

# Newsletter

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First Shipment of  
COVAX COVID-19  
Vaccine Reaches  
Indonesia

Empowering Special  
Schools to Sexual  
Violence Prevention and  
HIV/AIDS Knowledge

Study:  
Households  
Experience a  
'Double-Burden'  
of Economic  
Losses in  
Disaster-Hit Areas

Providing Essential  
Kits to West Sulawesi  
Earthquakes Victims

New Report Examines  
the Impacts of COVID-19  
on Violent Extremism

## MESSAGE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



**T**he COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc, presenting a tsunami of suffering to our world. One full year into the pandemic – we finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. COVAX – the global vaccine equity mechanism – has started delivery around the world, including to Indonesia earlier this month. The shipment is a historic step in what will be the largest global vaccine procurement and supply operation in history.

The first shipment of 1.1 million vaccine doses out of the total 11.7 million doses allocated to Indonesia – marks an important milestone for Indonesia, not only in terms of safeguarding key populations, vulnerable groups – but also a chance to recover better. A better chance to stop those who are left behind – being left even further behind.

In Indonesia, the informal working sector – which is prone to be left behind, is heavily affected by the pandemic close to 90% (or even more) of all workers including people with disabilities that tend to work in the informal economy. 29 million workers are affected by the pandemic with 24 million workers suffering from cuts in hours of work and income; micro and small businesses (MSBs), that contribute to 58-61% of the GDP in Indonesia – which 60% are managed by women, are heavily hurt by the pandemic.

The United Nations will continue mobilising support to recover better, and to put a special focus on the needs of those who have borne the burden of this crisis on so many levels – or 'double burden' of economic losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic like recently experienced by communities recently hit by natural disasters such as in Central Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara. Together with our partners and change-makers, we empower vulnerable groups to recover better. We empower migrants with peer-to-peer support in spreading fact-based information on COVID-19; we support the government's disability empowerment program on raising awareness of sexual violence and HIV vulnerability among youth with disabilities – among others.

Lastly, COVID-19 vaccines must be seen as a global public good. The world needs to unite to produce and distribute sufficient vaccines for all, which means at least doubling manufacturing capacity around the world. That effort must start now. Only together can we end this pandemic and recover. Only together can we revive our economies. And then, together, we can all get back to the things we love.

**Valerie Julliard**

UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

# First shipment of COVAX COVID-19 Vaccine reaches Indonesia

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Photo left to right: Dr N. Paranietharan (WHO Rep to Indonesia), Retno Marsudi (Minister of Foreign Affairs), drg. Arianti Anaya (MoH), Debora Comini (UNICEF Indonesia Country Rep)

On the 8th of March 2021, Indonesia received 1,113,600 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine as the first shipment of the 11,704,800 doses allocated to Indonesia under the COVAX Facility until May. COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), with UNICEF as a key implementing partner. Indonesia's Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs were present to receive the shipment, along with COVAX partners.

The doses received through COVAX are intended to protect priority groups in the country, and distribution will be made in line with the prioritization criteria outlined in Indonesia's National Deployment Vaccination Plan. In Indonesia, UNICEF, WHO and other partners have provided technical assistance to strengthen Indonesia's cold and supply chains so that the country has adequate infrastructure to transport and store the vaccines for delivery. They have also built the capacities of health workers and worked with communities in addressing misinformation and increasing acceptance of safe vaccines.

Subsequent allocations of doses to Indonesia through COVAX are expected to be announced in the coming weeks for the second half of the year. For further information: <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/09-03-2021-indonesia-receives-first-shipment-of-1.1-million-covid-19-vaccines-doses-through-covax>.



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## Capacity Building Support for COVID-19 Vaccination at the Subnational Level

©Dr Kandou District General Hospital



Since Indonesia began a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme in January 2021, WHO and UNICEF continue to support the Ministry of Health with technical assistance on all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination to ensure a safe and smooth vaccination programme rollout. For example, the distribution of a vaccine introduction roadmap and technical guidelines and continuous COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance to monitor and respond to any potential adverse events. In addition, WHO field staff play an active role in sharing the latest technical guidance, facilitating training for vaccinators, and implementing the vaccination information system. Read how WHO work with West Papua, Papua, North Maluku, and North Sulawesi Provincial Health Offices with technical assistance and surge capacity: <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/04-03-2021-capacity-building-support-for-covid-19-vaccination-at-the-subnational-level>



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## Study: Households Experience a 'Double-Burden' of Economic Losses in Disaster-Hit Areas

More than 85 percent of Indonesian respondents in disaster-hit communities of Central Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara have experienced a 'double burden' of economic losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a rapid survey of over 800 households by UNICEF, UNDP, and the SMERU Research Institute, launched in February 2021. This joint study reveals that the low-income group, the female-headed households, households with children, and with people with disability are especially vulnerable. The report also proposed recommendations to protect these vulnerable households from the impact of future shocks and strengthen their resiliency. For more information: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/press-releases/unicef-undp-smeru-impact-study-pandemic-disaster-hit-areas-reveals-vulnerability>



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## Providing Essential Kits for Vulnerable Women and Girl Victims of West Sulawesi Earthquakes



On January 15th, 2021, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake and landslides struck West Sulawesi, with around 15,000 were displaced from Majene, Mamuju, and Polewali Mandar sub-districts. According to the Ministry of Health, more than 300 houses were heavily damaged, restricted clean water access, communication lines were disrupted, and two hospitals and one health centre were significantly affected.

Under the coordination of the Reproductive Health (Ministry of Health) and Gender-based Violence Sub-Clusters (Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection) and with support from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, UNFPA Indonesia provided essential support through the delivery of essential kits. The kits include dignity, maternity, post-delivery, newborn baby, and elderly kits with COVID-19 prevention supplies for the most vulnerable women and girls victims of these large-scale earthquakes. Source: <https://www.facebook.com/UNFPAIndonesia/posts/3650684321692088>

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## Report: Circular Economy as an Opportunity to Indonesia's GDP Growth and A Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery

Indonesia's economy could grow by USD 45 billion by 2030 with lower emission and waste through the full adoption of a zero-waste circular economy model in five key sectors, according to a new report, launched in January 2021 by the Ministry of National Development Planning in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and with support from the Government of Denmark. "The Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits of Circular Economy in Indonesia" Report covers five key sectors: food and beverages, textiles, wholesale and retail trade (with focus on plastic packaging), construction, and electronics. The report reveals that Indonesia could generate meaningful economic,

environmental, and social benefits compared to a "business-as-usual" scenario through a circular approach. As we enter the Decade of Action, the report presents a strong case that adopting a circular economy can fast-track the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report also provides an alternative for a resource-rich country such as Indonesia to accelerate its efforts to meet emission reduction targets and achieve green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Access the full report here: <https://www.id.undp.org/content/indonesia/en/home/library/THE-ECONOMIC-SOCIAL-AND-ENVIRONMENTAL.html>

## Empowering Special Schools to Protect Students from Sexual Violence and HIV/AIDS



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In Indonesia, sexual violence is the highest among women with disabilities, particularly women with physical disabilities and intellectual disabilities. It turns out, the sexual violence among people with disabilities

makes them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. At the provincial level, the Center for Improving Qualified Activity in Life of People with Disabilities (CIQAL) has documented 102 sexual violence cases among women with disabilities in Yogyakarta for the past five years. Besides, the Yogyakarta Provincial Health Office has documented 22 HIV cases among people with disabilities.

To support the Provincial Government of Yogyakarta's disability empowerment program in their peer education within and outside of schools, the International Labour Organization in February 2021 conducted a training of trainers for teachers of students with disabilities with an adaptation of HIV/AIDS training module for people with disability. The session covers how to raise awareness of sexual violence and HIV vulnerability among youth with disabilities and soft skills for students to protect themselves. For more information: [https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS\\_772503/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_772503/lang--en/index.htm)

## Shining Light on Indonesian Migrant Workers Resilience amid the Pandemic

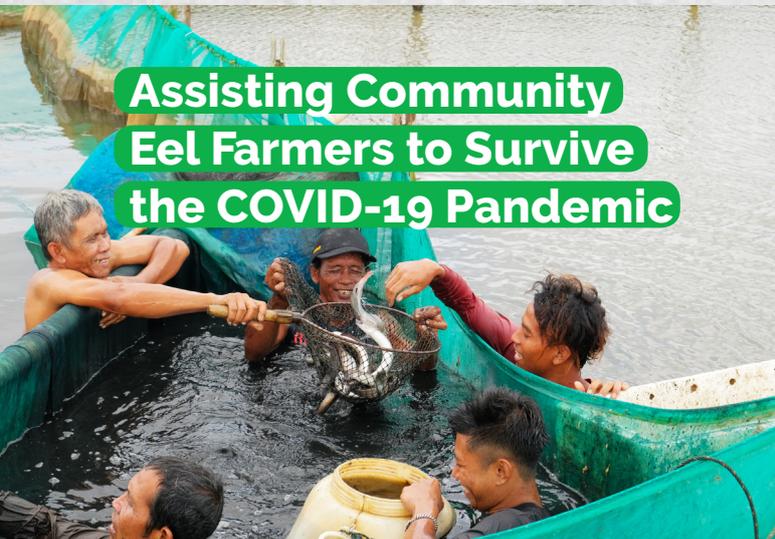
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More than 176,000 Indonesian migrant workers, many suddenly stripped from their livelihoods abroad, returned home to Indonesia during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions also resulted in the postponement of tens of thousands of migrant workers from following through with their plans to go abroad for work. Coupled with the wider economic challenges stemming from the pandemic, Indonesian migrant workers and their households, have faced unique challenges in coping with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with national and local government partners, and the with financial support from the

US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), supported the "Menyala Lagi" campaign and initiatives to respond to the health and socio-economic impacts on migrant worker households. This peer-to-peer messaging campaign shared fact-based information on COVID-19, combated disinformation about the virus, and supported migrants' abilities to share positive examples of collaborative actions for migrant worker communities. As of late 2020, the Menyala Lagi campaign has reached more than 120,000 viewers across Indonesia. See stories from Indonesian migrant workers who participated in the Menyala Lagi campaign here: <https://indonesia.iom.int/stories/relume-menyala-lagi>

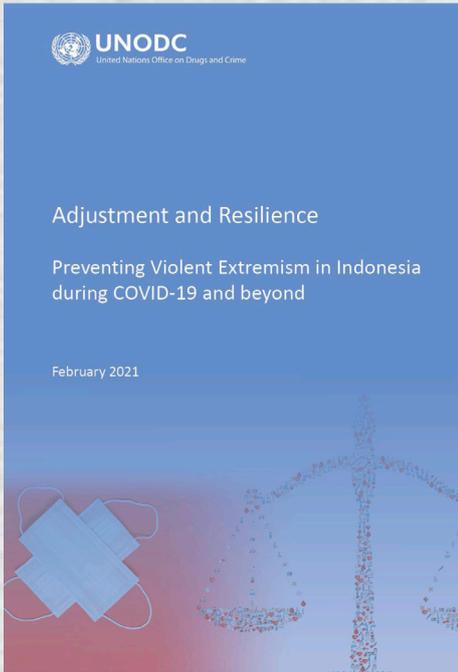
## Assisting Community Eel Farmers to Survive the COVID-19 Pandemic



©FAO Indonesia/Yohanes Jaya

"The first five months of COVID-19 pandemic were the hardest, we had zero income. Unagi (eel) supplies to restaurants and exports to Japan have all stopped," said Ruddy Sutomo, a community eel farmer of the Mina Sidat Bersatu Cooperative, assisted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s IFish Project in Cilacap Regency, Central Java.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had hit their eel cultivation business. The pandemic has forced cooperative members to rack their brains because operations in the eel cultivation ponds cannot stop. Through IFish—a joint project between FAO and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)—a cooperation scheme between cooperative and eel cultivation company was built. The scheme aims to transfer technology and to produce cultivation guides that other community groups can use. IFish also supports Mina Sidat Bersatu Cooperative's sustainable initiative by surveying suitable locations for release, tagging eels, and building a monitoring mechanism for released eels. Find out more: <http://www.fao.org/indonesia/news/detail-events/en/c/1371494/>



## New Report Examines the Impacts of COVID-19 on Violent Extremism

The Indonesia Programme Office of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has published a report that examines the impacts of COVID-19 on violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Indonesia in February 2021. The report finds that the threat of terrorism has largely been contained during the COVID-19 pandemic despite challenges. The report also emphasises the importance of conducting public health and recovery efforts in an inclusive, people-centered manner, including embedding gender perspectives as a core feature of preventing/countering violent extremism programming, particularly through the pandemic recovery period. The report is produced under the Guyub Project, a joint project between UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Women to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Java and Indonesia. Read the report here: <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/indonesia/2021/02/covid-19-prevent-violent-extremism/story.html>

## Preserving the Art of Natural Dye Techniques in Traditional Fabric amongst Indonesian Youth

Naturally dyed textile products are not just environmentally friendly and ethically sustainable, they also offer higher national heritage and artisanal value. In support of the sustainable, environmentally-friendly fashion industry, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Gadjah Mada University's Indonesia Natural Dye Institute and Kita Muda Kreatif, organised an online training program for Indonesian young artisans and crafters in December 2020 in the application of natural dyes in traditional fabrics. The program involved hands-on sessions on natural dyeing process and coaching sessions. As a result, participants produced natural dyed batik, masks, t-shirts, and eco-printed fabrics. The program's objective is to preserve the rich value and abundant potential of natural dyes as a local and sustainable technology towards sustainable fashion. For more info: <https://en.unesco.org/news/youth-empowerment-natural-dye-application-traditional-fabric>

