

**COVID 19 – BREAD Programme**  
Missio Project No. 329000-0547-2020-C

**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
(September 2020)

## **INTRODUCTION**

COVID 19 – BREAD Programme, which was dubbed B.R.E.A.D. Amid COVID 19 during its conceptualization and initial implementation, is the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing (MBST) – Manila Priory’s express and programmatic response to the worldwide pandemic, the continued transmission of which has recently put the Philippines on the 20<sup>th</sup> rank of countries with the most number of positive cases. B.R.E.A.D. stands for **B**egetting **R**elief and **E**xpress **A**ssistance for the **D**eprived as the project aspires to meaningfully contribute to efforts geared towards alleviating the escalating hunger of the poor triggered by the pandemic in MBST mission areas in Metro Manila.

BREAD has three components: relief assistance, health education and livelihood assistance. Although relief assistance has been undertaken since mid-July 2020, internal resources of the congregation and local contributions have not been ample to cover the entire project and its target sectors, hence, funding assistance from foreign support groups had to be tapped. The favorable response from **Missio Munchen** has encouraged the BREAD project committee to set off advanced partial relief assistance to families of dislocated jeepney drivers whose condition has seriously deteriorated.

## **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (Initial)**

### **Component: Relief Assistance**

#### Preparatory Activities

Responding to the worsening situation of the jeepney drivers who have already resorted to begging in the streets, the project committee decided to hold consultations with representatives of the four targeted



organizations of jeepney drivers, each group corresponding to a particular route. The meetings

aimed at gathering updated information on the status of the target clients, needs validation, criteria for selection of clients and a brief orientation on the BREAD project.

### Distribution of Relief Packs

Since available resources could only cater to a partial number of target clients, priority was given to 185 out of the 400 jeepney drivers from the four groups; they are those who were

forced into the humiliating experience of begging from previous passengers and strangers out in the streets or from friends and relatives for their families' daily crude subsistence. On September 14, 2020, relief packs containing food and hygiene items were distributed to 102



jeepney drivers of the “Singalong-Zobel-Roxas” route. The second wave of relief distribution was conducted on September 24, 2020 for 30 drivers of the “Calocan-Baclaran” route, 34 drivers of the “Dominga-Libertad” route, and 19 drivers of the “CCP-Vito Cruz” route. Non-compliance to some protocol/technical requirements resulted in low turnout from the group routes. The food

packs included rice, salt, cooking oil, noodles or Bijon, sugar, mongo, salted eggs, dried fish, instant coffee, chocolate drinks, and assorted canned goods while detergent bar, face mask, face shield, 70% isopropyl alcohol and a COVID 19 information poster comprised the hygiene packs. In the latter part of relief distribution, we already included squash or pumpkin donated by an alumna.



## CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Although available but limited resources were able to provide relief assistance only to more or less half of the targeted clients, the project committee's resolve to implement the project partially with a careful process of selection, was so much appreciated not only by those who were prioritized but also by their respective organizations and fellow jeepney drivers because without the assistance, the daily subsistence of the families of the 185 drivers is their burden and moral responsibility as well.

The consultations and actual integration of the project committee, staff and volunteers with the clients during distribution of relief assistance were eye openers to the deplorable situation of the poor who are hardest hit in this ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and a validation as well of the relevance of the BREAD



program. The overwhelming support of **Missio Munchen** , **Uli Holdenried Foundation** and **other supporters** will definitely pave the way for the continued and complete implementation of the relief assistance and the other components of the project. This project will be a learning opportunity and hopefully a stepping stone to a grounded and realistic long term response to the effects of COVID 19 for the MBST apostolates and mission partners.

**THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAYBE GLORIFIED!**

*As of 10.3.20*