INTRODUCTION

This monthly update aims to provide brief progress and result updates of the implementation of the Joint SDG Fund and the COVID-19 MPTF (Multi-Partner Trust Fund) to donor governments.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, UN Indonesia is managing two Joint Programmes (JPs) on social protection, namely the abovementioned Joint SDG Fund and the COVID-19 MPTF. Social protection is the core protection scheme for both programmes given its proven ability as an effective policy strategy to support populations in the aftermath of a natural disaster or crises.

Its purpose is to prevent affected communities from falling deeper into poverty and facing greater poverty-associated vulnerabilities. For this first edition, key contributions are presented from both funds throughout the first year of implementation (2020).

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, many of Indonesia’s population live at high risk of experiencing the negative impacts of natural disasters or climate change. In January 2021 alone, the Indonesian Agency for Disaster Management (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana [BNPB]) 227 disasters causing 185 deaths, 8 missing, 3654 injured and 1.517.935 displaced. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is not only a health crisis but one that is multi-dimensional, creates an even more challenging context to protect people from falling into very vulnerable socio-economic situations. Due to the pandemic, the number of people in Indonesia living under the poverty line has increased, halting a long trend of poverty reduction in Indonesia. This is captured by data from BPS in March 2020 displaying a changed poverty rate from 9.22% to 9.78%

UN Indonesia is supporting the Government of Indonesia (GoI) to respond to this complex crisis, through the implementation of both JPs.

The Joint SDG Fund, beginning in January 2020 and ending in December 2021, aims to support the GoI in transforming existing social protection schemes into Adaptive Social Protection (ASP). This framework and practice links the role of social protection to respond to and mitigate the shocks from natural disasters and climate risks, through its integration of three communities of practice: (1) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (2) Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and (3) Social Protection. By bringing together UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and UN OCHA, the fund aims to develop partnerships and coordination of ASP, identify mechanisms for fiscal space, enhance the existing Early Warning System (EWS) including criteria for the identification of population groups vulnerable to climate-related risks; and monitor the progress and impact of the measures taken towards the targets, as well as foster collective learning.

The COVID-19 x Trust Fund (MPTF) complements the goals of the first. It is an 11 month program, starting in May 2020 and ending in March 2021, aiming to enhance policy and capacity to scale up and expand social protection coverage and fiscal space amid the COVID-19 pandemic, to include affected and marginalized populations, particularly women and children. Within this JP, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and UN WOMEN aim to achieve three outputs: (1) enhance policy and capacity of GoI to scale up and expand social protection coverage and fiscal space (2) increase capacity of COVID-19 taskforces at the national and sub-national level to plan, communicate and build partnerships and (3) increase the capacity to adopt data analysis, financial and digital innovations.
PROGRAM UPDATES

- Updating the Unified Database for Social Protection (Data Terpadu Kesejahteraan Sosial/DTKS) Update. This database registered the bottom 40% of the population eligible for social protection programming in Indonesia. The UN advocated the inclusion of homeless people and/or people with no formal registration into the database. To help ensure that no one is left behind, the UN also promoted an inclusive approach during the database update by involving the community to nominate and validate the beneficiaries for social protection programming.

- Strengthening the system methodology for drought and floods to assess risks and vulnerabilities, improving geographic targeting of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) beneficiaries, and reviewing as well as refining vulnerability indicators that trigger the funds disbursement and inclusion of hazard-specific risks and vulnerability layers.

- In terms of financing, the UN supports the analysis of both public and private funding mechanisms for ASP by conducting a parallel study to provide evidence on fiscal space for ASP. Innovative Financing for Social Protection at National and Sub-national Level. This strengthens the expenditure tracking mechanism at national and sub-national levels by providing better information about the analysis of public funding for children.

- Regarding the rapid assessment of the COVID-19 socio-economic impact; a program using data innovation that combines big data and quantitative and qualitative surveys produced a rapid assessment of the COVID-19 impact on gender related indicators, including the impact on women-owned micro and small businesses during the pandemic. In response to this, UN Women in conjunction with CARE Indonesia has led a pilot initiative on gender-responsive cash for work programming targeting female beneficiaries who have been adversely impacted in the garment industry in West Java – launched in December 2020.

- For COVID-19 MPTF, the programme has reached 433,776 direct beneficiaries, strengthening the capacity of 4,767 social workers.


- 16 studies/assessments/surveys have been facilitated; on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, the economic and food security implications, locally funded child-sensitive social protection programming, targeting mechanisms for social protection and innovative financing for social protection.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

A Shelter to Rely On: How a Child in Lombok Survived During the Pandemic

A true story about the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations, comes from Mataram in Lombok in West Nusa Tenggara. Uwais, a one-year and four-month-old healthy baby boy was separated from his parents due to the impact of the pandemic on his family. Uwais’ father, Samsudin was hospitalized for two weeks after testing positive. Subsequently, Uwais’ mother, grandfather, grandmother, and aunty also tested positive forcing them to isolate in their family home. Fortunately, Uwais had not contracted the virus.

This was an incredibly difficult time given that Uwais was still breastfeeding and therefore reliant on his mother, who could not look after him presently. The family were perplexed at what to do given that they could not ensure Uwais’ safety, and could not follow the hospital recommendations of sending him to a childcare shelter as these and other public services were closed.

During a desperate consultation with the doctor at the hospital, a supportive social worker named Ibu Erna, working for the Child Welfare Service Center (Pusat Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak Integratif (PKSAI)) in Mataram, came to the rescue. She invited Uwais to their shelter and took care of the baby voluntarily. Ibu Erna and her team ensured Uwais was fed, played with and looked after. Understanding the emotional burden of Uwais’ parents, Ibu Erna and the team maintained regular communication between the child and his parents through video calls and sending photos of Uwais activities at the shelter. “I am so glad that Uwais is safe and healthy, even though we are stuck at the hospital. I am truly grateful and appreciate all the effort that the PSKAI team has made for my boy during this difficult period,” said Samsudin.

“The pandemic has forced us to act fast and equip our staff with skills and resources to deal with various emergency situations. UNICEF has been a great partner in ensuring we provide our best service, on time. The necessary resources have also enabled us to urge the local government to prepare adequate Technical Implementation Unit and open more adaptive collaboration with the Social Affairs Agency.”

- Joko Jumadi, Head of PKSAI Lombok.