#CoronaAPCOMpassion
COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Asia Pacific
Since the COVID-19 pandemic have ravaged every society throughout the world, there is no hiding from the effects of the pandemic. The effects were not directly from the disease itself but rather the consequences that entail from it. From March 2020 until present many countries still impose mandatory lockdown. These effects felt through every person in the society but some might have felt more than other especially the LGBTQI community that have lesser social security net than the general members of the society.

APCOM commits to help community to fight against COVID-19 that affected the society as a whole, by setting up emergency fund. The campaign was first funded by APCOM staff member donated salaries to kick off the fund and have some generous outside donors join in the campaign.

APCOM have created a campaign "THB19 fighting Covid-19" and promoted on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media platforms, through partners, such as Voice TV, the NOK, TestBKK page, Facebook page, plus LGBTQI influencers to share on their respective social media platforms. APCOM used the fund to give to community-based organization throughout Asia so that they could help distribute this fund to those in need.
INDIA

**Srishti Madurai**

Srishti Madurai have been trying to help assist LGBTQI who need financial or medical aid. So far, we have supported 77 non-binary, queer, transgender and Intersex people with groceries and medicines for two months.

- 10 Transgenders in Madurai for 2 Months groceries
- 10 families of blind people (30 people) 1-month groceries
- 10 Transgender people in Bengaluru 1 Month groceries
- 26 Non-binary, Intersex & Transmen from Coimbatore, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, and Mysuru (aid of 5000 INR per person for 2 Months) funds were raised online through crowd funding campaigns. The Ketto cord funding site waived the campaign fee for Srishti Madurai.

- Srishti Madurai gave financial support for 3 daily wage families 10000 INR each for 2 months
- With the Support of APCOM COVID19 Compassion fund Srishti Madurai distributed PPE Kits, Medicines and Masks to 60 Intersex, Queer and Transgender persons in Madurai
Sangsan Anakot Yawachon had help indigenous youth, who are also stateless, who were affected by COVID-19 pandemic by using #CoronaAPCOMpassion fund from APCOM total of 46,993 Baht for 2 activities, those activities are

1. **Empowering youth and parents** by teaching about children's rights and basic information about COVID-19
   a). Teaching about children's rights – during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, schools were closed and children could not attend at school. They were forced to stay with their family 24 hours and under that situation youth have experienced domestic violence and abuses like hitting, verbal abuse including the risk of sexual harassment especially in young girls and LGBTQI children. Sangsan Anakot Yawachon have taught children about children's rights to all 34 children and their parents to understand and realize their rights. By giving out this information they would have initial protection of children's rights of being alive and from the harm of their parents and their community.
   b). Sharing basic information on COVID-19 – the recent outbreak in neighboring Myanmar is a concern to the community since the community sit next to Myanmar with only Salawin river as a border. With the Thai government policy of closing Thai border with Myanmar making the community affected by COVID-19 once again. Sangsan Anakot Yawachon conducted a lesson on COVID-19 basic information on the nature of the disease and prevention measure for the indigenous stateless children and their parents. Our organization also held a class on making face mask to protect themselves from the disease.

2. **Scholarship ceremony** – Other than giving lecture on children's rights and basic information on COVID-19, Sangsan Anakot Yawachon also handing out 500 Baht scholarship for 30 elementary children and 3,000 Baht scholarship for 4 high school and undergraduate student which include 3 LGBTQI children. This fund gives hope and future for children that does not receive enough funding from the government.
Bangkok Rainbow

Bangkok Rainbow have responded quickly to the tackle the pandemic lockdown that affected immigrant, and LGBTQI community.

Mid-September 2020, around Saphankwai district, BKK Rainbow gave out essential package and some pocket money for immigrant that was affected by COVID-19 and also help fund testing and treatment services for PLHIV in total of 47,145 Baht.

Sutthawith Mirum (5,000 Baht)
A 32 years old ceremony flower decorator (funeral, wedding, ordination and other ceremony in the temple) from Surin province. He's the pillar for his family which constitute of his mother and sister. They both are an employee affected by COVID-19 lockdown. They are also renovating their house which got damaged from the recent summer storm and haven't received any financial aids from officials. Also, Sutthawith is in surgery for enteritis which is in dire need of financial aids. Bangkok Rainbow have provided fund which was given from #coronaAPCOMpassion fund to help relieve on the cost of traveling to surgery and help the family during unemployment.

Bangorn Wilundok (3,000 Baht)
She is a 34 years old employee who send money back to her family in the country side. Living in an apartment alone and is unemployed from the closure of the hotel that she worked. With the help from #coronaAPCOMpassion fund she will have money for food and a new place to stay for a while.

Saw Mike (2,000 Baht)
A 29 years old immigrant worker from Myanmar, who's living alone in Pratunam district. He is a freelance makeup professional that goes to events and pageant. Since the border close, he could not go back to his country and also unemployed because there is no event and pageant. With the help from #coronaAPCOMpassion fund he will have money for food and a place to stay for a while.
SWING: Service Worker In Group has been committed for 15 years in helping improving sex workers quality of life by giving information about sex education and health education while providing medical service to all people in the community. Also, giving an opportunity to have education to improve their quality of life after leaving this career. SWING is pushing for the legal status for sex worker in Thailand since prostitution is still illegal.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, SWING has donated 5,055,142.40 Baht to Fellow Sex Workers Friends Fund. Delegation of donation is as follows: Hot meals 20,313 meals, dry food 10,152 meals, clothing 3,228 pieces. In total 33,743 sets donation were made at Bangkok: Klong Lohd, Soi Cowboy, Soi Phat Phong, Sukhumvit – 17,713 sets. Donation at Chonburi: Pattaya – 16,030 sets. Also, we have distributed a booklet on COVID-19 prevention guidelines for sex workers before the fund ran out.

APCOM is part of the fund that help support sex workers that were affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Since the COVID-19 caused the economic to go into a downturn, this also affected sex workers to have little to no income. SWING has committed to help this group and with the limitation of the fund we still give out hopes and keep on working to support sex worker group. There are many support that give out during this time and it is imperative that we keep on supporting because sex worker are also human and they should be treated equals as a human.
Payoon Sri Trang is an organization based in Trang province in the southern region of Thailand, which help LGBTQI community who does not have their own space or voice in their community. Also help in having these people access in medical treatment and facilitate in HIV and social stigma prevention.

The event was funded by AHF and the fund was used to give the entertainment workers as income. The total fund that was used is 46,993 Baht.

Be Visible Asia

The effects of COVID-19 pandemic affect heavily to the tourism and entertainment business. These effects left many entertainment workers unemployed and in need of help. Be Visible Asia saw these effects and take action by organizing a mini concert at alliance francaise to raise awareness of the effects of COVID-19 on entertainment worker and LGBTQI community. Also, this event help to disperse income to the worker and reconnect with fellow entertainment workers around Bangkok and Pattaya.

With the funds given by AHF Payoon Stri Trang have given out necessities to the affected group. For example, dish soap, non-perishable food, soap, facial mask, etc. Total of 36,933 Baht.
Pink Monkey Organization
Pink Monkey has distributed 100 emergency packs which have the necessities like non-perishable food, toiletries to key population.

HON
HON have seen the effects of COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and acted by giving out essential packages that have necessities like non-perishable foods and toiletries. The organization gave out to 100 people that came to test at HON testing clinic, PLHIV and homeless people during October – November 2020. Also, the organization gave travel expense 200 Baht each for traveling to the clinic.
Rainbow Ratchaburi have targeted MSM, transgender, sex worker and PLHIV for this donation project. They have given out 50 relief packages for 50 recipient families which contained necessities like non-perishable food. The package is 600 Baht each and for sending the package to the targeted recipient they have to travel with the expense of 500 Baht per trip, they travelled in the total of 10 trips. While they are on the site, they found that the conditions of the families are not in good shape, many have lost their source of income since mostly they are working in hospitality and entertainment services and with these relief packages could extend their help for a certain period of time.
Haus of Khameleon

What are they trying to achieve?

- To provide spotlight on #TransAction during this pandemic;
- To highlight the multiple and intersecting realities #Trans #GNC experience on the ground;
- To provide support, solidarity, co-responsibility, collective care, wellbeing & happy messages to #Trans #GNC;
- To share recommendations with the state and general public.

Members of the Gay and Transgender Community from the 4 divisions who will equally benefit from the above-mentioned solutions and activities and they are the members of the Haus of Khameleon.

Beneficiary to gay & transgender people

Members of the Gay and Transgender Community from the 4 divisions who will equally benefit from the above-mentioned solutions and activities and they are the members of the

- 10 Gay/ Transgender will be included from the Central/Eastern Division
- 10 Gay/ Transgender will be included from the Western Division
- 10 Gay/ Transgender will be included from the Northern Division

How many Gay & Transgender people will directly benefit from your proposed solutions/activities?

The Haus of Khameleon activity is the Haus of Khameleon Secretariat Planning which will be convened to ensure the administration/ operational and full documentation of this process is taken into full consideration.

Trans Dignity Relief Support (Food and Health Support): 60

- 10 Gay/ Transgender will be included from the Central/Eastern Division
- 10 Gay/ Transgender will be included from the Western Division
- 10 Gay/ Transgender will be included from the Northern Division
PAKISTAN

Dareecha Male Health Society

In May 2020, our emergency relief mechanism extended donations to two (2) community-based organizations in Pakistan and Indonesia. Dareecha Male Health Society, based in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, has received our donation to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), food package for small families, and other essential supplies such as medicine. These relief items were distributed to MSM, transgender women, sex workers and people living with HIV in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

“Dareecha would like to thank the whole APCOM team for donating their salaries. I have mentioned a few remarks regarding [...] donors to give some attention as the community is in need at this time.

APCOM has always done a lot when it comes to capacity building and community empowerment. Now on behalf of the whole staff of Dareecha and the community, I really wanted to say that whatever the amount is, whether it is One Rupee or any, if the community organization is feeling the pain for the community, then we really mean it when we say Thank you!” – Muhammad Usman, Dareecha Male Health Society.
Jaringan Indonesia Positif (JIP)

The Indonesia Positive Network (JIP) received assistance from APCOM to be channeled to transgender people in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The assistance was received by JIP in cash via #Corona Apcompassion for US $ 500.00 or Rp. 7,000,000, - (Exchange rate 14,000).

The assistance is intended for the financing of basic necessities (rice, cooking oil, instant noodles, eggs and sardines) which will be distributed to 50 transgender people. JIP collaborated with 2 organizations in the Jakarta and Tangerang, namely the Yayasan Srikandi Sehati (YSS) and KDS Perwata. These organizations has engaged in HIV Program. They are caring for large members of LGBTQI members in Jakarta and Tangerang.

KDS Perwata (Persatuan Waria Tangerang) is a peer support group that was originally formed to provide psychological support for people infected with HIV (PLWHA), especially transgender people in the Tangerang area. Along the time, members of the Perwata peer group did not only have Transgender members. Currently, members of the KDS Perwata consist of various key populations, 99% of whom are PLWHA and 1% are non HIV infected.

YSS (Yayasan Srikandi Sejati) is an organization engaged in handling HIV specifically for LGBT in the Jakarta area. That’s why JIP chose the two organizations to work together in channeling aid from APCOM.

The groceries were purchased on October 15, 2020. With funds amounting to Rp. 7,000,000.00 of the basic necessities that can be obtained by JIP are as follows:

- 200 kg of rice
- 100 ltr Cooking Oil
- 520 Pcs Instant Noodles
- 100 Cans of Sardines
- 29 Kg of eggs
- 2 pcs of egg crate

With a total expenditure of Rp. 6,991,600, -

October 16, 2020 is the date the activities of the APCOM Foundation Assistance Handover to LGBT Key Populations were carried out.

- The turnover of groceries to KDS Perwata was carried out by JIP, represented by Roylolo Nababan and received directly by the head of the KDS Perwata, Mr. Dion. KDS Perwata receives assistance in the form of:
  1. 100 kilograms of rice
  2. 50 liters of cooking Oil
  3. 260 packets of instant noodles
  4. 50 cans of sardines
  5. 14.5 kilograms of eggs
  6. 1 egg crate

- The turnover of groceries to YSS was carried out by JIP, represented by Roylolo Nababan and received directly by the YSS Director, Ms. Leni. YSS received assistance in the form of:
  1. 100 kilogram of rice
  2. 50 liters of cooking Oil
  3. 260 packets of instant noodles
  4. 50 cans of sardines
  5. 14.5 kilograms of eggs
  6. 1 egg crate
Yayasan Gaya Dewata (YGD)
Yayasan Gaya Dewata (YGD), a community-led organisation working for sexual health of MSM, transgender women and people living with HIV, is based in Bali, Indonesia. We worked with YGD in 2017 as one of our partners for the WISDOM Project. Since the COVID-19 outbreak and the government lockdown in Indonesia, they have been supporting MSM and transgender women who were working for the service and entertainment sector who have been economically affected. They also worked to make sure that PLHIV have access to life-saving ART. They received our donation and used it to purchase bags of basic supplies including rice, egg, noodles, canned goods and medicine. They were able to distribute the relief goods to fifty (50) MSM and transgender individuals.

“COVID-19 has hit the community hard, with many of (LGBTQI) members struggling with dwindling income and increased stress about (uncertainty of) the future. Effects on tourism have been profound and widespread as tourism accounts between 54 to 58 percent of the province’s economy. […] This is having a direct effect on communities and their access to basic needs such as food, secure accommodation and utilities.

The community has been the foundation for all effective responses to health pandemics, from HIV and until COVID-19. We send our warmest thanks to those who have contributed to the #coronaAPCompassion fund. These acts of solidarity throughout the region show that our communities are larger, stronger and more interdependent than ever.” – Yayasan Gaya Dewata, Bali, Indonesia.

Perkumpulan Suara Kita
Perkumpulan Suara Kita, a CBO based in Jakarta, Indonesia, working on human rights of LGBTQI community, used the donation they received to purchase packs of essential supplies to include rice, canned goods, beans, cooking oil, and hand sanitisers. The relief items were distributed to fifty (50) individual recipients for themselves and their families. The recipients are LGBTQI individuals who have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in Jakarta, Indonesia.

“COVID-19 has a massive impact on daily lives. Many of our community members work in the informal sector so they rarely have social security from their workplace. Most of their work [include] drivers, street singers, and sex workers. Due to the government requirement on social distancing, most of our (LGBTQI) community are not able to work as usual […] (and) have difficulties in affording basic needs. There are cases where they cannot afford rent, so they are forced (evicted) by property owners.

Thank you so much for your solidarity. God bless you all!”
– Teguh Iman Affandi, Perkumpulan Suara Kita
To contribute to #CoronaAPCOMpassion

Via PAYPAL:

If you already have a PayPal account, please log in to your account and click send payment to APCOM@APCOM.ORG

In the “Note” section, please give us your Full Name & Email Address and please indicate that it is for “CoronaAPCOMpassion”.

Send payment to

Send to: apcom@apcom.org

Via BANK TRANSFER:

- Account name: APCOM Foundation
- Bank name: Bangkok Bank
- Bank address: 87/2 No. 114, 1st Floor, All Seasons Place Retail Center, Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan Bangkok 10330, Thailand
- Account number: 911-0115-33-5
- SWIFT Code: BKKBTBHK
We are united in advocating for issues around HIV and those that advance the rights, health and well being of people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.