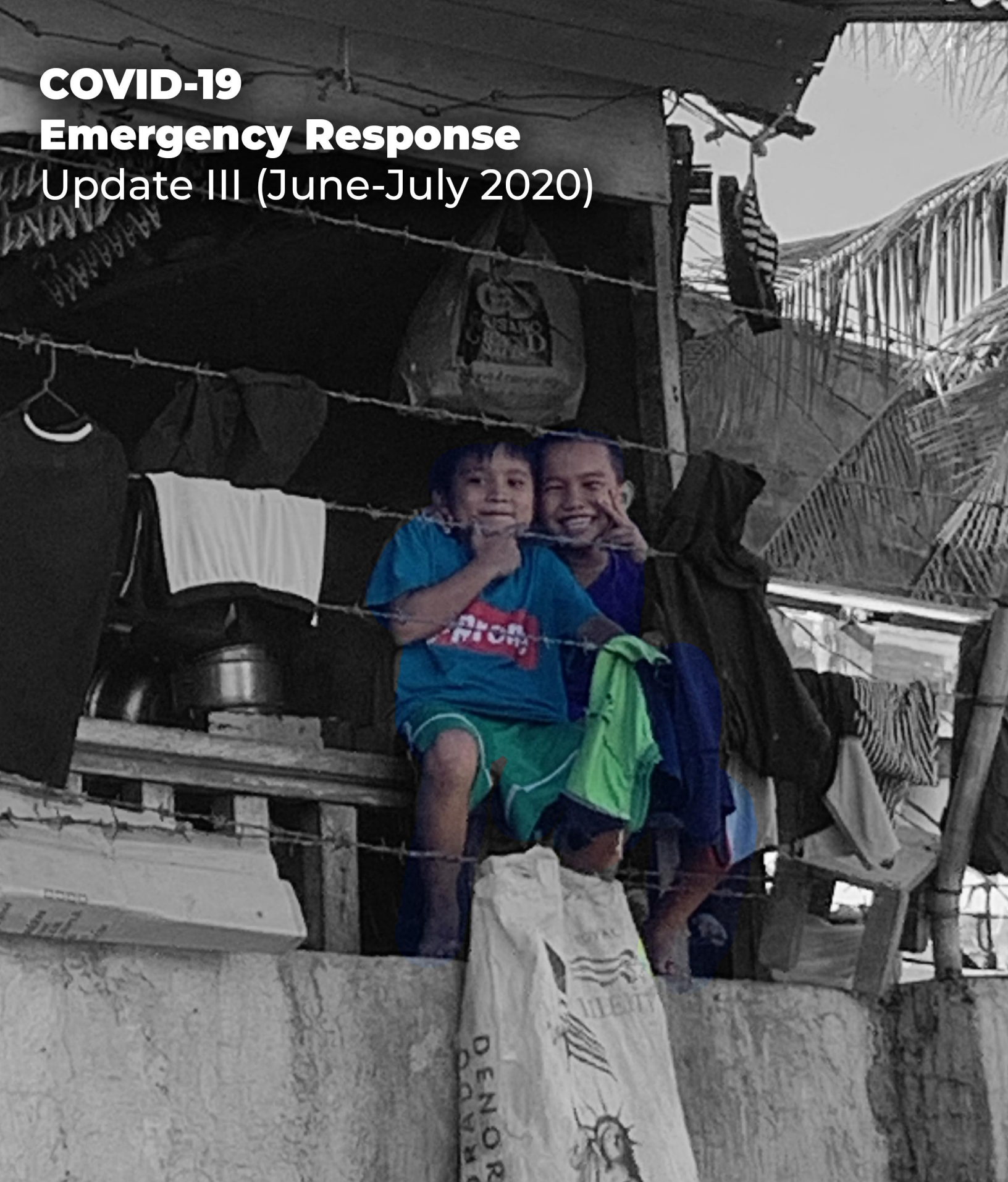


COVID-19 Emergency Response Update III (June-July 2020)



One Bayanihan - A community-led approach to support the most vulnerable and hardest to reach communities during the COVID-19 Emergency

Cebu, Philippines Response



BAYANIHAN MISSION
HOPE. HELP. THY. NEIGHBORS.

FUNDLIFE



About One Bayanihan

One Bayanihan (community) is an emergency response to the COVID-19 epidemic in the Philippines led by FundLife and implemented in partnership with local partners directly reaching the most vulnerable communities.

Since March 14th, the Philippines has been under military enforced community quarantine to limit the spread of COVID-19. The fluid and highly uncertain situation of COVID-19 has led to varying degrees of quarantine measures, which have been hardest felt by the poorest and most vulnerable groups. Despite measure that have lasted more than five (5) months to contain the spread of COVID-19, rates of infection have increased steadily, while the community quarantine measures have continued to progressively worsen the socio-economic impact for all, but especially for those surviving on daily wages.

For fifteen weeks immediately after quarantine measures were announced, FundLife and its local partners have been focused on food relief, hygiene kits and educational awareness for the most vulnerable communities. In total, FundLife through local CSOs have directly reached 27,500 people who are involuntary hunger and without opportunity to earn income.

Believing in sustainable and long-term recovery, One Bayanihan is now focused on supporting youth and adolescent girls in getting them back to learning and helping out-of-school youth people gain new skills and access to employment opportunities. Beyond direct action on-the-ground, FundLife has been leading in the call for greater localized support, working with a local CSO coalition to advocate for more locally-led support. FundLife has been supporting local society organization which are working directly on the ground and with the most vulnerable sectors. This project aims to provide support and reach the most vulnerable groups in the Philippines during this time of crisis.

While our call is specific to the Philippines, Fundlife's message is part of a global chorus demanding political, business and humanitarian leaders to turn promise into action.

Situational Update – as of August 5th August 2020

To mitigate the widespread of the coronavirus in the region, the local governments of Metro Cebu and Cebu Province implemented community quarantine, which has been in operation since March 14th. These orders saw to it that essential and non-essential services adhere to strict preventive protocols and signed on the support of uniformed personnel to limit the movement of people within high-risk areas.



While the rest of the Metro Cebu cities and the entire Cebu Province were placed under GCQ, Cebu City reverted back to ECQ after a surge of the number of cases were recorded in the area until the end of July. The city remains to be a hotspot of COVID-19 cases where the viral spread is high and hospital bed capacity is critical.

As of August 1st, Metro Cebu and the entire Cebu Province is under General Community Quarantine (GCQ). However, the prolonged community quarantine has seriously affected the region across all sectors especially in economic downturn, healthcare capacities and educational services for public school children. Moreover, many businesses are still not reopening due to conflicting information.

Urban Poor and Daily Wage Earners Disproportionately Affected

The impact of these stringent measures greatly affected the urban poor sector, daily wage earners, and informal workers whose means of living were put to a halt due to the coronavirus pandemic. Once again, this has disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable people have been left without and pay. These groups are also outside of credit meaning they do not have access to savings or financial services to ride-out the economic impact.

It is certain that the economic downturn of the lockdowns will be felt for months, if not years – pushing people who were on the brink into dire straits and children at further risk of being left behind as education will be deprioritized in times of financial hardships in families.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that the unemployment rate in the country rose from 5.3% in January 2020 to 17.7% in April 2020. This translates to around 7.3 million unemployed Filipinos. In Metro Cebu, the Central Visayas Network of NGOs (CenVisNet) reported that over 84% of households have seen decreased income during the lockdown while 43% reported skipping meals during the quarantine period.

Even with the easing of government restrictions during GCQ, many of them are still unable to go to work and much more are left unemployed because they were already laid off. These results support FundLife's COVID-19 Emergency Response in terms of food provision and health education of the most affected sectors during this crisis.

Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs)

Aside from the local residents, 18,000 Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs) in Cebu are also clamouring for government support so they may be able to go back to their places of origin. These displaced individuals were also not getting enough government support since they are not registered voters in Cebu.



To help them in their return to their hometowns, the Cebu City Government urged LSIs to secure pertinent documents necessary for their travel. These documents include barangay certification, medical clearance and travel authority from the police. Only those with complete requirements are accommodated since vessels can only carry half of their capacity.

One-time financial assistance from the Cebu City Government can be availed by the LSIs (capped at a maximum amount of Php 5000). Amount granted is based upon the assessment of the city's Department of Social Welfare and Services (DSWS).

Children and Youth

Since the beginning of March, children's education has been meaningfully affected by the coronavirus pandemic, effectively ceasing all learning for children on the side of the social and digital divide. In a memorandum released by the Department of Education (DepEd), school children will not be going back to school until a vaccine for COVID-19 is available. As an added measure to protect children from contracting the virus and mitigate its spread, the government is pushing for a late August start of the school year 2020-2021, though this remains doubtful.

DepEd scheduled the opening of classes for the school year on August 24 though it's unclear how many children will return. As a safety protocol amid the coronavirus pandemic, classes will be done through a mix of modular and online learning classes for students as an alternative to physical classes. However, among the 22 million school children in the country, only 40% of them have proper internet access while more than half only rely on mobile internet data or have no access to the internet at all.

FundLife is concerned that the majority of the students are at a disadvantaged because of the lack of access to distant learning materials. The majority of vulnerable children do not have learning devices such as laptops and tablets to aid them during online classes or for completion of their school requirements. Moreover, the proposed printing of modules for study-at-home is difficult for families who cannot afford to print or collect such materials, not to mention provide a enabling learning environment for children to keep up. This situation further creates a disparity between the more affluent and poor students as well as furthers their achievements gap because of their economic status.

FundLife will continue supporting those who are in greatest need through food security and health teaching in response to this health crisis and most especially the needs of children. FundLife will also be working towards a more sustainable type of support that will empower communities to protect the youth from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and also to help in their recovery and rehabilitation.



FundLife's real-time COVID-19 Emergency Response

The ongoing impact of the community quarantine is still being felt throughout the Philippines and among all sectors of society. While the initial emergency was limited to health, the economic and educational impact has already turned into a far more reaching emergency.

In the months of June and July, FundLife and its local partners have continued to provide food relief, hygiene kits and health education to the most vulnerable groups. Many of the communities that were supported in April and May are still in desperate need of critical food assistance as their abilities to work are still heavily disrupted.

Focusing on urban poor communities, daily wage earners and their families, as well as medical and allied front liners, FundLife coordinated a collaborative effort to deliver the support that these vulnerable people need through its community-led and women-first approach in addressing this crisis.

Through recent charitable funding from the BPI Foundation, FundLife was able to support several other civil society organizations allowing them to provide vital support to their communities across Cebu, Leyte and NCR. These partner organizations aim to alleviate living conditions of urban poor families especially that of the mothers and their children.

FundLife collaboration with Bayanihan Mission continues to be the most far-reaching COVID-19 response for communities in Sitio Marna and Mahusay. Through the #OneBayanihan Project, distribution of food packs and health teaching were conducted to the most vulnerable sectors of the society. The team of volunteers from Bayanihan Mission and FundLife staff visited both the urban poor and secluded mountain communities in the different areas of Cebu to extend help to these families, especially those with children.

Since the start of the quarantine period, FundLife and its partners had reached over 27,500 people through the provision of food supplies, personal protective equipment, and hygiene kits in Metro Cebu and other areas in Cebu Province. Below are some of the operations we have supported our partners in leading:

COVID-19 Relief Operations (June - July 2020)



Operation A: Distribution & Health teaching in Brgy. Cuanos, Minglanilla, Cebu

Date: June 5, 2020

Families: 250 – 200 Habal-habal/Trisikad Drivers + 50 Barangay Health Workers and Auxiliary Tanods

Barangay Cuanos is a small mountain barangay in Minglanilla, Cebu. Most families living in the area were disenfranchised due to the implementation of the ECQ. Even when the province was placed under GCQ, public transport such as jeepneys, tricycles, habal-habal, and trisikads were still prohibited to travel thus making it difficult for heads of the families to earn a living for their daily needs.



COVID-19 Relief Operations (June - July 2020)



Operation B: Distribution and health teaching in Brgy. Budlaan, Cebu City

Date: June 8, 2020

Families: 300

Located in the uplands of Cebu City, Brgy. Budlaan did not receive enough support from the Cebu City government. Since public transport was suspended and most establishments were closed, families living in the area are left without any means to support themselves.



COVID-19 Relief Operations (June - July 2020)



Operation C: Distribution and health teaching in Sitio Mahusay, Brgy. Subangdaku, Mandaue City

Date: June 9, 2020

Families: 300

One of the poorest communities in Subangdaku, Mandaue City, 300 families were provided with food supplies and hygiene kits.



COVID-19 Relief Operations (June - July 2020)



Operation D: Distribution and health teaching in Gilutungan Island, Cebu

Date: June 20-21, 2020

Families: 380

The implementation of community quarantine has restricted the access of poor and vulnerable families to food supplies, basic services, and information. These movement limitations have made life on the island even more difficult for these families. Fundlife Philippines with Bayanihan Mission volunteers went to them to deliver assess the needs of the community. With the help of local leaders, the team were able to distribute over 380 food packs in the island. Our health practitioner volunteers also conducted health training to barangay health workers and establish health protocols on the nest steps should someone manifests symptoms of COVID-19.



COVID-19 Relief Operations (June - July 2020)



Operation E: Distribution of medical supplies at Missionaries of the Poor

Date: July 5, 2020

Families: 60 Elderly Families

Bayanihan Mission's Talisay City volunteers visited and turned over medical supplies and other essential goods to the poor elderly families situated at Missionaries of the Poor.



COVID-19 Relief Operations (June - July 2020)



Sitio Pledge Program – Sitio Marna, Brgy. Subangdaku, Mandaue City

Date: April 2020 up to present

Families: Over 500 families

Since the extensive community quarantine in Cebu City, FundLife Philippines has been supporting Bayanihan Mission's Sitio Pledge Program. Through this partnership, it became possible to implement effective community quarantine in Sitio Marna, a slum area with 550 households in Brgy. Subangdaku.

Even with four COVID-19 positives which were contracted outside, there is no community transmission recorded when general community quarantine was implemented. The residents' collective efforts, through the program, was able to contain the viral spread and protect the community from contagion.

The Sitio Pledge Program is currently transitioning into a more sustainable form of support. Currently, the program started a community garden which aims to provide for the basic food needs of the most in-need residents and assessments are on-going with how best to help children who are out of school and access to learning.







Rebuilding for sustainable, youth-led development and SDG realization for all children.

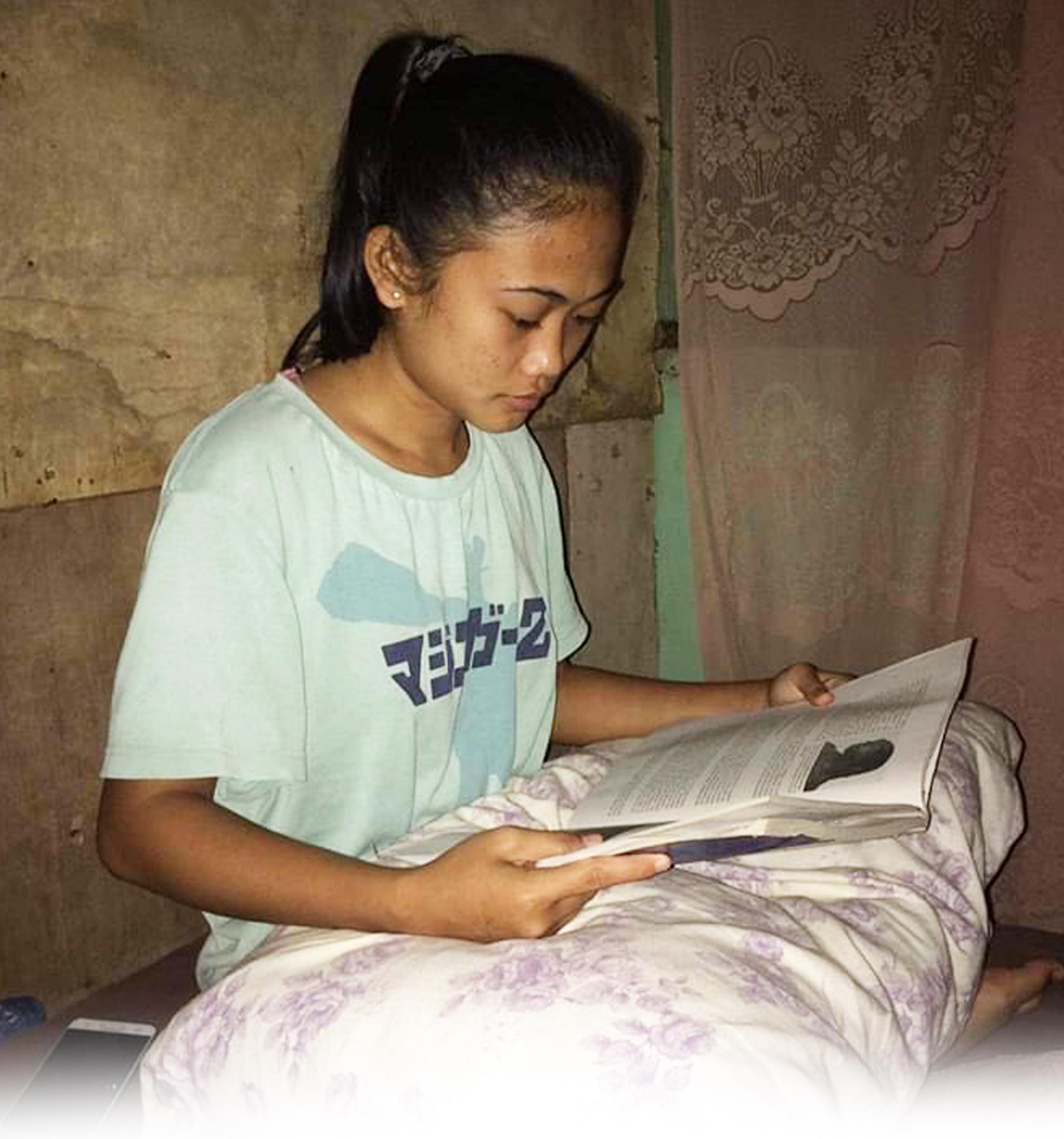
FundLife will continue to support those who are most in need through food security and health teaching in response to this health crisis. We will also be working towards a more sustainable type of support that will empower communities throughout their recovery and rehabilitation from this pandemic.

However, we acknowledge the importance of helping communities beyond relief operations in order to fully protect the welfare of children and adolescent girls. As such, FundLife is actively consulting stakeholders to plan programming that can support youth in long-term recovery through access to quality education and dignified opportunity.

The next six weeks is a crucial period for Metro Cebu. This period is important in establishing the needs of the community and be able to implement programs that can help in their rehabilitation and recovery.

In the coming weeks, FundLife aims to:

- Create community partnerships in key Metro Cebu barangays for seamless communications of programs and projects
- Return to community engagement and educational programming with youth in areas where local guidance permits and it is safe to do so.
- Evaluate for social business opportunities and micro-enterprise trainings to support people and communities in greater self-sufficiency and limiting dependency on external support.
- Establish partnerships with key funding agencies and subject matter experts so that we can provide holistic support to our target beneficiaries for our long-term goals
- Implement child-focused and community empowerment programs by forming alliances with key stakeholders in the conduct of livelihood and upskill training for parents and adults, and prevention of child abuse and exploitation
- Working with youth-groups to raise awareness about mental health and provide the necessary support for young people who might be suffering in silence.
- Set effective violence against women and children (VAWC) prevention and response strategies



As we move away from the immediate emergency needs of communities, we are cognizant that if we do not address the chronic emergencies that were prevalent before COVID-19, we cannot achieve long-term sustainability and prosperity for children and youth. FundLife is also calling on more transparency and self-analysis from key actors. In the words of Professor Yunus, 'We cannot go back to how things were, because up until now how things were is what got us here and it is 100% wrong'.

While the last five months have been some of the darkest we have experienced, we are steadfast in working with children to remind them and support them to believe in themselves and work with communities so that they all might dream in colour.

NO CHILD SHOULD BE BORN JUST TO SURVIVE

Help us ensure every single child has a fighting chance for a safe childhood, quality education and opportunity to reach their full potential, in education and in life.

The One Bayanihan project is a COVID-19 emergency response to support the most vulnerable groups - content and images contained in this document are intended for documentation purposes only - any unauthorized use or reproduction of images is **strictly prohibited.**

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