

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

SEVENTH WEEKLY REPORT
21 to 27 June 2020

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, street sweepers, informal settlers, displaced contractual workers and small churches, mosques, and temples.

In order 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, Louise Obispo and Kaye Jimenez, and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Projects and Advocacies, Ricks Santos.

The first team, the Food and Sanitation Essentials Team (FSET), is composed of Selena Lim and Fatima Lotoc. While the second team, the Point Persons Team (PPT), is composed of Gino Sanchez, John Medina, Ciara Piñol, Ricks Santos, Fatima Lotoc, and Kaye Jimenez.

This week, the PPT members continued to work on getting the packages of food and/or sanitation essentials to the beneficiaries. They started coordinating with their respective contact person for each beneficiary to make sure that the packages can be delivered at the right place and time.

On the 20th of June, packages were delivered to the Ulna Compound and distributed to its residents with the help of the Good Shepherd Cathedral. On the 21st of June, packages were distributed to the displaced contractual workers with the help of the Grace Life Church of Payatas. On the 26th, sanitation essentials were delivered to the Dumagat Community, the LGBT's Christian Church and the Al Huda Mosque. Furthermore, extra packages were also given out to individuals who have reached out to the Good Shepherd Cathedral for help.

For the communities that have already received their packages, the team has started to compile and summarize their demographic information.

A. Distribution Food and Sanitation Essentials Package with the Good Shepherd Cathedral

On the 20th of June, Ricks Santos with the volunteers of the Good Shepherd Cathedral visited the Ulna Compound in Barangay Fairview, Quezon City to distribute the packages

of food and sanitation essentials to the informal settlers. Due to the small area where they were allowed to operate, recipients and volunteers weren't able to practice social distancing. Despite this, volunteers and recipients kept their face masks on the whole time and tried to limit their contact with each other.

In addition to the initial beneficiaries, three more individuals who were victims of the fire, one woman who had a miscarriage and traveled to Fairview, and two individuals who are under monitoring for the Coronavirus Disease, reached out to the Good Shepherd Cathedral for help. These individuals were each given food and sanitation essential packages.

B. Distribution of Food and Sanitation Essentials Package to the Displaced Contractual Workers with the Grace Life Church of Payatas

The 100 packages of food and sanitation essentials allocated for the displaced contractual workers were distributed on the 21st of June. To maintain the appropriate distance between each individual, Fatima Lotoc and the volunteers from the Grace Life Payatas Church decided to divide the community into two batches. Furthermore, to make sure that the distribution was systematic and safe, the volunteers divided themselves into four groups with their own tasks. The first group was in charge of transporting the packages to the church. The second group consisted of two volunteers who were tasked to assist the community in filling-out the monitoring forms for demographics. The third group was in charge of distributing the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID and the flyers with COVID-19 information. The fourth group was in charge of calling individuals to claim their packages and fill-out the monitoring form.

For the first batch, 30 individuals were present. Before the distribution of packages began, Brother Ira Ogatis led a short preaching. The distribution of packages and the gathering of demographic information took place after.

The distribution for the second batch started around 12:15 pm on the same day. Brother Ira took the initiative to personally fetch some individuals who lived around the area. These individuals lived a few kilometers away from the church and were older. For the second batch, the same process was ensued. Ahead of the distribution, another short preaching was led by Brother Redendayao Bibe for the 70 individuals. The same system for distribution was used for the second batch.

During the distribution the volunteers faced a few challenges. First, some recipients were unable to read and write well. This posed a problem in filling-out the monitoring forms for the demographics. Fortunately, the volunteers took initiative in asking them questions and writing their answers for them. Second, there were some individuals that were requesting for an additional package. In response, the volunteers informed them that there are still individuals who haven't received their package.

C. Dumagat Community

This week, Kaye Jimenez has been coordinating with Brother Martin Franciso, the Chairman/President of the *Sagip Sierra Madre* Environmental Society Inc. (SSMESI). The location as to where the donations will be delivered was clarified, and the items and printed materials that will be sent were relayed to him as well. Since the items are stored in Ricks Santos' residence, she has also been coordinating with him to prepare the items for delivery as well as the materials to be provided.

On the 26th of June, 650 canned goods, 455 instant noodles, 200 kilograms of rice, 65 pieces of 250ml, 70% Isopropyl Alcohol, 65 pieces of body soap, and 65 detergent bars were sent to the *Dumagat* Community through a delivery service.

On the day of the delivery, Kaye coordinated with Ricks for the items to be picked-up by the delivery service in the correct location and time. From then on, Kaye informed Bro. Martin of the details of the delivery. The courier and Bro. Martin coordinated as well to make sure that they would reach the correct location.

Once Bro. Martin received the items and the printed materials, he documented all of the received items. The pictures, together with the signed pledge and monitoring forms were sent to Kaye on the 26th.

D. Churches

On the 21st of June, when the packages were distributed to the displaced contractual workers, five gallons of disinfectant solution and 40 pieces of alcohol were also given to the Grace Life Church of Payatas.

As for the sanitation essentials for the LGBT's Christian Church, they were delivered on the 26th of June. Beforehand, Gino Sanchez communicated with Rev. Crisencio Agbayani, JR. to coordinate the appropriate date and time for the delivery. On the 26th, Gino personally delivered the items to the church. Along with the sanitation essentials, he also provided the poster with COVID-19 information, the two-pager with *RfP* Messages on COVID, as well as the pledge.

E. Mosque/Masjids

The project will be helping the Al Huda Mosque and, through the Bio-Fil Pharma Marketing Corp., Masjid Al-Khair and Masjid Hadji Salik Muhammad.

On the 26th of June, Kaye Jimenez personally delivered the sanitation essentials and the printed materials to the Al Huda Mosque. She coordinated with John Medina, the PPT Member in charge of the mosques and masjids, and with Khalil M. Pandapatan, the contact person from the Al Huda Mosque.

As for the sanitation essentials and printed materials for the two masjids, Kaye and John will personally deliver it to the Bio-Fil Pharma Marketing Corp. on the 1st of July.

F. Temples

Currently, the project will be helping one Buddhist Temple, the Soc Yan Temple in Manila City. Delivery to this facility will be done by next week. Beforehand, Ciara Piñol has coordinated with them to know the best date and time to have the items and materials delivered.

As for the other temple the team will be helping, team members are still looking for another facility that they can extend their help to.

G. Demographics of Beneficiaries

Since the majority of the communities have received their packages by last week and this week, the team has also started to compile their demographics. A few recipients have decided to omit either their first or last name for privacy.

The monitoring forms were uploaded, and a spreadsheet is currently being updated to include all of the demographics and summarize the data on hand.