

BRIEF REPORT

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEALTH SECURITY ROUNDTABLE SERIES

“Improving Regional Health Security through Knowledge Exchange & Collaboration”

SERIES 1 IN INDONESIA

“Economic Response To COVID-19 And Future Pandemics”

29 November - 30 November

KEY POINTS FROM THE PLENARY SESSIONS

1. Coordinator Minister for Economic Affairs, Indonesia: *“Indonesia’s Strategy for National Development Post Covid-19”*

- Government strategies to improve the socio-economic recovery are accelerating the health sector, maintaining business continuity, and strengthening the government's structure reform.
- Pandemic funds were initiated and launched during the G20 in Indonesia. The first round of these funds was disbursed in 2023 for 37 countries (30% sub-Saharan Africa) with a total fund of UD 338 million.
- During the Indonesia ASEAN Chairmanship 2023, the ASEAN countries agreed to expand joint funds to deal with the upcoming pandemic.
- The government aims to reduce the poverty rate to nearly 0% in 2024 through comprehensive strategies, such as converging social protection with community empowerment programs.
- Indonesia, which has been classified as an upper-middle-class country since July 2023 with a GDP per capita of \$4,580, a large workforce, and an opportunity for demographic bonuses, is a critical driver for national development.
- Considering the current period of the lowest population dependence ratio in the country, several optimization strategies can be applied, such as preparing for faster digitalization, strengthening connectivity to involve more people in the global value chain, and increasing public goods to support other capitals.

2. Head of Surveillance Unit, Directorate of Surveillance and Health Quarantine, Ministry of Health: *“Pandemic Preparedness: What We Learn and What We Can Do in the Future to Suppress the Impact”*

- Each country needs to be adequately prepared for this pandemic. This issue put tension on middle-income countries, where the cases were lower in value but more lethal due to the lack of preparedness. A country that allocates more on preparedness and readiness will likely suppress the negative impact of the pandemic.
- Indonesia's COVID-19 responses and lessons learned:
 - Surveillance is critical to detect, respond, and stop (act) immediately.
 - Early detection followed by containment such as isolation, contact tracing, and quarantine is the key to curb the infection.
 - Social distancing measures (community-based surveillance) effectively suppress the rise of cases.
- Recommendations for strengthening health resilience in the context of next pandemic preparedness:
 - Collaborative surveillance
 - Community protection
 - Safe and scalable care

- Access to countermeasures
- Emergency coordination
- AI's assistance
- Health transformation

3. Director of Budget for Human Development and Culture, Ministry of Finance:
“Keeping Indonesia Safe from the Covid -19 Pandemic: Lessons Learned from the National Economic Recovery Program”

- Budget flexibility is essential, as well as strengthening budget transparency and accountability, collaboration and coordination, and budget efficiency, which are the keys to budget improvement and fiscal sustainability.
- COVID-19 significantly impacted the budgeting realm both in central and local government. The government prepared more than 100 dedicated hospitals and other supporting resources for pandemic mitigation.
- As a comprehensive COVID-19 policy response program, the National Economic Recovery Program (NERP) was launched on 11 May 2020, and the COVID-19 vaccination program was started on 30 January 2021.
- The government applied extraordinary policies to manage the pandemic situation, such as:
 - 2020 (NERP budget: IDR 575,8 T) → served as a quick response (fiscal stimulus and reconstruction)
 - 2021 (NERP budget: IDR 655,1 T) → focused on vaccination program and NERP flexibility
 - 2022 (NERP budget: IDR 408,1 T) → accelerated recovery through social security programs
- The pandemic showed the importance of planning and budgeting to anticipate uncertainties and future risks. Hence, planning and budgeting have to include:
 - Risk identification and analysis
 - Development of risk scenarios
 - Management of reserve funds (fiscal buffer)
 - More efficient and sustainable financing management
- The importance of state budget flexibility for the next pandemic preparedness with the following objectives:
 - As a quick response to resource allocation
 - To adjust budget priorities
 - To monitor and evaluate state budget implementation
 - To maintain fiscal sustainability

4. Deputy for Economic Affairs, Ministry for National Development Planning/Head National Development Planning Agency: *“Economic Resilience of Indonesia in COVID-19 Pandemics”*

- Even though the pandemic caused a triple crisis (health, social, and economic), Indonesia could recover faster than other countries (the economic growth in 2022: 5,31%). The financial condition was stable because of prudent macroeconomics, targeted social distancing measures, and flexible budgeting policies.

- Currently, Indonesia's GDP is even higher than at the pre-crisis level. In 2022, Indonesia could restore its position as an upper-middle-income country, placing it as one of the countries that could move up after the COVID-19 crisis.
- Using Bali, a province that is very much dependent on tourism, as a reference case, the central government planned to implement economic transformation holistically across the region. The economics of Bali will be diversified to make it not just rely on tourism through the program of Bali Kerthi Transformation, which consists of six main strategies: Bali Smart and Healthy, Productive Bali, Green Bali, Integrated Bali, Bali Smart Island, and Conducive Bali. This new Bali Era is expected to accelerate the increase of the local GDP per capita to 8 times higher than it is now.
- Despite the stagnant economic growth in the last couple of years at around 5%, the government targeted the economic growth in the next 20 years to be more than 6%. To deal with the low labor productivity, the government launched a financial transformative framework of a sovereign, advanced, and sustainable archipelago to achieve Indonesia's vision by 2045.

**5. Director of Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Resilience, Ministry of Health:
“Indonesia Pharmaceutical Industries Resilience”**

- The pharmacy supply chain system in Indonesia comprises:
 - National health insurance covering 248,8 million people (90,34% of the population)
 - Pharmaceutical market at an estimated value of IDR 110,6 trillion in 2020
 - 240 pharmaceutical industries
 - >2,500 pharmaceutical wholesalers
 - >40,000 healthcare facilities
 - >10,000 primary healthcare centers
- Key challenges in the pharmacy supply chain system in Indonesia:
 - Dependence on imported active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) raw material (90% of pharmaceutical dosage form produced)
 - Limited research budget (0.2% of GDP)
 - Limited access to innovative drugs (18% of novel drugs)
- Even though health spending in Indonesia has been increasing in the last ten years, it still needs to catch up compared with neighboring countries such as Singapore and Malaysia.
- The independence of the pharmaceutical and medical device sector has been proven as the primary key to resilience from the pandemic, highlighting this industry as a vital sector for the country. Three interventions to build resilience in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry are strengthening research and development, production, and market assurance.
- Other key strategies to build resilience:
 - Phytopharmaceutical industry development
 - Promoting partnerships to develop high-end medical products locally
 - Promoting local products to international events
 - Prioritize the use of domestic raw materials and products
 - Fiscal and non-fiscal incentive to industries

- The health system transformation policy for 2021-2024 is based on six pillars: primary services, secondary services, health security, health financing, health workers, and health technology.

6. Deputy for Human Development, Society and Culture, Ministry for National Development Planning/Head National Development Planning Agency: *“Regional Collaborative Effort in Anticipating for Future Health and Economic Challenges”*

- Challenges in pharmaceutical aspects during the COVID-19 pandemic are pharmaceuticals’ procurement, availability, market and price control. A collaborative procurement scheme is needed to ensure the availability of drugs and vaccines, especially in Southeast Asia.
- Regional cooperation should be optimized with several objectives:
 - To guarantee the universal basic standard of social protection.
 - To promote convergence among countries’ standard of living.
 - To support efforts of developing countries to participate in the provision of international public goods actively.
- There are several challenges in the context of next pandemic preparedness in Southeast Asia, such as:
 - The development of pharmaceutical resilience must be implemented in each country in the region.
 - A collaborative procurement scheme for drugs and vaccines in the region is important to ensure their availability.
- Lesson learned from the role of the Indonesian community in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Since Indonesian people love to preserve face-to-face communal relationships, the working-from-home policy lasted only briefly.
 - The community demands economic assistance from the government as compensation for the loss of income for informal sector workers.
 - In the Sewon sub-district, Jogjakarta, people develop a web for COVID-19 monitoring and an online marketplace.
 - “Jogo Tonggo” (taking care of neighbors) policy was initiated in Central Java by involving many social and youth organizations.
 - Two leading religious organizations, Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, contributed significantly by conducting socialization, campaigns, and monitoring systems for mitigating the pandemic.

7. Digital Transformation Office, Ministry of Health: *“The Role of Digital Transformation Office in the Healthcare Decision Making Process in Indonesia”*

- The Digital Transformation Office (DTO) is digital transformation team in the Ministry of Health (MOH) of the Republic of Indonesia that was established in 2021 to address the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The challenges in transforming into digital health:
 - The number of health applications developed by the central government, sub-national governments, and the private sector.

- Fragmented data in various existing applications that have different standards that need to be more easily integrated and utilized.
- Much health data is still manually documented.
- Over 80% of healthcare facilities in Indonesia are currently untouched by digital technology.
- The health sector needs adequate regulations on data protection, data standardization, and patient rights and privacy.
- DTO launched the Indonesia Health Services (IHS) platform and SATUSEHAT mobile application.
 - IHS platform provides data connectivity, analysis, and services to support and integrate various healthcare applications in Indonesia.
 - Through SATUSEHAT mobile application, people can access integrated health services hassle-free without bringing paper-based medical records to different healthcare facilities. This is the solution for the fragmented and non-standardized health data in Indonesia in real-time.

KEY POINTS FROM SHARING SESSIONS: PROBLEM-SOLUTION-FIT HYPOTHESIS

SHARING SESSION I: IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

“From your point of view (government/academics), what major economic-related problems did your country face during the pandemic?”

- The disruptions of the supply chain (personal protective equipment even for healthcare professionals) locally and globally
- Mental health issues
- Tourism breakdown (hotels closed down and many others, which also leads to unemployment)
- Trade disruptions
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Education impacted the most (the disparities, especially in the rural areas where the online method is very challenging due to limited resources and infrastructure)
- Lack of foreign healthcare workers due to international border closure
- Loaning a significant amount of money for COVID-19 management
- Balancing the health and economic needs
- The local government’s ability to forecast the epidemiology changes of the disease is weak
- Lack of data and needs for parameters
- The social impact of COVID was abandoning the socially acceptable culture

SHARING SESSION II: DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES/SOLUTIONS

“What best strategies did your country apply to support the health systems and the economy during the pandemic?”

- Prepare reserve funds
- Global collaboration
- Find a balance between health and economic needs

- Leadership
- Clear and transparent communication/spoke-person
- Strengthen surveillance and tracing system
- Optimizing data to guide decisions, involving other non-governmental experts to give other perspectives
- Earlier border closure
- Vaccination
- Formulate the best lockdown mechanism

SHARING SESSION III: VALIDATING THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS WOULD BE FIT WITH THE IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS

“Learning from the last pandemic, as ASEAN countries, what are the fittest collaborative efforts to anticipate future health and economic challenges?”

- Establishment of MoU between ASEAN Countries
- Clear communication and example by a socially accepted figure
- Establishment of ASEAN center for public health emergencies and emerging diseases
- Data sharing between ASEAN countries in real-time and easily
- Reaching a regulatory harmonization regarding pharmaceutical resilience
- Have joint reserved funds at the ASEAN level
- Better platform to share data
- Create a policy compendium available to ASEAN countries
- Collaborative research to map the data needs and provide evidence-based regulations at ASEAN level
- Laboratory network at the ASEAN level
- Stronger leadership in ASEAN
- Resource mapping and sharing
- Parallel network that goes beyond the government

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