

**COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO  
SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19  
PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM REGION 1**  
#CoopAgainstCOVID19

**EMPOWERING THE WOMEN OF LA UNION  
AMID THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

Cooperatives have the ability to empower women thru their participation in their operation and governance. By collaborating with civil society, they are able to contribute in achieving a specific goal, especially during this time when the pandemic is forcing our society to adapt to the new normal which it has created.

As emphasized by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in their message: "Cooperatives and wider social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations need to be included across the different phases of COVID-19 response. Their values and principles can guide the transition toward not only new normal but a better normal." Thus, it is an acknowledgement that cooperatives contribute in realizing equality as well as economic and social empowerment.

Towards this goal, some cooperatives in the Province of La Union demonstrated how they adopt the universal cooperative values and principles as a way of life.



The women of ORTEGA MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE of Bantam, La Union, thru their own initiative, led in the repacking of relief goods which will be distributed to the residents and frontlines. They have taken upon themselves to help their barrage and the local authorities in the essence of social responsibility and concern for community.



Similarly, the women of OAQUI 1 MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE of Luna, a Union also took charge of the repacking of the relief rations which will be distributed later on. Their concerted efforts demonstrate a conviction that the "*bayanihan spirit*" is alive and well in their community. It is that sense of *solidarity* in the face of a crisis which moves them to help in their community.



(left) The women-officers of NAPASET MPC distributing relief goods to the residents in their barangay.

With these concerted efforts, cooperatives in the country heeded the call of the President to provide and give assistance to the needy by using their Community Development Fund (CDF) to help their communities during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).



(left) The women-officers of TAMMOCALAO MPC preparing the relief goods which will be distributed to the residents in their barangay.

Now more than ever and because of their values and principles, cooperatives are gaining recognition by the government as an effective vehicle towards a better normal (Van Ian F. Enriquez).

Cooperatives from other areas also provided support by way of cash donations, relief goods, food packs and other assistance.

La Suerte SLPA Consumers Cooperative of Brgy. Lubigan, Badoc, Ilocos Norte, donated merienda to its frontliners.



La Union Multi-Purpose Cooperative, San Nicolas Agoo, La Union, donated 150 food packs and bottled mineral water for La Union Medical Center frontliners.



NSCC Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Caoayan, Ilocos Sur, provided support to some families of Pob. East, Agramanti Pob. East and to Alupapan frontliners.

