

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

FIFTH WEEKLY REPORT
07 to 13 June 2020

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, 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 FSET was able to accomplish the delivery of the canned goods despite the last-minute changes and an increase in the total amount due. They also came across an issue with the supplier of the alcohol, however the team was able to surpass this quickly. A new supplier was found, and the order was placed shortly after.

As for the PPT, the respective members continued to pursue contacting Buddhist Temples. Although, due to the absence of a response, the team has decided to move forward to contacting other temples they can extend their help to. Follow-up letters were sent to the Buddhist temples to inform them of the decision, and Letters of Invitation were sent to Hindu Temples within the week. The pledges for all beneficiaries were also revised with the help of the RfP PH Youth Committee Executive Board.

Flyers for most of the communities and the posters for the Good Shepherd Cathedral and the Grace Life Church of Payatas were printed this week as well. The letter containing a message of gratitude and information about the COVID19 materials to be shared was also prepared this week.

The whole team has planned to meet online on the 13th of June to discuss the updates from everyone's tasks as well as to refresh the team of the next steps to be done for the project. Included in the agenda is the discussion of the process for distribution and delivery of the packages as well as tasks after.

A. FOOD AND SANITATION ESSENTIALS TEAM

a. Items

This week, the remaining items that need to be arranged are the canned goods and the alcohol. As mentioned in the previous report, the team was able to find suppliers for both of the items and have placed their orders for the quantity needed for the project.

Unfortunately, another obstacle was encountered with the supplier for the alcohol. The supplier has informed FSET member, Fatima Lotoc, that they are unable to accommodate the amount of orders anymore. Although this was the second supplier the team encountered a challenge with, the team was still determined in looking for the next. Out of persistence, the team was able to find another supplier of alcohol that fit the criteria that the team set. They were selling 250 ml, 70% Isopropyl Alcohol, at a price that fit the budget, and was even lower than the previous supplier.

In the previous report, it was also mentioned that an order was already placed for the canned goods and was set for delivery as soon as the funds were transferred to the receiving person. Although, on the day of the delivery, the 8th of June, the supplier had a shortage of stocks for the meatloaf variant. The team quickly worked with the supplier in order to settle the other variants in replacement. Due to the changes in products, the overall amount due increased.

b. Ordering

An order was placed for the alcohol as soon as the team, together with the Project Heads and Deputy Chair, reached an agreement to do so. Further details such as the location for pick-up and payment were settled after.

c. Funds

Since the variants of the canned goods were changed and resulted in an increase in the total amount due, the team had to request for additional funds. This request served as a reimbursement to Ricks Santos, who paid for the difference in the initial and new amount due. This was requested the day after the delivery, the 9th of June, and transferred on the 10th of June.

Additional funds were also requested for the payment of alcohol since the amount refunded by the previous supplier was still lacking for the payment to the new supplier. This was requested on the 10th of June as well.

d. Delivery

Despite the last-minute changes with the order of canned goods, the supplier was still able to deliver on the date promised, the 8th of June. These were once again delivered to the residence of Ricks Santos.

B. POINT PERSONS TEAM

In the previous report, it was mentioned that the PPT was able to overcome an obstacle. Specifically, Ciara Piñol and Louise Obispo were able to contact and invite the Soc Yan Temple. This week, they have continued contacting other Buddhist Temples. Although, by the 9th of June, it was decided to move towards looking for other worship facilities. On the 11th of June, follow-up letters were sent to the previously contacted Buddhist Temples. These letters were to inform

them that the team will be moving onto contacting other temples due to the deadlines the team has set for themselves.

Letters of Invitation were sent to Hindu Temples starting on the 11th of June as well. The team hopes to receive their response by the 17th of June. If until then there is a lack of response from the facilities, the team will consider redistributing the sanitation essentials to the existing beneficiaries, or reach out to the Bio-Fil Pharma Marketing Corp. for other facilities that they know of that the project can be beneficial to.

The pledges for all communities and facilities were also modified this week with the help of the Executive Board of the RfP PH Youth Committee. The members provided their feedback on how to improve the pledges, and these were applied and finalized to all copies.

C. DISSEMINATING COVID-19 RELATED MESSAGES

It was previously decided that the team would share flyers, posters, and emails with information and messages about the COVID-19. Quarter page flyers will be given to the communities, while posters will be given to the facilities and the Dumagat Community. Materials received by the communities and facilities differ in their content, in that the facilities' posters have additional information about keeping their establishments disinfected.

This week, the flyers for the garbage collectors, street sweepers, informal settlers, and displaced contractual workers were printed together with the posters for the Good Shepherd Cathedral and the Grace Life Church of Payatas. This was possible with the help of FSET member, Selena Lim.

The letter to be sent to the facilities was also prepared this week. This letter includes a message of gratitude as well as messages about the COVID19 materials the team will be sharing. Along with the flyers and posters to be sent, publication materials prepared by the RfP PH Youth Committee for the previous COVID19 Online Campaign will also be shared. Furthermore, the website of RfP that displays and shares interfaith messages about COVID19 will also be provided. These will all be sent via email to the facilities in the hopes that they will be well-informed and in turn safe and well during this crisis and even afterwards.

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