

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

SIXTH WEEKLY REPORT
14 to 20 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.

On the 13th of June, the whole team convened to share updates on the tasks they have been working on, and to discuss the next tasks the team has to accomplish. The materials to be shared with each beneficiary were explained, particularly what materials are needed for each beneficiary and how it will be printed and provided to them. These materials include the flyers, posters, monitoring forms, publication materials, pledges, and certificates. Lastly, the process for repacking, distribution, and delivery was reviewed by the whole team.

The FSET was able to finally complete all of the items needed for donations. From Monday to Tuesday, the 15th and 16th of June, the alcohol was picked-up and delivered to the respective members of the team. This was achieved with the help of Fatima Lotoc.

On the 16th of June, 235 packages were assembled for the garbage collectors, street sweepers, and informal settlers. This was achieved through the diligence of Ricks Santos, Selena Lim, and the volunteers from the Good Shepherd Cathedral. On the same day, 100 packages were put together for the displaced contractual workers. This was carried out through the eager and conscientious work of Fatima Lotoc, Gino Sanchez, and the volunteers from the Grace Life Church of Payatas. On the 17th, 19th, and 20th of June, the packages allocated for the garbage collectors, street sweepers, victims of a recent fire, and informal settlers were distributed to them.

COVID-19 messages from *RfP* were also translated into Filipino this week. With the guidance and support of the Executive Board Members of the Youth Committee, the team was able to prepare publication materials, a one-pager, and a two-pager with Filipino COVID-19 messages.

A. Food and Sanitation Essentials Team

The only product left for the team to process is the 720 pieces of 250 ml of 70% Isopropyl Alcohol. On the 15th of June, Fatima Lotoc picked up the alcohol from the supplier's warehouse. She then dropped off the portion of alcohol intended for the communities and three churches at Ricks Santos' residence. The alcohol for the temples, mosque, and masjids were brought to a relative of Kaye Jimenez. With their help, these alcohol were then delivered to Ciara Piñol and Kaye Jimenez on the 16th of June.

B. Point Persons Team

After meeting with the whole team and discussing the next stage of the project, the team has started to prepare for the delivery and distribution of the items. Materials such as the monitoring forms for demographics, pledges, and certificates were prepared for printing and dissemination to their respective beneficiaries.

The team has also started to look for other couriers that would be able to deliver the packages to each facility for cheaper price.

- a. Garbage Collectors, Street Sweepers, Informal Settlers, and Prisoners
Since all of the items to be donated are already complete, the next step is to repack these items into packages and distribute it. On the 16th of June, Ricks Santos, Selena Lim, and the volunteers from Good Shepherd Cathedral worked towards repacking all of the items into packages.

First, the canned goods, alcohol, body soap, and detergent bar were delivered to the church from Ricks' residence. After organizing a system and dividing the manpower available, they were able to repack all of the items into 235 packages of food and sanitation essentials. Included in this package is a flyer with COVID-19 information. The one-pager of the Filipino version of the *RfP* Messages on COVID, were added to the packages later on.

On the 17th of June, Ricks and the volunteers from the Good Shepherd Cathedral distributed 105 packages to the garbage collectors. During the distribution, not only did the volunteers practice social distancing, but so did the recipients of the packages. The volunteers had a system set in place to ensure the orderliness and safety of each person while giving the packages and gathering demographic information. The team initially planned to extend help to 136 garbage collectors. Unfortunately, this was not attained for some of them went home to their provinces already.

On the same day, the volunteers had a meeting to discuss the distribution of packages to the other beneficiaries. The Good Shepherd Cathedral has informed Ricks that 26 of the informal settlers the team intended to help already received support from their Local Government Unit. Thus, they have advised the team to help another community instead since there are others in need of it more.

For the 50 families of informal settlers residing in the Ulna Compound, the volunteers intended to distribute their packages on Thursday, the 18th of June. Unfortunately, a fire broke out within the area on that day. Due to this incident, the volunteers have decided to move the distribution to the 20th of June. This has also motivated the Project Heads and the Deputy Chair to give the extra packages on hand to the families who were victims of the incident.

The remaining 31 packages that were intended for the garbage collectors as well as the packages initially allocated for the 26 informal settlers, amount to a total of 57 extra packages. Although, after taking account all of the packages, the team found out that two kits are missing. With this reduction, there are now only 55 extra packages. 49 of these packages were allotted to the victims of the fire. These packages were added with body soap, shampoo, and toothpaste from the Good Shepherd Cathedral.

On the 19th of June, Ricks, together with the volunteers of the Good Shepherd Cathedral, distributed the packages to the 23 street sweepers from the Clean and Green Company. They observed the same system and safety practices that they applied when they distributed the packages to the garbage collectors.

As for the families who were victims of the fire, although the volunteers intended to help 49 families, they were only able to give out 17 packages. The volunteers went to the evacuation area of the victims and made sure that despite the lack of space, recipients and volunteers still practiced social distancing as much as possible.

On the same day, the 5 gallons of disinfectant solution, and 40 pieces of alcohol, were given to the Good Shepherd Cathedral. Along with these items were the poster with information on the COVID-19, and the Filipino version of the *RfP* Messages on COVID.

b. Displaced Contractual Workers

On the 16th of June, Fatima Lotoc, Gino Sanchez, and the volunteers from the Grace Life Church of Payatas repacked the food and sanitation essentials into 100 packages. For an efficient process, the volunteers came up with a system.

Ira, a Grace Life Church of Payatas representative, assigned two volunteers to sort the canned goods, two volunteers to sort the instant noodles, and three volunteers

to weigh and package the rice. As for the alcohol, body soap, and detergent bar, two volunteers were tasked to group these items for each package. The volunteers then combined the food items into a single bag, and then placed them into another together with the sanitation essentials.

Along the process, they encountered an issue where the canned foods from the team and the canned goods from the church were mixed together. They double checked all packages and were able to resolve the problem.

As a form of appreciation, Fatima Lotoc baked *pandesal* (Filipino Bread Rolls) and brownies for the volunteers who helped out in repacking the items. It took them two hours to repack all of the items, except for the rice since they had to weigh it into six kilograms each per package

The distribution of the packages will take place on the following week, depending on the availability of the volunteers who can lend a hand in the distribution. To prepare, the volunteers from the Grace Life Church of Payatas will create stubs for the beneficiaries in order to keep track of the individuals who have and haven't received their packages yet.

c. Temples

Since last week the team has been trying to get in touch with Hindu Temples. For facilities with an email address or Facebook page posted online, the team has sent a Letter of Intent to them explaining the nature of the project and inviting them to be a part of it. As for temples who don't have such information posted, they were reached out to through phone calls.

By the 17th of June, Wednesday, there was still an absence of a response from the contacted temples. This has prompted the team to send follow-up letters to let them know that the team will be pushing forward to contact other facilities in order to meet the team's deadline. This has also urged the team to ask Bio-Fil Pharma Marketing Corp. if there are other worship facilities that they know of that the team can extend help to. Despite this, PPT Member Ciara Piñol is still continuing to make calls to other temples until Bio-Fil Pharma Marketing Corp. has made a response.

C. Disseminating COVID-19 Related Messages

This week the Project Heads, together with the Executive Board of the Youth Committee, translated the COVID-19 messages from *RfP* into Filipino. With the translation, they prepared publication materials, a one-pager, and a two-pager. The one-pager will be shared with the communities as a flyer, while the two-pager will be shared with the facilities as a poster. A copy of the publication materials and the two-pager will be shared to the facilities through email for them to be able to share it with their community.