

COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM REGION 3

#CoopsAgainstCOVID19

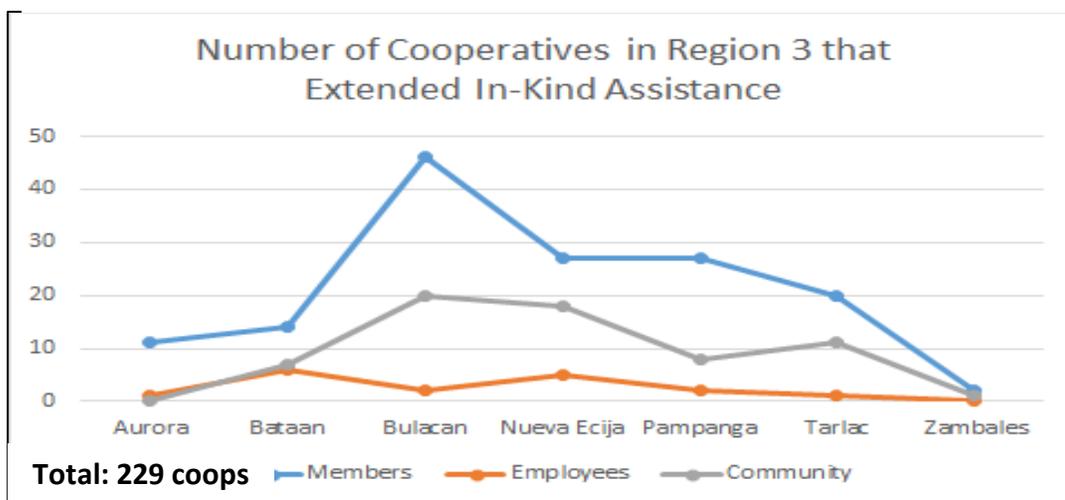
Cooperate to Win Against the Pandemic: Region 3 Coops Contribute Towards Fight Against Covid-19

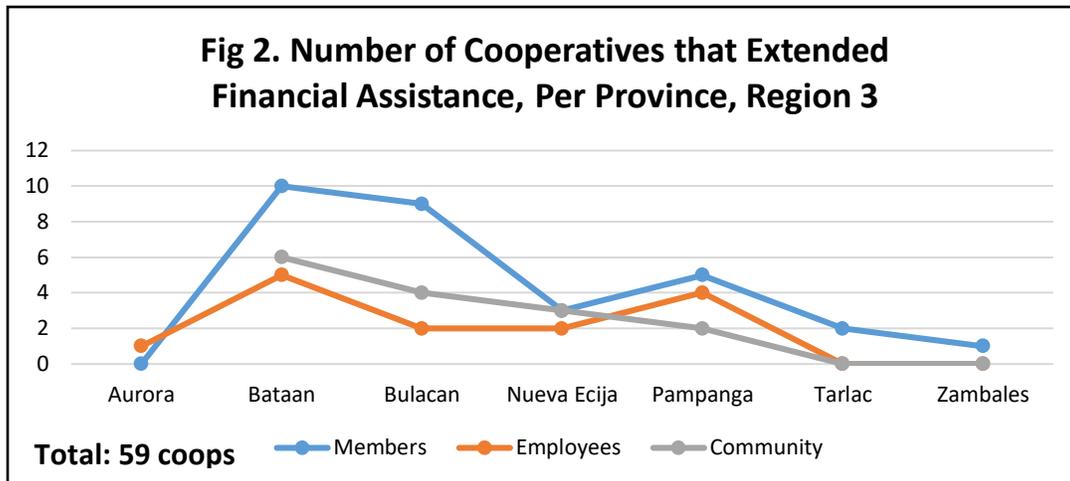
The spirit of cooperation in this difficult and uncertain time brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is continuously manifested in the activities of the cooperative sector even until Luzon was placed under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Amidst the pertinent risks associated with the public health emergency, cooperatives in Region 3 unceasingly provide assistance to its members, staff, and communities while practicing appropriate protective measures to ensure their safety and prevent the further spread of the infection.

In response to the government’s call in implementing the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and to carry out a whole-of-society approach in combatting the public health emergency, cooperatives were encouraged to lend a hand in helping their community members mitigate the socio-economic impact of the crisis.

To put this into action, the Cooperative Development Authority through a Memorandum dated 26 March 2020, advised cooperatives to utilize their Community Development, Optional, and General Reserve Funds as well as facilitate the release of Interest on Share Capital and Patronage Refund and other credit and/or in-kind assistance to their cooperative members. As of April 15, efforts of **263 cooperatives** in Region 3 were reported and documented. Figures 1&2 illustrate the summary of the distribution of in-kind and financial assistance given by cooperatives per province:

Fig 1. Number of Cooperatives that Extended In-Kind Assistance, Per Province, Region 3



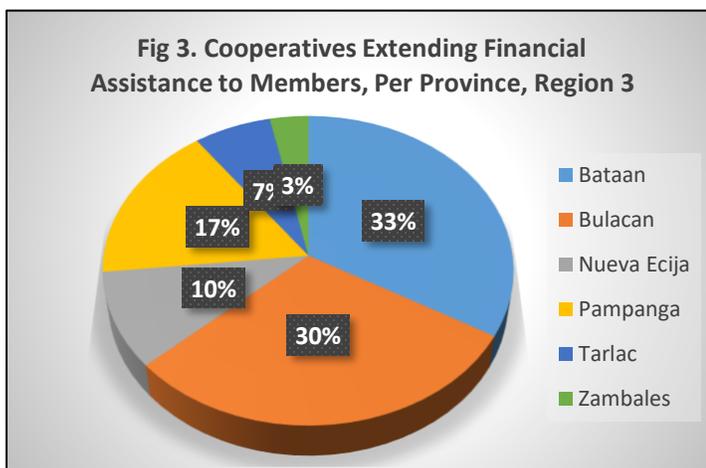


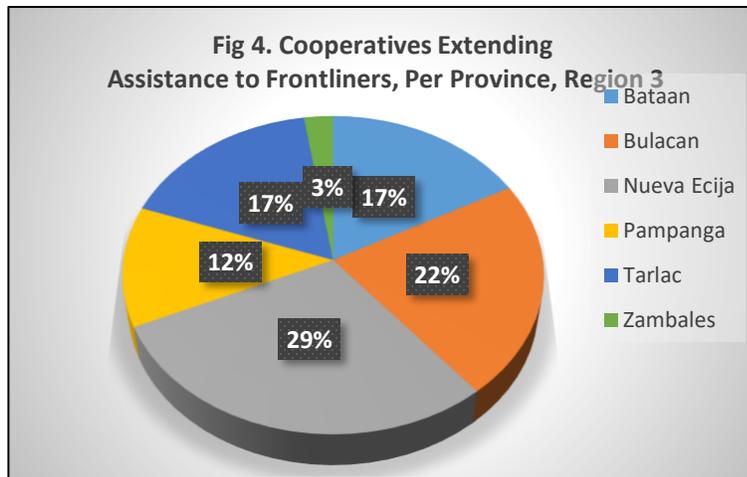
Majority of donations and assistance given by the said cooperatives were in the form of monetary assistance, in-kind donations, and voluntary support. For the given period, several households were provided with rice and grocery packs. Numerous cooperatives also disseminated vitamins and other supplements to boost the immune system of their community members.

Aside from these, some cooperatives granted a moratorium on payment of loans, interest, and penalties until the ECQ is lifted. Others offered lower prices of their products and harvested vegetables, disinfected community premises, and distributed face masks, among others.

Noteworthy to mention for their support in setting up rolling stores with their products and services are three (3) cooperatives in Tarlac, namely Palayamanan Agriculture Cooperative, Hardinero Agriculture Cooperative, and Abagon Compact Farm and Seed Growers Multipurpose Cooperative. Likewise, Macupa MPC in Pampanga also tied-up with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to ensure that rice supply in the area is sufficient during the ECQ.

Community frontliners in Central Luzon were likewise benefitted by regional cooperative efforts through a number of assistances provided by **41 cooperatives** across the region, which also came in the form of monetary and in-kind donations. Food packs, alcohols, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face masks were distributed.





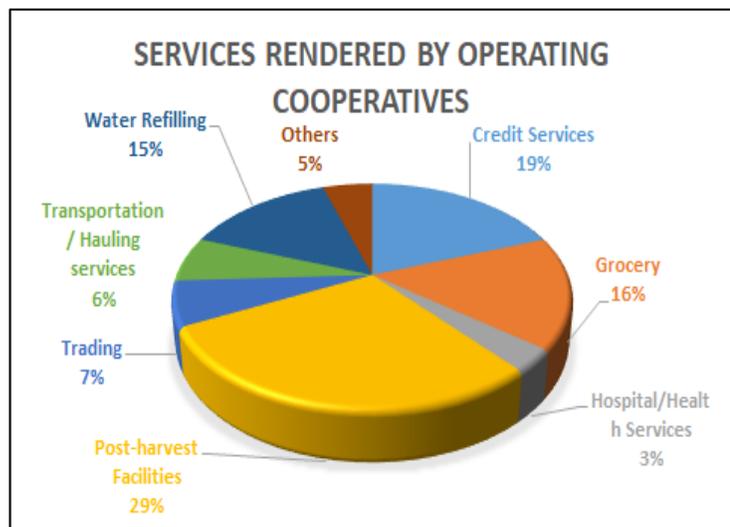
Watchlife Workers MPC in Mariveles Bataan distributes meals, snacks, vitamins and donated 20 sacks of rice to health care workers and frontliners manning checkpoints in Mariveles, Bataan.

118 cooperatives in Region 3 were documented to have continuous business operations during this time of crisis. Post-harvest facilities comprise the most number of operating business activities recorded, followed by credit, groceries, and water refilling services. Figure 5 shows that most activities rendered by cooperatives who operate amid ECQ are essential services to help secure enough food supply and provide necessities. Hospitals and other related health services also remain open in applicable schemes as they are a crucial force in the fight against this pandemic.

Alternative work arrangements were adopted by **62 out of 118 operating coops**, especially those with businesses in the agriculture and other basic sectors. A great number of cooperatives also decided to pay their employees' salaries in full or release their 13th-month benefits while on ECQ. The use of technology ensured proper coordination while observing the work-from-home scheme.

As shown in figure 6, release of Interest on Share Capital and Patronage Refund (ISCP/R) covered **96%** or the majority of all cooperative activities and assistance rendered, followed by Community Development Fund (CDF) having **3%**, and other funds with only a **1%** share.

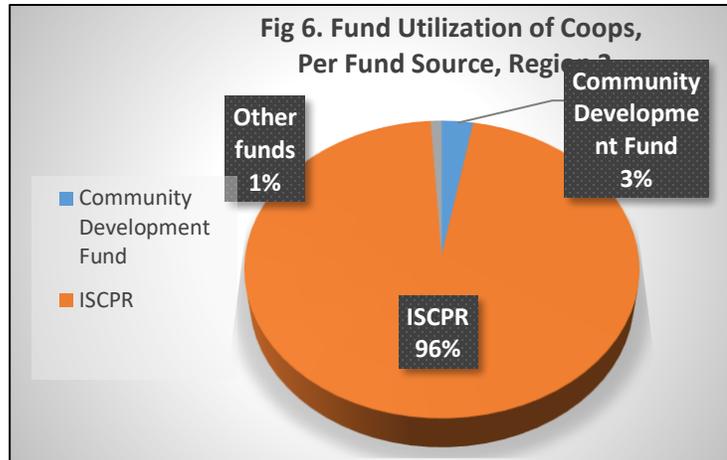
Fig 5. Coop Enterprises Operating during the ECQ, by Service Rendered, Region 3



Through continuous communication and coordination while on a work-from-home (WFH) setup, CDA Region 3 continues to fulfill its mandate in monitoring and providing technical assistance to the cooperatives. Necessary information, issuances, and advisories, particularly on the proper utilization of cooperative funds, availment of regulatory relief, and compliance to the

Bayanihan to Heal as One Act were circulated through our official website, social media, phone calls, SMS, and emails, among others.

As of April 15, 2020, CDA Region 3 has promptly responded to at least **248 requests** for regulatory relief. During the period, **368 cooperatives** were likewise provided with technical assistance services in line with Section 4(n) of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. **###**



Region 3 FEATURED COOPERATIVES:

Sapang Multipurpose Cooperative in Moncada Tarlac, delivered sweet potatoes, onions, and white corn at the DA Regional Office, in participation with KADIWA ni Ani at Kita; Repacked and distributed 1,000 food packs to 660 members and 340 non-members containing 25 kilos of rice and groceries for members and 5 kilos of rice and groceries for non-members. The cooperative allotted Php 1,000,000.00 for these activities to help fight COVID-19, and continuously delivered yellow corn to New Hope, San Simon, Pampanga and Bulacan, and dried sweet potatoes to Pangasinan. It is open from Mondays to Saturdays to accommodate the needs of farmers-members.



Bataan Jeepney Operators and Drivers Transport Service Cooperative in Barangay Tuyoy, Balanga City, Bataan, volunteered to haul relief items intended for Barangay Lalawigan, Samal, Bataan.



Angeles University Foundation Multipurpose Cooperative in Pampanga donated face masks to hospitals in Angeles City and City of San Fernando and gave cash assistance to the guards, garbage collectors, housekeepers, casual employees of the Angeles University

Foundation Multipurpose Cooperative, Angeles University Foundation and the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center.