**Indonesia and UN agree on Joint Commitment to Village Based Social Protection Programs that are Child-focused and Gender Responsive**

***A Partnership of Ministry of Village and the UN in Indonesia***

**Jakarta, 22 April 2021** – In 2020, the Village Fund (*Dana Desa or DD)* has been used for Child-focused and Gender Responsive Village-Based social protection programs in Indonesia. The effectiveness of this programming will be discussed in webinar “Inclusive Social Protection Program: Towards Child-focused and Gender Responsive Village-based Social Protection Program”. This initiative is supported by the United Nations (UN) in Indonesia with support from the COVID-19 Program Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). This program supports the Government of Indonesia (GoI) to enhance policy and capacity to scale up and expand social protection coverage and fiscal space to include the affected and marginalized population, particularly women and children.

The Ministry of Villages (MoV) has expanded social protection programs and coverage through two major social protection programs called Direct Cash Transfer of Village Fund (BLTD DD) and Cash for Work of Village Fund (PKTD DD). The aim of the BLTD DD is to provide cash to the poor or underprivileged families in the village to lessen the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, while PKTD DD aims to empower marginalized and poor communities by focusing on utilizing available natural resources, labor, and local technology to reduce poverty, increase income, reduce stunting and lessen the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic in villages. In 2020, MoV allocated considerable budget of village funds and disbursed it to villages across Indonesia - is Rp 10.54 trillion of PKTD and Rp 18.49 trillion for BLT DD.

Considering the pivotal role of Village-based Social Protection Programs, in the past one year, through this program, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and UN Women in partnership with MoV conducted three different activities: Monitoring & Evaluation for Direct Cash Transfer & Cash for Work Program Village Fund (*Bantuan Langsung Tunai & Padat Karya Tunai Desa*) (UNICEF – CEDS Universitas Padjadjaran), Assessment on Targeting Mechanism & Effectiveness of Direct Cash Transfer (UNDP) (3) Piloting on Gender Responsive Cash for Work Program (CfW) in West Java (UN Women).

* “It is our commitment to ensure the social protection programs are more effective by reaching the most vulnerable with limited inclusion and exclusion errors, truly inclusive, responsive and adaptive so it contributes to long-term recovery and climate resilience, and gender responsive,” explained **Drs. A. Halim Iskandar, M.Pd,** Minister of Village, Transmigration and Disadvantaged Regions.
* “We acknowledge the commitment and pivotal role of the Ministry of Village, Disadvantaged Region and Transmigration for swiftly repurposing the village fund for direct cash transfers and cash for work programme as part of the COVID-19 response. We believe our work to strengthen the village-based social protection programmes is an essential step to support the government in building adaptive social protection.” said **Valerie Julliand**, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Indonesia.

Some of the challenges faced by social protection programs is the eligibility criteria and beneficiary selection or targeting process and other type of social vulnerabilities in the design and implementation of social protection responses, which have gaps in inclusion and exclusion errors. UNICEF worked with CEDS on establishing a monitoring and evaluation system for the distribution process of Village Funds for social protection programs. Implementing this type of system will support family, children and vulnerable people such as elderly and the disabled in accessing the support they need – particularly to fulfill children’s basic needs and wellbeing.

* “This program aims to support the Ministry of Village and Disadvantaged Region in designing a monitoring and evaluation system for social protection programs under village fund scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, the main use of BLT DD is for fulfilling the basic needs in the form of foodstuffs, medicines, and children's needs (nutrition and school needs). To better provide a more responsive gender social protection, some of our recommendation include strengthening the general guidelines, improving the registration system and mechanism, better coordination with related parties, and synergizing BLT-DD with other social protection programs for more updated and integrated DTKS,” explained **Dr. Martin Siyaranamual**, CEDS Universitas Padjajaran researcher.
* “The study found that community targeting mechanisms that allow for greater accountability and transparency lead to higher levels of citizen satisfaction. It also found that women, as well as vulnerable groups, have been prioritized as beneficiaries of BLT-DD, nonetheless gender-responsive social assistance remains a challenge,” said **Dr. Rumayya Batubara**, Airlangga University Lecturer.

Another critical aspect of social protection is to ensure it is gender responsive. UN Women highlights the need to ensure that social protection in COVID-19 response takes into account issues of unpaid care and domestic work given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and men. UN Women and Yayasan Care Peduli have piloted a cash-based intervention to support women who lost their job through entrepreneurship development programme combined with a community-based intervention to promote an equitable distribution of domestic and care work.

* “The programme provides an insight into the design and implementation of sustainable cash-for-work schemes that can focus on income generation as well as women’s empowerment. Both can be primary objectives in social protection response to COVID-19” said Dwi Yuliawati Faiz, Head of Programmes, UN Women Indonesia.

Notes for Editors:

1. [Buku\_Saku\_Pendataan\_BLT-Dana\_Desa\_FINAL.pdf (bappenas.go.id)](https://www.bappenas.go.id/files/3415/9549/4158/Buku_Saku_Pendataan_BLT-Dana_Desa_FINAL.pdf) – Bappenas, KOMPAK, Juni 2020
2. https://www.kemendesa.go.id/berita/view/detil/3650/ini-prioritas-penggunaan-dana-desa-2021

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**About Ministry of Village, Transmigration and Disadvantage Regions**

The Ministry of Villages, Transmigration and Disadvantaged Regions in Indonesia, is tasked with conducting the affairs of the government in the field of rural development and rural areas, rural community empowerment, accelerating the development of disadvantaged areas and transmigration and to assist the President in performing states duties.

**About the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund / COVID-19 MPTF**

COVID-19 MPTF is part of the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund is a UN inter-agency fund mechanism established by the UN Secretary-General to help support low- and middle-income programme countries overcome the health and development crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and support those most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption. It provides protection to the poor and the vulnerable and offers innovative solutions that chart a more sustainable, more inclusive future for all.

**About the United Nations in Indonesia**

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. In Indonesia, UN is committed to supporting the Government of Indonesia in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The UN Country Team is led by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC for short) the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at the country level. RCs led UN Country Teams in consultations with the Government to define and agree on the UN strategic response to the Government’s development priorities in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Resident Coordinator is the designated representative of – and reports to – the UN Secretary-General.

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**About the UN Implementing Agencies**

**About UNICEF**

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child; in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

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**About UNDP Indonesia**

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 177 countries and territories, including Indonesia, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. We are committed to support Indonesia’s national priorities and the implementation of Government of Indonesia’s Medium Term Development Plan 2010-2015 and other national and local development visions, strategies and plans.

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**About UN Women**

UN Women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, the organization was established in 2010 to accelerate progress on women’s rights worldwide. UN Women’s efforts are based on the fundamental belief that every woman has the right to live a life free from violence, poverty, and discrimination, and that gender equality is a prerequisite to achieving global development.

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