

FACT SHEET

COVID-19 Emergency Response Program in Southwest Sumba

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only affected health and claimed millions of lives, but also various aspects of human life, especially in the social and economic aspects. This pandemic has stopped economic and socio-religious activities, and increased unemployment, which then caused anxiety and depression among the people. As of June 8, 2020, on Sumba Island, East Nusa Tenggara, in particular, eight persons has been tested positive, 34 asymptomatic (OTG), 6 under monitoring (ODP) - all of whom from East Sumba - and one dead (kompas.com).

Various response efforts to this pandemic have a voluntary nature, with limited supporting resources, interventions focusing on material support, and still in need of encouragement for sustainable empowerment. Meanwhile, the emergency situation needs to be handled immediately with rapid emergency response intervention, while increasing the community's adaptive capacity for sustainable handling of the pandemic. Various efforts have been made by different parties to assist the community recovery process, such as material intervention support and other emergency needs. To improve the handling, community empowerment needs to be carried out in order to increase adaptability and provide a sustainable positive impact.



OUR PROGRAM

In response to this emergency situation, the William & Lily Foundation, in collaboration with Harapan Sumba Foundation (YHS), has been implementing a COVID-19 emergency response program in Southwest Sumba, in an area of consisting

of 7 districts, 30 villages, and 43 schools (27 elementary schools and 16 junior high schools). The specific targets of this emergency response program were the school environment (students, teachers, and employees) and community groups including PKK, youth groups, religious organizations, local tailors and senior citizens. This program was carried out for six months from July to December 2020, with the main objective of community participation in joint action to prevent and deal with the impact of the pandemic.

In particular, this collaboration sought to empower the community through increasing awareness and adaptability of the community, so that they could manage the impact of the pandemic more independently. PKK women, representatives of religious organizations, young people, and local tailors were actively involved in the emergency response program, by participating in the facilitation of the production and distribution of masks, hand sanitizers, and natural disinfectants. The development of the spirit of production and distribution in the community was attempted to increase people's income for strengthening the local economy. Further, to ensure the sustainable impact of strengthening the local economy, the community was encouraged to understand food security at the family level through business practices in horticulture and other potential food crops.



DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT

Four main activities have been carried out in the emergency response process including; (1) production and distribution of masks, (2) facilitation of training activities for producing hand sanitizer and disinfectant, (3) development of horticultural cultivation for food security, and (4) educational campaigns regarding the COVID-19

pandemic. Through the trainings, the community has succeeded in producing 15,118 masks (10,556 children's masks and 4,562 adult masks), 116 liters of hand sanitizer, and 950 liters of disinfectant. The production results were distributed to 43 target schools and communities and contributed to the income of 18 local tailors through the production of masks, amounting to Rp. 75,590,000.

In addition, to support local food security, YHS facilitated the improvement of horticultural cultivation practices in 11 villages, complemented with training in the manufacture of organic fertilizers, natural medicines, and marketing of produce for 90 farmers. YHS provided support for the procurement of 21 types of vegetable seeds and three types of fruit seeds to 114 farmers of the Ratenggaro Traditional Village Farmer Group. The horticultural cultivation training resulted in the production of 5,680 kg of organic fertilizer and 81 liters of natural medicines. The yields of horticultural cultivation were used by the community as a source of food and an additional source of income. Another activity was the creation of demonstration plots in one location to support the availability and preservation of local fragrant upland rice seeds, corn and beans.



To increase the knowledge and adaptability of the community, materials for campaigns, information, and education have been produced. There were two types of leaflets containing health protocol messages totaling 4,400 pieces, distributed to 22 schools and communities. Several other products such as two health protocol banners and 220 booklets have also been distributed. To spread knowledge, YHS produced video tutorials on making organic fertilizers, natural medicines, hand sanitizers, and

disinfectants. The community made use of the video tutorials as instructions and also shared them through social media.

SOUTHWEST SUMBA IN NUMBERS

Source: BPS 2019

- Area: 7,000.05 km²
- Population: 338,427 (female: 164,833, male: 173,594)
- Districts: 11
- Villages/*Kelurahan*: 173/2