

Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



Let me begin by echoing the UN Secretary-General in that: "No country can overcome this COVID-19 crisis in isolation". Only together can we protect healthcare workers and the world's most vulnerable people. By working together, we can revive our economies, end this pandemic, and recover. Under the spirit of togetherness and solidarity, the UN team in Indonesia and the Indonesian Government has increased resilience in the community and reduced transmissions – by accelerating the nation's vaccination efforts and providing 1 million antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDTs). Together, we help students and teachers return to school safely during the pandemic. Together, we empower more women impacted by the crisis by securing temporary income sources with the cash-for-work programme.

In light of these achievements, I share with you stories from UN agencies in Indonesia and how innovation, shared knowledge, and expertise can help people recover from the pandemic and overcome inequality and poverty barriers. These stories of adaptability and resilience of women, children, teachers, people living with HIV, refugees, migrant workers, and farmers inspire and motivate us at United Nations in Indonesia to work collectively to support and empower people and their livelihoods.

Lastly, I want to make a special mention of the recent Girls in ICT Day 2021. It was an honour to represent the UN in Indonesia on such an important topic around gender equality. I am pleased to see the campaign had a positive outcome for female students who won the multimedia competition. In the spirit of the Girls in ICT Day event - let's continue to elevate awareness of socio-economic issues such as digital literacy, especially for women and girls in coping with COVID-19 to keep vital services and businesses going.

Valerie Julliard

UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia



Celebrating Girls in ICT: A Call to Leave No One Offline



On April 22nd, 2021, the United Nations in Indonesia celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Girls in ICT at the High-Level Segment. The event was held virtually with speakers from the United Nations in Indonesia, ITU Asia Pacific, the Ministry of Communications and Informatics, the Ministry of Women and Child Protection in Indonesia, and the National Disaster Management Agency. Speakers emphasised the importance of girls and women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) across all sectors to bridge the gender divide.

The speakers discussed the role of information communications and technologies (ICTs) in our lives and how it has become a game-changer in many ways. Despite ICT's significant impact to society, in Indonesia, the gender divide persists: despite females making up 59% of all graduates, only 35% graduate from technology degrees, and even less make it to senior management roles.

The COVID-19 pandemic and disaster situations signal an urgency to increase digital literacy and access to STEM-related fields for all females. Their inclusion in ICT, particularly in the face of the pandemic, will empower females to cope with the socio-economic fallouts from unprecedented problems. There is no reason why girls and women should be left behind.

This year's Girls in ICT campaign invited students from high school and university categories in Indonesia to participate in a multimedia content competition. Six students impressed the judges with their creative submissions and received cash prizes and scholarships. The campaign reminded us that the full participation of girls and women in ICT is essential to help achieve gender equality, and build stronger communities and economies.

Read the event coverage here: <https://twitter.com/UNinIndonesia/status/1385094021467361281>



Empowering Women Impacted by COVID-19 through Cash-for-Work Programme



Women are the key driving force of the garment industry, accounting for 80 percent of the garment sector workforce in Indonesia. However, mobility restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have badly impacted key sectors of export-oriented manufacturing, including the garment sector. As a result, women garment workers have lost their jobs and livelihoods due to the closure of factories.

In response, UN Women and Yayasan Care Peduli formed a partnership with funding from the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN COVID-19 MPTF) and the Government of Japan. The initiative supports 300 women garment workers in Sukabumi, West Java,

through cash-based interventions such as cash-for-work, cash, and voucher assistance.

Since January 2021, this gender-responsive programme empowers women to secure temporary income sources to survive the pandemic. The programme recognises gender dynamics as problematic within households, therefore engaging male partners of women beneficiaries in training sessions to promote gender awareness and change social norms for equal relationship dynamics within the family home. For more information: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/cash-for-work-programme-empowers-women-impacted-by-covid-19>

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Accelerating COVID-19 Testing with One Million Antigen-Detecting Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits Delivery

@Baik Sunarwati – Provincial Health Laboratory Papua Jayapura



To support ongoing efforts in expanding COVID-19 testing strategies in Indonesia, WHO provided one million antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDTs) to the Ministry of Health on 13 March 2021 for distribution to community health centres (puskesmas) and other points of care across the country.

Timely and reliable testing is crucial to control and manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Compared to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, Ag-RDTs perform faster and are simpler to use. The Ag-RDTs provide results in less than 30 minutes and significantly contribute to enabling quick isolation of cases and timely contact tracing to curb COVID-19 transmission. The simplicity of use provides a major advantage to conduct tests in areas with limited access to laboratories with PCR testing or a long turnaround time for PCR test results. For more information: <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/17-03-2021-who-provides-one-million-antigen-detecting-rapid-diagnostic-test-kits-to-accelerate-covid-19-testing-in-indonesia>



@Sabrewolf

Joining Forces to Support Indonesia's Vulnerable Groups with Entrepreneurship and Skills Development

Surveys conducted by the Indonesia AIDS Coalition show that people living with HIV and key populations are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic—more than 80% of 529 respondents experienced a reduction or loss of income due to the pandemic. With rising income inequality and job insecurity in the country, the UN allocated a US\$ 1.7 million funding package for women and other vulnerable groups with the objective to help protect livelihoods from the socio-economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, a joint project was launched in early March 2021, between the UNAIDS Country Office for Indonesia, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The project aims to empower vulnerable groups, including women, people living with HIV, key populations, refugees, migrant workers, transgender people, and those in disadvantaged regions with financial support, training on entrepreneurship and business development and access to skills development and employment. Read the full story:



@Crisis Response Mechanism Consortium

https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2021/march/20210326_support-vulnerable-people-indonesia



indonesia.un.org



UN in Indonesia

Helping Students and Educators to Return to School Safely During the Pandemic



A year into the COVID-19 pandemic, most of Indonesia's 68 million students still have to study from home. Data shows that 47 per cent of children study just 1-2 hours per day and 35 per cent said they had poor or no internet access. Also, about a third of children say they have a hard time concentrating on subjects. However, as of March 2021, districts in about half of the country's 34 provinces have started opening some schools.

UNICEF has supported the Government's efforts to keep children learning during the pandemic by providing modules and learning materials and training for parents and teachers on distance learning, including psycho-social support for children. UNICEF is now working with the Ministry of Education and Culture to make sure schools are ready to re-open when the time comes. [UNICEF's RapidPro](https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/coronavirus/stories/back-to-school-pandemic), (mobile tool) that collects real-time data via online communication channels in conjunction with updated information from schools, will determine whether schools have met health protocol requirements before re-opening. According to UNICEF's Education Specialist Nugroho Warman, "there will be a special focus on remote and rural areas." Learn more: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/coronavirus/stories/back-to-school-pandemic>



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Supporting COVID-19 Vaccination Drive with Cold Chain Equipment

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), with financial support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, handed over ten vaccine refrigerators to support the Government of Indonesia's COVID-19 vaccination drive in April 2021. Upon the Government of Indonesia's request, the vaccine refrigerators and cold chain equipment (to safely storage vaccines) was distributed to health facilities across eight cities across the country, namely Batam, Bintan, Kupang, Makassar, Medan, Pekanbaru, Sidoarjo, and Tangerang.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM has worked alongside partners to ensure refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia are included in the COVID-19 response measures. Such measures include, sustained community outreach efforts, increased prevention strategies inside accommodations, and delivery of masks and hygiene supplies to refugees. Health authorities and IOM also facilitated COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, case management, and further preparedness measures for isolation and quarantine. For more information: <https://indonesia.iom.int/news/iom-delivers-vaccine-refrigerators-cold-chain-equipment-support-indonesia%E2%80%99s-covid-19>



Report: Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Needed to Lift More Women Out of Poverty



Many women in forest areas and rural parts of Indonesia depend on forestry, water and climate-vulnerable agriculture for their livelihoods. Women, especially the poorest, lack key access—such as land, credits and information and technology—to prepare for and adapt to climate change. According to a new report launched in March 2021 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), climate finance mechanisms need to incorporate both women and men's needs to mitigate the impact of climate change on women and the poor. The report looked at five national financing mechanisms in Indonesia to learn more about incorporating gender inclusiveness. It examined programs funded through Indonesia's national budget tagged across seven themes: climate change mitigation, adaptation, and gender responsiveness. To read the report's key findings and for more information: <https://www.id.undp.org/content/indonesia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/Gender-Responsive-Climate-Finance.html>

A Chatbot Facilitates Critical Nutrition Information between Families and Health Workers

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Many families have limited knowledge of how to care for severely wasted children. And social restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic has not made it easy for parents to access health services. Today, health workers in East Nusa Tenggara Province are using a “chatbot” to provide critical nutrition support to families. The chatbot is a pilot programme launched by UNICEF and the local government in Kupang Municipality – one of 22 districts and municipalities in the province with a high prevalence of malnutrition.



The chatbot (used via WhatsApp) is essentially an online counselling platform for parents and health workers to discuss children's health and nutrition. It also gives mothers as primary carers and other family members access to resources and information to ensure their children get the best nutrition possible. Read the full article: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/coronavirus/stories/chatbot-nutrition-provide-critical-nutrition-support-families>

Organic Agriculture Systems Promote Healthy Rice and Rural Women Farmers' Leadership



©FAO

Gender-gaps still exist within conventional farming systems in Indonesia. Conventional farming poses health risks with the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

The benefits of organic farming systems that are gender inclusive and use innovative farming techniques can yield higher-value produce that are safe and healthy to consume. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), along with the district government of Sanggau (West Kalimantan), supported the shift to organic agriculture through knowledge sharing around a “healthy ecosystem approach” rather than relying on agricultural chemical inputs. The success can already be seen at the “Organic Rice Farming Systems Workshop” in February 2021 where hundreds of farmers shared stories of how organic farming has changed their lives.

Organic systems also help revive women's leadership in the community. At the end of the project, Yosefa Defi, a female farmer in Sekayam, West Kalimantan, was elected as the Subur Jaya farmer group's head due to her leadership in promoting organic farming. Through FAO's support in shifting to organic agriculture, farms can play their part in reducing harmful environmental impacts and empower the lives of rural farmers. With this project, the Ministry of Agriculture has successfully prioritised organic agriculture in border areas, opened greater market accessibility to neighbouring countries and increased farmers' income in rural areas. Learn more: <http://www.fao.org/indonesia/news/detail-events/en/c/1380929/>