



PROJECT

(24)

# Philippines

World Water Day

March 22, 2019



**BD**

Advancing the  
world of health

**Clean Water Access**  
**Magsaysay**  
**Elementary School**  
**North Samar, Philippines**



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

# Impact Zone

“Despite the difficulties our village is facing, I am still constantly wearing a cheerful face and keeping an optimistic outlook. As a teacher assigned in far-flung area, I always go back to my love for my work. I get inspiration from my students who are patiently waiting for me each day in order for them to learn. I have no other wish but for them to have better health through clean drinking water.”

-Shairah, Magsaysay kindergarten teacher

Lodged in the remote mountains of the northern Samar region of the Philippines, the people of Magsaysay are among the poorest – earning a meager living by selling rocks for housing and construction needs. After a two-hour-long hike or an hour and-a-half boat ride from Jipapad, one will reach the village of Magsaysay and come to appreciate the hardship of its residents who are still digging their homes, buildings and school out from a massive mudslide that devastated the people in November of 2018.

The community was evacuated under emergency orders because there is a history of mudslides in the region when heavy rains are no longer absorbed by the terrain. Steep slopes gave way shortly after the evacuation order was issued, covering the mountainside village with heavy mud. The majority of villagers still live in a gymnasium that has been converted to serve as a community relocation shelter, with some people still dealing with the fear rain will come again to make their lives more difficult and further pollute their already very poor and dangerous drinking water sources.

Flooding is a seasonal expectation in the village from September to February, and after the rain season begins, the water table fills with contaminants and makes the people sick. Melanie, a mother of three children, explains the helplessness she shares with many residents, “With all of the landslides in our village, I am sometimes thinking of moving my family to another place. Everything is difficult here- transportation, water and livelihood.”



“There is flooding in the village almost every month from September to February. The water gets even more contaminated during these times of the year.”

— Mr. Ricky Picardal, Headmaster



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

**School Name:** Magsaysay Elementary School

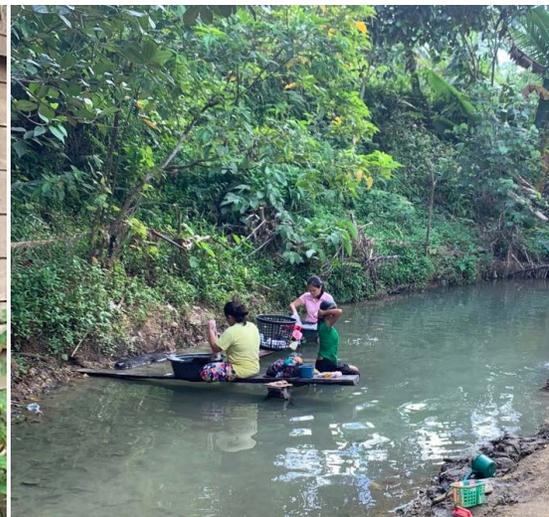
**Number of Students:** 52

**Community Name:** Magsaysay

**Community Population:** 198

**Number of Households:** 86

**GPS Coordinates:** 12.356062°N 125.202546°E



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