



COVID-19 Relief Action

By Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Report #1: Activities as of 13th April, 2020

Philippines (BTCF)- The following report summarizes Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation (BTCF) relief actions in the Philippines as of April 13.

Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout the Philippines with a total of 5,223 confirmed cases and 335 deaths, many regions initiated lockdown protocols from suspension of mass public transportation, restricted local and international travel to imposed home quarantine. Hospitals are also faced with depleting personal protective equipment and garments (PPE) as the pandemic continues to increase demand.

From 5 to 13 April, BTCF, in partnership with the local government, provided rice to over 18,000 households and donated over 68,800 PPEs to local hospitals, in the hope of ensuring the safety of front-line health professionals and keeping vulnerable communities safe and healthy through the pandemic.

Summary of Actions Taken From 5 to 13 April

1. Total Rice Distribution:

- A total of 705,900 kgs of rice provided to 28,236 households in regions of Brgy Tatalon (12,000), Binondo (250), Old Balara (4,308), Pasong Tamo (2,013), Rizal (3,150), Marikina (Tumana) (2,115), and Santo Domingo (4,400).

2. Medical Supplies Donation

- 16,200 N95 face masks, 8,100 medical protective suits, 2,760 medical protective gowns, 540 pairs of protective glasses, 27,000 surgical face shields, 1,700 medical face shields, 10,800 pairs of surgical gloves, 1,700 pairs of protective shoe covers to San Lazaro Hospital, Philippine General Hospital, Cardinal Santos Hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines, Manila Doctors Hospital, and Metropolitan Hospital.

BTCF has had a continual presence in the Philippines since 1994, by providing ongoing and long term support to vulnerable communities including material aid distributions, monetary support to building community facilities such as schools and housing.

Upon learning these vulnerable communities received 5 kgs of rice as part of the government's COVID-19 relief package but needed more to provide relief through the lockdown period, BTCF was able to achieve the necessary numbers through a donation drive, by encouraging BTCF members to donate bags of rice. A total of over 10,000 bags of 25 kgs rice was donated with over 452 Tzu Chi volunteers, 171 military personnels, 71 police

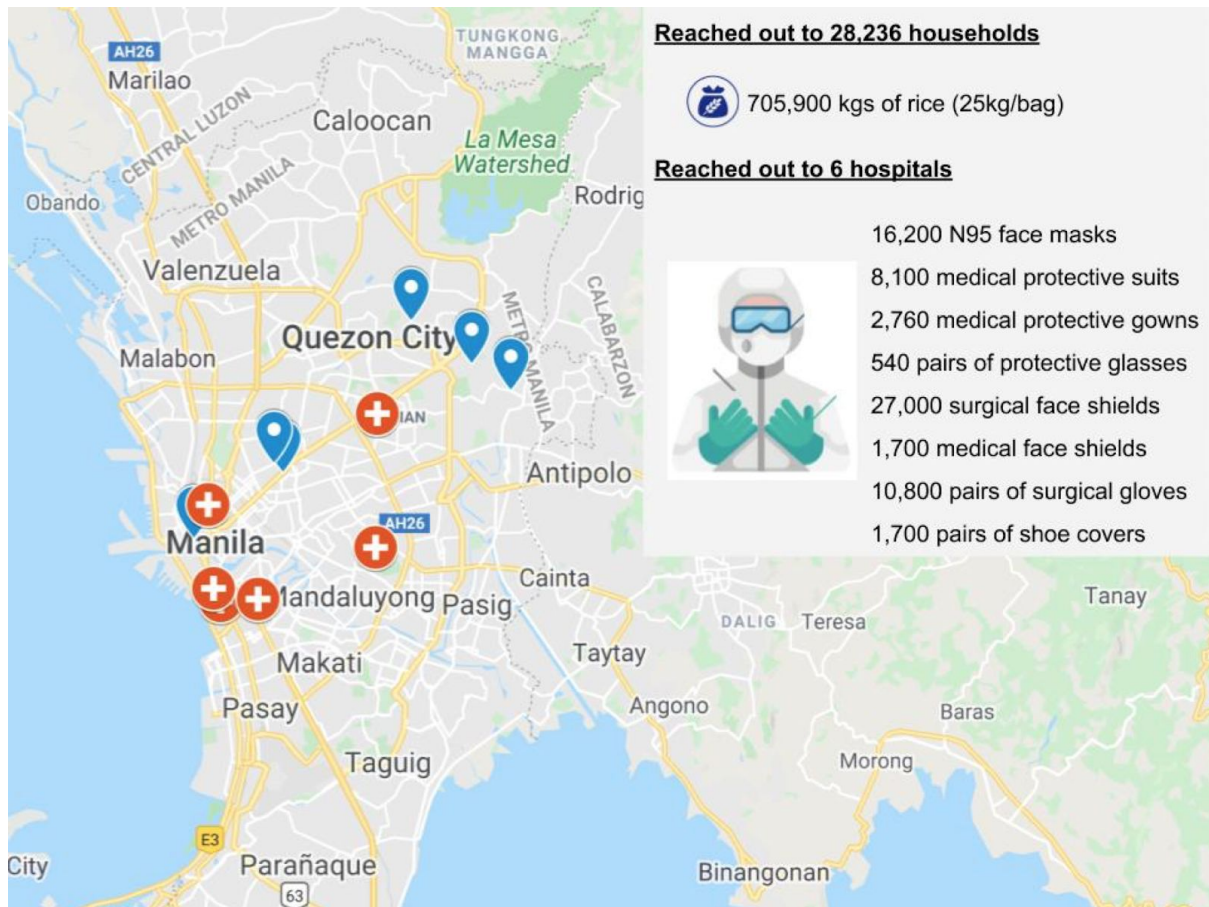


Report #1: Activities as of 13th April, 2020

personnels, 200 local government volunteers and 162 local volunteers assisting with the distributions. During the distributions, PPE, hygiene protocols and social distancing were used to prevent the potential spreading of COVID-19 and safety of community members, authorities and volunteers. BTCF aims to distribute a total of 74,000 bags of 25 kgs rice to vulnerable communities experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and provide continual support for local hospitals over coming months.

In the effort to reduce the risk of transmission for front-line health professionals, BTCF has also donated over 68,800 PPEs to high-risk major hospitals in Manila. Due to the worldwide shortage of PPE, BTCF utilised its international network of volunteers for effective acquisition and transportation.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, Dharma Master Cheng Yen, founder of BTCF, appeals to all “In prevention of COVID-19, as we safeguard our own health and communities, we should reach out to the vulnerable communities in this unpredictable time to spread love, overcome feelings of restlessness and bring communities together.”



Locations of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's distribution regions and hospitals as of 13 April.



COVID-19 Relief Action

By Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Report #1: Activities as of 13th April, 2020

For more information: <http://www.tzuchi.org.ph/contact-us/>