areas of the city are declared safe, the people will start to return.

ERRP aims to send more help and get Marawi back on its feet. Nearly the entire city needs to be rehabilitated! Much of the cities buildings and people's homes have been destroyed. ERRP will continue to help in the rehabilitation phase and would like to focus on





restoring community water wells, as they did during disaster relief from Typhoon Yolanda.

## Christian Churches and agencies work together!

Emmanuel International (ERRP) is one of the many agencies who are bringing aid. Partnering together with the Mindanao Evangelical Leaders Council, PHILRADS (Philippine Relief and Disaster Services is Tearfund's partner agency in the

Philippines and the relief arm of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches or PCEC), KEDRN and others, essential food aid and hygiene items have been distributed. Many different Churches, especially from nearby Cagayan de Oro, have sent volunteers to help re-pack, deliver, and distribute the goods. Some of those who volunteered were also able to conduct psycho-social, stress relieving activities for adults and children.



During relief distribution in June, Saguieran covered court, Lanao del Sur.

# Lupembelwasenga Water Project



**The old water source**

How would you feel if you had **a three and a half hour walk** to get water to make your cup of tea, take a shower or wash your clothes? Three and a half hours is the average time it takes for a household in Lupembelwasenga to collect water, every day. Once the water system is completed this will be dramatically reduced, with the majority of households having a water point within 300m.

Constructing a gravity flow water system is labour intensive, as the villagers have



**Digging with the village**



**Waterpoint in Lubembelwasenga**

to dig a metre deep trench. It can be demoralising as you sweat and toil for hours to have gained just a few feet. Encouragement is so important, and the village was excited to receive a team from Emmanuel Church in Guildford this April. The team helped dig the trench, which galvanised the villagers to complete the first stage of digging. The team also constructed a fence around the source, a freshwater spring, ensuring its preservation.

The spring water stands in stark contrast to the readily accessible water sources of the villagers. Currently almost 50% of the population reported having had diarrhoea and vomiting in the last 3 months, which will predominantly be caused by the bacteria consumed in their water. We expect this to dramatically decrease as the clean, safe water is delivered.

The main balancing tank is now receiving the water from the intake at the spring 5.5 km away and is already distributing to three water points. A sump tank for a solar pump has been completed and so the next thrust is to lay the pipes which



will take the pumped water to the highest point of the village. Preparations are underway for the pump installation early next year.

It is amazing what can be achieved when we work together! In just 3 days about 200 community members took up their pick axes, hoes and spades to dig another 3km through the hard ground. This trench is for the solar pump line, the pipes for which have just arrived!



**Pipes arriving**

Once the water system is installed it will have the capacity to serve every household in the village with a good source of clean, safe water. Amazing! But not the end of the story for our partnership with Lupembelwasenga. We want to ensure that the community has the training to maintain the supply and the education to ensure that disease is reduced and sanitation improved. We will continue to meet with and train the Water Users Association and to teach in the school, expecting long term benefits of better health and water security.

**We appreciate your ongoing prayer and support as we continue to serve the people of Lupembelwasenga.**

# ElUK Conference and AGM

St John's Church, Southbourne (nr Chichester)

## 27 January 2018

10am till 4pm

The Emmanuel International Brazil staff will be with us this year!



*Fred and Carla Silva*

Do come and meet them and hear Fred speak.



*Tarcisio and Jurema Porto*



*Tom Edom*

Tom will be back from Uganda, telling us about his time and work there.

St Peter's Church, Farnborough will tell us about their short term mission trip.

And more...

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held in the afternoon.

Anyone who is interested in Emmanuel International and the work we do is welcome to attend.

**Catch up with the work of Emmanuel International worldwide!**