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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

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DISASTER BULLETIN ALERT

UCCP DISTRIBUTES PIGLETS IN ANTIQUE

About 85 farmers trooped down to the UCCP church in Tigues village in Tibiao town, Antique, on a Wednesday morning in August. They brought along some sacks where they put the piglets that they received from the Western Visayas Conference (WVC) of the UCCP.

According to Rev. Rommel Marcelino, Conference Minister of WVC, this was part of the livelihood project that the UCCP has been implementing to benefit those hardest hit by typhoon Haiyan in November 2013 especially poor farmers in the mountains. The disaster that happened practically wiped out the source of livelihood of these people. Aside from planting aerobic rice and vegetables, hog raising would further augment their income.

“The piglets that we distributed were all females intended to be grown into sows that would breed more piglets in the future,” Rev. Marcelino said. “With this scheme, the benefits of the project will have a multiplying effect and the blessing will be also shared to others in the community.”

To adhere to the principle of good stewardship, each farmer beneficiary agreed to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Western Visayas Conference stipulating that after the sow has bred, one piglet will be given to a neighbor and one for the conference for its income generating program.

“*Bisan ano nga kabudlayan, wara guid kami ginpabay-an kang Ginoo. Salamat kana sa amo dya nga mga bugay,*” said one of the farmers in Karay-a, the native language in Antique. (Despite our hardships because of the disaster, God has been to us. We thank God for the blessing). He also said he wanted to pay it forward by giving a share to his *kaingod* (neighbor).

Alongside the distribution of the piglets, a seminar was conducted by an invited local veterinarian to impart knowledge to the beneficiaries about the proper and effective methods of hog raising and breeding. One of the important aspects of the seminar was the introduction of the organic hog feeding (with the use of indigenous micro-organism) as an alternative cost-saving and eco-friendly method compared to feeding using commercially produced hog feeds.

Piglets were also distributed to beneficiaries of the UCCP rehabilitation project in disaster areas in Samar and Leyte.



A veterinarian immunizing a piglet to ensure its strong resistance against illness



Piglets huddle in their cage before they are distributed to farmer beneficiaries



A farmer gets a piglet for his family and one for his neighbor who cannot come

UCCP would like to thank the donors from different partner churches for their support including The United Church of Canada, Global Ministries, United Evangelical Mission, Reformed Church in America, Sign of Hope, Presbyterian Church-USA, United Church of Christ in Japan- Hyogo and many individuals whose hearts abound with God's gift of generosity.

PIGLET DISTRIBUTION IN TIGUES, TIBIAO, ANTIQUE



SEMINARS ON EFFECTIVE HOG RAISING IN ANTIQUE AND LEYTE

