

COVID-19

GNWP Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Appeal

April 2020

Country Update

Indonesia

As of April 7, 2020, the Ministry of Health in Indonesia has confirmed 2491 coronavirus cases and 209 deaths.[1] However, some experts predict an increase in cases and warn they may reach as many as 71,000 by the end of April 2020 without a major intervention.[2]

The Indonesian has imposed quarantine on 30 million Indonesian who live in the capital and restricted movements across the country. In addition, the Indonesian government has introduced a state of emergency, and schools, cinema and other entertainment places have been closed for two weeks. The government is trying to increase social distancing polices and has put disaster emergency plan, which will remain in force until May 29,2020.[3] However, in Indonesia the government is using the country's long-abused criminal defamation laws to crack down on public criticism of the government's response to the outbreak.[4] GNWP is closely monitoring the situation with its local partners on the ground. So far there have been few cases in Poso, Central Sulawesi and Lamongan, East Java where GNWP implements its projects. However, according to GNWP partners, the government is concerned about the spread of COVID-19 in these areas and is likely to put more restriction on travel ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holidays marking the end of Ramadan in late May. Nearly 15 million people usually leave Jakarta during this time to travel to West Java, Central Java, East Java and other provinces to celebrate the Islamic holiday.[5]

Impact on women and peace and security:

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted those with lower income in Indonesia and aggravated existing inequalities, including gender inequality. According to some reports, families of parliamentarians were given priority access to COVID-19 tests, sparking protests.[6] Moreover, the COVID-19 has prompted a new outbreak of discrimination in a country that has long struggled with racial tension. [7] The hostility against Chinese-Indonesian and Chinese nationals has been increasing. There have been calls on Twitter for Fatwa or non-legally binding pronouncement on Islamic law against them.[8] In response in the emergence of this type of hate speech, GNWP's YWPL members in Indonesia are preparing a social media strategy to counter such narratives on social media platforms.

[1] "Indonesia: Little Transparency in COVID-19 Outbreak." Human Rights Watch, 10 Apr. 2020, www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/indonesia-little-transparency-covid-19-outbreak. Accessed on 14 April 2020.

[2] Iqbal Elyazar, "Without major intervention, Indonesia could have 71,000 COVID-19 cases by April's end", The Conversation, 28 March 2020. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/without-major-intervention-indonesia-could-have-71-000-covid-19-cases-by-aprils-end-134239>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.

[3] Arya Aditya, "Indonesia Plans to Limit People's Movement to Combat Virus", Bloomberg News, 29 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-29/indonesia-prepares-to-lock-down-30-million-people-to-curb-virus>. Accessed on April 1 2020.

[4] "Indonesia: Little Transparency in COVID-19 Outbreak." Human Rights Watch, 10 Apr. 2020, www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/indonesia-little-transparency-covid-19-outbreak. Accessed on 14 April 2020.

[5] Iqbal Elyazar, "Without major intervention, Indonesia could have 71,000 COVID-19 cases by April's end", The Conversation, 28 March 2020. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/without-major-intervention-indonesia-could-have-71-000-covid-19-cases-by-aprils-end-134239>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.

[6] Johannes Nugroho, "Here's how a Covid-19 lockdown in Indonesia could look like", Today Online, 31 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/how-covid-19-lockdown-indonesia-could-look-jokowi>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.

[7] Aisyah Llewellyn, "Coronavirus: anti-Chinese social media 'more scary than Covid-19' in Indonesia", SCMP, 22 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/health-environment/article/3076221/coronavirus-anti-chinese-social-media-more-scary-covid>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.

[8] Aisyah Llewellyn, "Coronavirus: anti-Chinese social media 'more scary than Covid-19' in Indonesia", SCMP, 22 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/health-environment/article/3076221/coronavirus-anti-chinese-social-media-more-scary-covid>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.