

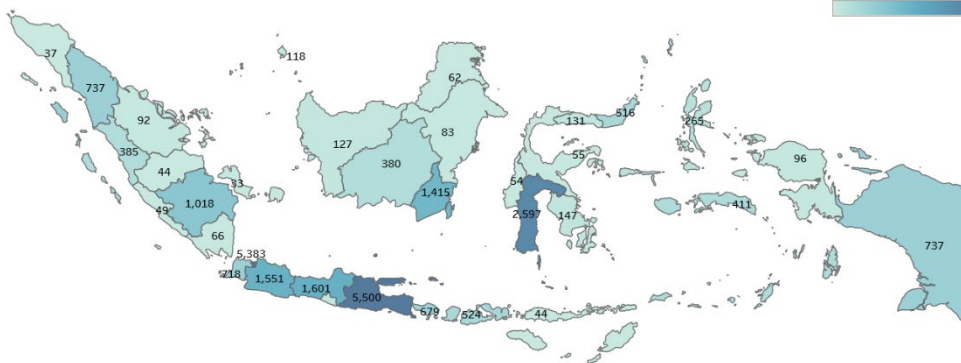


INFORMAL
MONITORING
PUBLIC
UPDATE

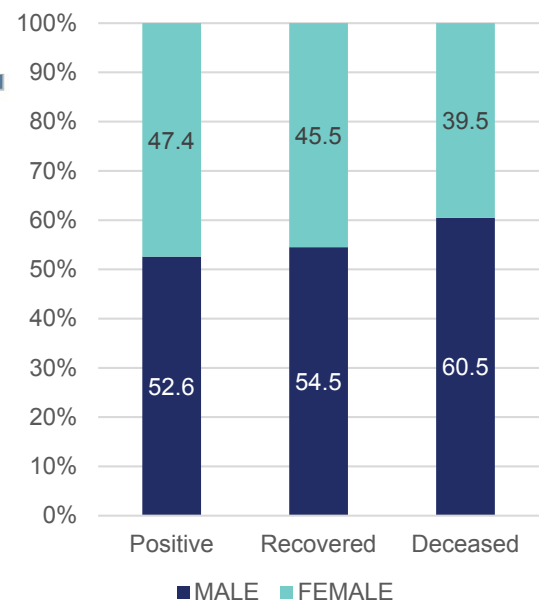
JUNE 2020

THE GENDER OBSERVATORY: COVID-19 AND THE CRISIS

Number of Women and Girls COVID-19 Positive in Indonesia per 29 June



Provincial map of confirmed cases: Darker shading indicates more confirmed cases
Data: <https://covid19.go.id/peta-sebaran>



Monitoring update: Gender breakdown of COVID-19 impacts

As of 29 June, 55,092 people (47.4% of them female) had been infected with COVID-19 in Indonesia. Females comprised 45.5% of the total 23,800 recoveries and 39.5% of the total 2,805 deaths. In June, the epicentre of the national epidemic shifted from Jakarta to East Java. On 29 June, East Java had registered 11,805 positive cases (46.6% of them female), overtaking Jakarta's 11,237 cases (47.9% of them female).

Surviving the downturn: Women-owned micro businesses

The COVID-19 downturn is hitting small business hard

Around 90% of Indonesia's 130 million workers make a living at medium-sized, small or even "micro" businesses, often in the informal economy. Supporting these enterprises to survive is crucial for livelihoods and pivotal to maintaining Indonesia's prosperity in recovery.

Owing to their small cash reserves, limited inventories and the difficulties they face taking out bank loans, many micro and small enterprises will struggle to survive the shock of COVID-19. Almost 80% of enterprises with fewer than 100 employees have cash reserves to last just 30 days.

Small and micro businesses owned by women are especially at risk

70% of all women-owned businesses generate profits of less than Rp1.4 million (A\$145) per month. This is not enough to keep a family of four out of poverty. These enterprises are the least likely to survive the pandemic.

Prospera spoke to women who had registered home-businesses in Jakarta to see how they were coping with COVID-19 restrictions. The interviews revealed that sales had fallen sharply, and some businesses had been forced to close. The respondents said they were looking to the government to provide cash-flow support to help them resume their businesses.

"My sales have gone down to zero because all bazaars and events have either cancelled or postponed. I have tried to market handicraft products online through WhatsApp but to no avail. Everyone is prioritising food and basic needs." (Female microbusiness owner, Jakarta April 2020).

Policy measures are in place, but it's hard to reach small informal businesses

The government recognises the severity of the crisis. It has announced a series of measures to ease pressure on businesses such as tax deferrals, interest subsidies and loan restructuring.

Small informal businesses are harder to reach. Few are benefitting from the policies the government has announced already. Many of these small enterprises do not even have the documents needed to access the support. High informality, low internet access, poor digital literacy and weak identification systems compound the challenges in identifying and reaching the most vulnerable.

Helplines & Links

- View the Government of Indonesia's official COVID-19 data: <https://covid19.go.id/>
- The Health Ministry's COVID-19 Emergency Hotline: **119**
- Report problems related to the distribution of social assistance through the Social Affairs Ministry's complaint service: WhatsApp: 0811 10 222 10, Email: bansoscovid19@kemsos.go.id
- For consultations regarding violence against women contact the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan) at: **+62-21-3903963**
- To report issues with the distribution of BLT Dana Desa visit: <http://e-complaint.kemendes.go.id/>

The first edition of the Gender Observatory newsletter was met with widespread enthusiasm and interest. This second edition features a number of quality pieces from new contributors exploring how the coronavirus pandemic is impacting different groups of women and how these women are responding.

First, the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Economic Development (Prospera) shows how the outbreak is affecting women-owned micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and suggests policy responses that can help support these businesses.

Zuma from the Jakarta Women's Legal Aid Institute (LBH APIK Jakarta) then joins the Observatory to talk about violence against women during the pandemic and how service providers are adapting to social distancing by moving online.

The Indonesia Business Coalition for Women's Empowerment (IBCWE), Kopernik and the World Bank share the results of recent surveys looking at gendered impacts of the crisis while the Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) introduces its COVID-19 Resource Centre.

This edition reinforces that the gendered impacts of the outbreak are real and serious, with women facing high rates of food insecurity and violence while bearing the burden of increased domestic work. The diverse contributions show that women-owned small businesses are weathering unprecedented challenges and violence prevention efforts are creatively pivoting online, while government, civil society, and development partners work to strengthen evidence-based responses.

Coming in the next edition:

The July edition of the Gender Observatory newsletter will present a range of exciting new studies and commentary by organisations finding innovative ways to respond to the gendered impacts of the outbreak. The Female-Headed Household Empowerment Program (PEKKA) is set to release the results of a survey looking at its members' experiences of the pandemic, with a focus on access to social assistance. Separately, Migrant Care will analyse the challenges facing the huge numbers of returning women migrant workers and the economic impact of Covid-19 on migrant worker owned businesses.

Prospera's experience with women small business owners indicates they need tailored support to access loans and wrap around business support for areas such as marketing. General program approaches may mean women miss out. Some, for example, are reluctant to take up loan restructuring:

"I still need to pay anyway, deferring payment only means that it will take me longer to pay back. I don't want to have a loan for a long time"
(Female microbusiness owner, Jakarta, June 2020)

Before the crisis, loan uptake among women was less than men (up to 8 percentage points lower). To go further, the government could also provide cash grants to help micro businesses get back on their feet once economic recovery is underway.



Zuma talks COVID-19 and VAWG

Siti 'Zuma' Mazuma is the Director of [the Jakarta Women's Legal Aid Institute \(LBH APIK Jakarta\)](#), an organisation that works to increase access to justice for women survivors of violence.

Zuma explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has seen an unprecedented increase in the number of cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG) being reported. Before the pandemic, LBH APIK Jakarta received an average of 60 cases each month.

However, between 16 March to 25 June 2020 they received 327 new cases, which were dominated by

In addition, as the distinction between small and 'micro' businesses and households is often blurred, Prospera has joined with others in helping the government find ways to extend social assistance to newly poor households.

Knowing who to help and when

Going forward, the most vulnerable small businesses could be reached quicker by making registration for government assistance easier by: disseminating information in easy to understand language and format, simplifying and fast-tracking self-registration via mobile and online registration, making the most of existing data to create digital IDs for applicants, and delivering transfers via mobile phones that are linked to ID-card numbers (NIKs).

For further information contact Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, Prospera Senior Adviser - Gender and Social Inclusion bimbika.sbasnett@prospera.or.id

domestic violence (117 cases) and cyber violence against women and girls (104 cases).

"It is important that we track and disseminate this data. This is not just numbers, but a sad story of increasing violence that demands real action from the community and government," said Zuma. She noted that both the Office of Presidential Staff and Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection had recently utilised data produced by LBH APIK Jakarta to draw attention to the problem of VAWG.

"The increase in domestic violence has in part been triggered by quarantine policies that force women into close proximity with their abusive partners amid mounting economic and social pressures," Zuma said.

Throughout the 'work from home' period, LBH APIK Jakarta has pivoted to receiving cases, providing legal consultations and attending court cases online while increasing public awareness about preventing VAWG through virtual discussions.

In late May, LBH APIK Jakarta partnered with Twitter to launch [a new violence prevention initiative](#). Now, when people in Indonesia search for keywords associated with gender-based violence on Twitter, a notification directs them to the LBH APIK Jakarta hotline where they can seek assistance.

COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting women's livelihoods in Bali — Kopernik

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Bali's economy, with the tourism sector being hit the hardest. The coronavirus outbreak has led to massive job losses and reductions in incomes. In May 2020, Kopernik conducted a rapid assessment to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods in Bali, as part of Kopernik's broader COVID-19 Emergency Response initiative to support communities affected by the pandemic.

The impact of COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on different segments of the population, including women and girls. As part of the assessment, Kopernik interviewed 87 respondents comprising 10 business owners and 77 households that represented various sectors and covered all regions of Bali. Kopernik analysed the data using various parameters including gender, type of work, and place of origin.

The study found that **female respondents have been more severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing a 72% reduction in income**, compared to a 52% reduction experienced by male respondents. This highlights the disadvantages that female workers are facing in terms of income-generating opportunities.

Support received (typically in the form of food or hygiene products, and mostly distributed through Bali's Banjar system) has been relatively even at 44% female and 48% male respectively.

The current situation provides an opportunity to develop targeted programs that address the livelihoods and needs of women, by leveraging their existing skills and knowledge, as well as by providing access to re-skilling opportunities and meaningful employment to strengthen economic resilience during times of crisis, and beyond.

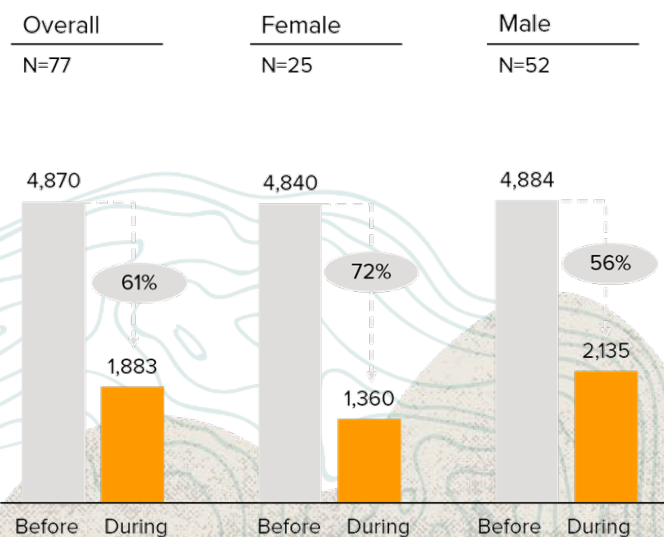
By Stevan Suryono

COVID-19 IMPACT

Female respondents have been more impacted by COVID-19, while support provided to both male and female respondents has been relatively even.

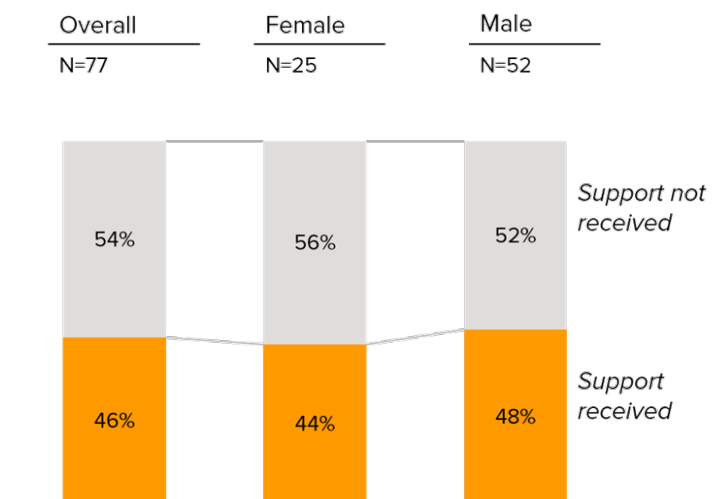
Average income before and during COVID-19 by gender

(Thousand Rp, N=77)



COVID-19 related support received by gender

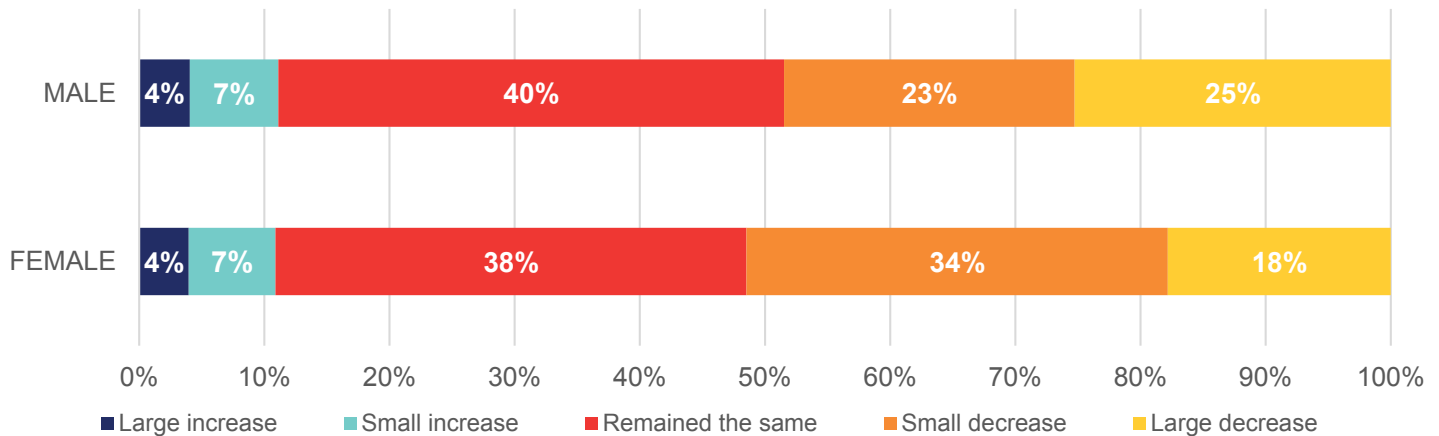
(%, N=77)



Investing in Women and IBCWE look at employees' experiences

In May, the [Indonesia Business Coalition for Women's Empowerment \(IBCWE\)](#) and [Investing in Women \(IW\)](#) commissioned a survey of **300 male and 300 female employees from large, private sector companies in Indonesia** to understand how COVID-19 was impacting on their work and personal lives. While many people lost their jobs in the crisis, **this survey focused on people who had remained employed.**

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, how has your household income changed?



- A large percentage of male and female respondents said their household income had decreased as a result of the pandemic (refer to graph above).
- Around 40% of employees were working from home.
- 36% of respondents reported feeling that COVID-19 had a negative impact on their mental well-being.
- However, nearly 75% of men and 83% of women reported they were equally or more productive during the crisis.

See the study fact sheet [here](#).

IW and IBCWE also conducted a separate survey on the impact of domestic roles on working from home. The survey of 446 respondents (70% female, 30% male), mainly employed in the private sector, showed that **women were performing more domestic work.**

46% of female and 11% of male respondents said they were responsible for preparing food at home. **Similarly, 10% of male respondents compared to 45% of female respondents said they took care of their children at home.**

Interestingly, only 1% of female respondents said their husband was responsible for caring for children.

A large percentage of both women (82%) and men (78%) agreed that domestic responsibilities impacted the effectiveness of working from home.

View Investing in Women's comprehensive 'COVID-19 & Women's Economic Empowerment Resources' [here](#).

Food insecurity higher amongst female-headed households — World Bank Survey

In May 2020, The World Bank conducted the first round of a [high-frequency survey](#) of 4,338 households across 27 provinces. The survey tracked indicators related to social wellbeing, labour market, food security, and access to safety-net programs.

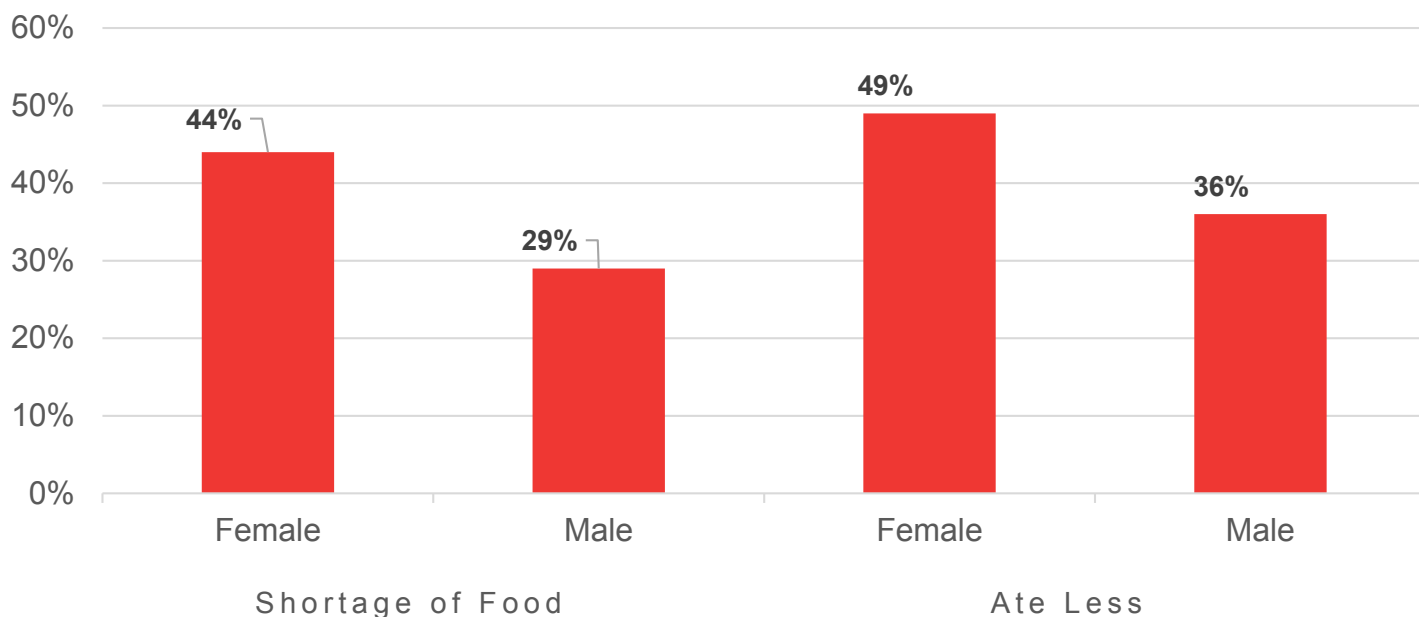
Some of the key findings included:

- 24% of households' breadwinners had stopped working by early May 2020.

- Of the 76% who kept working, 64% did so with a reduced income. Employment shocks were relatively similar between female and male breadwinners.
- 31% of households experienced some food shortage with 38% reporting they ate less than they should.
- **Food insecurity was higher amongst female-headed households** (see graph below).

Experienced [...] Caused by Lack of Money/Other Resources within the Past Week (%)

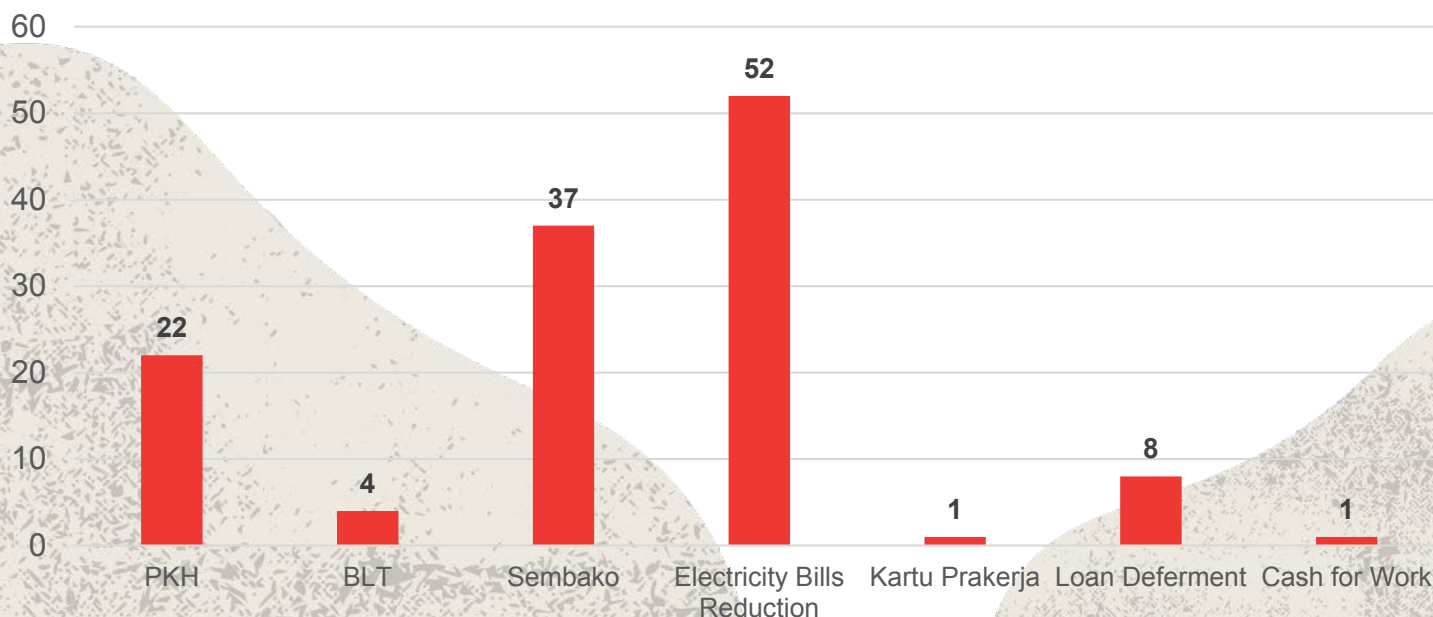
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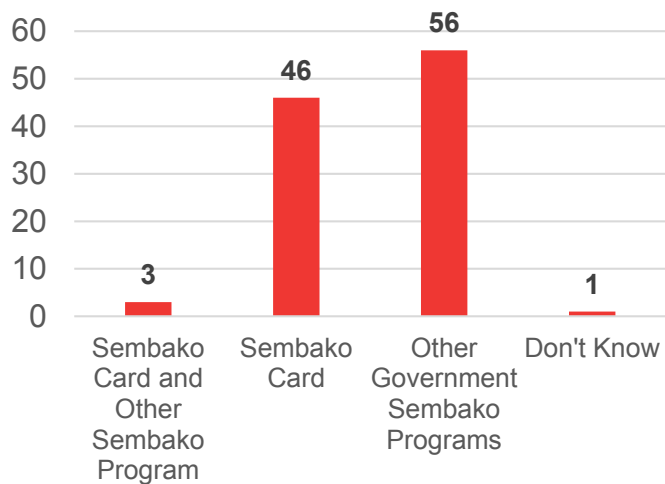
- As of early May, 54% of households in the bottom 40% reported benefiting from at least one government social assistance program, this rose to 78% of households after accounting for loan deferment and electricity subsidy programs. However, just over two in five households in the bottom 40% had not received any assistance under the Family Hope (PKH), staple foods (Sembako), cash transfers (BLT), Pre-employment card (Kartu Pra-kerja) or cash-for-work programs.

View a summary of the World Bank's high frequency household survey [here](#). For further information, contact Ririn Salwa Purnamasari – Senior Economist at the World Bank at rpurnamasari@worldbank.org.

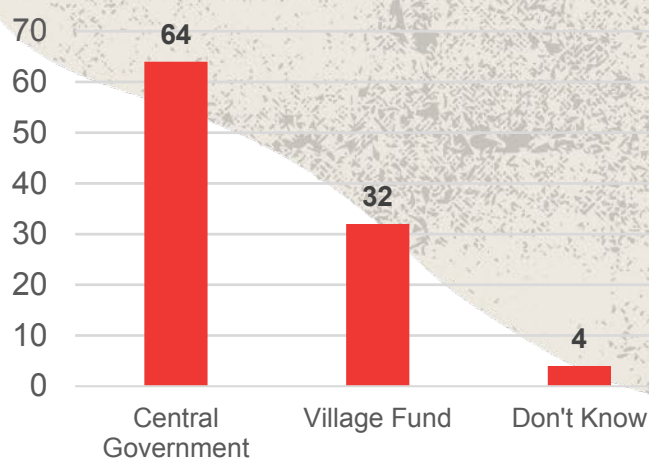
Share of Social Assurances & Subsidies Beneficiaries (%)



Source of Sembako (%)



Source of BLT (%)



KSI's 'COVID-19 Resource Center' innovative analysis and research

The Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) is committed to overcoming the challenges posed by COVID-19 by strengthening the response to this unprecedented event. KSI has adapted its program to the pandemic by creating a 'one-stop-shop' portal that provides access to information about KSI and its partners' pandemic related initiatives – [the KSI COVID-19 Resource Centre](#). This microsite sits within the KSI website and is dedicated to gathering information on activities and studies conducted by KSI, policy research institutes (PRIs), and KSI partners on cross-cutting issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of June 2020, KSI had gathered 227 knowledge products produced by KSI and its partners. The content is split across seven key topics and the [Gender and Social Inclusion \(GESI\) topic](#) has contributed 6% to the accumulative content, including several papers produced by [The Center for Strategic and International Studies \(CSIS\)](#) and SMERU Research Institute.

is compiling

CSIS has produced several papers discussing gender related issues in the COVID-19 pandemic, including an article on the [Vulnerability of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Facing the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), a discussion on [how emotion plays a role in the response to COVID-19](#) — which analyses the role of female leaders during the pandemic — and a paper on [how women's organisations Muslimat and Fatayat mobilise resources](#) at the local level and should be considered for inclusion in the government's disaster mitigation effort. CSIS also addressed [the psychological challenges faced by women working from home](#).

Additionally, **SMERU** produced a paper on the [social safety net during the COVID-19 crisis spotlighting the gendered economic difficulties](#).

Various future initiatives will be carried out collaboratively by KSI and its partners on the publicly available microsite.



Get in touch with the MAMPU Program and provide feedback, comments or ideas for collaboration at: info@mampu.or.id

This newsletter is a product of cooperation between international development programs working on women's empowerment in Indonesia. The monthly publication will collate and present information on how the crisis and mitigation efforts are affecting Indonesian women with the aim of encouraging gender-responsive programs and policies.