Solidarity in the Covid-19 pandemic: Funding appeal for social movements

Thursday 7 May 2020, by ESSF, JOHNSON Mark, ROUSSET Pierre (Date first published: 6 May 2020).

Our partners in Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia need your support to continue their food aid to the unemployed, community-led sanitary protection, and mobilisation in support of public healthcare and human rights during and after the pandemic.

These practical movement-led solidarity initiatives have been built over several years, thanks in part donations from ESSF [1].

Our rapid response means we have already transferred more than we collected in our December 2019 annual fundraising appeal. Your contribution can help us continue to support our partners.

Philippines [2]: The MiHands coalition [3] in Mindanao [4] and their members as Tripod [5]: The MiHands coalition [6] is providing food aid and supporting community-led sanitary protection for marginalised communities, mostly indigenous peoples. This pandemic has not stopped the military and landlords' thugs from terrorising the population. Our partners are active in the movement for peace in Mindanao.

This long read by Raymund de Silva analyses the political and economic crisis in the Philippines, militarized lockdown, the collapse of public health, and responses of the social movements [7].

In Pakistan, the Labour Education Foundation [8] is providing food aid for day-labourer families [9] who have lost their livelihood during the lockdown. Students are refusing to pay fees and have launched a campaign for fast internet nationwide and computers in every school. Acctually this would all cost less than 3% of Pakistan's bloated military budget. Social movements continue to protest the criminalisation [10] of the Pashtun PTM [11] and other social movements. There is a growing coalition of movements that reject the 'new normal' [12] that the elite is preparing behind closed doors.

The Indonesian association Perempuan Mahardhika (Free Women) [13] is using its reproductive rights campaign network to provide food aid to unemployed women workers and their families in the industrial satellite towns of greater Jakarta.

The Bangladesh peasant organisations [14] and their allies are distributing food aid in urban poor neighbourhoods of Dhaka and promoting community-led sanitary controls in these overcrowded areas. Movement-led public education remains essential, since the garment sector employers are demanding that workers go back to work without any personal protection equipment or physical distancing, and while public transport is reduced and overcrowded. Movements are demanding that government suspend debt repayments and fund basic services instead [15].

These solidarity initiatives are resistance against the criminalisation, in certain coutries, of grass-

roots aid. The official pandemic relief must not be manipulated by religious and political elites.

Practical solidarity is the foundation of our partners' lobbying and mobilisation to demand the full respect of popular communities' rights, their right to self-organize and to protect them in the "new normal."

Please join us in solidarity with these progressive groups.

Thanks in advance!

Mark Johnson and Pierre Rousset

ESSF

To send donations

Cheques
cheques to ESSF in euros only, payable in France, to be sent to:
ESSF
2, rue Richard-Lenoir
93100 Montreuil
France

Bank Account:
Crédit lyonnais
Agence de la Croix-de-Chavaux (00525)
10 boulevard Chanzy
93100 Montreuil
France
ESSF, account number 445757C

International bank account details :
IBAN : FR85 3000 2005 2500 0044 5757 C12
BIC / SWIFT : CRLYFRPP
Account holder : ESSF

Through PayPal
You can send money through Paypal: see the PayPal button on ESSF English home page:
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=sommaire&lang=en

Through HelloAsso
You can also send money through the association HelloAsso: see its button on ESSF English home page: http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=sommaire&lang=en
Or go directly to:
https://www.helloasso.com/associations/europe-solidaire-sans-frontieres/formulaires/1/widget

We keep you regularly informed via our website of the situation and use of the solidarity fund.

Footnotes

[1] ESSF (section 1281), Solidarity: ESSF campaigns:
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?rubrique1281

[2] ESSF (section 2211), Epidemics, pandemics (health, Philippines):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?rubrique2211

[3] ESSF (word 9560), MiHands (Mindanao):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?mot9560

[4] ESSF (section 2294), Epidemics, pandemics (health, Mindanao):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?rubrique2294

[5] ESSF (word 2211), Tripod (Philippines):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?mot5074

[6] ESSF (word 9560), MiHands (Mindanao):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?mot9560

[7] ESSF (article 52772), COVID-19: Its Impact on the Philippines - FINAL:
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article52772

[8] https://www.lef.org.pk

[9] http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article52700

[10] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-iaHPy2KAI&feature=youtu.be

[11] ESSF (word 12978), PTM (Pakistan):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?mot12978

[12] ESSF (article 52493), Pakistan: Demands for Rapid People's Response in times of Corona :
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article52493

[13] https://mahardhika.org}
ESSF (article 42996), Indonesia: Perempuan Mahardhika ("Free Women") and its activities:
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article42996

[14] ESSF (word 4244), BKS (Bangladesh):
[http://europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?mot4244

[15] ESSF (section 2268), Epidemics, pandemics (health, Bangladesh):
http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?rubrique2268