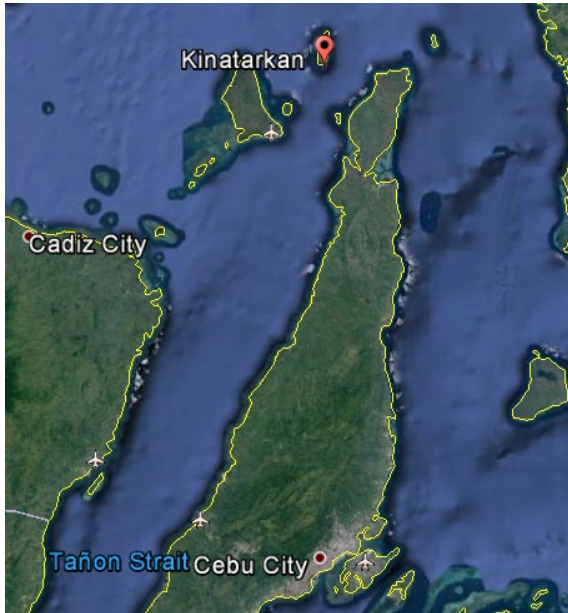


AFAS Elders Kinatarcan Project 2020 – to source a steriliser for midwife clinics

A tropical island, lots of sunshine and smiling happy friendly locals. No helicopters, planes ambulance, police, or fire brigade sirens. Sounds idyllic and in many ways, Kinatarcan Island, off the island of Cebu is paradise found.



However, nothing is every easy. Kinatarcan is regularly hit by typhoons. It is also a very poor island with a population of approx. 10,000 and an average wage of 7 000 peso (\$220) a year with a heavy reliance on what you can grow or catch for food. For several years AFAS Elders have been fund-raising to support projects in Kinatarcan which is approximately 15 sq. km. To put this into perspective, that is three times the size of Coochiemudlo Island.

In 2016, the AFAS Elders built a Moringa (a super food that is grown and semi dried on the island) drying shed on the island. In 2018, the AFAS Elders built a mat weaving hut on the island. We also purchased several items, from our own money, for the midwifery service on the island which is the only medical service on the island. This included a refrigerator to store vaccines (previously stored in the fridge at home with the midwife's food) and several other items for the clinics. All of these projects are improving the life of the whole island, not individuals. It is also important to note that we pay for our own travel, accommodation, and food. All money donated goes directly into projects on the island.

In 2020 we were scheduled to visit the island however with the current travel restrictions in place due to COVID 19 this will not occur. We would still however like to put something back into the community to maintain the connection and continue to try and improve the daily life for the residents. The AFAS Elders would like to source a steriliser for the midwifery clinics. The budget for running the midwife clinics per clinic is 30 000 pesos (\$930) per quarter and as a steriliser costs approximately \$2500. It will never be achievable for the clinics to buy a steriliser without outside help.

The island consists of three barangays (councils) Hagdan, Kinatarcan and Langub. Each barangay has a midwifery clinic similar to the one pictured below.



Currently the midwife must make regular trips to the mainland or another island to sterilise her equipment for use in delivering babies and other medical procedures on the island. There is no hospital, doctor, or ambulance service on the island. There is no RACQ care flight helicopter, only the midwives who travel to their patients on small motorbikes. If the patient wants to come to them (think women in labour) they walk, get doubled on a motorbike or ride in one of the utes pictured below. There are no taxis, Uber or even cars on the island.



If you know of anyone or any business (locally or in Philippines) that might be able to assist the Elders in obtaining a steriliser for these midwifery clinics, please contact Tony Hindmarsh on thindmarsh@vnc.qld.edu.au

Thank you for your assistance, it is greatly appreciated.