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MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



As all of us face the monumental challenge of building back from the ravages of COVID-19, we must also embrace this moment as an opportunity to recover better.

We are at an unprecedented juncture in our history: one that calls for extraordinary collaboration, science-based solutions to shared adversity, and a global reckoning over our relationship with our planet. The principles upon which the United Nations was founded 76 years ago have rarely felt as urgent, and I continue to be inspired by the vigour with which our colleagues across the United Nations in Indonesia work to enshrine them every day.

Fewer than nine years remain to achieve the 2030 Global Goals. Although it's important not to downplay the magnitude of the task still ahead, Indonesia had been making steady progress along key development metrics since adopting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2012. The pandemic has stalled that progress, but we will not allow it to be derailed.

The challenge we face is considerable. In 2020, Indonesia's national poverty rate increased to 10.19% from 9.22% in 2019, representing a 3-year setback. Meanwhile, the economic fallout from COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including low-income workers, migrant workers, refugees, women, children, and people with disabilities.

The UN in Indonesia has committed to mitigating that fallout. We are supporting village health workers to become leaders in the fight against malaria through financial incentives. We are equipping young women with digital skills to widen the career paths available to them. We are helping to safeguard Indonesian gold miners with new mercury-free technology. And we are strengthening the capacity of communities to protect and reintegrate migrant workers returning during the pandemic, among many other initiatives.

Yes, vaccines remain our best hope to stop the spread of COVID-19. And developed countries must do more to bolster vaccination programs in countries with fewer resources. But in our efforts to contain the virus, we must remember that health and economic security are interconnected. Access to essential health services and access to economic opportunities go hand in hand; healthy economies and healthy populations lean on one another.

To ensure a resilient recovery from the crisis and put us back on track towards sustainable development, we must promote decent work to improve living standards and empower people out of poverty. That is at the heart of what it means to recover better.

Valerie Julliard
UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia



Countering an 'infodemic' amid a pandemic



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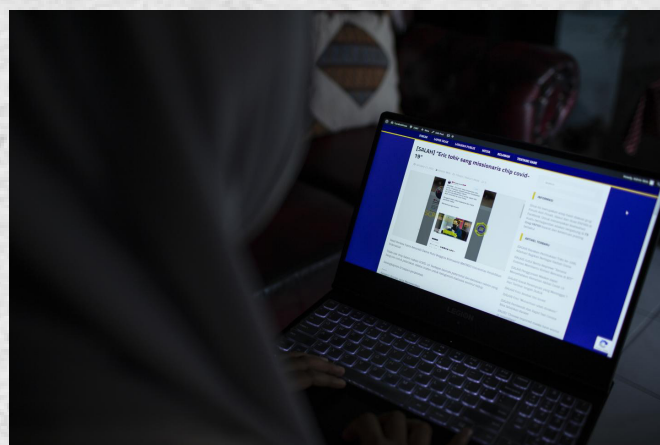
As Indonesia moves ahead with its COVID-19 vaccination program, the need for effective public outreach is critical to achieve an ambitious target of inoculating 181 million people by March 2022. However, the danger of misinformation is stirring up fear, anxiety, and false cures, undermining prevention and vaccination efforts.

A survey by the Indonesian Communications and Information Ministry and Katadata Insight Center (KIC) revealed 64% to 79% of respondents could not recognise misinformation online and primarily found information through social media. UNICEF Indonesia has proactively joined forces with local entities to curb an 'infodemic' of false and misleading information since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. For example, UNICEF and MAFINDO developed a 'Hoax Busters' section with over 870 articles evaluating online content and helped launch the official www.COVID19.go.id website. They also developed an "Inoculation Project", an innovative approach against misinformation by tracking COVID-19-related topics on social media platforms in the entire country.

The rapid pace at which misinformation spreads means that hoaxes often outpace fact checks - highlighting the need for more proactive messaging and the need to stop misinformation from circulating. As such, taking a pre-emptive approach can equip people with awareness of misinformation, preventing

them from believing in future hoaxes. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health to share these techniques with over 92,000 vaccinators, who are considered the most trusted source of information related to COVID-19 vaccination.

The early results of these initiatives are encouraging. A Nielsen survey conducted between March and April 2021 found that vaccine acceptance among Indonesians has increased 20 per cent since the end of 2020. More than half (51 per cent) now say they are willing to get the vaccine. With Indonesia continuing to record new COVID-19 cases daily, any hope for a return to normal depends on the public quickly acting on accurate information that is delivered to them. To read the full story, click here: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/coronavirus/stories/countering-infodemic-amid-pandemic>



Boosting COVID-19 response efforts through \$2.4 million health equipment delivery



The COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia has caused severe health challenges and long-term socio-economic impacts. In partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UNOPS delivered more than \$2.4 million worth of personal protective equipment, testing and monitoring equipment to help support Indonesia's COVID-19 response.

As the UN's infrastructure and procurement specialist, UNOPS supports Indonesian government response and recovery efforts, through the delivery of personal

protective equipment, as well as COVID-19 PCR testing and monitoring equipment to public transport stations in the Jakarta Greater Area. To strengthen preventative measures, KOICA and UNOPS are jointly delivering public health monitoring items, such as thermal imaging cameras, thermal screen monitors, and escalator handrail UV light sterilizers, face masks and other protection supplies.

During the uncertain months and years ahead, efforts to strengthen the health infrastructure will be crucial. It goes beyond meeting the immediate needs through procurement. The partnership is a positive step towards supporting the Government of Indonesia's efforts to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and increase capacity of national health systems. For more info: <https://indonesia.un.org/en/127403-koica-and-unops-partner-strengthen-indonesias-pandemic-response>

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Women health workers scaling up digital literacy in managing COVID-19 vaccine supply chain

Advances in digital technology have enabled us to innovate at unprecedented levels. However, the 'digital divide' in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is more apparent during the pandemic. Women have significantly less access to technological advancements, which poses a risk of them being left behind as the country works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP's SMILE (Sistem Monitoring Imunisasi Logistik Secara Elektronik) program recognised this issue and implemented their innovative technological solution across 34 provinces. Through SMILE, the role of women is being realised as crucial to expand the program, and also to strengthen Indonesia's vaccine supply chain. To put it quite frankly, the success of Indonesia's vaccination efforts is not possible without women. For example, 90% of participants in UNDP's training of 20,000 frontline health workers were women. Furthermore, according to a SMILE training program Coordinator, women health workers showed high determination and commitment to support the program, despite having to juggle between professional and family commitments.

These unique attributes of strong female health workers significantly influenced the success of the SMILE program. It is amazing how amidst the pandemic, online

platforms can be used to train staff which is a significant feat in remote areas of the country without good internet facilities. Equally impressive, is how digital literacy is scaling up in rural parts of the country through the use of online platforms to manage vaccine data.

These inspiring stories should enable stakeholders to reflect and act towards building an inclusive environment and close the gender digital divide. When women are empowered in ICT, we will benefit from increased access to information and also improve women's livelihoods while ensuring they are not left behind. Read the full story here: <https://www.id.undp.org/content/indonesia/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/Wider-access-on-digital-literacy.html>



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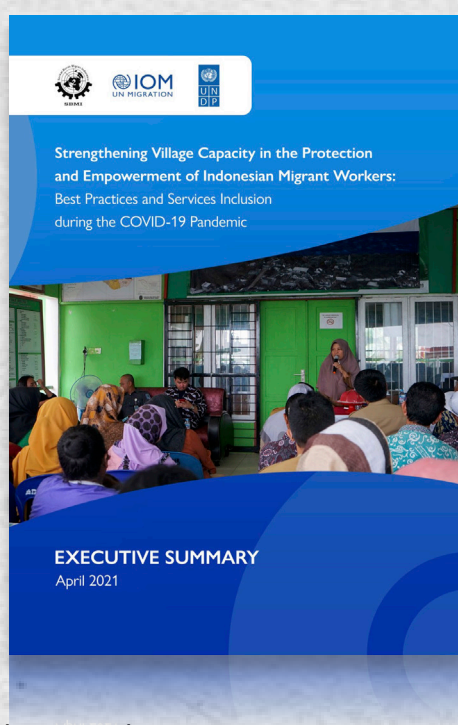


UN in Indonesia

Report: Strengthening village capacity in protecting and empowering returning migrant workers

A new joint UN report launched in April 2021 indicates that returning Indonesian migrant workers play a significant role in developing their home villages but only when they are protected. Villages must ensure end-to-end protection of Indonesian migrant workers, meaning villages have a responsibility to coordinate and strengthen their capacity to address issues connected with heavy social, economic and health impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) recommends greater support for village authorities to boost their capacity to better improve the well-being and livelihoods



of returning migrant workers and migrant-sending households.

The study presents an opportunity to elaborate better understanding about the linkages between development and migration, which have not been sufficiently addressed in the Indonesian context. The report also provides guidance on challenges and opportunities to support the Government's priority for the protection, reintegration, and empowerment of Indonesian migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is believed that more emphasis on inclusion will ensure gender-responsive and improved protection of migrant workers, particularly at the village level.

To read the full report, click here: https://indonesia.iom.int/sites/indonesia/files/publication/Study%20Report_Executive%20Summary_IOM-UNDP-SBMI.pdf

Village malaria workers as leaders against malaria in Purworejo

The role of village malaria workers in Purworejo, Central Java, used to be limited to malaria sensitisation with little incentive for their work. However, the Purworejo District Health Office (DHO) later saw the importance of combating malaria at the village level and implemented WHO recommendations to invest in village health care workers to control malaria. As such, the DHO trained more village malaria workers and doubled their monthly stipend, and empowered them to lead in malaria surveillance. As a result, from 1400 malaria cases in 2016, Purworejo DHO recorded only 7 imported cases in 2020.

Inspired by this local initiative, the Ministry of Health adopted this strategy of malaria cadres to lead malaria early detection and treatment in special regions. The elimination of malaria requires the cooperation of cross-sectoral departments, funds, robust surveillance, provision of long-lasting insecticidal nets and repellents, quality diagnostics, availability of antimalarial drugs, and trained village malaria workers - our front-line health workers to protect people. For more information: <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-05-2021-how-village-malaria-workers-lead-the-fight-against-malaria-in-purworejo>



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[who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-05-2021-how-village-malaria-workers-lead-the-fight-against-malaria-in-purworejo](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-05-2021-how-village-malaria-workers-lead-the-fight-against-malaria-in-purworejo)





Handwashing helps schools safely reopen across Indonesia

Handwashing with soap is one of the most effective ways to protect against COVID-19 infection. Yet not everyone knows how to do it properly. As schools prepare to fully reopen during the pandemic, many have limited means to implement COVID-19 health protocols. As of December 2019, only 1 out of 10 schools in Aceh had access to proper water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

In response, the local government, supported by UNICEF and Yayasan Aceh Hijau, intervened in a number of Islamic boarding schools in Banda Aceh, South Aceh and Pidie Districts. Meanwhile, the government in East Lombok has received support from UNICEF to install several handwashing facilities in schools. To ensure that students and teachers are safe when they return to the classroom, hand hygiene is more critical than ever. To achieve universal access to hand hygiene, individuals and organisations are working at the forefront to ensure children can continue learning in a safe and healthy environment. For the full story: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/coronavirus/stories/handwashing-helps-schools-safely-reopen-across-indonesia>



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Promoting employability of female youth in STEM sector

The rise of digital job skills means that more opportunities for girls and young women to participate in training programs to increase their employability and competitiveness are required for a better future. In early 2021, the “Women Digital Development Skill Up” by ILO, Clevio Coder Camp and Axioo Class Program concluded their training program where 667 female students and graduates from vocational schools received web development skills.

Unlike most training programs, this program focuses on technical and soft skill development, so that participants can be ready to enter the fast-changing world of work. According to three participants, their soft skills have improved since participating in the program, such as communications skills, confidence, and desire to keep learning. According to Siska Oetami, founder of Clevio Coder Camp, challenges in preparing graduates ready for work in the 21st century are related to the development of soft skills that cannot be replaced by technology. These include the ability to continue learning and produce innovation, creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration as well as responsibility. Meanwhile,

Samuel Lauw, Axioo's CEO, said that today's industry tends to pay more focus on soft skills as they are important to adapt with new changes. “Soft skills such as willingness to learn, for example, are the basic skills that make humans always be ahead of artificial intelligence and automation,” he concluded. To learn more: https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_783052/lang--en/index.htm

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Overcoming behavioural barriers to utilising digital tools for women business owners



More Indonesian women entrepreneurs are using digital tools to keep their businesses afloat. While this trend offers promising opportunities to help women business owners cope during the pandemic, digitalization does not benefit all of them equally. Besides structural barriers such as infrastructure and network coverage, several of the barriers that prevent them from utilising digital tools are behavioural. This is the case for many women “necessity business owners” who make up the majority of Indonesian women entrepreneurs and are typically running a business out of necessity from their homes while juggling domestic responsibilities.

Pulse Lab Jakarta discovered that these behavioural barriers are the “sticky floors” that are holding women back from growing more comfortable and skillful in using digital tools for their businesses. Read more about behavioural archetypes from this study and to learn more about each archetype's characteristics and challenges that can help inform design opportunities: <https://medium.com/pulse-lab-jakarta/pulse-stories-beyond-sticky-floors-92596af3c5a5>

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UN in Indonesia

New technology to combat mercury use among Indonesian gold miners



For decades, 'golden village' in Hulawa, Gorontalo, have turned to gold as their primary source of livelihood. However, exposure to highly toxic mercury in this industry can be life-threatening.

UNDP, through its Global Environment Facility-funded Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (GOLD-ISMIA) project—part of the global [planetGOLD programme](#)—has recently introduced a new technology using micro leaching tanks and cyanide which will make it safer for small miners to conduct the extraction process without using mercury. In collaboration with Indonesia's Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, UNDP conducted a one-week trial of the leaching tanks in February 2021 and got the Hulawa village residents excited for this new technology, as they have long called for safer alternatives to the use of mercury and were excited about the new technology.

Though still in a prototype stage, the micro leaching tanks hold the key to stemming the harmful effects of artisanal mining on human health and the environment.

The introduction of this new mercury-free technology is part of a long road to achieving widespread practice of responsible and safe mining, a key objective of UNDP's GOLD-ISMIA project. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Project also collaborates with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. To find out more: <https://www.id.undp.org/content/indonesia/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/New-technology-to-combat-mercury.html>



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Introducing Belitong Island: Indonesia's Newest UNESCO Global Geopark



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For centuries, Belitong Island had been known principally for its deposits of cassiterite, the mineral mined for tin. But today its unique geology is attracting international interest of a different kind. On April 21, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced eight new Global Geoparks. Among them is Belitong, and more than 200 small islands in the marine area surrounding it.

“Belitong is a significant addition to Indonesia's growing number of UNESCO Global Geoparks,”

says Dr. Hans Thulstrup, the senior program officer at UNESCO's office in Jakarta.

Belitong's new status comes at a critical moment for ecosystem conservation. Located on historic maritime trading and migration routes, Belitong is home to over 288,000 people of diverse cultures including the Sawang Tribe. It is also home to several endemic plant and animal species, like the Tarsier Belitong. UNESCO's Global Geopark status is designed to protect Belitong's unique geology and culture, boost green tourism and encourage environmental best practices.

The area's unique Tor granite landforms, remnants of meteorite impacts, mining heritage and diverse local culture make it a site of significant tourism potential, Thulstrup adds, but its complex ecology requires careful, integrated management to ensure the island's long-term sustainability: “The UNESCO Global Geopark designation will make a significant contribute towards this goal.”

Learn more here: <https://indonesia.un.org/en/128882-introducing-belitong-island-indonesias-newest-unesco-global-geopark>