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PROGRESS REPORT

on the

PUTSAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

March 1, 1983

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VILLAGE PROFILE

"Before"

At the time the ICA began working with the village of Putsan in March, 1982 the 'situation' in the village, as described by the ICA staff and the Barangay Captain, was:

I. The village has had a long standing subsistant pottery 'cottage industry.' Most families make simple household earthen-ware pottery for sale to villages up and down the East coast of the Philippines. These pots were collected, loaded on village owned boats and taken to coastal market towns for sale twice a year. Each family was paid upon the return of the trip according to the number of pots sold from their lot. They had no skills within the village for more sophisticated 'ceramic' style of pottery making (which could bring higher prices). There were a few families who used available land for farming, mostly rice, copra and sweet potatoes. Less than 5% of the families had household gardens. Likewise only about 5% had household animals, e.g. pigs or goats. Most had a few chickens that were used for family consumption. A number of residents were without gainful employment, especially school-leavers who were not willing to help on the family based cottage industry. Fishing was done by the men of several families, mostly for village use with the excess catch taken to Tiwi or Tobaco for marketing. The fishing was done with the use of small boats and poles with tackle, reaching for schools of Tuna that use the channel for a breeding ground.

II. In the arena of basic social needs, the village infant mortality rate was close to 25% due largely to malnutrition. There was no immunization programme and there was no programme of family planning. The village sewage system was the road-side variety and run-off water stood in stagnation, creating mosquito and disease breeding areas. Clean water was available from three taps from the Municipal water system. There was no health clinic in the village and rarely did anyone get to a hospital, unless they were encouraged by an employer, such as PGI. Very few children completed the sixth grade of education. Less than 3% of those who did finish went on to secondary school, largely due to the low income generating capacity of the village (families have to pay for their children to attend Secondary School)

PROGRESS REPORT

of the

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

March 1, 1954

Village of ...

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and a lack of motivation on the part of families to have their children leave the income generating cycle of the family. No educational programmes were available in the village for the adults of the village. There was no early-learning programme to encourage children to like to enjoy learning and increase their chances of succeeding in primary school.

III. In the arena of 'community life,' the level of village involvement in any cooperative efforts beyond rudimentary economics was very low. The Barangay Council was operational but depended almost entirely on the Municipal Officers for any action. The village was not organized beyond the Council. Line-Agencies seldom if ever visited the Barangay. The road was virtually impassable for much of the year due to the lack of a drainage system and road improvements. Usually villagers had to walk out of the village to the front of the NPC Compound and hope a trike would come by to take them into Tiwi. Village products for market were likewise quite difficult to get out of the village. There was no programme of recreation for the village children or youth. The homes were, with only a few exceptions, made from Nepa and reflected an attitude of minimal care for the general appearance by the residents. Partly due to the under-employment of the villager many of them were involved in gambling and drinking. This also reflected a general 'hopelessness' across the village.

The village of Putsan was like thousands of other villages who are basically outside the network of development in this nation.

#### VILLAGE PROFILE

"Current Situation: February, 1983  
(10 Months after the Consultation)

I. In the arena of the economic the Village Consultation, held in May, 1982 sparked a new hope and several new efforts that have brought a vitality to the villages economy. First the village decided to build a drainage system and improve the roads. 18 culverts were supplied by the Municipality and installed with volunteer labor. This allows trikes and trucks to enter the village year round to move people and goods to and from the village.

The village has begun marketing its pottery on a year round basis, improving the cash flow of the families considerably. The village has had a 'clay crusher' built, delivered and installed into a new building, built for the purpose of allowing the crushing of the clay, whatever the weather. It is built near the clay source and is operated by a villager who is paid by the sack (as is the maintenance and electricity) by each villager who uses the crusher. This has sped up the production process by approximately 20%. Several villagers are being trained, at the Ceramic Research and Development Center in Tiwi, in new methods of glazing and firing helping develop a more attractive product. Five business persons from Tiwi have obtained land in Putsan and are gathering capital to open a ceramic roof tile 'plant' which could employ up to fifty residents of Putsan. They have agreed, after the

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venture has been launched, to allow Putsan residents to buy shares in the Company.

The second economic venture has been the construction and launching of a Poultry Industry by the village. They currently have two hundred chickens in the Building with a capacity of 600 on a growing cycle of 45 days. This venture is owned and operated as a village industry whereby the village has borrowed (from funds available through the Foundation Grant) the capital to start the industry. The profits will accrue to the village through the Putsan Human Development Corporation, wherein every villager owns shares in the industry. Between the villages own consumption (to be bought from the industry at market prices) and local markets they project P400 profit per batch of 100 chickens. They purchase one day old chicks that are already inoculated.

The third economic venture involves the village fishermen. They have organized and have done a feasibility study for an expanded fishing industry to include a larger boat and the 'purse seine' method of fishing. They will be able to catch smaller tuna and larger quantities. Three villagers have done this type of fishing before. They anticipate a three fold increase in their tonnage. They are, once again, borrowing the funds from the Grant source and project repayment within one year of operation. They plan to have the new method in operation for this season which begins in late March. They will man the boat on a rotating basis so that the industry can operate round the clock. Profits/losses will be shared amongst the fishermen who have entered the venture. A percentage of the profits will go toward maintaining the social programmes, namely the ELNC and the Health Clinic. This is also true of the other economic ventures, each helping support the community services through their profits. Each economic venture has a financial manager who keep accurate records of all transactions, cash flow, pays the bills incurred by the Industry, etc. These are villagers who have been trained by the ICA.

A fourth dimension of the economic improvement is in the arena of agriculture. While there are only a few villagers in Putsan who do market farming, most families are in the process of developing their own family garden. This programme has been encouraged by a new awareness of the importance of a balanced diet to basic health and physical vitality. The village has created both a 'medicinal herbs' garden and a nursery for growing their own seedlings for later transplant to the family gardens. The village has involved the more experienced farmers/gardeners as well as consulting the Ministry of Agriculture in 'Back Yard Farming' to assist in the development of the most nutritious vegetables feasible in their unique soil and climatic conditions.

The 'line agencies' of the national government have become involved in assisting the village at several points. Long term relationships are being built so that the village residents can avail themselves of their services as they need them. Formerly the village did not know about their services or were too intimidated by 'government officials' to the point of not using the resources that were available.

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The impact of these improvements has not resulted in a dramatic increase in per-family income as yet. The key factor at this point is that they have feasible plans that are in progress with short-term payoff and long term durability. The community is now working together on building a more diversified and substantial economic base. They also have the 'Corporation' in place so that they can work equitably and responsibly as a village team. The Corporation elects its own officers with every stockholder having a vote. The ICA has also conducted several training programmes in economic management for the leadership of the Corporation and its various industries. Each industry is designed to be profitable within one year of start-up, including in its cash flow the payback of the start-up capital. (These funds will be made available for other economic ventures in Putsan as they are repaid, and/or can be used to help other villages.)

II. In the arena of social programmes, there have also been substantial improvements. The village has constructed a health clinic and it is now stocked with some basic drugs, serviced by a full-time health worker who provides a referral and diagnostic service. She also takes the Blood Pressure of those needing it monitored, preventing them from having to take the time and expense of traveling into Tiwi for this checkup.

A Medical Doctor from Tiwi (Dr. Gonzales, who also serves PGI) has recently begun weekly office hours at the Putsan Health Clinic. Several Drug Companies have volunteered to donate basic drugs on an on-going basis, drugs that are 'dated' but still effective. At the time of the opening of the Health Clinic two Doctors from the Ministry of Health came and spent a half day providing inoculation and diagnostic services. Several villagers have begun a programme of treatment for T.B. All children have now been vaccinated for the basic children's diseases.

In each Purok (neighborhood) there is at least one resident who has volunteered to serve as Health Care Taker. These persons have been trained in basic diagnostic/nutrition by the ICA staff and the Municipal Health Officers. These persons visit each family at least once a month. They can identify most of the common diseases and then encourage residents with symptoms to visit the Clinic for remedial medication, see the Doctor immediately, or come to the Clinic during the Doctors weekly office hours. Also they are familiar with the process of admission to the Hospital in Tiwi and are a conduit for emergency treatment.

The basic health of the community has also been significantly improved by the elimination of the disease-producing stagnant waters that resulted from the lack of an adequate drainage system. The community has had a toilet building campaign whereby over 95% of the families have installed a simple toilet bowl and septic tank either in or near their homes. Two additional water taps have been installed in other parts of the village for more ready access to good water,

The Village has also built an Early Learning-Nutrition Center (ELNC) for the education and health of its pre-school children (ages 3-6). This center

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the health status of the population in the region of the River... The data in this report is based on a survey of 1000 households... The survey was conducted in 1980 and 1981... The results show that the majority of the population is in good health... However, there are some concerns about the increasing incidence of certain diseases... The following table shows the distribution of health status by age group and sex...

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is staffed by two ELNC teachers who have been trained by the ICA. The children are in school for half day, concluding their morning with a nutritious snack, prepared by the parents of the children on a rotating basis. The food is obtained at low cost or donated by the Ministry of Social Service and Development. Over 50 children are attending regularly. The parents are encouraged to pay for the cost of the lunches but food is served to all children. Third degree malnutrition has been eliminated and second degree malnutrition is being reduced rapidly.

Part of this programme includes a monthly weighing of all of the infants in the village. This encourages the mothers to bring their children, obtain additional training in diet, food preparation, health care, and literacy. The mothers enjoy displaying their healthy children. A prize is given to the mother whose child has improved the most (assuming that weight gain signifies a balanced diet and healthy conditions at home). Careful records are kept on all of these programmes so that the Health Care Takers and ELNC staff can encourage each person/family to continue to make use of the programmes. The Pre-School Parents Association meets monthly to orchestrate parental support of the ELNC programme. The average attendance is 55 parents.

Also each Purok has training one evening each month at which a representative from each family receives instruction in family gardening, creating a nutritious, balanced menu for the family, sanitation, etc. Each family representative is expected to share what they have learned with the rest of their family. The Purok Health Care Taker is responsible for encouraging each family to be represented at the monthly training programme...neighbor helping neighbors improve their health and knowledge. This programme has over 95% participation.

Training programmes have also been conducted for Barangay Officials and for Purok Officers. This training has focused on participatory planning methods, financial management skills, building of team spirit, and task force effectiveness. These training programmes have been conducted at the residence of the ICA staff in the village. Recently the village has built a new facility with more space for training and more adequate housing for the ICA staff. Two villagers from Putsan have recently volunteered to join the staff of the ICA to work full time in helping the village develop. They live with the ICA staff in the Training Centre and are being trained in depth in the village development approach of the ICA. Another woman from an adjoining village has also volunteered and is using her mid-wife skills to help staff the Putsan Health Clinic.

The village Elementary School has also experienced a new breath of life with the village assuming responsibility for its appearance (landscaping the grounds) and helping obtain more adequate teaching materials. They have obtained maps, photographs and library books for the school. Attendance has picked up and the teachers are finding a much stronger support from the parents. Families are beginning to save money to send their children on to the Secondary School.

III. In the arena of community life, the village has probably done the most. The village is actively organized down to the Purok (neighborhood) level with 'officers' responsible for health, education, financial management, etc.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country and the progress of the work done during the year. It also contains a list of the names of the members of the committee and of the persons who have assisted them in their work.

The second part of the report deals with the work done during the year. It is divided into two main sections, the first of which deals with the work done in the field and the second with the work done in the office. The first section is divided into three parts, the first of which deals with the work done in the field during the first half of the year, the second with the work done during the second half, and the third with the work done during the whole year.

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These officers make up an expanded leadership base for the village. The Puroks meet twice a month. Guilds (task forces focused on particular matters, such as the Fishermen's Guild, the Poultry Guild, etc.) meet twice a month also. Once a month the whole village meets in an Assembly where Puroks and Guilds report on their recent accomplishments and new programmes are planned, using their Consult Document as a guide.

At the monthly Assembly the the Board of Managers of the Putsan Human Development Corporation also conduct their official business, especially as it has to do with deciding about investments and money management. All together, these structures allow for every resident to assume responsibility for the entire programme of development of the whole village.

The Barangay Council meets separately to deal with matters under its mandate from the Municipality of Tiwi. This distinction between the Human Development Corporation and the Barangay Council prevents the development process of the village from becoming a 'political' football. The Barangay Council members are active in the Corporation but do not 'run' it.

A key to its revitalization was Putsan's decision to create attractive spaces throughout the village. This has involved every resident of the village in major beautification activities. Beyond widening and ditching each pathway and road in the village, the Puroks started a competition to create the most attractive household yards and fences along their pathways and roads. The village Corporation suggested that each family place a series of its own pots along its fence, fill them with soil and plant either flowers or household vegetables. This has been done throughout the village. Each family maintains their own fences and plants. Many families have built a type of step over entrance that prevent wandering village animals from coming into their yards and gardens. Three Puroks have built a play field for their youth/children, including a Volleyball court with net and ball and a couple of Basketball backstops/hoops. At several spots 'mini parks' have been created, some with vegetables and some with flowers...each adding beauty to the village.

This beautification effort has taken thousands of volunteer hours and demonstrates both the villages new care for its appearance and its motivation to improve itself. It is also noteworthy that each Purok recruited a team to help construct the several new buildings, each Purok providing six to ten volunteers once a week, hence having a team each day to complete the construction. The new buildings are made from cinder blocks, caste in the village. Much of the timber for the joists and roofing was donated by Tiwi companies and then hand-sawn into lumber by villagers. The new buildings include the ELNC, the Health Clinic, the Clay Crusher Building, the Poultry Building and the Training Centre. The 'engineering' and construction skills have all come from within the village. These skills had not been tapped by the village previously. Most of this skill was made available at 'cost'. Some of these skilled persons are employed at PGI or NPC and so helped the village in the evenings or on weekends.

The village has also installed an entrance sign, purok signs, community bulletin boards, street signs and signs to designate each of the villages new

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buildings. The Purok signs list all of the Purok officers and each resident of that Purok.

In closing, the ICA has been amazed at the speed with which Putsan has initiated its own self-help programmes. We attribute this to the quality and dedication of the village leadership and to its own improved skills at facilitating village development. We think Putsan is ready to extend what it has learned to other villages in the Tiwi Municipality. In fact, such an extension would also serve to accelerate Putsan's development as it becomes more and more a demonstration to other villages of what local initiative can do with a bit of encouragement and training. The villages' leadership is quite eager to share what it has done and learned.

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has been prepared by

The INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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The above information was obtained from the files of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and was reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue on 10/10/54.

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FILE

INTERNAL SECURITY

RECORDS SECTION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
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