



# COVID-19

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**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**  
HOPP HELP THY NEIGHBORS **FUNDLIFE**



**On March 28th, the province of Cebu declared a province-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) for 30 days in response to concerns over the spread of COVID-19.**

This quarantine is enforced by the military and forbids the operation of all services, non-essential businesses and public-transportation. All Filipino citizens have been ordered to stay at home and one 'Quarantine Pass' has been issued per family that permits one individual to leave to purchase groceries.

The impact of these unprecedented measures has put incredible strain on the large numbers of marginalised communities, daily wage earners and informal workers. Official figures state that 21% of the population of the province of Cebu lives in poverty, but the real number is likely far higher and does not consider the migrant workers who cannot return home because they are stuck in Cebu. These communities have only limited access to food, even when it can be afforded, and in some cases face extreme food insecurity as they are unable to earn. While there has been a government response to the crisis, the most vulnerable are falling through the cracks and require urgent and sustained support.

In addition to the loss of income for the poorest people, the ECQ - which has also suspended schools - has put vulnerable girls at increased risk of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. In 2019, the FBI identified Cebu as a global hotspot for child sex trafficking and online sexual exploitation. Most victims come from the poorest families, who often do not have enough to survive. The ECQ has considerably increased many of the stresses that drive this exploitation.

On top of the increased risk of food insecurity and child exploitation, the global coronavirus threat to public health is amplified in marginalised communities. Social distancing is impossible there, due to cramped living conditions. Standard hygiene facilities, if they exist at all, are often shared between large groups. Many inhabitants must continue to travel to work, increasing the chances that the virus will enter these communities.

The impact of the virus and its counter-measures will be felt for a long time to come, as children are deprived of education and social contact and have no access to online learning facilities.

We remain deeply concerned for the health, welfare and livelihood of the most vulnerable people it's direct impact on children.

# FundLife's Response



**FundLife Response to the COVID-19 crisis has been swift. On March 16, we launched a COVID-19 Emergency relief fund to support the most vulnerable groups. Since then, donations into the fund have provided food packs for up to 800 vulnerable individuals and PPE equipment for frontlines.**

In addition to the Emergency Relief Fund, FundLife's new initiative, 'Girls Got This', which focuses on protecting, educating and empowering vulnerable girls has become even more urgent during the ECQ. The program is raising awareness through the #StandWithGirls campaign and crowd-sourcing funds to help girls who do not have food security, access to safe hygiene standards or to safe shelter that is free from abuse and violence.

In Cebu, FundLife has adopted a community-led, girls-first approach in collaboration with Bayanihan Mission, a locally-led group of volunteers who have been responding to the COVID-19 crisis through emergency food distribution and education sessions. The resulting #OneBayanihan project reaches people who are in the greatest need of emergency food relief.

Elsewhere, FundLife's relief fund is supporting partners who have been left without income due to the suspension of regular operations.

Now that regular operations have been suspended, along with all other group activities, FundLife has adapted to the situation by establishing virtual practices in all its projects.

## Fully Transparent and Holistic 6-step approach

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1

### **On-the-ground assessment with communities and government:**

We consult with local government and visit the communities directly to assess and understand the situation for the most vulnerable groups. Through meetings with multi-stakeholders and cross-sector discussions, we are able to form an inclusive, non-political and unbiased assessment of community needs.

2

### **Partner with community-led organisations that put people first**

We identify, connect with and collaborate with locally led groups to form a partnership network of trusted formal and non-formal community actors. We work with full transparency that ensures we focus on the most vulnerable first.

3

### **Supporting local farmers and food growers through fair pricing**

We support local farmers and producers by purchasing directly to create nutrient-rich food packs for families. We use volunteers to pack the goods by hand, saving plastic and allowing us to source directly from farmers while paying an above market price for their goods.

4

### **Volunteer-led packaging, preparation and distribution of food packs**

We work with volunteers who help us prepare and package the food packs to ensure the amount is equal for each family.

5

### **Direct food distribution to children and families**

We support community-leaders to deliver the food packs to families without drawing attention or crowds. We provide volunteers to document safe delivery of goods, deliver COVID-19 education talks and receive feedback on any other urgent needs from the community. Wherever possible, we try to work with women from families.

6

### **We stay in touch with communities**

We conduct post-delivery assessments with partners and communities in order to determine if further food, education or health assistance is required.

# Relief Operations in April:

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(Relief Operation 1)

## Mandaue City

Food Packs for Children and Families  
+ Education Sessions

Food Packs distributed = **75**

Total People Reached = **300**

Led by FundLife , Bayanihan Mission and Bidlisiw



# Relief Operations in April:

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(Relief Operation 2)

## Basak San Nicolas

Food Packs for Children and Families  
+ Education Sessions

Food Packs distributed = **83**

Total People Reached = **332**

Led by Bayanihan Mission



# Relief Operations in April:

(Relief Operations 3)

## Sitio Marna

Community Quarantine Program Food Pack  
+ Hygiene Kits Distribution

Food Packs distributed = **435**

Total People Reached = **435**

Led by Bayanihan Mission





# HELP US REACH MORE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

We have identified over 15,000 families and children (50,000 people) who are in urgent need of food security and basic hygiene kits across Mandaue City, Cebu City and Talisay City across Cebu Province.

We are continuing to communicate with LGU's to understand what gaps exist for children and offering as much support as possible to ensure they have enough food, remain protected and are free from abuse during this protracted crisis.

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

A project of:



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