

RfP Philippines Youth Committee
Multi-religious Humanitarian in response to COVID-19
TO GET THERE: REACHING OUT TO THE UNHEARD

SECOND WEEKLY REPORT

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project by the *Religions for Peace* Philippines Youth Committee is a response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the different communities in Metro Manila, Philippines who are receiving less attention and help in this time of crisis. The Youth Committee aims to provide food packages and/or sanitation essentials to the communities of garbage collectors, indigenous communities, and small churches, mosques, and Buddhist temples.

To efficiently provide aid to the target communities, the Youth Committee has organized a special team to work on the project. This team is further divided into two to distribute the different tasks needed to be accomplished for the success of the project. This team is both supervised and involved in by the two project heads and the Subcommittee of the Projects and Advocacies Chair.

The first team, the Food and Sanitation Essentials Team (FSET), has achieved finalizing the distributors for the canned goods, rice, instant noodles, disinfectant solution, and eco-bags. Following this, they were able to place an order for the canned goods, rice, instant noodles, gallons of disinfectant solution, and the eco-bags. To pay for the orders of instant noodles, rice, and disinfectant solution funds were requested and transferred as well. The disinfectant solutions and instant noodles were delivered to their respective PPT Members on Friday, May 22, 2020.

The second team, the Point Persons Team (PPT), has managed to reach out to an additional 26 families of informal settlers from Barangay Fairview, Quezon City. With this inclusion, the number of families this project will help is 400 in total. For the worship facilities, the team initiated crowdsourcing through uploading a publication material in their personal social media accounts. This is an aid to look for other Buddhist temples to whom we can help when they reopen their facilities. They are also reaching out to mosques or masjids, and another small scale church who would be interested in receiving some help for when they reopen.

To ensure the safety of everyone involved in the project, the whole team has made sure to follow various safety precautions. Social distancing will be practiced whenever possible, such as receiving the delivery of items and distributing the packages. Wearing of face mask and gloves will also be practiced by the team and encouraged to the target communities and facilities. Furthermore, the COVID-19 materials created by *RfP* will be shared through email or online messages to the contact person of each community and facility for them to share and apply in their respective communities.

A. FOOD AND SANITATION ESSENTIALS TEAM

a. Items

The FSET Members together with the project heads were able to finalize the distributors for the canned goods, rice, instant noodles, disinfectant solution, and eco-bags. The quantity of disinfectant solution to be given per worship facility was changed from 20 liters to 5 gallons each.

There was also an increase in the number of eco-bags to be purchased. There would be a total of 800 eco-bags to be used. These will be utilized for easier distribution of items for the families of the garbage collectors, street sweepers, informal settlers, displaced families, and contractual workers. 400 of the eco-bags would be used to repack the rice and the other half for grouping the rest of the items.

b. Ordering

After finalizing the distributors for the said items, the team decided on the people who will be in charge of ordering each item. In summation, the whole team was able to order 4,000 canned goods, 2,400 kg of rice, 2,800 instant noodles, 30 gallons of disinfectant solution, and the 800 eco-bags.

c. Funds

The details for the transfer of funds to the suppliers and the PPT members were worked on this week as well. Funds were requested and transferred for the payment of the instant noodles, rice, and disinfectant solution.

d. Delivery

The process of delivery for these items was also finalized. The disinfectant solutions and instant noodles were delivered to their respective PPT Members on Friday, May 22, 2020.

B. POINT PERSONS TEAM

The project heads prepared a formal letter as well as guidelines or important talking points when conversing with the target communities and facilities. The Good Shepherd Cathedral-Fairview and Grace Life Church of Payatas, both partners in helping the team execute the project, are also well informed of the project's nature. This has made sure that each beneficiary is aware that this is a multi-religious project.

The pledge for each community and facility was also prepared. This pledge ensures that each community and facility has received their food and/or sanitation essential packages and will be distributed and/or used in the right manner.

a. Communities

There is an addition of 26 informal settlers from Barangay Fairview, Quezon City. With this inclusion, the number of families this project will help is 400 in total. 136 families come from the garbage collector's community, 23 are street sweepers, 50 are informal settlers from the Ulna Compound, 26 informal settlers from Barangay Fairview, 100 are displaced families and contractual workers, and 65 are from the Dumagat community.

For the communities of garbage collectors, street sweepers, and informal settlers, their six kilograms of rice will be repacked by selected team members and volunteers from the Good Shepherd Cathedral-Fairview. While the six kilograms of rice for the displaced families and contractual workers will be repacked by selected team members and volunteers from the Grace Life Church of Payatas.

b. Worship facilities

As for the worship facilities we intend on extending help to, the PPT held a crowdsourcing initiative through their personal social media accounts to look for other Buddhist temples to whom we can help when they reopen their facilities. Team members then reached out to the Buddhist temples suggested. They are also reaching out to mosques or masjids, and another small-scale church who would be interested in receiving some help for when they reopen.

The current challenge the team is facing is the lack of response from most facilities. Due to the lockdown implemented in Metro Manila, facilities are closed, thus no one is answering the phone calls made or messages sent to their facilities.

C. SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR THE PROJECT

Due to the COVID-19, and the Community Quarantine implemented, the whole team has set a framework for the project that would ensure the safety of everyone involved from team members to the couriers for delivery, and the target communities and facilities. Likewise, strict regulations from the Philippine Government guides the health and safety protocols being implemented.

All transactions with the distributors, target communities, and target facilities are done online or through text messages and phone calls. The distributors and suppliers have been verified to ensure that they are legitimate businesses. Payments to distributors are made through online banking facilities.

Although there was a physical meeting held with the Good Shepherd Cathedral-Fairview, safety precautions were still observed such as wearing a face mask and practicing physical distancing. The number of people allowed in the meeting were based on the guidelines implemented by the government.

With regards to deliveries of items to the PPT, the receiving members will make sure to observe the same safety precautions. They will wear a face mask and gloves and observe physical distancing when receiving the packages. When possible, contactless deliveries will be observed. The packages will also be sanitized upon delivery.

Delivery to the Dumagat community and worship facilities will be done through couriers as well and they will be reminded of the safety precautions to take when informed of the delivery. Couriers in the Philippines already implement safety protocols mandated by the Philippine Government.

As for the packages that need to be repacked and distributed to the garbage collectors, street sweepers, and informal settlers, the team members together with the volunteers from the Good Shepherd Cathedral-Fairview will also observe the same safety measures of wearing a face mask, wearing gloves, observing physical distancing, and disinfecting before entering the church. The same procedure will be followed by the team members and volunteers from the Grace Life Church of Payatas when repacking and distributing packages for the contractual workers and displaced families. No mass gatherings will be conducted during the distribution of the packages.

D. DISSEMINATING COVID-19 RELATED MESSAGES

The COVID-19 materials created by *RfP* will be shared through email or online messages to the contact person of each community and facility for them to share and apply in their respective communities. We will also send printed materials to the communities, but we will limit them to ensure environmental sustainability.

E. BENEFICIARIES' DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics of the beneficiaries will be collected of upon the distribution of the food packages and sanitation essentials. Each community will have a representative who will fill out a form to indicate their name, gender, age, and religion. This information will then be consolidated and included in the final report.

F. PHOTO AND NARRATIVE DOCUMENTATION

Key events during the project will be documented through photos and narratives. These events include but are not limited to meetings, both online and physical, the receiving of the items from the distributors, repacking for some communities, delivery of the donations, receiving of the donations by the communities and facilities, and distribution or use of the items.

Team members are tasked to take photos as much as possible during these events and take note of significant events and interactions throughout the whole project. All photos and significant events and interactions that will be taken and noted will be shared with the whole team as well as to the *RfP* Ph YC Executive Board.

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