

COVID-19 PANDEMIC - EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Arkom Indonesia

BACKGROUND

Based on the testimonies obtained from interviews with several community representatives, they tend not to have the toughness in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Affected communities on average are people who work in the informal sector and live on informal land. The vulnerability is getting worse because the government's responsibility in this emergency period is slow and too bureaucratic. Assistance promised by the government is given based on the data they have, where people who live on informal land are not included in the data. But social capital about solidarity between members in groups, organizations and networks between communities is one reason that makes them optimistic about facing the emergency response of COVID-19.

COVID-19 has a very large and multi-sectoral impact especially on the urban poor community. Until now the impact on human health has not yet found a cure and antiviral. Therefore, world policy is directed towards prevention. The Government then issued Decree of the President of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2020 concerning Determination of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency and Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation Number 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions as a Strategy to Accelerate Handling of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID- 19). This has a significant impact on the urban poor community. The cessation of public activities such as tourism, universities, and offices greatly affects people who work in the informal sector such as street vendors, souvenir sellers, taxibike online, etc. If we look at the context of minimum wages from cities that are the target group of this program, Yogyakarta and Solo have average daily wages ranging from Rp1,900,000 / USD 126,53 and Surabaya has a different average minimum daily wage and tends to be quite high because the high cost of living in the city. The minimum wage in Surabaya reaches Rp 4,200,000 / USD 253.07¹. But when this pandemic occurs, even communities that were previously very mediocre, the wage income must experience a decrease to fulfill daily needs

In the first week after the stipulation of the COVID-19 emergency period by the Provincial Government of DIY, Arkom initiated a rapid survey process in the emergency period by collecting data online using the Maptionnaire platform, with the support of the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (MSc Urban Development Planning). The survey tool distribution was carried out by utilizing Whatsapp Group together with the Kalijawi, Pringgomukti, and Selaka Kotagede Community. More than 200 families participated in the survey and data collection process². Data obtained from the survey results show that 75% of the people who are members of the community work in the informal sector such as street vendors, day laborers, factory workers, selling at home, and online motorcycle taxi drivers. The average daily income of their families before the pandemic was Rp. 70,637.00 / USD 4.66³ which was considered low enough to meet their daily needs. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was causing their family income to fall by around 50% with an average of Rp

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<https://www.liputan6.com/bisnis/read/4117084/daftar-lengkap-umk-2020-di-pulau-jawa-daerah-mana-tertinggi>, accessed on 13/04/2020

² The survey assessment results are attached in Annex 2

³ The exchange rate (1 USD = 15,151.83 IDR) used is based on 30 day average exchange rate as listed on XE.com on 06/05/2020

35,758.00 / USD 2.36. In the same survey found that to meet daily needs, families need an average of Rp. 76,248.00 / USD 5.03 per day. The nominal is very small if it is calculated to meet the basic daily needs of families in the urban areas of Yogyakarta. Some of communities also experiencing job loss.

In addition, the government's call to remain at home indicates that the home is the safest place to take shelter. But in reality, not everyone has a decent home and guaranteed living security. Those who are marginalized and affected in the economic sector during this pandemic also cannot guarantee their own safety from COVID-19 or the possibility of other outbreaks in the future due to limited housing conditions. This will only be an irony if the policy to remain at home is not accompanied by the fulfillment of a safe and decent place to live and settlements for informal communities that have been marginalized. Among the members of the assisted community group, several houses do not have access to clean water⁴. With the limited housing conditions, from the survey results more than 50% of community members who have a *KK Gendong*⁵. The policy to conduct physical distancing becomes a challenge for communities with housing conditions that lack of capacity. Some people from the community creatively try to be able to do the separation or division of space to prevent themselves or even family members from being infected by COVID-19. But in fact this is only done by a small portion of the community. 80% of the community respondents in the Arkom survey only distance themselves when they are active, but are unable to limit their space or improve the quality of their homes.

With this significant impact, the community itself does not yet have the ability and knowledge to deal with this situation. From the survey results, it was also found that most of the people claimed that they did nothing and only tried to keep their distance and minimize physical contact and support the limitation of social activities. However, it also poses other threats to them related to their daily needs and their resilience in maintaining health in conditions that are very limited. One effort to increase their resilience is to strengthen social capital and the spirit of shared solidarity to be developed further. The community leaders who are facilitated and have a strong spirit of optimism are the main assets that can be developed. Thus strengthening inter-community and inter-city networks became one of the strategic steps in seeking resilience of the urban poor community during this pandemic.

SPACE OF LIVE VS COVID-19, A REFLECTION FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY ON SECURITY OF TENURE

The COVID-19 pandemic Emergency Response period caused many problems, one of which was experienced by the informal sector community. Meeting the basic needs of food is one of the important things that must be considered along with the decreasing income of the informal community due to policies to prevent COVID-19 transmission. The slow response of the government in responding to this makes the conditions of these communities increasingly marginalized. In addition to food needs, housing conditions and settlement areas are part of the needs that must be met in an effort to protect themselves and their families from this pandemic.

⁴ The results of assessment survey found that there were 4 houses that did not have access to clean water

⁵ Having more than 1 family living in one house

The government has issued to do physical distancing policy and working from home policy to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission. In this situation, the house is considered as the most strategic and safe place to take shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic. The house and settlement area become places of community defense in protecting themselves and their environment to be not infected by COVID-19. But in reality, not everyone has a decent home and guaranteed living security. The security status of those who live on informal land is also another threat lurking behind the COVID-19 case. In the absence of COVID-19, their condition was already threatened by forced evictions, land grabbing, and ecological disasters. The existence of the COVID-19 pandemic has made them even more vulnerable and marginalized.

This situation reinforces that housing, sanitation, a healthy and safe environment are basic human needs guaranteed by the constitution. This will only be an irony if the policy of working at home is not accompanied by the fulfillment of a safe and decent place to live and settlements for informal communities that have been marginalized. For this reason, the fulfillment of the right to adequate housing and settled security for the community is an important strategy and must be considered to decide on the spread of COVID-19 and if there are later outbreaks / other non-natural disasters which must be faced by them. This substance is one of the forms of urgency relation of how security in settling becomes one of the important topics in responding to the series of impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically Arkom and the Kalijawi Community, which for the last 5 years have been running the Security of Tenure Program, fulfilling the right to adequate housing for urban marginal communities. In the course of the program until the end of December 2019, the Arkom and the Kalijawi Community Organization Network have succeeded in making a participatory indicator on Settlement Security; housing condition, security of land, institution, access to basic services, environment and settlement, infrastructure and location (in relation with disaster and livelihood. The indicators compiled with the Kalijawi will be used to determine the level of security of settlements for 21 informal settlements in 2 riverbanks in the Yogyakarta Urban Area and informal urban community referrals in several cities in Indonesia accompanied by the Arkom's Network. In these indicators Arkom and the community will not consider pandemic that will affect living space in the settlement and community life. Security from the Disaster Aspect is more interpreted as a natural disaster. The Arkom-Kalijawi of Security of Tenure Indicators is being pushed to the Yogyakarta Provincial Government as a consideration for developing an informal settlement management policy in the Urban Area that must be stopped everywhere when the COVID-19 outbreak and the COVID-19 emergency response in DIY since April 20 2020.

Therefore, the current COVID-19 pandemic is even very influential in all dimensions of the life of informal urban communities such as the Kalijawi and several other communities accompanied by Arkom. It is very important to reflect on the living space of people in urban areas. Settlement security that has been interpreted physically, threats are also interpreted physically related to spatial quality, natural disasters and evictions must be redefined and associated with more dangerous and invisible threats, such as epidemics such as COVID-19. Space constraints, limited lifestyle, currently the highly affected informal economy, health protocols and prevention strategies of the government version tend to favor the middle class and upper class. Social distancing, work from home, lock down, forced the urban poor to follow all the rules for preventing the spread of COVID-19. What the urban poor can do in a strategy to survive, prevent the spread of epidemics and improve the quality

of space in the context of Settlement Security is a new perspective that becomes a discourse in groups.

A cultural revolution is running, the urban poor are trying and moving against COVID-19. This Emergency Project initiated has become an important activity as a medium to strengthen solidarity and build collective awareness and understanding regarding living space. Working online, organizing groups online and formulating new definitions of residence security while finding creative ways from within to find long-term solutions for the survival of urban informal communities are a common challenge.

GOAL

Resilience of Disadvantaged Community Network on COVID-19 Pandemic realized.

PROJECT DURATION

The intervention of activities as project implementation in the COVID-19 emergency response period is planned within **5 months**, with the following stages:

1. Early Emergency (First month ; until the end of May 2020)

The focus of activities at this stage is to ensure that all families in the target group are fulfilled their basic needs such as rice, sugar and cooking oil needs and ensure data to determine the distribution of vulnerable groups in each group. This stage is very urgent because the government has not been able to provide certainty of support, protection and social and economic security during the social restriction policy and the number of agencies that apply the system to work from home during the emergency response period. This phase becomes a critical phase because the community will enter the month of Ramadan for the majority of members who are Muslim where the economic needs of this period are relatively increasing.

2. Emergency-Continuation Phase (2nd and 3rd month; until the end of July 2020)

This stage is the stage where the target group has had the toughness, discipline and ability to disseminate knowledge about ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the family to community level. The community no longer thinks how to fulfill the basic needs of the family because it has been fulfilled in the previous stage. In this phase, it is assumed that the government has implemented emergency response programs in the form of guarantees for the lives of underprivileged citizens. Solidarity work between groups and communities began to be built and impacted the wider community with the campaign methods of clean and healthy behavior and the campaign to build food security from the community. Network work began to be built as social capital to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in community ways.

3. Emergency-Transition Phase (4th and 5th months; until the end of September 2020)

This stage is a stage to prove to the public that marginalized community networks are able to adapt quickly to difficult situations by building joint strength in the form of joint ventures. Creative initiation from the community as an effort to build food security began. It is expected to be able to provide benefits to each member in the form of enthusiasm, togetherness, solidarity and at the same time can help improve the community's economy. This initial strength will be a turning

point in community networks by building systems from within, long-term joint work on a larger scale, affecting on members' livelihoods, and at the same time becoming a form of big dreams about empowered, cultured and independent communities.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATOR

Based on the rapid response from the community network, especially those in Yogyakarta, the project implementation will be the Collaboration Team between the Arkom Indonesia Foundation Team and the Community Network. This team was formed on April 1, 2020 through online coordination followed by community representatives who assessed that COVID-19 would be able to be resisted by joint movements, networking work between communities. This team is called the COVID-19 Prevention Task Force, with the following team structure:

