AFICS PHILIPPINES

NEWS

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AFICS-PHL Launches Fund Drive for Hygiene Kits for Women Deprived of Liberty

The AFICS-PHL Outreach Committee has launched a fund drive to help address the urgent need for sanitary and hygiene kits for women deprived of liberty at the Muntinlupa City Jail.

Each hygiene kit, valued at approximately ₱500, will contain a bar of soap, shampoo sachets, toothpaste, a toothbrush, sanitary pads, a comb, a face towel, and toilet paper.

Members who wish to support the initiative may **send their donations through GCash 0920 972 6360 (Flo Tyson)**. A screenshot of the donation receipt should be sent to the same number. The **fund drive will run until 31 August 2026.**

AFICS-PHL has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to support the E-Dalaw Project in the city jails of Marikina, Mandaluyong, and Muntinlupa. The project enables women deprived of liberty to maintain contact with their families, legal counsel, and healthcare providers through video calls and online messaging.

On 17 September 2025, AFICS-PHL turned over three Lenovo tablets to support the E-Dalaw Project. An April monitoring visit to the three BJMP facilities confirmed that the tablets are being used extensively. In some facilities, the AFICS-PHL-donated tablets are currently the only units functioning properly.

In addition to supporting the E-Dalaw Project, AFICS-PHL is exploring the provision of additional tablets and laptops to assist women deprived of liberty enrolled in the Alternative Learning System (ALS), where access to computers is essential for their studies.

The monitoring visit also highlighted the urgent needs of the Muntinlupa City Jail, the most overcrowded among the three facilities visited. According to Senior Inspector Joan Mortel, Warden of the Muntinlupa City Jail, 84 women are currently housed in a single dormitory with only three toilets and three bathrooms. She also reported a shortage of basic hygiene items, including soap, shampoo, and sanitary pads.

The fund drive is endorsed by the AFICS-PHL Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. Interested members may support the initiative by donating through the GCash account indicated above.

AFICS-PHL will provide members with updates on its partnership with the BJMP.

Grateful for the opportunities and benefits gained through their UN careers, AFICS members continue their commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Through community outreach programs, they extend compassion, support vulnerable groups, and help build stronger, more caring communities.
In April and May 2026, the Middle East conflict disrupted oil supplies, causing sharp increases in fuel prices. Jeepney and tricycle drivers, whose livelihoods depend on fuel, suffered significant income losses, leaving many families struggling to meet basic food needs. Government assistance proved insufficient.
In response, the AFICS' Outreach Committee quickly launched a community pantry initiative to provide temporary food assistance to affected transport workers and their families. Two community pantries were organized:

- **19 April 2026**: **140 jeepney drivers** from Cubao–Quiapo and Cubao–Divisoria associations received food packs containing rice, dried fish, mongo beans, vegetables, sardines, and spaghetti.
- **1 May 2026 (Labor Day)**: **150 tricycle drivers** from QUITODA received similar food packs through a partnership with St. Joseph Shrine's Social Services and Development Ministry In total, 290 transport workers benefited from the project

The Emergency Assistance to Distressed Workers were self-funded through voluntary contributions from AFICS members. The project successfully provided timely assistance to **290 transport workers** and their families during a period of extreme economic hardship. It also benefited farmers through direct purchases, engaged new community partners, achieved its fundraising goals, and demonstrated effective collaboration among AFICS committees.
Also this April, the AFICS Outreach Committee visited the female dormitories in Marikina, Mandaluyong, and Muntinlupa to assess the impact of AFICS-donated tablets to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) for their E-Dalaw program.
The **E-Dalaw Program** of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in the Philippines is an electronic visitation system that allows Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) to communicate with their families, lawyers, and support networks through video calls and other online communication platforms.
The three dormitories house a total of **284 WDLs** (Marikina: 146, Mandaluyong: 54, Muntinlupa: 84). The visits confirmed that AFICS-supported tablets play a critical role in maintaining family and legal connections and are highly valued by WDLs and facility staff. However, shortages of devices, educational resources, and basic welfare supplies remain significant challenges.
As AFICS Philippines closes its WDL program, the Outreach Committee will donate an additional electronic tablet per facility. In addition, AFICS-PHL will seek used but functioning computers for student WDLs, and add fundraising resources to supply hygiene kits to Muntinlupa WDLs.