



PRESS RELEASE

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UN further allocates USD 1.7 million funding package in empowering local economy and vulnerable groups

Jakarta, 8 March 2021 – The United Nations (UN) renews its strong commitment in supporting countries to recover better from the pandemic – while leaving no one behind. Today, the UN has allocated USD 1.7 million funding package to bolster local economic empowerment of women and vulnerable populations in Indonesia and to protect their livelihood further from the devastating socio-economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding package (as part of the global United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund / COVID-19 MPTF) is earmarked to setup a new project that intends to support the vulnerable groups of people who are affected by the pandemic, including women, youth, refugees, migrant workers, people living with HIV, key populations most vulnerable to HIV and people living in disadvantaged regions. The project offers support to the targeted beneficiaries through three major channels: supporting entrepreneurship training and business development; facilitating access to skills development and jobs; and assuring a gender-equal and inclusive labour market that is free from discrimination.

In Indonesia, four UN agencies: International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) will work closely with the Government in ensuring these vulnerable groups are not further left behind and disadvantaged in the society and in the labour market. As labour market conditions deteriorate, existing inequalities are being exacerbated. According to the latest labour force survey results, 29 million workers are affected by the pandemic with 24 million workers suffer from cuts in hours of work and income. The average wages were depressed by 5.2% between 2019 and 2020.

While many of high-income earners are able to work from home and their income is relatively intact, the pain of the pandemic is particularly felt by low-paid workers as their vital income is lost. The UN Resident Coordinator, Valerie Julliand said “Some vulnerable groups of people tend to be left behind during the socio-economic crisis and the recovery process. It is vital that UN agencies join forces with the government of Indonesia and civil society organizations and take catalytic actions to benefit and empower these groups directly while addressing existing inequalities and discriminations in the labour market and society as a whole”.

The COVID-19 MPTF funding package was firstly allocated to Indonesia in June 2020 (USD 2 million) to support the advancement of the social and economic protection mechanisms in the country.

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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.

About the UN Implementing Agencies

ILO: *The International Labour Organization (ILO) is established in 1919 to promote social justice. The only tripartite UN agency brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member states, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.*

UNAIDS: *The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNAIDS Indonesia has been a strategic partner of the Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia and civil society organizations in dealing with the national response on HIV and key population.*

UNDP: *UN Development Programme (UNDP) is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. Learn more at www.undp.org or follow at @UNDP*

UNHCR: *Since 1950, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supports Governments in providing international protection and finding solutions for refugees and other persons of concern. In promoting solutions and refugee resilience, UNHCR works with Governments, in designing refugee empowerment programmes allowing refugees to meet their needs in a safe, sustainable and dignified manner; avoid aid-dependency and negative coping mechanisms; contribute to their host communities; and prepare refugees for their future.*