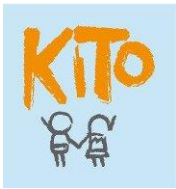




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## **COVID-19 Emergency response interventions in Mindoro Island, Philippines**





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## Summary

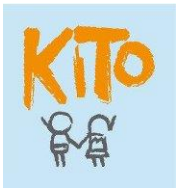
Lockdown and quarantine measures in the Philippines have been extended until May 15 and have left many families faced with a lack of income that is affecting their ability to buy food and protective masks.

Currently working on a WASH project in the Island province of Mindoro, Kito Onlus is well aware of the economic and financial difficulties that local and native families in the Island are now facing.

For this reason, we decided to engage with emergency response interventions such as the distribution of food supplies to 700 vulnerable, low income families and the production and donation protective masks to 2500 beneficiaries, all living in the villages of Paraway, Lapantay, Pagturian, Talipanan, Bignayan, Anilaw, Unggoyan, and Bontoc, in Occidental Mindoro.

A remarkable positive feature of our action is that the protective masks are produced by seamstresses belonging to the native community of the Mangyans, hardly affected by the lockdown, which thanks to this production are able to get a daily income.





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## Challenge

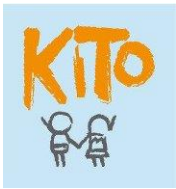
The Philippines were the third country to order tight lockdown and quarantine measures, progressively restricting immigration, travel, commerce and gatherings since March 12.

On April 24, Philippine President Duterte announced the extension of such lockdown until the May 15 across several parts of the country, including the Island province of Mindoro, where our organization is currently working on a WASH project.

Such restrictions are jeopardizing the income of several vulnerable families who, according to a World Bank report, are mainly employed in the informal sector and earn as little as 1 USD per day, therefore affecting their ability to afford buying food and protective masks, the use of which is mandatory.

Besides, Mindoro Island is home to the Mangyans, a native community whose main source of income is represented by the sale of their handicraft products. Due to the lockdown, their sale activities had to be suspended, worsening their economic conditions.





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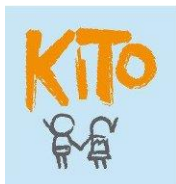
## Solution

Kito Onlus has been working in the Philippines since 2014, thus it is well aware of the everyday challenges that local communities are currently dealing with. The loss of income, direct consequence of the Covid pandemic, have left many local and native families with no means to buy the food and the protective masks necessary to face these tough moments. Also, uncertainty about the future is a source of stress that affects their psychosocial wellbeing.

These are the main reasons why Kito Onlus decided to engage in emergency response interventions such as the donation of food supplies to 700 vulnerable families living in villages in Occidental Mindoro that are not easily reachable by the coastal road, and the production and distribution of around 2500 protective masks, allowing 5 seamstresses from the native Mangyan community to continue working and receiving a daily income that otherwise, during this lockdown period, they would not have been able to get.

In addition, we are planning to extend our emergency response intervention to the Oriental side of the Island, allowing us to reach even more potential beneficiaries and families in need.





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## Long-Term Impact

Our project will contribute to successfully overcome this emergency situation, avoiding a further spread of the virus among the local populations and improving their life expectancy. Furthermore, our interventions will relieve and encourage a feeling of security to the many families psychologically exhausted by the emergency circumstances.

