



3,440,396
Confirmed Cases*

535,135
Active Cases*

95,723
Deaths*

SITUATION OVERVIEW & EMERGING NEEDS

- In the context of a rapid acceleration of COVID-19 cases and deaths throughout all 34 provinces of Indonesia throughout June and July 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) has signaled an urgent need to enhance measures to suppress COVID-19 transmission in the country. In July 2021 alone, there have been more than 30,000 reported deaths, which represents a third of all total recorded deaths to date. The number of reported cases remains near all-time highs, with an average of 43,414 cases being reported over the seven-day period of 22-28 July. View the latest WHO situation report ([28 July 2021](#)).
- The pandemic continues to affect migrants and refugees in Indonesia with severe impacts on their health and wider socio-economic status. In July, the National Task Force for the Handling of Refugees announced that the refugee community in Indonesia can no longer access the free national vaccination campaign, which to date had reached less than 3% of the refugee population in the country.
- With the expanding outbreak in the largest destination countries for Indonesia migrant workers, there are once again large numbers of mass returns to Indonesia, including an estimated 40,000 in June-July 2021. IOM assessments have revealed a severe impact on migrant worker households, including a need for robust efforts at the village level to support migrant households' inclusion in wider recovery efforts (see page 5).
- An expansion of capacities at Points of Entry (POE) remains essential to COVID-19 mitigation and recovery efforts. A joint assessment by IOM and the government highlighted urgent intervention areas to enhance COVID-19 prevention, disease surveillance, and isolation capacities at POE.

DONORS TO IOM INDONESIA



FEATURE STORY

REFUGEES REFLECT ON THEIR LIVES DURING COVID-19 IN PHOTO EXHIBITION

"People love to hug, but we cannot because of COVID-19."

These are the words of Ali, a refugee from Afghanistan in Pekanbaru. "We need to keep safe physical distance from each other," he added.

Ali is one of ten refugees who shared their stories and photographs as part of the COVID-19 & Me Photo Exhibition, organized by IOM in collaboration with the Pekanbaru Heritage Walk in commemoration of World Refugee Day 2021.

Alongside fellow refugees, Ali joined the exhibition to show the public how the refugee community has dealt with the pandemic, which he admits is hard most of the time. But he finds that the act of creation – such as photography – brings a ray of joy.

Nur, who fled Myanmar eight years ago, was another contributor in the event.

"I am not an expert in photography, but I tried to take photos with my heart to share my feelings," she said. "I want to show people how my family copes during the COVID-19 pandemic."

For Nur, gardening has brought her family closer together during the past year. Nearby their accommodation, Nur and her father have started growing vegetables that her mother later cooks for all.

Through the COVID-19 & Me Photo Exhibition, refugees like Ali and Nur were given a chance to express their feelings, fears, and hopes during the pandemic. It was also a chance for the public to learn and understand better about the lives of the refugee community in Indonesia.

Watch a [video recap of the COVID-19 and Me exhibition in Pekanbaru](#).

Top photo: Refugees in Semarang harvest vegetables from urban farming initiatives. *Stats are updated as of 1 August 2021 (source: National Task Force).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM IOM ACTIVITIES ACROSS INDONESIA



MEDAN, NORTH SUMATERA
IOM installed hand washing stations at several public schools throughout the city.



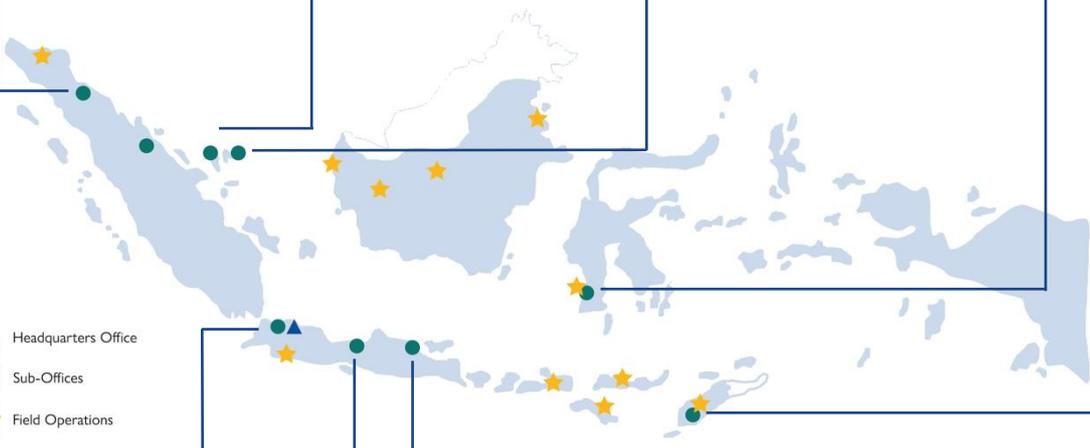
PEKANBARU, RIAU
Together with the city government of Pekanbaru, IOM facilitated COVID-19 vaccination drives of the refugee community in the city.



TANJUNG PINANG, RIAU ISLANDS
IOM supports COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and case management efforts with Kepri Province COVID-19 Task Force in Bintan.



MAKASSAR, SOUTH SULAWESI
IOM held a community outreach with refugees with local community for a harmonious environment during pandemic situation.



- ▲ Headquarters Office
- Sub-Offices
- ★ Field Operations



IOM, jointly with DG Immigration and Ministry of Health, assessed COVID-19 operations and capacities at points of entry.



TANGERANG, BANTEN
IOM supported the piloting of face-to-face studies with the donation of cleaning supplies and personal hygiene kits to public schools.



SEMARANG, CENTRAL JAVA
IOM supports COVID-19 case management with the local health office.



SURABAYA, EAST JAVA
Cloth masks and t-shirts made by refugee volunteers were donated to health clinics and the host community.



KUPANG, EAST NUSA TENGGARA
IOM donated vaccine refrigerators to health offices in 9 cities throughout Indonesia, including Kupang, to support the COVID-19 national vaccination campaign.

IOM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: ENSURE CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, MITIGATE RISKS AND PROTECT DISPLACED PERSONS, MOBILE POPULATIONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

- As co-lead of the **National Cluster for Displacement and Protection (Klasnas PP)**, IOM assisted the Ministry of Social Affairs in conducting regular coordination meetings with cluster partners – an effort conducted in cooperation with OCHA. IOM also trained 945 community responders and service providers on various topics, including Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Operational Guidelines in the COVID-19 Context, and medical aid for first responders during evacuation and search and rescue as part of its wider capacity building of cluster partners.
- IOM launched a new **e-learning platform** – “TAGANA Edu” – for community volunteers supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs, known as TAGANA. The platform features three training modules for new learners on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (led by IOM), Shelter (IFCR), and Logistics (WFP). The platform was developed with future expansion in mind, allowing other contributors to include their e-learning modules onto the platform for TAGANA volunteers. The platform will benefit up to 39,000 active TAGANA members throughout Indonesia who continue to serve as critical frontline responders during the pandemic.
- IOM also contributed the development of the **TAGANA’s COVID-19 Response Plan**, released in March 2021, in close collaboration with officials from the Ministry of Social Affairs and TAGANA provincial offices. The Response Plan includes information kits and materials for volunteers’ personal safety and prevention measures while responding amid the coronavirus outbreak. Lastly, IOM delivered COVID-19 infection prevention kits for TAGANA volunteers in high-risk areas, including in the provinces of Aceh, Banten, North Kalimantan, South Sulawesi, and West Java.
- In **disaster-affected areas** in Bogor (West Java) and Luwu Utara (South Sulawesi), IOM installed and supplied WASH facilities to assist COVID-19 infection prevention and control efforts among displaced populations, which included handwashing stations, water tanks and water pumps. IOM also built women and children-friendly spaces with solar powered lighting to improve safety measures on site, and donated hygiene supplies to communities and responders.
- With its partner Geutanyoe Foundation, IOM provided **humanitarian support to 81 Rohingya**, mostly women and children, rescued by local fishermen in East Aceh on 4 June 2021. Upon their arrival, IOM facilitated COVID-19 testing for refugees, who soon thereafter were provided first doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the local health department. IOM’s emergency response to assist the Rohingya arriving in Indonesia is funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- IOM Indonesia facilitated the **resettlement of 259 refugees** in Indonesia to five countries between January-July 2021. During the same period, 83 refugees opted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin through IOM’s Assisted Voluntary Return programme. All movements from Indonesia were performed with heightened COVID-19 mitigation measures. Notwithstanding these measures, several resettlement cases were forced to be postponed because of the widening COVID-19 outbreak throughout Indonesia, especially as refugees who have not been afforded access to COVID-19 vaccinations are unable to meet vaccination requirements for internal travel within the country to attend pre-screening interviews for resettlement. Pre-screening interviews are also frequently interrupted due to COVID-19 public health restrictions in Jakarta.
- In collaboration with local civil society organizations and partners, IOM continued providing tailored individual and group-based **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** interventions to refugees and migrants in need. In April-June 2021 alone, 3618 refugees and migrants were reached through in-person and online MHPSS services.
- IOM supported the strengthening of protection mechanisms for the refugee community in nine locations nationwide by building local government and civil society’s capacity to mitigate risks of **gender-based violence amid the pandemic**, including by developing and reinforcing referral pathways at the local level. As part of this process,

IOM and civil society partners organized a three-day webinar with participants from the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, government protection agencies (i.e. P2TP2A and DP3A) and services providers from Batam, Jakarta, Kupang, Lhokseumawe, Makassar, Medan, Pekanbaru, Semarang, and Tangerang.

- With the support of the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), IOM provided in-kind support to five civil society organizations continuing to provide **essential protection services to victims of human trafficking**. During the pandemic, service providers throughout Indonesia have faced logistical and funding challenges in safely providing services to victims in full adherence to health protocols. IOM’s assistance to

the organizations in Ambon (Maluku), Jakarta (DKI), Nunukan (North Kalimantan), Tangerang (Banten), and Tegal (Central Java) included personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies for both staff and victims.

- To build awareness on **human trafficking amid the pandemic**, IOM conducted a series of multimedia initiatives to encourage public action and expand prevention efforts. The initiatives included informational videos produced by high school students, live radio sessions, public talk shows and webinars, and a video campaign with public influencers. In Riau Islands, IOM organized an online dialogue with government and local civil society on the evolving situation of trafficking in persons in the border area, and the challenges to better prosecute trafficking networks.

IOM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: SCALE-UP ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES AND PROMOTE MOBILITY SENSITIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS

- To support the Government of Indonesia’s COVID-19 vaccination drive, in March and April 2021, IOM handed over eleven **vaccine refrigerators** (TCW3000AC) to health facilities in nine cities across the country, including Batam, Bintan, Kupang, Lhokseumawe, Makassar, Medan, Pekanbaru, Sidoarjo, and Tangerang.
- On 15 July 2021, the National Task Force for the Handling of Refugees in Indonesia issued a letter setting forth provisions that **refugees and asylum seekers are not eligible for government’s free COVID-19 vaccination** scheme which shall remain prioritized for Indonesian citizens. The Task Force indicates that UNHCR and IOM should undertake arrangements for the refugee community to access vaccines through a paid-vaccination scheme geared for the private sector. Prior to the issuance of the letter, local governments in three locations provided access for the refugee population under IOM’s programme to receive vaccinations. These efforts reached 708 individuals (1st dose) and 396 individuals (2nd dose, fully vaccinated).
- IOM and UNHCR conducted a detailed survey in May 2021 to assess the **refugee community’s awareness, attitudes, and acceptance towards COVID-19 vaccines**. Based on 870 responses, findings revealed that

the refugee community’s acceptance of vaccines is on parallel with the host Indonesia community based on UN surveys from November 2020. The results have contributed towards continued engagement and information sharing with the refugee community as vaccines are becoming more widely available in the country.

- Building upon a joint assessment with the Ministry of Health and the Directorate General of Immigration, IOM will support the **strengthening of COVID-19 response measures at Points of Entry** – including key airports, seaports, and land border crossing points in Indonesia – through a new KOICA-funded project launched in July 2021. The project will facilitate the operationalization of enhanced SOPs and coordination between frontline officers and health authorities, and build capacities on the detection, notification, management, and referral of ill travelers in line with International Health Regulations. Of the 120 Points of Entry nationwide, IOM and partners will target 15 high-priority locations through the KOICA-funded project. Coordination meetings between IOM with government partners in July 2021 highlighted the need for additional partnerships and technical resources to address the vast needs at POE nationwide, which remains a priority of IOM’s resource mobilization.



REFUGEES DONATE SELF-MADE ECO-FRIENDLY SOAPS IN MEDAN

Amid the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, marginalized communities struggle harder than others to avoid the spread of the virus as many live in small, shared spaces, and cannot afford basic hygiene products. In response, the refugee community in Medan undertook another initiative to give back to host community members in need. With the support of the local organization “Artsari” and IOM, 20 refugees learned how to produce eco-friendly soap based on natural ingredients. Refugees donated 120 eco-friendly bars of soap for bathing and 120 bottles for washing dishes.

IOM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: MITIGATE THE LONGER-TERM SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19, & CONTRIBUTE TO RESTARTING HUMAN MOBILITY AND EMPOWER SOCIETIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE

- With the support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), IOM launched a new project in July 2021 to support the Government of Indonesia's efforts to address the health and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on **Indonesian migrant workers and their families**. In the project, IOM will partner with the National Agency for the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BP2MI) and other government partners to deliver immediate assistance at transit shelters for returning Indonesian migrant workers, to assist impacted migrant worker households with targeted economic empowerment assistance, and to provide policy and capacity building support to local governments in bolstering the inclusion of migrant workers and household in their wider pandemic response initiatives.
- Following the massive return of more than Indonesian migrant workers in the early stages of the pandemic, and the inability of migrant workers to leave Indonesia as planned due to travel restrictions continuing until now, remittance-dependent households significant faced

challenges to meet their daily needs. As one response to build resilience among migrant workers and their families, IOM supported a **migrant-to-migrant vlog series** named "[Menyala Lagi](#)," or [Relume / Shine Again](#). Through the campaign, migrant messengers shared factual information on COVID-19 to combat misinformation and stigma directed towards migrant workers, as well as sharing tips to their fellow migrants on livelihood initiatives, effective use of remittances, and other motivational messages. The five-episode vlog series was viewed more than 850,000 times across IOM Indonesia's social media platforms.

- In March and April 2021, IOM held a set of industry briefings with the private sector to increase awareness on **corporate responsibility to eliminate trafficking in persons** and the dynamic risks within supply chains during the pandemic. The briefings were attended by private companies and representatives from the Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, and non-governmental organizations.

IOM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: INFORM RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS BY TRACKING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HUMAN MOBILITY AND STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING THROUGH DATA

- IOM, UNDP, and Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia (SBMI) collaborated to conduct an in-depth study to identify **village-government needs and capacities** to identify opportunities to better integrate migrant workers and their households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic into wider response and recovery programming at the village level. The study was based on a quantitative survey of 1082 village heads across eight provinces and detailed focus group discussions with village heads, government officials, migrant advocacy groups, and migrant workers. Read the executive summary here ([English](#) | [Bahasa Indonesia](#)).
- Separately, IOM conducted a **quantitative survey of returned Indonesian migrant workers** to assess the health and socio-economic impact that COVID-19 has had on their personal and family situation. With over 2,100 respondents from 22 provinces, the survey revealed wide-ranging negative impacts, including: 72% of returnees

remained unemployed post-return, 34% of households reported more than a 60% drop in household income, 22% returned without their full wages, and 18% remained indebted as a result of their migration journeys that were interrupted by the pandemic. The situation of women returnees surveyed was worse in several key areas, including on returnees remaining economically inactive post-return (83%).

- The current outbreak of COVID-19 has affected global mobility in complex and unprecedented ways in the form of various travel restrictions, suspension of air travel and border closures. To better understand this, IOM at the global level has developed a **global mobility database** to map these impacts on human mobility, across global, regional, and country levels. See [interactive maps and analysis](#) from monitoring of Points of Entry, tracking changing travel restrictions, and more.

IOM INDONESIA FUNDING APPEAL

FUNDS RECEIVED
USD 1,166,536 (15%)

FUNDING APPEAL FOR 2021
USD 8,000,000

IOM Indonesia's funding appeal of USD 8,000,000 currently stands at 15% resourced, with financial contributions from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), the Australian Department of Home Affairs, the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), and the Government of the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has contributed to IOM's humanitarian response towards Rohingya refugees in Indonesia which includes COVID-19 mitigation measures.

IOM's approach in Indonesia is anchored in the IOM's Global [COVID-19 Strategic Response and Recovery Plan 2021 \(SRRP\)](#), which reflects the full spectrum of the Organization's work to respond to far-reaching impacts of the pandemic in alignment with several global response plans with the United Nations system.

In Indonesia, IOM's operational strategy centres on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 by:

1. Meeting the urgent needs of those **most impacted and vulnerable** due to the health and socio-economic challenges of the pandemic, including refugees and asylum seekers, Indonesian migrant workers, internally displaced persons, victims of trafficking, and mobile communities in Indonesia, among others
2. **Reinforcing government capacities** at all levels to mitigate and manage the impacts of COVID-19 on mobile populations and communities
3. Promoting inclusive approaches that address **population mobility and cross-border dynamics**



[IOM Indonesia COVID-19 Strategic Response and Recovery Plan 2021](#)

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