

Newsletter

Issue 11

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MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



On behalf of the UN team in Indonesia, allow me to extend “Tujuh Belas-an” greetings to you all as Indonesia commemorates its 76th Independence Day this month. This is an auspicious moment both to reflect upon the vast societal, economic, and political shifts this country has experienced throughout its history, and to recognize that the set of circumstances it faces today presents a unique challenge. What has remained constant, in the past and present, is Indonesia’s incredible resilience. It is that resilience I would like to honour today as I reaffirm the UN’s commitment to supporting peace and sustainable development in the country.

Resilience and innovation are the fuels that propel alliances between local stakeholders. They are the qualities that will enable us to recover better from the pandemic and advance the SDGs. Look around: the scale of the challenge we face is stark. But, what is also evident is the profound impact you are all having at the community level. For example, UNDP’s “SMILE” online application with the Ministry of Health has enhanced vaccination services across the country and bolstered Indonesia’s resilience to the surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths. ILO’s training programmes empower people with disabilities with digital marketing skills to improve their income and employment opportunities at a time when the pandemic has ravaged micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Meanwhile, Pulse Lab Jakarta and PT Kereta Api Indonesia have used disaggregated data to advance more inclusive transport services for vulnerable groups. This initiative will help more people get back to work after COVID-19 related restrictions on movement lift. Technology is integral to all of these solutions, highlighting the importance of making clean, affordable, sustainable energy available across the archipelago.

Yes, the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of progress, but it has also reminded us how resilient we are when we work together. Innovations that pair digital technology with sustainable energy have been critical to this resilience. They have enabled remote work and home-schooling, the continuity of critical infrastructure, and the development and storage of vaccines.

But the pandemic has also underscored deep inequalities in access to reliable energy and technology, and to the lifesaving health care that depends on it. We must seize this opportunity to enhance collaboration and progress toward SDG 7 for affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. As the examples I mentioned above show, equitable access to technology and energy can power positive economic and social outcomes for people who need the most support, which ultimately increases the growth and resilience of every country.

So, as we celebrate Indonesia’s achievements over the past 76 years, let’s also reflect on the inspirational example of this country’s resilience and adaptability. That should inspire us to find solutions that empower people to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic, and promote a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Valerie Julliard

UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia



Papuan “Pad Man” Breaks Taboos Empowering Girls in School



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The “Papuan Pad Man”, formally known as Demianus (Demi) Dike, is breaking down misconceptions about periods in Papua. In a 2015 study, UNICEF found that one in six girls in Indonesia skipped school while menstruating because they did not have sanitary pads. Demi, an educator on menstrual health and hygiene management (MHM) at the Noken Papua Foundation, is determined to change this trend by helping girls realise their right to health and hygiene, even while at school.

With support from the District Government, UNICEF and the Noken Papua Foundation, Demi facilitated a three-day workshop on MHM with 20 female and

6 male students from primary and junior secondary schools in Jayapura District who their teachers and headmasters accompanied. Within 2 hours, everyone learnt how to make reusable sanitary pads from cloth. And students received training to become adolescent health cadres (Kader Kesehatan Remaja) to educate their peers on MHM in their respective schools.

UNICEF Indonesia has been mainstreaming MHM at both the national and sub-national levels. The work of local partners like Demi proves that men, especially in Papua, can understand the importance of menstrual health and hygiene and help girls manage their period in a safe and dignified manner. [Read the full story here.](#)

Digital Marketing Empowers People with Disabilities in the World of Work



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What would you do for work if you were blind? Kenichi Satria Kaffah was born with low vision and became completely blind when he was 14 or 15 due to glaucoma, an eye disease that causes blindness. Despite this, he had the vision to become a successful entrepreneur. With access to digital marketing workshops, he gained the skills needed to keep up with the fast-changing world of work and earn his own money. Stories like Kenichi's are why vulnerable groups must be empowered to build new skills to gain income and employment.



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In 2020, only 2.8 per cent of people with disabilities in Indonesia had higher education degrees (college or equivalent), while 21.22 per cent never went to school. Meanwhile, amongst non-disabled people, 9.48 per cent obtained higher education degrees, and only 3.38 per cent never went to school. To reduce this gap in the workforce and empower people with disabilities, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is providing training programmes to help vulnerable groups access new opportunities for greater equality and inclusivity. [Read the full story here.](#)

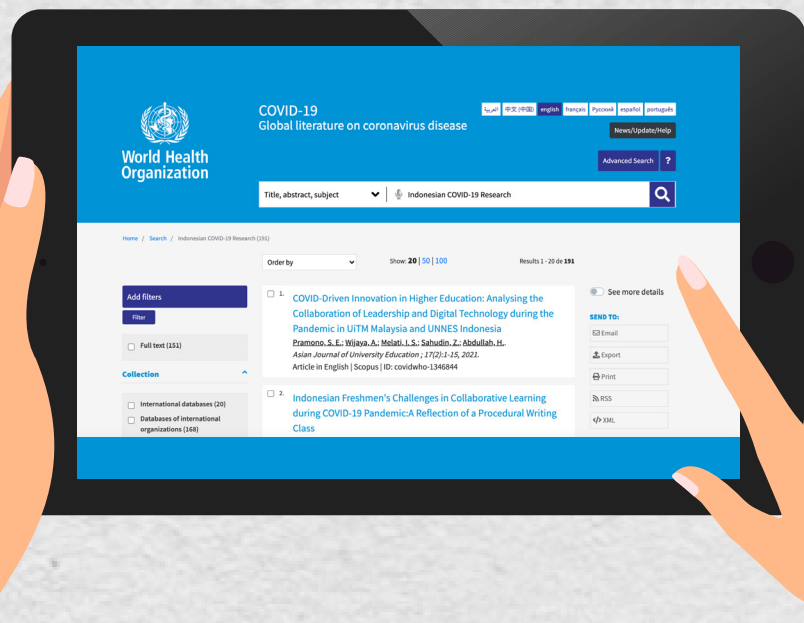
WHO Database: Worldwide Access to Indonesia's Scientific Research on COVID-19

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There has been an exponential increase in research publications by Indonesian researchers. However, only some of them have been published internationally and indexed in international bibliographic databases. To ensure worldwide access to Indonesian national research on COVID-19, the World Health Organization (WHO) indexed these publications in the WHO COVID-19 Research Database.

As of July 2021, the Database contains more than 2,000 COVID-19 publications from Indonesia. Most of the articles in Bahasa Indonesia have received strong support from the National Institute of Health Research and Development. Dr N. Paranietharan, WHO Representative to Indonesia, says, "Research evidence is an indispensable instrument for ensuring quality health policies. We at WHO believe that local research complements supranational evidence to provide more appropriate options for local decision-making. And it also enables tailored, targeted strategies for national pandemic response. Indonesia's investment in

science, commitment in sharing knowledge and active efforts in accessing and utilising research evidence are invaluable to advance pandemic preparedness in the future." The WHO COVID-19 Research Database will be updated monthly to increase the visibility and usability of Indonesia's national resources for both local and global COVID-19 responses. For more information, [click here.](#)



Eco-Prints Help Return Livelihoods for Women in Quake-Hit Lombok



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“Eco-print is our way of life now... it has helped us recover our livelihoods after the earthquake,” said Mayani, the leader of the Nina Genem sewing group of nine women. The pandemic has given the community in North Lombok a rare business opportunity to revive their livelihoods through sustainable fashion with eco-prints made from leaves and natural dye techniques.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports this initiative through PALUMA, a local community group that helped to establish the Nina Genem group. The art of eco-prints was introduced

after the women produced 7,000 masks for the North Lombok COVID-19 Task Force. Now, with business support from PALUMA, the women are ready to pitch their project to the local government.

Groups like Nina Genem should inspire the need to empower women to build socio-economic resilience. When women are empowered, they can help their communities return to normalcy after a disaster. As we work towards building a sustainable future, the eco-prints initiative contributes to maintaining the balance between humanity and nature. [Full story here.](#)

SMILE's E-Learning Platform Aims to Enhance Vaccination Services Across Indonesia

SMILE is a mobile and web-based application for immunisation and logistics monitoring systems, developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Indonesia's Ministry of Health. Although SMILE has helped health workers monitor vaccine logistics since 2018, the system launched an e-learning platform in July 2021 that has so far benefited more than 10,000 health workers. Since the launch, health workers across Indonesia who experience COVID-19 mobility restrictions can now access online tutorials and 24-hour support via WhatsApp to strengthen the monitoring of vaccine logistics across the country. SMILE hopes its success can encourage other countries to focus on enhancing education through technology against the pandemic. [Learn more here.](#)



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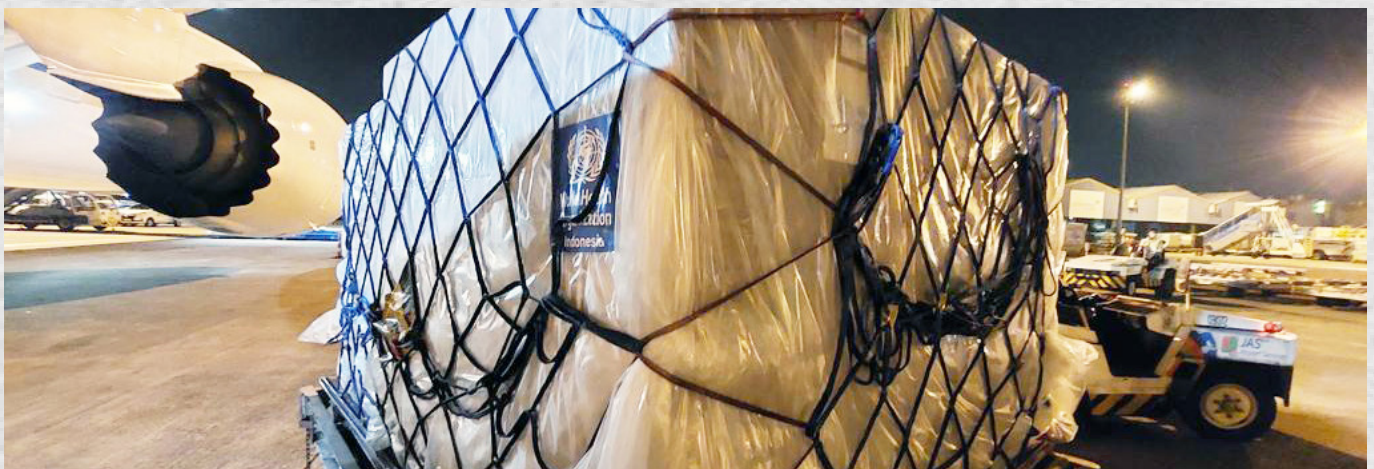
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UN in Indonesia

Providing 700 Oxygen Concentrators and Critical Supplies in Solidarity to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic

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With the unprecedented spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the country, Indonesia is experiencing a significant strain on its health system. One of the immediate challenges is providing a sufficient supply of oxygen for COVID-19 patients.

To help remedy the oxygen shortage, the World Health Organization (WHO) procured additional lifesaving supplies of 700 oxygen concentrators and other critical equipment. This batch arrived on

Friday, August 6th and will be distributed to health facilities by the Ministry of Health. According to Dr N Paranietharan, WHO representative in Indonesia, "The mobilization of critical COVID-19 supplies for Indonesia show solidarity to address a global threat". Indonesia needs national and international action to address the severe health issues of oxygen shortage while many hospitals and intensive care units have reached max capacity. [Read the full story here.](#)

Raising Awareness of Mercury Poisoning on Pregnant Women Miners

The ill-effects of mercury on pregnant gold mine workers are so severe. Pregnant women exposed to high mercury levels can damage the nervous, digestive, immune and reproductive systems. Pregnant women and their babies are most at risk because mercury can pass through the placenta from a mother to her baby. When babies are exposed to mercury, they can have developmental, mental and physical problems, from IQ loss to reduced language and memory skills.

Despite serious health risks, the livelihoods of around 500,000 people depend on Indonesia's Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, which still widely uses mercury to extract gold from ore. This is why projects such as UNDP's 5-year GOLD-



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ISMIA project with the Government of Indonesia is so important. At the local level, the project introduces mercury-free technology to protect the health of local gold miners, including pregnant women miners and their children. The project also supports the presidential regulation on anti-mercury to reduce and eliminate mercury use in Indonesia's ASGM sector by 2025. [Find out more here.](#)

Reduce Gaps in Indonesia's HIV Response to Advance Human Rights



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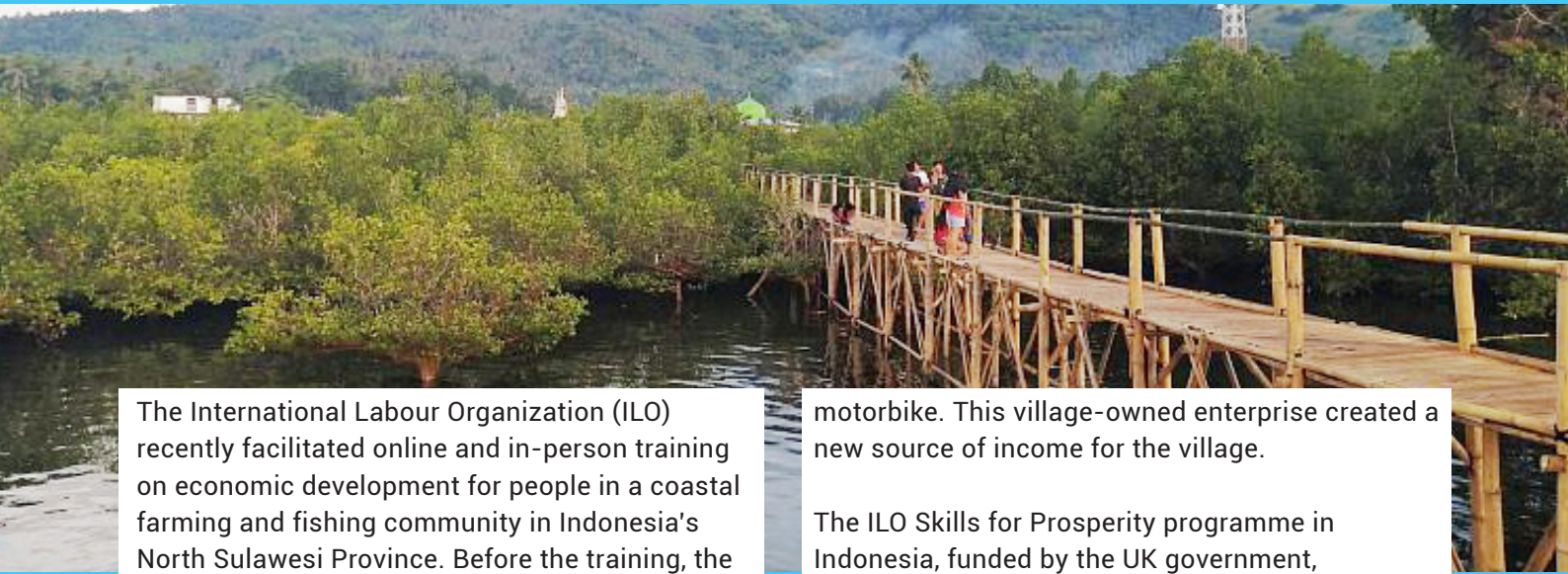
Reducing significant gaps in HIV response in Indonesia is crucial to advance human rights for people living with HIV. They are some of the most vulnerable in society because of existing stigma and discrimination, and insufficient access to essential health services – only 26% of people living with HIV receive treatment.

The Indonesian AIDS Coalition (IAC) identify three priorities to improve Indonesia's HIV response: 1)

recognise community health workers as health workers; 2) increase sustainable financing and reduce reliance on external donors; 3) reform laws and policies that discriminate and improve redress mechanism for victims of discrimination. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) supports the IAC by providing technical assistance and capacity-building to promote meaningful engagement of communities and civil society in HIV response. [Read the full story here.](#)



Mangrove Trails Sprout New Tourist Attractions in Indonesia



The International Labour Organization (ILO) recently facilitated online and in-person training on economic development for people in a coastal farming and fishing community in Indonesia's North Sulawesi Province. Before the training, the elevated boardwalk through a mangrove trail was only popular amongst locals, and now after the training, the mangrove trail has become a tourist destination. On the busiest day, the community earned 5 million Indonesian rupiah (IDR)—approximately 380 US dollars—from entrance fees, charged at IDR 5,000 each, and parking tickets, charged at IDR 4,000 per car and IDR 1,000 per

motorbike. This village-owned enterprise created a new source of income for the village.

The ILO Skills for Prosperity programme in Indonesia, funded by the UK government, has trained 80 local trainers and lecturers on financial education, village enterprises and green businesses. This enables further knowledge and skills transfer to local people in seven target coastal villages. The goal of ILO training is to improve the livelihoods of local people through the development of green businesses. [Read the full story here.](#)

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Disaggregated Data Can Help Provide More Inclusive Transport Services

Transport agencies are experiencing more varied ridership, which means transport companies need to reassess travel patterns, passenger behaviours, passenger types, and passenger needs to improve operations and service delivery. When transport services are safe and inclusive that meet the needs of vulnerable cohorts such as the elderly, women, and people with disabilities, it can enable them to live more independent lives, improving their economic opportunities.

So, what needs to change? This requires a shift from a conventional approach (i.e., aggregate data) to a more passenger-centric approach (i.e., disaggregating/individual data) to reveal inequalities that may not be reflected in the aggregated data.

Pulse Lab Jakarta supported PT Kereta Api Indonesia (KAI), the national railway company, and the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) in research that analysed disaggregated data (data that has been broken down by sub-categories) to understand population movements across cities to inform the overall transport sector in planning. The research revealed new information that aims to serve



© Pulse Lab Jakarta / PT KAI

policy and development opportunities. For example, the disaggregated data analysis by gender indicated that about half of all passengers in 2019 were female, with a significant number travelling in the evening. By age, the data also shows that elderly passengers completed more than 1.5 million trips in that year. These cohorts are known to face particular challenges in transit and require assistance and supportive infrastructure to improve their comfort and safety.

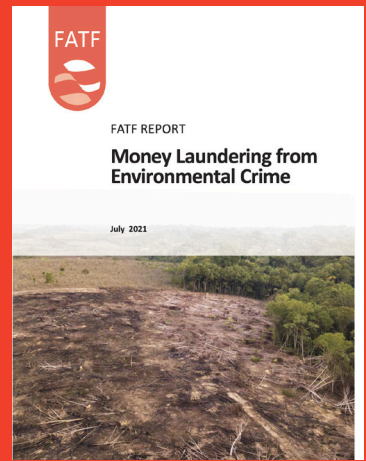
This research has highlighted many benefits and opportunities for transport services like PT KAI to ensure their service is more inclusive and provides Bappenas and other stakeholders with information to improve Indonesia's transport sector. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Report: Money Laundering from Environmental Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML), together with Ireland and Canada co-led a new Report of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), published on 28 June 2021 on "Money Laundering from Environmental Crime".

Environmental crime – such as forestry crime, illegal mining, and waste trafficking - is a highly profitable criminal enterprise, generating billions in criminal gains each year. It has significant negative consequences for sustainable development and climate, including the erosion of forests and biodiversity. It also fuels corruption and converges with many other severe and organised crimes, such as tax fraud, drug trafficking and forced labour.

The Report illustrates how actions by national authorities to detect suspicious transactions and financial flows linked to environmental crimes have not been proportionate to the scale of the issue. Additionally, the report also identifies methods that criminals use to launder proceeds from environmental crime and tools that governments and the private sector can apply to disrupt this activity. When properly implemented, the FATF Recommendations provide effective tools to go after these illicit financial flows. Access the report [here](#)



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Hungry for Change: Meet the Indonesian Youth Reforming our Food Systems

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The future of the world depends on good food. Good food keeps us healthy, protects our planet, and boosts our economies. After decades of progress in tackling hunger, the world has in recent years gone backwards on food security. The pandemic has dramatically exacerbated that trend, exposing the fragility of our food systems and threatening the nutrition of millions of people around the world. A UN multi-agency report estimates that a tenth of the global population – up to 811 million people – experienced hunger in 2020. That number could rise even further in 2021. As with COVID-19, it is society's most vulnerable who are most likely to bear the brunt.

In line with this year's International Youth Day theme, UN agencies in Indonesia joined forces in organising a



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series of events around "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health" in August. Indonesian youth leaders, sustainability experts, and activists led discussions on food security, sustainability, and why young people are at the heart of improving food systems.

With less than ten years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, this year's International Youth Day events emphasised the need for collaboration to improve food systems and showed how young people everywhere are driving ambitious efforts towards a world that leaves no one behind. Read the highlights from the event and learn more about young people's important role in food systems transformation to guarantee good food for all [here](#).