

## Chapter 1

# Retrospect of COVID-19 Pandemic and Prospect to Recover

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Since it became a global pandemic, COVID-19 has indiscriminately impacted worldwide livelihood and delayed the global progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Referring to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospect (2022), global growth shows a consistent slowdown. The growth slows from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and tends to reach 3.2% in 2023 (World Bank, 2022). The pandemic began with finding a new coronavirus variant at the end of 2019 in China. At the beginning of 2020, the Chinese health authority identified pneumonia cases caused by a novel coronavirus variant in Wuhan. At the end of January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the virus outbreak as a public health emergency international

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Hidayatulloh, M. A., Jati, I., & Sumardani, D. (2022). Retrospect of COVID-19 pandemic and prospect to recover. In M. A. Hidayatulloh, I. Jati, & D. Sumardani (Eds.), *Indonesia post-pandemic outlook series: Social perspectives* (1–8). BRIN Publishing. 10.55981/brin.536.c458 ISBN: 978-623-7425-84-7 E-ISBN: 978-623-7425-88-5

concern (PHEIC). In March, WHO declared a worldwide pandemic and named the new virus coronavirus disease of 2019, better known as COVID-19. WHO recorded 445,096,612 global cases, comprising 5,998,301 deaths as of March 7, 2022 (WHO, 2022).

The severe impact of the pandemic on the global economy left no option but to recover. While evading international cooperation due to national protectionism policy, there is hope from the global efforts to recover from the pandemic. In 2021, the United Nations (UN) set out a Comprehensive Response to COVID-19. The response includes a strengthened health response (led by WHO), a humanitarian response that leaves no one behind (under the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)), and a transformative and sustainable recovery (led by UN Sustainable Development Groups (UNSDG)) (UN, 2021). The international economic and financial institutions, such as World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have provided the financial stimulus for the global recovery programs. World Bank has provided over USD 157 billion to facilitate the emergency health program, strengthen the health system, protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and create jobs and green recovery (World Bank, 2022). Meanwhile, IMF arranges its members USD 250 billion of financial assistance and debt service relief (IMF, 2022).

Like any other country, Indonesia is experiencing an economic slowdown. Ing and Vadila (2022) estimate that the COVID-19 pandemic has decreased Indonesia's export value by 13.4%, while import value reduced by 25.9% in December 2020. For the people, the COVID-19 pandemic is another reality to face. The limitation of movement and 'lockdown' policy has cut off most people's sources of income. As a result, the Central Bureau of Statistics (2021) recorded an increase in poverty from 9.22% (24.78 million) in September 2019 to 10.19% (27.55 million) in 2020. Urban slum communities, women, persons with disabilities, low-income families, and traditional artists or entertainers are among the most affected groups by the pandemic's socio-economic impacts (Bessel & Bexley, 2021; Hidayatulloh, 2021; Suryahadi et al., 2020; Lewis & Witoelar, 2021).

In mitigating the impacts of the pandemic, the Indonesian Government expanded its social protection programs, including the Family Hope Program (*Program Keluarga Harapan/PKH*), Groceries Card program (*Kartu Sembako*), Greater Jakarta Groceries Card program (*Sembako Jabodetabek*), Direct Cash Assistance of the Village Fund (*Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa/BLT DD*), and unconditional cash program, to name a few (Ministry of Finance, 2021). Additionally, the government endorsed government expenditure to speed up the realization of government programs (Nainggolan, 2020). Notably, Indonesian Central Bank (*Bank Indonesia/BI*) also lays out five economic recovery programs: opening safe and productive sectors, accelerating fiscal stimulus, increasing offer and demand credit, stimulating monetary and macroprudential policy, and digitalizing economy and finance (Herdiawan, 2020).

Based on these grounds, the Overseas Indonesian Students Association Alliance (OISAA) is interested in contributing ideas to support Indonesia's COVID-19 recovery efforts. OISAA invites Indonesian students abroad to publish a collaborated book series with a grand theme of Indonesia's Post-COVID-19 Recovery. OISAA takes two primary references that provide contributors with guidance for their writings. These two references are the OISAA's 2021/2022 Top-Five programs and the UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery (hereinafter: UN Research Roadmap, see Appendix). One of the Top-Five OISAA's program targets is to present research and strategic input for the policy development of the Government of Indonesia. OISAA also refers to the UN Research Roadmap as an additional source of information. The Center of the UN Research Roadmap is its focuses on SDGs. Furthermore, the UN Research Roadmap refers to SDG's Agenda, mainly focusing on goals affected by the pandemic. The UN Research Roadmap formulates five policy priorities: health systems and services, social protection and essential services, economic response and recovery, macroeconomic policy and multilateral collaboration, and social cohesion and community resilience (UN, 2020).

Focusing on those five COVID-19 recovery policy priorities, the body of this book comprises 15 book chapters which are structurally divided into three parts: Indonesia and COVID-19 Recovery: An International Political Economy Lens (three chapters); Indonesia and COVID-19 Recovery: Socio-Cultural Perspectives (six chapters); and Indonesia and COVID-19 Recovery: Insight for Future Education (six chapters). Despite such a division, this book should be understood holistically, considering that issues discussed in these three parts intersect—reinforce and compete—with each other. Apart from the diverse yet interconnected topics and issues discussed in each part, the contributors of this book also employed a wide range of approaches and methods, making this book rich in theoretical and methodological values.

The book's first part takes the view of international relations, particularly international political economy, in exploring priority number four of the UN Research Priority, macroeconomic policy and multilateral collaboration. Notably, the analysis focuses on how Indonesia could recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, given the structure of international affairs. Chapter 2, written by Naqsabandiyah, Arfah, and Ayubi, discusses Indonesia's role in utilizing Group 20 (G20) as an influential multilateral forum to stimulate the global post-COVID-19 recovery. In Chapter 3, Adityo analyzes how the government should implement the newly adopted carbon tax. He also discusses how the carbon tax may contribute to the post-COVID-19 recovery. Chapter 4—the last chapter of this part—which Gracianti contributed, examines the opportunity to implement green recovery as an alternative way to regain prosperity without sacrificing the environment.

The second part presents a rich discussion on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our community from a socio-cultural perspective. Overall, the contributors to this part's six chapters have shown how the COVID-19 pandemic and its policy responses revealed and worsened social inequalities and injustices. Each of the six chapters looks at the vulnerable groups most affected by the pandemic. In

Chapter 5, Hermawan and Kurrahan assess the impact of social restriction policy on urban slums community. They do so by explicitly considering three development sectors: economy, health, and education.

The following three chapters (Chapters 6, 7, and 8) intersect in terms of the focus of their study subject, which is women. Women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in ways that adversely reverse the progress of gender equality in Indonesia and globally. Puspitasari and Mayangsari, in Chapter 6, discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Indonesia. They argue for the urgency of establishing a gender-sensitive, comprehensive prevention and mitigation framework to eliminate GBV. Considering that women are not a homogenous group, Hidayatulloh, in Chapter 7, mainly explores the experience of Indonesian female academics during the beginning of the pandemic. Using a mixed-method approach guided by a feminist methodology, he argues that the COVID-19 pandemic and its work-from-home policy have deepened and reproduced gender inequalities through the re-enactment of traditional gender norms among Indonesian female academics (and their family), increasing the tension between care work and academic work and hindering their educational career advancement. In Chapter 8, Iberahim and Abadi examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indonesian migrant workers, who are predominantly women. By employing institutional analyses and scrutinizing social movement-state relations, their contribution sheds light on the critical role of Indonesian migrant workers (and their union) as an active player in policy development concerning migrant workers' rights in the country.

The last two chapters in this second part of the book (Chapter 9 and 10) focus on two vulnerable social groups often invisible across all stages of policy development: persons with disabilities and traditional artists, respectively. In Chapter 9, Rahmadian shows the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on persons with disabilities in Indonesia in three areas of human development: economy, health,

and education. By critically assessing the Indonesian Government's COVID-19 policy responses for persons with disabilities, he argues for the need for disability-inclusive development. In Chapter 10, Utami focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on traditional artists and traditional arts by using *Ludruk* and *Pencak Silat* as her case study. Her contribution shed light on how the pandemic disrupts the preservation of traditional cultures and arts.

Finally, the third part of the book focuses on the COVID-19 recovery efforts in the education sector. The six chapters in this part cover various educational perspectives for learning recovery. Chapter 11 is written by Qisti and Dika; they highlight the importance of imagining Community Learning Centers (CLC) and explain how community learning centers enable innovation in learning recovery. It is possible since the pandemic is seen as an opportunity to re-imagine and re-design education to rebuild a better future. Chapter 12 discusses hybrid learning for a better-quality education. Muharikah, Karnalim, and Natsir, in this chapter, review education challenges, including access to all levels of education for all people, quality teaching, and learning infrastructure. In addition, they also reveal the potential implementation of hybrid teaching after two years of dealing with the pandemic to recover from learning loss, which is the combination of face-to-face (f2f) and online learning.

Moreover, during the COVID-19 pandemic, educators were supported by technological development because it enabled teaching-learning activities at a distance. Dewi elaborates on the development of technology-enhanced learning in Chapter 13. The role of ICT is crucial in processing teaching materials as a form of information because of its possibility to generate teaching materials that are attractive, easy to accept, and easily accessible. The goal is that every student has the same opportunity to receive and understand the information. In addition, in Chapter 14, Sumardani and Sumardani explore the possibilities of learning using metaverse in facilitating remote learning needed in various emergencies, considering that pandemics and all kinds of crises are inevitable. Therefore, preparation is essential, in-

cluding enhancing the integration and effectiveness of the emergency management systems through education.

Two chapters (Chapter 15 and 16) in this part explore the different types of literacy important for educators in the COVID-19 recovery. In Chapter 15, Limanta and Widyasti focus on digital literacy. They consider freedom of speech a double-edged sword in this digital world if no proper precautionary action is taken. Meanwhile, in Chapter 16, Rangkuti and Hidayat explore the need for literacies such as reading and scientific literacy in society to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

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