

Covid-19 (Mindanao, Philippines): Humanitarian relief mission to six communities

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COMBATING COVID AND CONFLICT: REPORT FROM OUR HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN SULTAN KUDARAT

For the first time under the COVID pandemic, TRIPOD and MIHANDs South Central Mindanao embarked on an off-city humanitarian relief mission to six communities in the Municipalities of Lebak and Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat Province from 19th to 22nd May 2020.

The main objective was to provide humanitarian relief to the grassroots tri-people – Lumads, Bangsamoro and Migrant Settlers, who are survivors of the inter-tribal conflict in Kalamongog, Lebak Sultan Kudarat. However, in the process of preparation, MTWRC and KILOS KA joined us contributing financial and human resources, thus, expanding our capacity to reach out to more communities and families who are members of small farmers organizations – the Poloy-poloy Farmers Organization (PPOFA), Mothers Club of Guintales, Kasesebaen Samedu Lumad (KSL), Dumanggas Nuevo Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (DuNuCAREBA) and Cadiz Farmers Association – they are members of Kilos Ka Sultan Kudarat chapter.



All in all, we were able to distribute food packs with 5 kilos rice, dried fish, sardines, sugar, coffee, hygiene kits and face-masks to 125 families breakdown to 19 farmers in Kalamansig, 58 Teduray-

Lambangian and Bangsamoro IDP families in Kalamongog, 20 Manobo-Dulangan families in Datu Guibar and 28 farmers and mothers in Poloy-poloy, Lebak.

We were also able to provide the areas with instruction materials on COVID 19 Prevention and practical tips on proper hand-washing. A separate (informal) conversations were also conducted to both sides of the conflict which article entitled "Differing Voices with Common Insight: Face-to-face engagement with the survivors of armed conflict in Kalamongog" is coming out soon as we hope to intervene in the process of conflict transformation with the tri-people in this conflict affected area.



We salute the leaders who collaborate with us in this mission – Manong Tony Manaug, Aying Bonrostro, Kalamongog Brgy. Kagawad Cecilia Paguito and all leaders of Brgy Kalamongog LGU under the leadership of Barangay Capt. Nolasco Ado, Bapa Monel Gubel and to some equally important Bangsamoro and Lumad leaders and members in the community who gave their 100% support.

Thank you also to the Mayor's Office of Lebak under the leadership of Mayor Frederick F. Celestial and Police Capt. Alexander de Pedro of Lebak Police Station.

We cannot say thank you enough to you all who made this mission possible. The most that we can do (as promised) is to formally acknowledge the following kind-hearted and peace-loving people and organizations with their valuable contributions:

1. MIHANDS and ESSF - 50,000 cash donation
2. TRIPOD Cotabato - 16,500 cash donation
3. MTWRC - 10,000 cash donation
4. KILOS KA - 5,000 cash donation
5. Rocelyn Ello - 3,000 cash donation
6. Janel Jesons and Cyc Cubao - 1,000 cash donation
7. Bukidnon Organic Farmers Association - 161 washable face masks
8. Laida Musa - 150 surgical face masks
9. Edna Pangilamen - 4 bottles (500 mg) of Hand sanitizers

We cannot thank you much as well our brave and committed staff and volunteers at TRIPOD Cotabato and TRIPOD Lebak, to Nene Gallego of MTWRC-KILOS KA, to our driver (pilot) Loloy Mancao of MPPM and the designer of our tarpauline RJ Gahum of Kaagapay OFWRSC.

May we strengthen our binds as we fight COVID 19 together with more courage to face a much greater challenge, should we continue the journey on a community-based conflict resolution and conflict transformation process together with the conflict-survivors of the Kalamongog.

Let there be no more communities displaced by conflict!
Peace in Kalamongog Now!

Salute to you/us all and Mabuhay!

TRIPOD Team

26 May 2020

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:

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Agence de la Croix-de-Chavaux (00525)

10 boulevard Chanzy

93100 Montreuil

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ESSF, account number 445757C

International bank account details :

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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>

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