

COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM THE REGION 13 OR CARAGA
#CoopsAgainstCOVID19

KOOP BAYANIHAN
Cooperatives: The New Heroes of WWC

True to its tenets, the cooperative sector of Bislig heeded the call of the government to help the community in the nation's battle against the dreaded COVID-19 virus.

The City Cooperative Development Council (CCDC) launched **KOOP BAYANIHAN**, a relief operations project organized mainly to help Bisliganons who have been drastically affected by this global pandemic.

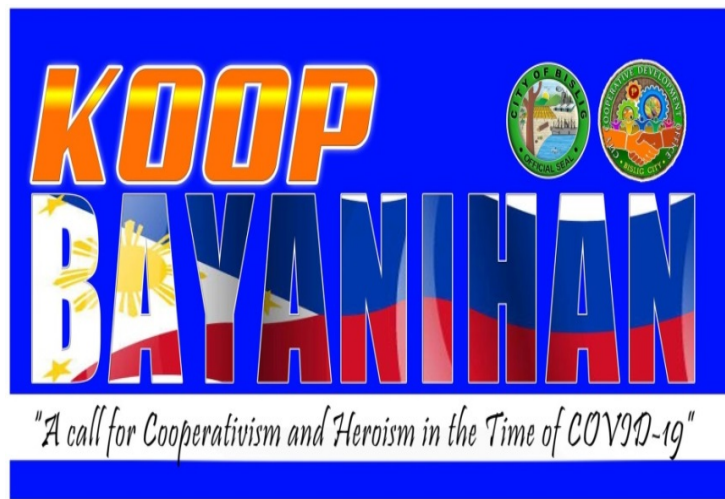


Figure 1. KOOP BAYANIHAN: relief operation of #CoopAgainstCOVID19 launched April 20, 2020.



Figure 2. CCDC-Bislig meeting and planning in response to COVID-19, April 13, 2020.

The cooperatives of different categories: micro, small, medium and large, came together to showcase the values that have nurtured the sector – service, equity and compassion. Initially, CCDC has pooled a total of *Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and Five Hundred Pesos (Php 260,500.00)* in the form of pledges to jumpstart the noteworthy cause. Funds collected for

the program was sourced-out from the individual cooperative's Community Development Fund (CDF), following directives issued by Cooperative Development Authority (CDA),

allowing them to utilize the CDF to help families affected by work deferments. The CDF is allocated purposely to fund projects or activities that will benefit the community within the area of operation of the cooperative. Altruistic individuals also took part of sharing their monetary help thru the program.

The sector targets to help more than 1,000 beneficiaries, who will be receiving food packs, specifically those who are from the vulnerable, marginalized, and informal sectors in the community. The initiative was also mobilized through the facilitation of the City Cooperative Development Office, headed by Mr. Almar B. Autida.



Figure 3. Repacking of Relief Goods by CCDO-Bislig staff, April 20, 2020.

The dispersal of food packs was carried through clustered approach via identified cooperatives that will serve as the official distribution centers of the area. This includes Mangagoy Fishermen Cooperative (Mangagoy), Tabon Secondary Teachers MPC (Tabon), Andres Soriano Memorial Hospital Cooperative (Cumawas/San Isidro) and Bislig Community and Government Employees MPC (Poblacion). Transportation services were also made possible by the benevolence of JODAB Transport Services MPC making sure that the whole distribution process, including its manpower gets to their destination hassle-free.

With the 2nd wave of distribution already pipelined, it only shows how serious cooperatives are in their campaign to help the Bislig community. Collectively, they remain steadfast in their commitment to provide the much-needed service to their members amidst the crisis. By working together and living up to the spirit of cooperativism, these cooperatives show that cooperativism is truly the countervailing force against this pandemic. ***MMG/nrcb.

(*WWC –World War Against Covid)