



Amaq Gunati, a farmer, clears ditches in his onion garden in Sembalun Bumbung Village, Sembalun District, Indonesia, on 5 December 2020. In Sembalun District, there are a total of 1,054 families that received 4 million IDR (284 USD) each in cash-based assistance through a UNICEF programme in 2020 Photo Credit: UNICEF/UN0409855/Bea

Monthly Update - July 2021

JOINT SDG FUND FOR ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION (ASP)



INTRODUCTION

This monthly update aims to provide brief progress and result updates of the implementation of the Joint SDG Fund Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) to donor governments.

Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the UN in Indonesia is managing one Joint Programme (JP) on social protection, namely the abovementioned Joint SDG Fund. Social protection is the core protection scheme given its proven ability as an effective policy strategy to support populations in the aftershock of a natural disaster or crises.

Its purpose is to prevent affected communities from falling deeper into poverty and facing greater poverty-associated vulnerabilities.

This edition will highlight 2 program activities under the Joint SDG Fund.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET



JOINT WORK PLAN WITH THE MINISTRY OF VILLAGE, DISADVANTAGE REGIONS AND TRANSMIGRATION (MOV) ON ASP

MoV is currently managing two major social protection programs called the Direct Cash Transfer of Village Funds (*Bantuan Langsung Tunai* (BLT DD)) and the Cash for Work for Village Fund (*Padat Karya Tunai Desa* (PKTD DD)).

The 'Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (*Peraturan Pemerintah Pengganti Undang-Undang, Perpu*) No. 1/2020 Regarding the State's Financial System Stability Policy in Facing the Corona Virus Pandemic 2019 (COVID-19)', is re-instated through Law No.2/2020 (UU. No.02/2020), both of which provide the legal framework for both village funds based in Social Protection Program.

The aim of the BLT DD is to provide cash to poor or underprivileged families in the village to lessen adverse economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, while for PKTD DD, it is to empower marginalized and poor communities through utilizing available natural resources, labour, and local technology to reduce poverty, increase income, reduce stunting and lessen the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic in villages.

UNICEF and UNDP studies on Monitoring the BLT DD & PKTD include lessons learnt from the model of gender responsive cash for work by UN Women. These two important conclusions are: (1) the program has successfully reached households that were most affected by the pandemic (2) women have greater roles in deciding the use of money from BLT – DD (UNICEF – CEDS UNPAD, 2021, UNDP, 2021, UN Women, 2021). Therefore to ensure systematic implementation of gender responsive social protection, the recommendations include (1) altering targeting so that women are the target beneficiaries (2) identifying gender barriers which potentially prevent women from accessing the benefits of BLT – DD & PKTD (3) designing PKTD programs for women's empowerment (UNICEF – CEDS UNPAD, 2021 & UN Women, 2021).

UNICEF advocates the use of BLT – DD & PKTD as the model for cash for emergencies, due to its ability to reduce socio-economic impacts during shocks and reach vulnerable groups such as women. In addition, the village – based social protection programme has a significant role in financing community early action on climate change adaptation as well. For example, several villages in NTT used PKTD to finance the construction of water catchment areas to adapt to long droughts.

UNICEF – MoV agreed to implement the Joint Work Plan for ASP by working in partnership on five activities:

1. Developing MoV three guidelines on: (1) Social protection (2) Facilitating the Disaster Responsive Village (3) Facilitating the Climate Village;
2. Conducting the study on the Analysis of the Implementation of Village Fund (BLT – DD & PKTD) as Cash Transfer in Emergency;

3. Sub-National Advocacy for ASP in NTT;
4. Piloting of Climate and Disaster Responsive Village in NTT;
5. Workshop for ASP within MoV.

It is expected that through these activities, MoV will be better equipped to implement the upcoming government policy on ASP

PILOTING INNOVATIVE FINANCING IN WEST NUSA TENGGARA (NUSA TENGGARA BARAT (NTB))

For the purpose of identifying alternative schemes to upgrade Gol's social protection schemes, UNDP has been piloting innovative financing for social protection in two disaster-prone provinces (West Nusa Tenggara and Central Sulawesi). Last year, UNDP together with the University of Indonesia conducted a study on the modelling of Innovative Financing. The study identified aspects of innovation in financing, digitalization and fintech's role, potential beneficiaries, as well as potential partners. In terms of financing aspects, social impact bonds were identified as one of the most adaptable instruments to complement the national budget in providing funds for social protection programmes. Other funding sources identified include charities, religious donations such as zakat, infaq, and others, as well as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes from companies. Further, the study found that it is essential to provide incentives for parties, mainly in the form of tax reduction.

For piloting, two Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) called TRANSFORM and PKBI explore the use of CSR for social protection. In NTB, TRANSFORM works in six sub-districts in NTB targeting 1600 beneficiaries. There are two programmes which are currently implementing social assistance programs and innovative financing:

1. **Social Assistance.** This program provides basic needs for beneficiaries through electricity vouchers, water utility membership with the value of IDR 400.000/month. The distribution of the vouchers to beneficiaries will be done in partnership with Small Medium Enterprises.
2. **Innovative financing.** The program focuses on stimulating productive activity through training and providing stimulant funds.

CASH VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA) WORKING GROUP AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS (MOSA) RELEASES CVA GUIDELINES FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The CVA Working Group and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) developed, published and released two important documents relating to Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in Indonesia: (1) **"Cash and Voucher Assistance for Disaster Affected People: A Common Approach in Indonesia"** (2) **"Distribution Guidance for In-Kind Assistance (Food and Non-Food) and Non-Cash Assistance (Bantuan Non Tunai (BANTU) during the COVID-19 Pandemic"**. Both of these guidelines support government bodies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and other non-state actors to coordinate and implement CVA for communities especially during emergency in Indonesia.

For the Joint SDG Fund, working in partnership with the CVA Working Group is essential. The CVA Working Group is a multi-stakeholder working group led by the Ministry of Social Affairs. This working group consists of the

United Nations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and civil society. The Joint SDG Fund aims to support structured coordination mechanisms for ASP in humanitarian action by strengthening the national and sub-national mechanism for the Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) Working Group. For this, the Joint SDG Fund ensures that CVA is applied in a systematic and coordinated manner to contribute to the preparedness and response to disasters.

The Joint SDG Fund supports the annual work plan of the CVA Working Group in which one of the activities is to facilitate the translation of two CVA Guidelines to Bahasa. This is the initial step toward the dissemination event of the guidelines to the wider stakeholders both at the national and sub-national level.

- A. The **"Cash and Voucher Assistance for Disaster Affected People: A Common Approach in Indonesia"**, is a simple guidebook for stakeholders to understand the basic concepts of CVA, with examples and references from Indonesia and other countries. It provides explanations for its use in humanitarian situations, the elements for effective implementation and insight into why it has not worked in the past. These are key concepts for stakeholders to understand and needed to implement this type of aid modality.
- B. The **"Distribution Guidance for In-Kind Assistance (Food and Non-Food) and Non-Cash Assistance (BANTU) during the COVID-19 Pandemic"** provides guidance to actors on how to distribute in-kind assistance with the correct health protocols during a pandemic. These include hand washing, mask wearing and keeping physical distance. This document was distributed across provinces and districts, to all relevant stakeholders so that they could continue to distribute much needed assistance. As in-kind support is still the most common form of assistance provided by the government, the production of this guideline was critical.

Titi Moektijasih, Humanitarian Analyst at UN OCHA and member of the CVA Working Group, asserts that the role of the CVA framework in ASP (as well as the benefit) is leveraging and collecting socio-economic data of social protection beneficiaries from disaster response activities. In specifics, humanitarian actors such as the NGOs in the CVA Working Group, have long-term experience in distributing cash and voucher assistance to disaster affected populations. This initiative piggy backs government social protection programmes during shock events, particularly in reaching disaster affected populations not eligible for the Family Hope Program (*Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH), Sembako program, etc. It is expected that the Government could add this list of beneficiaries to the Unified Database for Social Protection (*Data Terpadu Kesejahteraan Sosial* (DTKS)).

For the CVA Working Group, the integration of CVA as a modality of ASP will improve not only disaster response but also the *preparedness* phase. This includes advocacy on the use of social protection for climate action, for instance cash for drought and cash for work on small scale mitigation plan.

Further, the CVA Working Group values the collaboration with the Joint SDG Fund:

"The CVA Working Group can work faster than before, and there is additional resources and energy to advocate CVA to the government and other partners"

Leonita Setyawati, Humanitarian Cash and Economic Programming Advisor, Save the Children

