

MAMPU KITA

KABAR DARI KITA



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MAMPU Partners Provide Recommendations for the Omnibus Law on Job Creation

Since its emergence, the Omnibus Bill on job creation, has received a lot of public attention, especially by trade unions and workers. The bill has been increasingly debated, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, because some of the bill's contents are considered to be insensitive to the prevailing conditions in society. In order to encourage the fulfilment of workers' rights, and gender mainstreaming within the bill, several MAMPU Partners, including Migrant Care, the Trade Union Rights Center (TURC), Annisa Swasti Foundation (Yasantil), and the Foundation for Rural Capacity Building (BITRA) submitted recommendations for the labour cluster of the bill through a List of Issues (DIM). On 20 May, MAMPU Partners submitted the DIM to the Peoples' Representative Council (DPR) work committee presiding over the bill.

"In the midst the pandemic, informal workers are increasingly vulnerable because they are not covered by Employment Social Security Insurance. Informal workers who are women experience higher vulnerabilities because they are often 'hidden' from the scope of data collection and coverage of the social security programs," said Migrant Care's Wahyu Susilo on 25 June during the webinar titled 'What's new with the Omnibus Law? Civil Society's Recommendations for Incorporating Workers Protections into the Job Creation Bill'.

A number of civil society organisations reject clauses in the omnibus law and have held protests against it. Some organisations contend that the regulation lacks gender perspective and ignores women's interests. Tiasri Wiandiani, Commissioner of the National Commission for Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan), explained that the bill weakens maternity care provisions: "In the draft regulation, companies are not obliged to pay wages for menstrual leave. This Omnibus Law also only regulates the provincial minimum wage which, in practice, is usually lower than the district minimum wage, so this will impact on reducing wages for women who work in labor-intensive sectors," said Tiasri. She explained that under current regulations, wages for leave during menstruation are guaranteed by the Law 13/2003 on Labour.



Nearly 60% of Indonesia's workforce are informal workers, such as domestic workers, day labourers and homeworkers. During the second webinar in the 'What's new with the Omnibus Law' series titled 'Working Women and MSME's,' Andi Misbahul Pratiwi, a researcher from the Trade Union Rights Center (TURC) contended that the bill seriously threatens protections for informal workers. "According to our observations, there are two articles, namely Article 64 and 65 of the Bill which actually eliminate the requirements of the outsourcing work mechanism through a work contracting agreement. The practice of homework is increasingly popular, though previous laws do not protect the rights of homeworkers, and neither does this new draft Omnibus Law," explained Andi.

Because of disagreement on the contents, President Joko Widodo has delayed the deliberation on the labour cluster of the Omnibus Bill. The President announced that the government and the DPR have agreed to delay discussion on the cluster so as to investigate each article in more depth and garner feedback from more stakeholders.

Staying Skilled to Survive

Homeworkers, given their place on the supply chain, are some of the workers who are most vulnerable to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some homeworkers' incomes have declined, and others have lost their incomes altogether as workorders from their employees have ceased. In Dagang Kelambir Village, Deli Serdang Regency the women homeworkers union is being supported by the Foundation for Rural Capacity Building (BITRA) — a MAMPU partner – for improving employment conditions for women. Women in this homeworkers' union were trained how to make and market face masks to fulfil their daily needs.



"Because the factory didn't have any more orders, I couldn't work to earn an income. However, after we started sewing masks, the economic situation of my household has been greatly helped," explained Mislam, who has worked as a homeworker for the past 16 years.

Currently there are 12 homeworkers producing cloth face masks. Although they are just starting out, the two-layered masks, which sell for IDR 5,000 (approximately AUD .50c) are in high demand both from BITRA and from government agencies. "Actually, people don't expect the government to fulfil all their needs, but people need to be provided with knowledge and skills. When these women are skilled, they will be able to survive," explained Rosmawati, Manager of the Women Homeworkers Empowerment Program, BITRA.

Helping Village Communities Fight the Impact of COVID-19

In addition to providing assistance to improve the economic situation of women homeworkers, BITRA is also actively involved in efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. BITRA's 'COVID-19 Prevention and Emergency Response' program disseminates information and personal protective equipment to rural communities. "The main target of this emergency response activity is vulnerable groups in rural areas, such as women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The rest are farmers and other rural community members," said Rusdiana, Executive Director of BITRA Indonesia.

BITRA also installs posters and banners throughout villages and appears on community radio dialogues to convey information about

the spread of COVID-19. In Pulau Gambar Village, Serdang Bedagal Regency, BITRA volunteers travel from village to village to provide information about COVID-19 and educate residents about wearing masks and hygienic practices.

BITRA has also distributed a total of 5,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) packs to assist villages spread across 9 districts in North Sumatra. The packs contain PPE in the form of a masks and are also complete with hand sanitisers and traditional herbal medicine, as well as information leaflets about COVID-19. "We did this because when COVID-19 entered Indonesia, we had difficulty finding masks, hand sanitisers and vitamins in our area. This is what we are doing to help the government procure these items for the community," explained Rusdiana.

PEKKA is Assisting Local Governments Monitor Social Assistance Distribution during COVID-19

In June, MAMPU Partner the Female-Headed Family Empowerment Program (PEKKA) monitored social assistance provided to residents affected by COVID-19 through a survey of 6,553 respondents spread across 91 villages in 42 districts and 17 provinces. Twenty-two of these districts are supported by the MAMPU Program.



Before conducting the monitoring, PEKKA provided training for enumerators on 18 and 19 May to teach survey procedures, questions and data synchronisation.

According to Dwi Indah Wilujeng, PEKKA's MAMPU Program Coordinator, the monitoring aimed to ensure that social assistance programs from the government and private sector were delivered on target.

"The results of monitoring will be used to form input for village and central governments, to improve their social protection systems during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Wilu.

The monitoring was divided into two streams, namely:

- 1. Family questionnaires for monitoring COVID-19 social assistance:** These were used to obtain information from families about all types of social assistance programs, including from the government, private sector, and NGO's, that had been received or not received by the community during the pandemic.
- 2. Questionnaires for village governments for the monitoring of BLT-Dana Desa:** These were used to obtain information from village government officials about villages' policies regarding Unconditional Cash Transfers - Village Funds (BLT-Dana Desa).

After enumerators had compiled the data, PEKKA Union staff field facilitators verified it and compiled it with data from other regions up to the central level. "Data collection was carried out from 21 May to 24 June. In May, data was collected for the family questionnaire, while data for the village questionnaire was collected in June. Currently we are still in the process of processing the data to formulate recommendations," explained Wilu.

The enumerators involved explained that collecting the data was an interesting experience and a way to make an important contribution during the pandemic. In addition to actively helping fellow citizens, enumerators also benefited from the capacity building provided by PEKKA. Asia, one of the enumerators from the PEKKA Union in Sampang District, East Java explained:

"Oh God, I was so anxious when interviewing the village head. It was with a sense of relief that I successfully finished the task. PEKKA helped make us, who used to be nervous, become courageous," said Asia after interviewing the head of her village.

Several enumerators reported that were still residents who were not registered for and did not receive social assistance even though they met the necessary criteria to be recipients. Lismi, an enumerator from Ogan Kemerling Ilir, South Sumatra, said, "Ibu Uliya, one of the respondents I interviewed, previously received rice from the subsidy rice assistance program (Raskin), however, the assistance stopped for some reason and Ibu Iluyi did not speak out about it."

Currently, PEKKA is processing the survey data and will release the results in the near future.

HAPSARI Continues to Provide Case Handling Services in the Midst of the Pandemic



Women have become more vulnerable to violence, especially domestic violence, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KPPA) notes that between 2 March to 25 April 2020, there were 275 cases of violence against women reported.

HAPSARI, one of MAMPU's Partners in North Sumatra that is part of the Service Providers Forum (FPL), has also received increasing numbers of reports of violence against women since the pandemic began. From January to December 2019, HAPSARI handled 73 cases of violence; however, during the pandemic, from January to June 2020 HAPSARI has already handled 32 cases and each day this number continues to rise.

Many organisations have pivoted to provide counselling services online. However, HAPSARI still provides services in person because of a number of limitations.

"We provide online services, but we also first analyse the type of the case and the condition of the victim. Not all victims of violence that we help can access online services. There are limitations with internet connections which mean that we need to continue to provide face-to-face services for these victims," said Sri Rahayu, part of HAPSARI's anti-violence advocacy team.

"In addition, by meeting face-to-face and giving them a hug, we can provide a sense of security, comfort and confidence to the victim, so they know they are not alone in facing their problems," Ayu continued.

To ensure case handling progresses smoothly, HAPSARI discusses protocols for handling cases of violence with the local village government. This was done recently during a discussion with the Head of Denai Kuala Village, Pantai Labu, Deli Serdang.

The case handling protocol prepared by HAPSARI is: first, the victim comes directly to the HAPSARI center and staff will investigate information related to the reported case. Then HAPSARI coordinates with the village government, police and the local neighborhood head while continuing to provide support to the victim until the case is resolved. HAPSARI also facilitates advanced services such as law enforcement involvement, psychological services and district court reports.

The HAPSARI team is always ready to provide services while observing social distancing, wearing masks and observing health protocols.

BaKTI Introduces Bappeda Parepare to SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Tools



On 22 to 23 June 2020, BaKTI — one of the MAMPU Partners for the East Indonesia regions — introduced the Regional Development Planning Office (Bappeda) of Parepare City to monitoring and evaluation tools to measure realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event took place at the Parepare Mayor's office and BaKTI conducted a trial simulation, using the monitoring and evaluation tools to measure three main indicators: gender responsiveness, transformation and inclusion.

The activity was attended by personnel from Bappeda, the regional health office, women's empowerment and child protection office, and other government and non-governmental organisations, including 'Aisiyah and the Indonesian Women's Coalition (KPI).

The monitoring and evaluation tools were developed in cooperation with MAMPU and aim to provide alternative, participative monitoring tools in accordance with the SDG's motto of 'No One Left Behind'.

Reducing Stunting Remains a Priority in the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only impacted negatively on the economy it has also affected efforts to achieve the government's national priorities, one of which is preventing stunting. On 14 May 'Aisiyah, MAMPU partner in the reproductive health and nutrition



cluster, held a webinar. ling Mursalin represented the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction's (TNP2K) anti-stunting team to speak at the webinar, he explained: "Even when conditions are normal, the target of reducing stunting is quite difficult to achieve, in a state of emergency like this, it is especially difficult."

According to ling, there are four main factors that have hindered efforts to reduce stunting, namely: the reallocation of budgets which were initially concentrated on anti-stunting initiatives have been redirected for the COVID-19 emergency response; the large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) which have resulted in the closure of community health centers and classes for pregnant women, as well as increasing food prices and weakening peoples' purchasing power, which directly affects access to nutritious food. Pungkas Bahjuri Ali from Bappenas, added to ling's statement with interesting Bappenas data which shows that in Indonesia, regions with the highest number of stunting cases are also regions that have high levels of COVID-19 infection.

According to Pungkas, this complicates efforts to prevent stunting: "The challenge is not just a triple burden, but a quadruple burden, namely the burden of obesity, micronutrient deficiencies, macro malnutrition, plus the burden of COVID-19."

Dian Dhipo from Ministry of Health's Directorate of Public Nutrition highlighted the importance of food security at the family level. "Weak nutrition security in the family environment will increase acute nutrition problems. This can lead to an increase in the number of children suffering from malnutrition and stunting. Therefore, this problem needs proper handling, especially by providing family level assistance."

Providing Support and Seeds to Promote Food Security and Village Nutrition

'Aisiyah is providing village level mentoring and education with support from the MAMPU Program. Tri Hastuti, MAMPU's 'Aisiyah Program Manager spoke about 'Aisiyah's role in building the capacity of 'breast milk and nutrition cadres', who provide education about the importance of breastfeeding and proper nutrition at the village level. These cadres also provide locally sourced complementary food supplements and ingredients to families who need it.

On 19 and 20 May, 'Aisiyah, with support from the MAMPU Program, held a refresher course for cadres of 'Aisiyah Regional Leadership (PDA) groups in 15 districts and cities. The online course covered mentoring and counselling materials for the 270 cadres and 30 PDA assistants who attended the online Zoom training. According to Karwati, the MAMPU-'Aisiyah Coordinator in Sumedang, many cadres who were not used to taking part in virtual forums showed high enthusiasm for the meeting. "Many cadres were eager to participate, and the committee team was ready to help the participants to join online," said Karwati.

Tri explained that in addition to supporting the cadres, 'Aisyiyah has directly helped the community by procuring food staples that have been challenging to obtain during the pandemic. In a number of regions and cities, "Aisyiyah distributes nutritious food to pregnant and breastfeeding women, and stunted children. Besides that, we also support women's groups to utilise their home gardens to grow food," said Tri.

Balai Sakinah 'Aisyiyah (BSA) communities in 15 districts and cities have been provided with seeds, seedlings and fish so the women in these communities can grow food and provide for their families independently, at least until the pandemic is over.

Yayasan PUPA Bengkulu: Children Talk about Preventing Child Marriage



On 22 June, Yayasan PUPA Bengkulu — member of the Service Providers Forum (FPL) which is supported by MAMPU— held a virtual talk show on Zoom titled 'Children talk Child Marriage'. The talk show focused on the role of the young generation in preventing child marriage which is continuing to occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of young speakers representing the Indonesian Child's Forum, Bengkulu Province, the Teenagers' Information and Counselling Center (PIK-R) and high school students from Bengkulu took part in the event along with panelists from various other backgrounds.

In the discussion that went for approximately two hours, the speakers stressed the importance of teenagers educating their peers about preventing child marriage. "Child marriage violates children's rights," said Benedicta Vania Tandiono, General Secretary of the Bengkulu Province's Children's Forum. According to Benedicta, teenagers should fight for their rights to finish education and reach their dreams. "We fully support the government's program and hope to maximise the existing regulations. At school, lessons about reproductive health are in the curriculum," she said.

"It is also important to pay attention to the factors that increase the likelihood of child marriage, such as families who are unable to provide the needed support to their children, the lack of sexual and reproductive health education in schools, unplanned marriages, and the cultural acceptance of marrying at a young age as well as social-economic pressures which often occur in South Bengkulu,"

Monica Subastia from the MAMPU-'Aisyiyah team in Magelang District explained that based on the results of mapping, many families were experiencing food shortages. "We provide vegetable and fruit seeds as well as fish fingerlings, because, from the results of the mapping we have done, there are still many families who lack protein and don't consume enough fresh fruit." BSA groups in each of the regions showed support for the program and voiced hopes that the program would continue until the end of the pandemic.

said Olga Jeni Setiowati, member of PIK-R SMAN 02. Olga continued to explain that child marriage in Bengkulu was a multifaceted issue that stemmed from larger social issues such as poverty and low education in the community. According to data from the PUPA Foundation and Cahaya Perempuan Women Crisis Center Bengkulu on separate occasions, the prevalence of child marriage in Bengkulu Province in 2018 reached 16.17%. Meanwhile, the data showed that the 94 court granted dispensations provided for child marriage in South Bengkulu in 2018 was the highest compared to other districts in Bengkulu.

Riva Suwandari, committee member of Bengkulu City Middle Highschool 13's PIK-R added that child marriage must be prevented because it had a prolonged impact on children. "From the very beginning, child marriage will sever children's rights to go to school and play. Furthermore, it is very possible for domestic violence to occur because children are not ready to take responsibility for taking care of households," she explained.

So, what can young people do as the main subjects of this problem? Benedicta outlined several things that children can do to prevent child marriage from becoming a transgenerational problem:

1. Build good communications with parents and make the most of the large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) to spend more time with family;
2. Have discussions with peers who have a good understanding about youth issues, including through the Bengkulu Children's Forum; and
3. Take part in positive and productive activities that support the self-development of young people.

Prevention of child marriage should involve support from local governments, schools and institutions that have close relations to children. These institutions should:

- provide a safe space as a learning forum and valid source of information;
- provide comprehensive educational material about reproductive and sexual health at school; and
- strengthen the role of the family to support the safe development of children.

These efforts are in line with the Governor of Bengkulu Regulation No.33/2018 regarding Preventing Child Marriage. The issuance of this regulation in July 2018 was the result of joint advocacy of MAMPU Partners including Cahaya Perempuan, KPI Bengkulu and PUPA Bengkulu along with PKBI Bengkulu and the Bengkulu Regional Government who saw the issue of child marriage as a strategic issue related to women's sexual and reproductive health

rights which contribute to maternal mortality, stunting, and violence against women.

"I invite all my peers to have the courage to campaign for the prevention of child marriage; nothing is in vain if we become agents of change for our collective future," closed Benedicta Vania Tandiono.

The Role of Village Women as Health Promoters Combatting COVID-19

As the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic nears six months, the community struggle to prevent transmission of the disease continues. Although it is not yet known when the pandemic will end, members of the Grassroots Women's Community Forum (FKPAR) continue to play an active role in fighting the virus in unique ways, just like the following story from villages in Palembang.

Susilawati, a FKPAR member, is part of an Independent Women's group assisted by Women Crisis Center (WCC) Palembang. The PERMAMPU network is actively supporting her group's efforts to disseminate information about 'Clean and Healthy Living Behavior' (PHBS) from house to house. The campaign emphasises topics that include: always washing hands with soap after being outside the home, before eating or touching your face; and consuming foods with balanced nutritional content. The counseling ends with the distribution of cloth masks, hand sanitisers and COVID-19 prevention information flyers made by group members.

In addition to providing door to door counselling, WCC Palembang Partners have also assisted their groups to carry out routine disinfection and build simple hand washing facilities equipped with soap and clean water taps.

Rita Sapartasia, a woman from Pedataran Village, Muaraenim Regency assisted by WCC Palembang regularly organises disinfection activities in her region with other activists.

"We routinely spray disinfectants on frequently touched surfaces such as public door handles, water taps, and so on," explained Rita. The disinfectant that Rita uses is produced independently by villagers in accordance with the Indonesian Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Prevention guidelines.

WCC Palembang has supported grassroots women's groups to implement a variety of health promotion activities. Yeni Izi, Director of WCC Palembang, explained the important role that grassroots women's groups play in disease prevention in their villages.

"Women play a huge role as the front guard in COVID-19 prevention, not only in cities, but also in villages. Hopefully this pandemic will end soon and people's lives will run return to normal and people will continue to adopt a clean and healthy lifestyle," said Yeni.

About MAMPU

Australia - Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The MAMPU Program (2012 - 2020) is joint initiative between the Government of Australia and the Government of Indonesia. The Program supports the achievement of Government's of Indonesia's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by developing women's leadership and empowerment, ultimately so that they have increased access to essential services and government programs.