

## MEDIA RELEASE

### OCBC BANK RALLIES SUPPORT FOR SECOND ROUND OF RM165,500 AID FOR 3,600 B40 INDIVIDUALS IN KENINGAU & KLANG VALLEY PPRs

*Phase 2 of the partnership involving Women of Will, OCBC Bank and several others will see to yet another two months of supplies reaching communities hard-hit by Covid-19*

Kuala Lumpur, 22 March 2021 – The 3,600 individuals from 688 B40 families in the hard-hit areas of Sook, Keningau (Sabah) and the Klang Valley – who received RM165,500 in aid in November last year from OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (OCBC Bank) and Kim Loong Resources Berhad – have begun receiving a second round of similar support for the next few months as well.

The second round of household essentials worth RM165,500, and totalling RM331,000 since the programme began, will tide the communities through the next two months as they struggle with the effects of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and help the women now focus even greater attention on rebuilding their livelihoods.

Of the RM165,500 a total of RM113,000 came from OCBC Bank and its CEO Dato' Ong Eng Bin, while



Women of Sook, Keningau giving their two thumbs up as a sign of appreciation after receiving the Phase Two food aid through the efforts of OCBC Bank and Women of Will

the remainder was from Kim Loong Resources and several other corporations including Bentley Music Academy Sdn Bhd, Bentley Music Sdn Bhd and Binastra Land Sdn Bhd.

Local NGO Women of Will (WOW), which has been working with the communities for several years now, is spearheading the second phase of the effort as well.

According to WOW, the unprecedented second round of Covid-19 support through OCBC Bank and the other organisations will ensure the momentum gained from the first round of contributions is used to full effect for helping the women of the community gradually rebuild their lives and not be left behind.

A total of 1,900 individuals in the Klang Valley and 1,700 in Keningau are set to benefit from this exercise.

In the Klang Valley, these include individuals from hard-hit *Projek Perumahan Rakyat* (PPRs) in areas like Ukay Indah, Ampang, Batu Muda, Sentul, Cheras, Keramat Pangsa, Lembah Subang, PJ, Jinjang, Seri Alam, Batu Muda, Sentul and Batu Caves.

In Keningau, the beneficiaries are from Tulid, Maatol, Mototou, Kebulu, Alab Lanas, Kuit, Lanas Stesen, Pinipi, Kilo, Mampisas, Bunang Ulu, Seri Menanti, Lalapakon, Menggarimot, Mansiat and Seselungon.

The essential items delivered to the households include rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar, milk powder, milk creamer, Milo, tea, biscuits, groundnuts, dried chili, red onions, garlic, potatoes, eggs, sardines, soap and detergent.

Speaking for WOW, President Datin Wira Goh Suet Lan said the latest round of support was critical for ensuring the rebuilding efforts of the community do not go off the rails.

“It takes an average of about RM250 to support a household for 2 months with essential items. Our review following the first phase of support reveals that 30% of women in these communities still cannot run their businesses due to MCO 2.0 and are stressed by the predicament they find themselves in. About 99% found the food aid to have made a critical difference to them during the CMCO late last year. We hope the Phase 2 contributions will

go at least some way in helping them to ease through this period up until about May 2021 when, hopefully, things begin to get better. In the interim, the rebuilding effort must not be neglected. We appreciate the efforts of OCBC Bank led by its CEO Dato' Ong Eng Bin and all the other contributors," she said.

According to Dato' Ong the Bank had anticipated that the funding from Phase 1 would not be sufficient and decided to prepare ahead of time to get the funds ready should a Phase 2 become necessary.

"Clearly, this has become the case. Although necessary, the MCO has inevitably caused significant distress to these hard-hit communities. We thank WOW and all the other partners for helping us to get the food aid directly to these communities. We hope they will be able to tide through these two months and that things will indeed get better after that," he said.

In conjunction with International Women's Day on 8 March, Dato' Ong also paid tribute to the role women play in hard-hit communities.

"Women tend to do the bulk of the work in holding communities together, especially during times of crisis. We will always be grateful to them," he said.

---

## **About Women Of Will**

Women Of Will is registered as a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Organisation with the Registrar of Societies Malaysia in March 2016 but has been active in Malaysia since 2009.

The primary objective of Women Of Will is to transform the lives of disadvantaged women and their communities through micro credit financing combined with Entrepreneurial Development Programs. Disadvantaged women are classified as Single Mothers, Widows, Abandoned Women and Women with Incapacitated Husbands living in poverty and uncertainty, struggling to get by day to day.

Supporting both international and national objectives in eradicating poverty, our work supports 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 1. No poverty, 5. Gender equality,

8. Decent work and economic growth, and 11. Sustainable cities and communities. Our efforts are focused on the bottom 40% household incomes (B40s), prioritizing single mothers as they are most economically vulnerable, having to support themselves and their children. This falls in line with the Government's 12th Malaysian Plan, which looks at shared prosperity and uplifting the lives of single mothers who constitute 80% of single parenthood families.

Since 2009, we have worked to give a new lease of life to the urban poor in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, and the rural poor in Sabah. These women have been empowered to initiate their own small businesses and today, are financially independent and able to care for themselves and their families without having to rely on handouts. Their business ventures have been developed to become sustainable business ventures that have shown growth and profitability, and most important, sustainability.

To date, WOW has empowered 2,100 women from 24 communities while developing over 23 Community Leaders in these communities. We are currently active in several PPR communities in the Klang Valley as well as in rural communities in Keningau, Sabah where we conduct similar programs focused on agriculture as a source of income.

---

## **About OCBC Bank**

OCBC Bank is the longest established Singapore bank, formed in 1932 from the merger of three local banks, the oldest of which was founded in 1912. It is now the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets and one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. Recognised for its financial strength and stability, OCBC Bank is consistently ranked among the World's Top 50 Safest Banks by Global Finance and has been named Best Managed Bank in Singapore by The Asian Banker.

OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of commercial banking, specialist financial and wealth management services, ranging from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to treasury, insurance, asset management and stockbroking services.

OCBC Bank's key markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. It has about 480 branches and representative offices in 19 countries and regions. These include over 230 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and over 70 branches and offices in Mainland China, Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR under OCBC Wing Hang.

OCBC Bank's private banking services are provided by its wholly-owned subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which operates on a unique open-architecture product platform to source for the best-in-class products to meet its clients' goals.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the oldest and most established life insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia. Its asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

OCBC Bank offers Islamic banking products and services in Malaysia through its wholly-owned subsidiary, OCBC Al-Amin Bank Berhad.

For more information, please visit [www.ocbc.com](http://www.ocbc.com).