

Monthly COVID-19 Update

October 2020

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Better prepared
and capable village
governments

**02
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Supporting
disadvantaged
regions

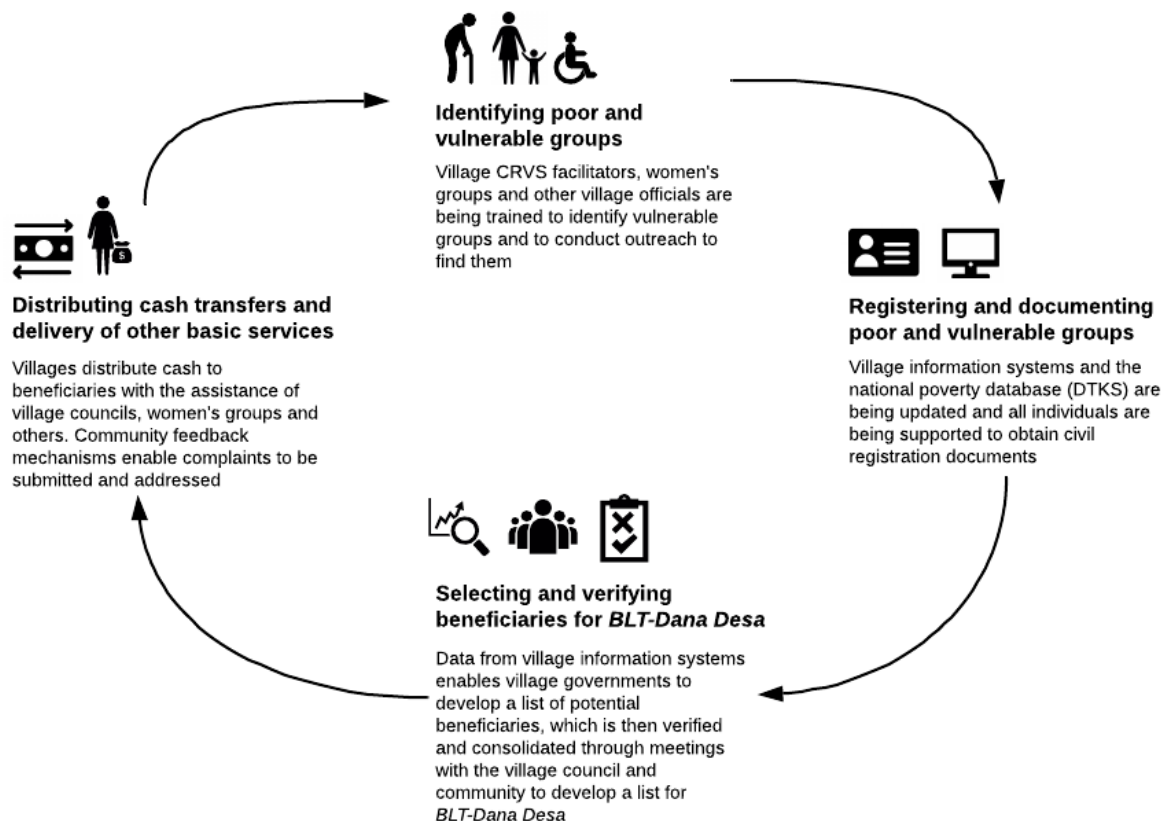
**03
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01 COVID-19 RESPONSE

KOMPAK has been helping to provide clear policies and guidelines, trainings, and technical assistance for village governments to effectively administer cash assistance from the Village Fund (*BLT-Dana Desa*) and other COVID-19 activities. Village governments are the front-line in the response and are key to ensuring basic services and social assistance reach those who need it most.





02 PAPUA

The Sabron Sari Village COVID-19 Task Force members. Supported with village funds, the task force is ready to serve the village government in responding to the pandemic.

COVID-19 in Papua: A rapid village-led response

The first positive case of COVID-19 in Papua province occurred in late March in Sabron Sari village, Jayapura district. This is one of the villages being supported by KOMPAK.

The Head of Village, Marwan Hashim, immediately gathered information and checked the regulations. “At that time, there was no regulation regarding the COVID-19 response, but we could not wait,” said Marwan. “We held discussions with the subdistrict and district governments, the Village Council, as well as with village cadres in order to work out what to do.”

The Village Government decided to allocate funds from the Budget Financing Surplus (SiLPA) of the 2019 Village Budget. This would be used to establish a COVID-19 coordination post, deliver health messages and procure disinfectants. The problem, however, was that these funds were not immediately accessible.

Marwan explained: “Based on our discussion, we agreed to reallocate funds initially dedicated for developing the village hall for the COVID-19 response, while waiting for the SiLPA disbursement.” This enabled the village government to respond immediately.

Another challenge was in being able to identify and verify eligible beneficiaries for the cash grants (*BLT-Dana Desa*). Throughout Papua, the Provincial Government – with KOMPAK’s support – has been rolling out village information systems to over 1700 villages. The *Sistem Informasi Orang Papua* (SIO Papua), as its known, provides village governments with data on poor and vulnerable groups that has proven useful for the response.

The village cadres have been assisting the village government to ensure the data in the SIO Papua is up-to-date. “We are now ready to distribute the third tranche of *BLT-Dana Desa* to 146 poor and vulnerable households,” said Marwan.

What has KOMPAK done to help local government’s respond to COVID-19 in Papua and Papua Barat?

KOMPAK and BaKTI, its implementing partner, have been providing support to the Provincial Governments of Papua and Papua Barat to strengthen local government capacity to manage and deliver basic health and education services through the LANDASAN Program. Due to the pandemic, KOMPAK has refocused its assistance to strengthen the preparedness and response to COVID-19 in the rural areas of Papua and Papua Barat.

KOMPAK helped in the development of Papua-specific guidebooks for Village Heads, Village Task Forces, and communities to help them oversee

prevention and response activities for COVID-19. KOMPAK also provided support in the development of the COVID-19 Action Plan for Papua Province.

KOMPAK’s survey of 94 of 146 villages (64 percent response rate) in Papua and Papua Barat found that the majority (82 percent) had established a COVID-19 Task Force by July. Furthermore, 86 percent had also revised their village budgets and workplans for COVID-19, with all allocating funding for *BLT-Dana Desa* and more than half funding data collection of vulnerable groups.

Role of women in identifying and verifying social protection data

“Thank God, I receive cash grants from the village government,” said Irna Meutia* (50) in Krueng Baru village, Aceh. As a female head of household, Irna provides for her family by selling sandals at the local market. Even before the pandemic she earned only A\$1.50 per day, and this declined even further due to less people shopping at traditional markets.

In response to COVID-19, village governments across Indonesia are now able to provide monthly cash grants of A\$60 to the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community (*BLT-Dana Desa*) not currently receiving assistance through the government’s PKH program, a conditional cash transfer program for poor households.

However, despite being eligible for PKH, Irna and many like her have not been registered in the Integrated Social Welfare Database (DTKS), which

is used to identify beneficiaries. KOMPAK – in partnership with PEKKA, MAHKOTA and local governments – has been harnessing women’s groups to help in the identification of poor and vulnerable individuals for inclusion in DTKS and to receive BLT-Dana Desa.

Haswadana, a PEKKA volunteer in Blang Poroh village, found ten households unregistered for *BLT-Dana Desa*. These households were supposed to receive the *BLT-Dana Desa*, as they consist of poor and elderly residents, female household heads, and families who lost their livelihood. “In some villages, we found a number of households that have not received the funds, despite meeting the criteria. We report these findings to the village officials for follow-up,” Afrida, a PEKKA Field Facilitator, explained.

* Name changed for confidentiality

03

GENDER

Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on women and vulnerable groups

In June, KOMPAK and PEKKA conducted a survey of over 6,000 households in 17 provinces. This provided insights on the impact of the pandemic on women and vulnerable groups, the accuracy of existing social protection datasets, and the challenges of inclusive village consultation processes given social distancing restrictions.

The key takeaway is that community-based approaches to data collection and service delivery are critical to effective distribution of social assistance and should be accommodated into

national policy. This includes involving the community in the monitoring and distribution of *BLT-Dana Desa*, implementing outreach programs in villages to identify and register vulnerable groups, using village information systems to document these groups and their vulnerabilities, and verification and validation of DTKS data at the community level.

04

RESEARCH

Key challenges and opportunities identified by study

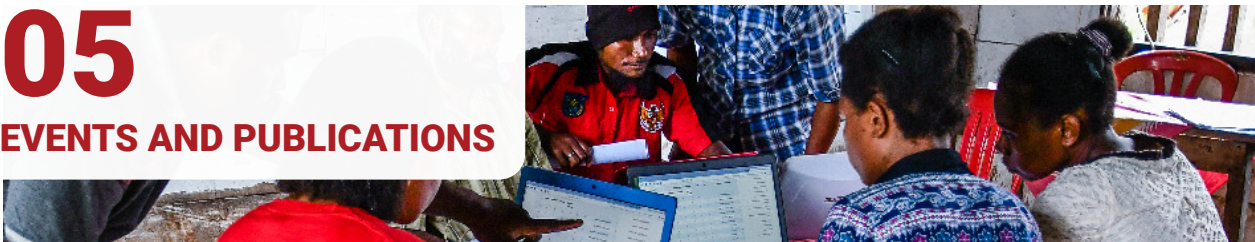
Accuracy of data on vulnerable groups. Inaccuracies on marriage status and legal identity can cause duplications or exclusion from programs. Community-based data collection and management has proven the most effective means of verification and validation of existing datasets, such as for DTKS and civil registration.

Women and marginalised groups are still excluded from many village consultation processes. Some of the causes include inadequate enforcement/regulation, inappropriate timing of the consultation, and over-representation by elite groups. This requires clear guidelines and trainings for village officials, as well as mechanisms to monitor and enforce or incentivise inclusiveness.

Affirmative programs for women and marginalised groups need to be further strengthened to respond to specific needs of each group. For example, sexual and reproductive health services for women, support to caregivers (predominantly mothers) to oversee online schooling of their children, and other services, particularly during the pandemic, for groups, such as people with disabilities, elderly and children.

05

EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS



MAJOR EVENTS (September)

1 Sep: Workshop on use of public financial management instruments for development of Regional Medium-term Development Plans with Bappenas, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

11 Sep and 18 Sep: Online training on use of mobile application to support health services for pregnant women (*Pemantauan Wilayah Setempat Kesehatan Ibu dan Anak/PWS KIA*) for health officials in Pangkajene dan Kepulauan, South Sulawesi, and Bener Meriah, Aceh.

23 Sep: Sharing session on the experience and lessons learned on the integration of DTKS with Civil Registration Office's information systems and

village information systems for poverty response efforts for the Central Java Provincial Regional Poverty Alleviation Team and Bondowoso District Government.

23 Sep: Launch of Guidelines for Sub-district Governments to support COVID-19 Response and the New Normal by the Minister of Home Affairs.

28 Sep: Launch of Policy Paper "Racing Against Time: A Policy Paper on the Prevention and Handling of COVID-19 Impacts on Children and Vulnerable Individuals" with Bappenas, PUSKAPA and UNICEF.

PUBLICATIONS



Guidelines for Subdistrict Governments to support COVID-19 Response and the New Normal

Subdistricts play an important role in supporting the effort to prevent and respond to COVID-19. They play an important role in helping to coordinate the response and in providing support to village governments and service units (such as health clinics and schools) to plan and implement their response.



Racing Against Time: Policy Paper on the Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Vulnerable Individuals

This policy paper discusses children and vulnerable populations amid COVID-19 and the risks they face. It provides recommendations to improve the inclusivity and responsiveness of government programs in the aftermath of the pandemic.



Handbook on Transparency and Accountability of Village Budget Realisation

The handbook provides a guideline for village governments and village councils in realising the principles of transparency and accountability for village financial management. It outlines best practices on upward and downward accountability for village governments and councils, including reporting and engagement mechanisms to the district government (and above), between the village apparatus and council, and to the community.



Guidebook for Monitoring the Response to COVID-19 in the Village by the Community and Village Council

The guidebook contains information, instructions, procedures, and steps for communities and village councils to monitor the local response to COVID-19. It covers village planning, activity implementation, and budget reporting processes.

All published documents on COVID-19 are available at:

<https://www.kompak.or.id/en/covid-19/default>