



FEATURE STORY

REFUGEES IN INDONESIA SHARE COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORMS

Across Indonesia, refugees shared tips through personal videos, or vlogs, on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and how to cope with the stress of the pandemic.

IOM initiated the vlog competition in Semarang and Pekanbaru with refugees eager to voice out their unique perspectives and to keep each others' spirits high.

“By inviting refugees to create vlogs, they are able to release their emotions and express themselves, which helps reduce their stress levels due to COVID-19,” said Anastasia Wijayanti, IOM’s migration health and psychosocial support senior specialist.

Refugee children as young as 10 years old participated in the initiative, which is expanding to other cities.

An IOM survey of 800 refugees in mid-March found that three-fourths of respondents were aware about key actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, yet many demonstrated anxiety.

The vlog competition is one of IOM’s many activities with refugees and government partners to ensure refugees are part of the solution in the pandemic response.



SITUATION OVERVIEW & EMERGING NEEDS

- Confirmed COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Indonesia, with 10 June marking a record in terms of new cases reported in a single day (1,241). The capital region of Jakarta reports the highest number of cumulative cases, followed by the provinces of East Java, West Java, and South Sulawesi.
- IOM continues broad cooperation with government partners on the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers already in Indonesia in COVID-19 response plans, including testing, case management, and contact tracing. IOM has supported COVID-19 infection prevention and control efforts, including distribution of cloth masks, installation of handwashing stations, regular disinfection of refugee accommodations, and supporting refugee-led actions in the community.
- More than 142,000 Indonesian migrant workers have returned to Indonesia since the onset of the pandemic, and formal placements remain suspended. Additional resources may be required for the safe reception of returnees at points of entry and the shelters being utilized to quarantine returnees prior to their return to home provinces. The World Bank estimates a decrease of 20% in remittances globally, which would induce a significant financial shock for households in Indonesia reliant upon family members abroad, further exacerbated by indebtedness from migration experiences.
- IOM continued distributions of essential medical supplies and equipment, including ventilators and PPE for health facilities and frontline responders. Procurement of additional supplies to address the consistent needs of supplies are in progress for handover to the national and local COVID-19 task forces.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM IOM ACTIVITIES ACROSS INDONESIA



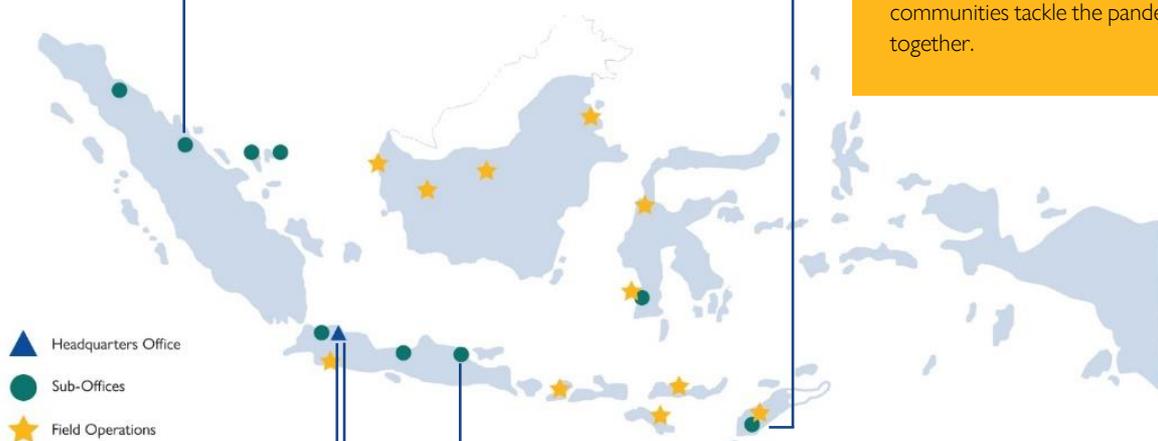
PEKANBARU, RIAU

With schools temporarily closed, refugee children under IOM's programme continued learning through online platforms with IOM's support.



KUPANG, NTT

In Kupang, refugees produced more than 1,000 cloth masks in collaboration with "Jarpuk," network of women entrepreneurs. This initiative supported refugees and local communities tackle the pandemic, together.



JAKARTA

IOM Indonesia delivered new ventilators and essential medical equipment to the Government of Indonesia to fight COVID-19 with financial support from the Australian Government.



SURABAYA, EAST JAVA

IOM teams inform returning Indonesian migrant workers at Juanda airport about COVID-19 prevention measures and safe return procedures. This ongoing initiative is conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, the National Board for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers, and the Port Health Office.



JAKARTA

IOM handed over personal protective equipment to the Ministry of Social Affairs at shelters used to quarantine returned migrant workers. The PPE will support the health and safety of shelter staff and migrant workers.

SNAPSHOT OF IOM RESPONSE IN INDONESIA

Strategic Priority 1: Ensure a well-coordinated, informed and timely response through mobility tracking systems and strengthening partnership and coordination structures established at the community, national and regional levels



Coordination and Partnership

- IOM maintained ongoing consultation with the National Task Force for COVID-19 Rapid Response, led by the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), to address the multifaceted health, social, and mobility impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Through regular coordination meetings with the Joint Task Force for Refugees, IOM briefed government partners on the needs and condition of the refugee and asylum seeker community in Indonesia, of whom, approximately 60% are registered in IOM's assistance programme. In May, the Ministry of Health issued a circular letter confirming refugees' access to COVID-19 health services.
- At the local level, IOM field teams engaged district health offices and health service providers to operationalize refugee inclusion in COVID-19 mitigation measures, including case management, early detection, testing and treatment, contact tracing, and the issuance of health certificate for refugees scheduled to travel



Tracking Mobility Impacts

- internationally once flights for resettlement or voluntary return to home countries.
- With the continuing large numbers of returning Indonesian migrant workers, IOM coordinated with a broad range of government, civil society, and faith-based organizations to respond to the dynamic needs of migrant workers, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable including victims of trafficking and other exploited cases. IOM field teams and partners continued to identify and assist vulnerable migrants in bordering areas with Malaysia, and support reintegration in migrants' home communities.
- As the lead international partner of the National Cluster for Displacement and Protection, IOM facilitated weekly multi-sectoral cluster coordination meetings on the COVID-19 response alongside the Ministry of Social Affairs. The National Cluster for Displacement and Protection comprises of over 50 government and non-government agencies.

Strategic Priority 2: Contribute to global, regional, national and community preparedness and response efforts for COVID-19 to reduce associated morbidity and mortality



Points of Entry



Infection Prevention and Control



Procurement



Risk Communication & Community Engagement



Disease Surveillance

- To support the Government of Indonesia's urgent request for essential medical equipment and supplies, IOM started the procurement of life-saving items, including ventilators, through its national and international supply chain network. Funded by the Australian Government, IOM delivered three ventilators to the National Task Force on 2 June, with the additional batches of medical equipment and supplies to be handed over to national and local partners throughout June.
- In support of infection prevention and control efforts, IOM provided personal protective equipment (PPE), cloth masks, and other supplies for frontline officers and returning Indonesian migrant workers at Points of Entry and shelters administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs serving as transit shelters for returned migrant

- workers. IOM will expand support for COVID-19 mitigation measures at border points for the safe screening and reception of returning migrant workers and travellers with funding from the US Department of State Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration (PRM).
- Refugees, with IOM and community groups' support, led initiatives to voluntarily produce cloth masks for distribution to fellow refugees and local neighbouring communities in Kupang, Makassar, Tanjung Pinang, Batam, Pekanbaru, Medan. Volunteers made more than 3,660 masks in the month of May alone.
- IOM installed additional handwashing stations nearby refugee accommodations and at community health clinics in May in Tangerang and Kupang. In total, IOM

has installed 163 handwashing stations in 8 cities. These actions were coupled with ongoing cleaning and environmental disinfection of refugee accommodations.

- In Semarang, IOM collaborated with the District Health Forum to produce more than 400 bottles of hand-sanitizer (60mL) for distribution to refugees and underprivileged community members in six villages.
- In Makassar, IOM launched “SEHAT: Self Health Assessment Tool” for refugees to monitor their health conditions with IOM health teams through an online health survey that is available in refugee’s native languages.

- Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) with refugees and Indonesian migrant workers expanded throughout May. IOM teams facilitated 356 risk communication activities, including with engagement from local government and civil society groups. Refugee and community-led RCCE actions continued to broaden awareness about COVID-19 prevention measures, coping with social restrictions, addressing stigma, and expressing solidarity in the global efforts to combat the virus.



Information for refugees in Indonesia about COVID-19 in native languages



Information for Indonesian Migrant Workers about COVID-19 and return procedures



Vlog competition with refugees to share tips and coping mechanisms

IOM published a series of videos to raise awareness and provide updated information to mobile populations.

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Strategic Priority 3: Ensure access of affected people to basic services and commodities, including health care, and protection and social services



Case Management



Protection



Camp Coordination & Camp Management

- IOM health teams led COVID-19 case management services for refugees in its assistance programme in cooperation with district health offices, hospitals, and clinics (*Puskesmas*), and service providers. PCR and rapid tests for COVID-19 were administered based on indicators for suspect cases among the refugee population. IOM also coordinated with health providers in screening and contact tracing, and provided self-isolation packages containing medical masks, hand sanitizers, medicine, and other supplies for ODP and PDP cases.
- IOM maintained critical protection services for refugees in Indonesia by adapting psychosocial counselling services to incorporate COVID-19 prevention measures. IOM mental health and psychosocial teams throughout 9 cities in Indonesia have responded to an uptick in cases driven by increased stresses during the large-scale social restrictions. For some refugees and families, international travel restrictions have delayed third country resettlement.
- With schools closed in May, IOM modified its education programming for refugees by launching online learning

platforms for refugee children in its programme. Vouchers for internet credit are provided to children and adults participating in online classes. A total of 414 refugee children and 263 adults actively participated in online education programmes.

- In the midst of the pandemic’s economic shock, including in destination countries of Indonesian migrant workers, IOM provided tailored assistance to victims of trafficking (VOTs) identified among returnees at Points of Entry in cooperation with government and civil society partners. IOM’s tailored assistance included the provision of legal assistance, onward return, and reintegration assistance to VOTs, who had been exploited on plantations and in the fisheries sector.
- IOM launched an online training for 9 national NGOs with 36 practitioners active in disaster response operations in Indonesia to strengthen local capacities on CCCM, including in the era of COVID-19. Led by IOM’s global CCCM team, the training will continue throughout June to build the capacity of local responders to take on site management roles in displacement settings. Effective CCCM practices

advance the better coordination of response efforts, and ensure that affected populations live in dignity through meaningful involvement in the management of their affairs and path towards durable solutions.

- IOM distributed a series of operational guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation in displacement camps and camp-like settings to government and non-government

humanitarian actors in Indonesia, including Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidance on the scaling up of COVID-19 Outbreak Readiness and Response Operations in Humanitarian Situations and IOM's practical guidelines for virus prevention and control during Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) operations.

Strategic Priority 4: Support international, national and local partners to respond to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19



Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of the Crisis

- With over 142,000 Indonesian migrant workers returning home to Indonesia since the onset of the pandemic, IOM monitored the socio-economic impact on migrant workers and households in consultation with government partners, civil society and faith-based organizations, and migrants. The socio-economic consequences stemming from the loss of livelihoods and remittance flows stand to impact millions of families globally according to a World Bank estimate that foresees a sharp decline of remittances by 20%.
- IOM conducted a virtual training for private recruitment agencies in East Java on ethical recruitment of migrant workers, which included discussions on the pandemic's impact on the well-regulated migration policies and the expected shifts in the recruitment patterns of Indonesian migrant workers in the new era of increased travel restrictions.
- IOM presented on COVID-19's potential impact on the prevalence of trafficking in persons with the anti-trafficking network in Malang, East Java, which included participants from various backgrounds including teachers, school principals, youth and student organizations, women organizations, and faith-based groups.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS & FUNDING APPEAL

FUNDING RECEIVED: USD 2,436,384 (24%)

INITIAL FUNDING APPEAL: USD 10,000,000

IOM's initial funding request of USD 10,000,000 currently stands at 24% resourced, with financial contributions from the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Australian Department of Home Affairs, and the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid.

Within the wider framework of IOM's Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, IOM Indonesia is responding to both humanitarian and development priorities to ensure that displaced and vulnerable mobile populations are not left at risk to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and to meet requests for assistance from Government partners and the National Task Force to mitigate impacts of COVID-19.

Urgent priorities requiring additional financial resources include, among others:

- Further augmenting government capacities to support the safe return and stabilization of Indonesian migrant workers – including seafarers and fishers – cut off from their economic livelihoods, including addressing protection needs and strengthening recovery prospects
- Addressing the needs migrants stranded in Indonesia to safely, voluntarily return to their home countries
- Improving COVID-19 mitigation measures and capacities at Points of Entry to Indonesia in preparation for reopening of internal and international travel and trade

Read the full [IOM Indonesia's Strategic Preparedness & Response Plan](#) for details.

PILLARS	BUDGET APPEAL	FUNDING TO DATE
Coordination and Partnerships	USD 500,000	USD 441,501
Tracking Mobility Impacts	USD 200,000	---
Points of Entry	USD 3,500,000	USD 583,250
Infection Prevention and Control	USD 1,700,000	USD 297,761
Logistics, Procurement, and Supply Management	USD 1,350,000	USD 944,883
Risk Communication and Community Engagement	USD 400,000	---
Disease Surveillance	USD 100,000	---
Camp Coordination and Camp Management	USD 250,000	---
Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services	USD 500,000	---
Protection	USD 500,000	USD 168,989
Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of the Crisis	USD 1,000,000	---
TOTAL	USD 10,000,000	USD 2,436,384

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DONORS



European Union
 Civil Protection and
 Humanitarian Aid