



PROJECT

(24)

# Philippines

World Water Day

March 22, 2019

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Because Every Drop Counts

**Clean Water Access**

**Cagmanaba**

**Elementary School**

**North Samar, Philippines**



Bringing Clean Water to  
Cagmanaba Elementary School  
(North Samar, Philippines)

# Remote Opportunity

"I have been a teacher for 15 years in Cagmanaba Elementary School. Ever since, clean and safe water is very important for me and my co-teachers. Most of the time my students ask for drinking water. Unfortunately, I cannot provide them with purified water so they drink from the open water. This practice causes problems with their health - like cholera, diarrhea and e-coli."

-Salvador, Cagmanaba fourth grade teacher

If poverty were a crop, then the people of Cagmanaba would be rich. Instead, people in this remote village in eastern Samar suffer from extreme poverty, with household income less than 50 pesos (\$1 USD) per day garnered from selling fish or planting coconuts or abaca. Living conditions are very difficult because most homes in the village are makeshift – composed mostly from scrap wood. Unpaved roads make travel and commerce extremely difficult. People drink water from open ponds or streams, making them susceptible to waterborne diseases.

Over a decade ago, Cagmanaba village suffered from a cholera outbreak caused by contaminated drinking water as a result of flooding. Left without any drinking water in the community, nearly everyone in the village suffered from a severe cholera outbreak that claimed seven lives.

Fear of another cholera outbreak remains in the hearts of the people. And although the government took corrective action, the problem has not been resolved completely due to lack of funding. There are still reports of cholera and other waterborne diseases - especially among very young children. Even now, the search for potable water sources remains the top priority in the community.

Emmalyn G. Canales, school headmaster said, "In my five years in Cagmanaba Elementary School, we have never received any help from any organization. I have always been hoping for assistance with our water, health, and sanitation. Our water has a bad odor and the color is not clear. It can only mean that our source is not safe for drinking."



"My father left us when I was still a baby. My mother works very hard but our money is still not enough for the daily expenses. I am always hungry and thirsty. The water we drink is not clean"

— Arlene, seven



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

**School Name:** Cagmanaba Elementary School

**Number of Students:** 181

**Community Name:** Cagmanaba

**Community Population:** 815

**Number of Households:** 56

**GPS Coordinates:** 12.390939°N 125.050626°E



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