Indonesia High-frequency Monitoring of Covid-19 Impacts

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Please contact Ririn Purnamasari (rpurnamasari@worldbank.org) for any queries regarding the Indonesia High-Frequency Monitoring of COVID-19 Impacts on Households, World Bank, 2020.
Food Security

The prevalence of food security in November remains unchanged since August...

• Significant level of “churning” across population subgroups: worsening shortage of food between August and November in DKI Jakarta and among female headed households
• Share of households eating less than they should still above pre-pandemic level

Coping mechanisms

• Smaller share of households reduced consumption to cope with shock (50% in November, compared to 70% in May/June)
  • on average households reduced 30% and 40% of their usual pre-pandemic monthly food and non-food expenditure, respectively
• Greater reliance on government’s assistance (73% in November, compared to 55% in May/June),
  • significantly higher among less educated & those in the bottom 40%
• Increased uptake of formal loans and participation in income generating activities
• 50% relied on assistance or borrowing from friends/family
• BLT & Sembako programs were seen as “most helpful”. 
Health

- **Coverage of COVID-19 testing is slowly improving**, with 13% of adult population reporting having been COVID-19 tested by November, of whom 21 out of 1000 were PCR tested;
- **Access to primary health services has recovered since the decline in August**, possibly due to opening up of facilities;
- **Among households still unable to access services**...
  - Over 25% were due to fears of contracting COVID-19
  - 25% were due to medical personnel not being available at the facility (up from 6% in August)
- **Phone/online consultations** continue to be very rare, **used by only 7% of households who needed health services**;
- **Nearly 80% of Indonesians willing to receive the COVID-19 vaccination if provided at no cost**, but more highly educated people, those in urban areas, (primarily DKI Jakarta) are associated with lower acceptance;
- **Nearly 60% report suffering from at least one mental health conditions**, with about half experiencing worsening or just started to experience the symptoms during the pandemic.
Highlights (III)

Education

- **In November, schools opened for face-to-face learning for 31% of students**
  - Mostly outside DKI Jakarta
  - The majority were open for only a few days a week
- **93% of students continued to engage in distance learning**
  - Only 41% via mobile/online learning at home; no improvement since August.
  - Significantly lower among students in the bottom 40% and outside DKI Jakarta.
  - Constraints included internet access, difficulties in concentrating, and lack of devices
- **51% of students received internet quota subsidies, and most (82%) were using it.**
  - While on average students spent 2.3 hours per day on distance learning activities, those who received the internet quota spent 30 minutes more than those didn’t receive it.
  - However, only half of the students who received the quota were engaged in online learning
  - The quota is less likely to be received by students in the bottom 40%, in rural, and outside Java.
Digital Transactions

- **Most households don’t use digital platforms for purchases**
  - 21% used for food and 31% for non-food items since the start of the pandemic
  - COVID-19 just modestly shifts towards more digital, with only 12% of households that either **began** to use or **increased** usage during the pandemic
- **70-80% of those using online purchases still use cash for payment**
- Top reasons for not using a digital platform were a preference for traditional shopping (40%), high cost (15%) and lack of knowledge about how to use a platform (12%)

Concerns

- Though mildly improved, most households are still worried about being infected by COVID-19 and their immediate financial situation.
- Financial concerns are more prevalent among lower educated and the less wealthy households.
Survey

01
**Design**

**Method:** 6 rounds of panel survey, 20-30 minute phone interviews with about 4,000 households, every 3-6 weeks for the first 3 rounds and every 3 months for the following rounds.

**Sampling Frame:** Sampled households drawn from Urban Perception Survey (2018), Rural Poverty Survey (2019), and Digital Economy Survey (2020) across 40 districts and 35 cities in 27 provinces.

**Stratification:**

Explicit: 5 regions  
Implicit: Sex and education of Head of Household

Sample distribution of HiFy and Indonesia’s National Socio-Economic Survey (Susenas) is very similar across each stratification of interest, confirming confidence in representativeness of the HiFy sample.
Implementation

Baseline (Round 1)
4,338 respondents
1-17 May 2020
Module: Knowledge/Behavior, Employment, Access to Food/Food Security, Safety Net

Follow-up (Round 2)
4,119 respondents
26 May – 5 June 2020

Follow-up (Round 3)
4,067 respondents
20 July – 2 August 2020
Module: Knowledge/Behavior, Employment, Food Security, Access to Health, Safety Net

Follow-up (Round 4)
3,953 respondents
3 – 15 November 2020

Follow-up
Round 5: Q1-2021
Round 6: Q3-2021
**COVID-19 Indonesia Government Response Stringency Index**


**Survey implementation**

- **Round 1**: 1 - 17 MAY
  - Jabodetabek, some kabupaten/kota: Large Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB)
  - First confirmed cases reported
  - Nation wide school closures
  - Economic relief measures started: PKH benefits top-up, Sembako Card expansion and benefits top-up, Bansos Tunai, BLT-village fund, Sembako Banpres, electricity bills reduction and Kartu Pra-Kerja

- **Round 2**: 26 MAY - 5 JUNE
  - DKI: PSBB relaxation, implementation of New Normal policy

- **Round 3**: 20 JULY - 2 AUGUST
  - DKI: PSBB tightening

- **Round 4**: 3-15 NOVEMBER
  - DKI: PSBB relaxation
  - Grants for micro enterprises
  - Wage subsidies; Internet credits for students
Response rate

87% of respondents in Round 1 were successfully re-interviewed in Round 2, 3, and 4.

- Where respondents were not interviewed, this was mostly because their phones were unreachable or unanswered.

- Attrition was random: response rates were similar across sex, age, and education of household head, as well as household welfare and region.

- Therefore, attrition bias is not a concern when interpreting changes between rounds.

The analysis presented here is based on 3,794 panel households in Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Food Security
The prevalence of food security remains unchanged since Round 3. By November, 23% of households still reported food shortages and 29% of households reported eating less.


represent 90% confidence interval
In Round 4, the state of **food shortage** improved among households in the bottom 40%, but worsened among female headed households, households in the middle 40% and in DKI Jakarta.

R1: 1-17 May 2020  
R2: 26 May – 5 June 2020  
R3: 20 July – 2 August 2020  
R4: 3 – 15 November 2020
As a result, female headed households are more likely to lack sufficient food than male headed households.

And the prevalence of food shortage in DKI Jakarta, which was the lowest in the past rounds, is now as high as other regions.
Underlying an improving trend in eating less overall, there is high churn. 14% of households experienced worsening eating less from Round 1 to Round 4.

Note:
- **Worsened**: never -> seldom -> sometimes -> often
- **Improved**: often -> sometimes -> seldom -> never

R1: 1-17 May 2020; R2: 26 May – 5 June 2020
R3: 20 July – 2 August 2020; R4: 3 – 15 November 2020
Female-headed and low educated households, and those who reside outside Java, are more likely to reduce their food intake due to lack of resources.

The prevalence of eating less is higher among those relied on government’s assistance.
By November 2020, **13%** of adult population reported that they have been tested for COVID-19. This is 30% higher than the share in August.

Among those who were tested, **2.1%** - or equivalent with 21 people per 1,000 population - were PCR tested.

*The 95% CI: 1.4–2.9

Note: Based on administrative data from the Ministry of Health in mid-November, 3.1 million people (about **17 tests per 1,000 adults**) were tested using PCR. However, since PCR test is a rare incidence, the estimate may not be generalized to represent the population.
Disruption in access to Primary Health Services had reduced

As of November (R4), less than 10% of households who needed primary healthcare were not able to access it.

Significant improvement compared to situation in August (R3), especially in terms of access to immunization, pre-natal care, and tuberculosis treatment services.

Unable to access health services in the last month when in need (% HH in need*)

- Immunization: R3: 22%; R4: 14%
- Pre-natal care: R3: 5%; R4: 3%
- Tuberculosis treatment: R3: 1%; R4: 1%
- Family planning: R3: 13%; R4: 16%
- Hypertension treatment: R3: 1%; R4: 3%
- Diabetes treatment: R3: 1%; R4: 3%

*HH in need for
- Immunization R3: 22%; R4: 14%
- Tuberculosis treatment R3: 1%; R4: 1%
- Pre-natal care R3: 5%; R4: 3%
- Family planning: 13%; Hypertension treatment: 16%; Diabetes treatment: 5%
More than 50% of those who were unable to access health services were either due to fear of contracting COVID-19 at health facility or lack availability of medical personnel.

The share of households unable to access services due to closure of health facilities significantly decreased to 16% in November, from 45% in July/August.
Phone or Online Health Consultations remain very infrequent

While about half of households needed health services in the month prior to November, only 7% of them used phone or online consultations.

Of those who do not use these services, 40% do not know either about the services or how to use them, and 17% prefer face-to-face.

Main reasons for not using phone/online health consultation (% HH who didn’t use)

- Don’t know about the service
- Don’t know how to use the service
- Prefer to meet directly
- Device can’t support online consultation
- Don’t trust quality/reliability of online consultation
- Too expensive
- Others
- Limited internet access/Low bandwidth
- No internet access
- Concern about personal data
Lack of knowledge about phone/online consultations or how to use the services are more likely among female-headed households, head of households with low education, and those in the middle 40% and in Java.
Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine is potentially high

Nearly 80% of Indonesians are willing to get vaccinated, if provided at no cost.

Among those who say no to vaccination (13%) or are unsure about getting it (8%), ¼ were against vaccination in general, while over ½ have concerns about safety, effectiveness, or side effects.
Those who say no to vaccination are more likely among higher educated people, residing in urban areas, and primarily in DKI Jakarta.
If vaccine was not free, people are willing to pay for the vaccine ranging from IDR 50,000 ($3.50), or about 65% of median daily wage*, among the Bottom 40% to IDR 110,000 ($7.50) in the Top 20%.

People are also willing to spend, on average, up to 2.5 hours to receive the vaccination.

* Median daily wage of IDR 77,000 includes wages of wage workers, self-employed, and casual workers. Based on Sakernas February 2020 (pre COVID-19).
70% of adults consider senior citizens as the highest priority group to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Young working adults and healthcare workers are not in the top three priorities.
Mental health problems have been worsening during the pandemic

Nearly 60% of adults reported having at least one mental health issue in the week prior to the survey in November; about half of them had worsened or just started to experience during the pandemic.

![Mental health problems during the pandemic (% adult population)](chart1)

![Situation of mental problems compared to pre-pandemic (% of adult population)](chart2)
Lower educated adults are more likely to have experienced worsening or started to experience mental health problems during the pandemic.
Education
The vast majority of students continued to engage in distance learning

In early November, more than **90%** of students continued to engage in distance learning activities from home;

Meanwhile, some schools were open for **face-to-face learning**, reaching **31%** of students;

And **one in four** students received ‘hybrid’ learning methods (combined distance learning and face-to-face)

\*Out of students currently enrolled in school
A small minority of students dropped-out

2% of children aged 5 – 18 years who attended school before the pandemic were no longer enrolled in November.

A third of these children dropped out as they could not afford tuition fees.

Reason for dropped out of school (%*)

- Lack of Money to Pay for Tuition Fee
- Delayed Further Schooling Temporarily
- Did Not Want to Continue
- No Need for Further Schooling
- Working/Earning a Living
- Others

*Out of those who dropped out of school after the pandemic
Face-to-face learning at school was still limited

Face-to-face learning is significantly higher outside DKI Jakarta.

However, most students attended schools only for a few days in a week.
Many students faced various challenges in distance learning

71% of students reported facing at least one constraint in their learning activities at home.

Limited internet access, having difficulties to focus and concentrate, and lack of supporting devices, were the main constraints cited by students either studying offline or online.
51% of students received an internet quota subsidy, 82% successfully using them.

Some students couldn’t use the quota due to connectivity issue or lack of supporting device.

Overall, only half of the students who received the quota were engaged in online learning.

received Government’s internet quota subsidy

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received, but couldn’t use it due to connectivity problems (poor signal, etc)</td>
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<td>Received, but didn’t need it</td>
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<td>Received, but didn’t use it due to no supporting devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received, but couldn’t use it due to other reasons</td>
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<td>Received and using it</td>
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*Out of students currently enrolled in school
Overall, students in primary and secondary schools, in the bottom 40%, in rural areas, and outside Java are less likely to receive the internet quota.

The incidence of receiving quota, however, is the same among students with adequate or lack of internet access.
Despite internet quota subsidies, the share of students using mobile learning apps and/or online schooling for distance learning in November remained at about **40%** as in May/June (R3).

Significant drops in watching educational TV programs, from 56% in R3 to only 10% in R4.
Mobile/online learning is significantly higher among senior secondary students.

However, students in the bottom 40% are less likely to use it.

Large gap emerges between students in DKI Jakarta and the rest of the country.

*Out of students who engage in distance learning activities at home
On average, students spent 2.3 hours per day on distance learning activities.

Students who received the internet quota, on average, spent 30 minutes more than those didn’t receive it.

Students whose school was open for face-to-face learning generally spent 20 minutes less than those without face-to-face.

*Out of students who engage in distance learning activities at home
Overall, students in higher levels of education, in wealthier households, in urban areas, and in DKI Jakarta spent longer time daily on distance learning activities.
Irrespective of the type of learning activities at home, most students were still in contact with their teachers. WhatsApp was the most common means.

*students who engaged in learning activities at home and communicate with their teachers
Digital Transactions
Since the COVID-19 outbreak, **37%** of households have engaged in digital transactions.

21% of households used **online platforms** to purchase **food items**, and 31% to purchase **non-food items**.
The pandemic modestly shifted consumer behavior toward digital transactions

Only 12% of households either began to use or increased usage online purchases during the pandemic.

However, about the same share of households decreased the usage.
Those who began to use or increased their use of digital transactions are more likely to be higher educated, younger and from wealthier households, and those who reside in urban areas and in Java.
70-80% of those who have used online platforms for purchases still pay in cash

*Out of households using digital payment method for each type of transaction
Preference for traditional, offline shopping is the most cited reason for not adopting digital transactions.

Other reasons are cost and lack of knowledge about how to use the platform.
Coping Mechanisms
Main strategies to cope with shock changed

The share of households with reduced consumption declined from around 70% in May/June to 50% in November.

Meanwhile the share of households relying on government assistance increased to 73% in November, compared to 55% in May/June.

More households have started income generating activities and taken formal loans.

Q: In the past three months, how does your HH cope with difficulties in meeting daily needs due to COVID-19 outbreak?

R2: 26 May – 5 June 2020
R4: 3 – 15 November 2020

*Spontaneous or probed
Households who reduced consumption on average reduced 30% and 40% of their usual monthly food and non-food expenditure before the pandemic, respectively.

The pattern is similar across different household characteristics and geographic locations.
Reliance on government assistance is significantly higher among less educated households and those in the bottom 40%.
Most helpful government assistance (% HH who relied on government programs)

Among those who relied on government assistance programs, a third of them reported BLT (cash transfers) and Sembako were the most helpful programs.
Meanwhile, nearly half of households have been counting on social capital, by receiving assistance or borrowing from friends/family.

This strategy is more prevalent among less wealthy households in the B40 and M40 and with female and lower educated heads.
Concerns
In November, people were slightly less worried than before.

However, most households were still worried about COVID-19 infection (80%) and their financial condition in the immediate term (60%).

And just less than half of households were still concerned about having enough to eat in the next week.
Younger and poorer households are more likely to worry about being infected.

Households with lower educated heads and the less wealthy are more likely to worry about their finances and having enough food. Worry about not having food is also higher among those outside Java.
Terima Kasih

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Hungry but did not eat

Households which experienced hunger but did not eat were more likely to be outside Java and in the bottom 40%.
Going without eating for a whole day

The prevalence of households that skipped eating a whole day dropped.
About a quarter of households reported missing out on nutritious food.

This affects more households with low education, less wealthy, and those in rural and outside Java.

Unable to eat nutritious/healthy food (% HH)
Everyone has the same access to formal loans in general