

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

#CoopAgainstCOVID19

SOLIDARITY ACTIONS TO FIGHT COVID-19

The Philippine government has been focusing on different strategies to ease the burden of the people and to protect them from the situations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Align with these objectives and strategies of the government during this crisis, the cooperative movement in the country continues to show their strength as implementors, exercising the universal cooperative principle of "Concern for Community". The movement has been there strategizing and implementing activities they can think of to support the goals of the government.

The cooperatives' drive to support their members and frontliners continued in the Municipality of Pilar, Abra. The Pang-ot Consumer Cooperative sponsored dinner and snacks for the barangay Pang-ot frontliners. The Look-up Consumers Cooperative followed the same in San Juan West barangay. Danglas Multipurpose Cooperative provided snacks for the frontliners in barangay Mabganib, Danglas. In Bangued, Abra, the Sappaac ARB MPC distributed relief goods to their members.

In Conner, Apayao, the Conner Apayao Movement Transport Service Cooperative reported that they gave food to checkpoints' frontliners in Conner, Apayao, and Rizal, Kalinga. They also provided water pump to barangay Boluan, Conner, Apayao.

In Baguio City, Balacbac Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative extended the distribution of relief goods to 50 non-members, aside from the distribution of the same goods to 71 members as reported earlier.

In Kapangan, Benguet, the Sagubo Multipurpose Cooperative distributed relief goods to 109 member-beneficiaries incurring a total expense of Php 26,053 for this activity.



The Duacan Multipurpose Cooperative in Duacan, Kabayan, Benguet donated Php 3,000 to their barangay local government unit (LGU) and served 28 members of their cooperative who availed of regular and calamity loans, and savings and time deposit services during this crisis.

The Kibungan Employees Multipurpose Cooperative provided assistance to 30 members and 300 non-members incurring a total expense of Php 36,750.

In La Trinidad, Benguet, the High Value Crops Agriculture Cooperative continued purchasing the products of their member-farmers and distributing the same to their members. Aside from the vegetables, they also purchased rice which was included among the relief goods they distributed to 24 members of the cooperative. They also donated strawberries to the frontliners in the locality. With these activities, the cooperative incurred a total expense of Php 34,700 which was charged to their optional fund and Community Development Fund (CDF).



The Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR) through the leadership of OIC- Regional Executive Director Cameron P. Odsey reported that the Seeds and Fruits Multipurpose Cooperative based in Puguis, La Trinidad, Benguet was one of the beneficiaries of the DA "Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita Express" Program where DA-CAR was able to link the cooperative with the municipal LGU of Balagtas, Bulacan. The cooperative delivered 16,265 kilos of assorted vegetables to the municipality for distribution during their relief operations. According to OIC- Regional Executive Director Cameron P. Odsey in their publication written by HDanis, the KADIWA Express is one of the multi-market platforms of the "Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita" program of DA wherein farmers and buyers are directly linked and both parties mutually benefit. This program ensures the unhampered movement of essential agri-fishery products within the market amidst the on-going enhanced community quarantine in Luzon. With this activity, the manager of the cooperative, Mr. Ardan Copas, also reported that it has benefitted 18 farmers from the different municipalities of Benguet such as Atok, Tublay, Tuba, Kibungan, La Trinidad, Buguias, and Mankayan as well as in Bauko, Mountain Province.

In another publication, the DA-CAR reported that the above-cited cooperative had donated 20 metric tons of carrots as relief goods last April 24 to the slum areas in Manila, Pasay City, and Paranaque communities which were affected by the ECQ. This is in line with the Kadiwa Express on food accessibility of the DA-CAR which was done in collaboration with the SPECS Foundation Inc. Accordingly, the carrots, collected from 20 farmers from Natubleng, Buguias, Benguet, will be distributed as part of the relief goods to the people especially those affected by the fire incident in Tondo.



In Kalinga Province, the Dakaran Credit Cooperative, in partnership with the Idakaran Men in Uniform, reported that they just concluded the Phase 3 distribution of relief goods at Dacalan, Tanudan, one of the far flung municipalities of Kalinga Province. In this activity, they were able to distribute 437 relief packs to 91 family member-beneficiaries and 250 non-member-beneficiaries.



The Holy Trinity Cathedral Multipurpose Cooperative in Tabuk City, Kalinga reported that they will be distributing Php 500 finance assistance to each of their members. This financial assistance is one of the activities done by the cooperative to help their members. In the previous reports, the cooperative gave donations to various LGUs to support in their humanitarian activities in fighting the crisis situation.



Another unique strategy of the Treasure Link Cooperative Society and the Dagopan Multipurpose Cooperative in responding to the call of unity and implementing the principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" was to provide "money padala services" to the people. The Treasure Link Cooperative Society, which base is in Sagada, Mt. Province has

cooperated with Dagopan Multipurpose Cooperative, which base is in Natonin, Mt. Province, to provide access to cash transactions to the people as traveling and movement is inaccessible during this crisis.



In another far-flung municipality of Mt. Province, the Saint William's Multipurpose Cooperative located in Butigue, Paracelis donated 3 boxes of assorted provisions for the frontliners at the operations center.

The concerted effort coming from the cooperative movement is just a tip of the iceberg of all the efforts being made to fight the problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the solidarity among all the sectors makes our country strong in this flight. Together, we will prevail, together we will heal as one. ***FRC