



APFSD Youth Forum and Regional ECOSOC Youth Forum Call to Action 2022

Indonesia

Building Back Better from COVID-19 While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a plethora of problems in Indonesia that are interrelated to youth in the sector of education, gender inequality, climate change, and health and wellbeing. A set of youth-oriented recommendations are needed to contribute to solving the issue that has impacted the region on such a massive scale.

Since the pandemic hit at the end of 2019, many governments and organisations have made purposeful actions such as providing incentives to underprivileged groups, improving education, economic and social safety, and providing extra salaries for underpaid workers. Youth grassroots movements are also at the forefront of community adaptation and resilience building in the wake of the pandemic.

However, there are still groups of people left behind and gaps that must be paid attention to. School closures and online learning is the key preventive measure to curb the spread of COVID-19. The digital divide in rural and urban areas in Indonesia has thus exacerbated inequalities

between students in these two areas. The pandemic has also exacerbated the discrimination and repression targeted at LGBTQ+ people and other marginalised groups in Indonesia. These youth have limited access to job opportunities and are more likely to be laid off. SRHR services have been affected due to lack of government funding.

The pandemic has also spotlighted the increase of domestic and care workloads; which youth are shouldering. Lockdown measures have made daily tasks, such as cleaning and cooking, challenging to outsource and even more essential for the safety and well-being of household members, particularly children, the sick, and older people.

Another major area of concern is the climate and its consequences. Climate change and environmental degradation are felt most acutely by the vulnerable populations and disproportionately affect women and girls. Jakarta is included as one of the major cities in the ASEAN that is impacted by sea-level rises, with a prediction that some of the coastal areas in Jakarta will sink by 2030.

On the other hand, governments are accelerating development objectives by converting community land into toll roads, reservoirs, and mines. This development orientation is not responsible for environmental integrity or a just society for present and future generations. It has also affected respect for heritage land. In the past two years of the pandemic, violent land-grabbing throughout Indonesia has become prominent.

Gender integration is also becoming more prominent in the climate change agenda following the National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation, which mandates the development of Climate Change Adaptation actions incorporating gender aspects. Food security, energy, public health, spatial planning, infrastructure, and housing are among the sectors focusing on developing climate change adaptation action plans. Marking the joint theme budget between ministries will make it easier for the government to perform in identifying and implementing gender mainstreaming strategies in climate change programs/activities.

The marine plastic pollution is another environmental problem often overlooked as it does not directly affect human livelihoods. But as people become more aware of ocean livelihoods, governments and stakeholders must work together to improve more comprehensive and holistic regulations. According to the UN, around 8 million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the ocean every year. The Indonesian Institute of Sciences estimates that Indonesia contributes more than 600,000 tonnes of plastic waste, some of which are dumped into the sea.

With so many underlying challenges confronting Indonesian youth, there has been a prominent discussion on how youth are coping with the ongoing pandemic. After two years of the pandemic, youth has significantly been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak in the sectors mentioned above. There is still uncertainty and unprecedented further escalation in the future. However, youth movements are harnessing social media platforms to raise their voices and international donors are also contributing to sustaining such youth-led movements.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build partnerships with youth-led initiatives and youth communities on the grassroots on SRHR and SDGs.
- Allocate resources to establish age-appropriate and gender-sensitive SRHR services for young people.
- Prioritise youth capacity building through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), financial support and trainings.
- Meaningfully engage youth in policy-making processes, including monitoring COVID-19 related decisions in each state.
- Accelerate internet infrastructure development to enable access to the internet and improve digital literacy, particularly for youth in rural areas and disadvantaged communities such as ethnic minorities and indigenous people. Provide digital literacy training for children and youth regarding technological devices and internet use.
- Integrate a holistic approach in implementing CSE, gender studies, human rights, and climate change education in schools.
- Ensure education is more accessible and inclusive.
- Develop gender and climate-responsive budgeting and policymaking.
- Urge the government to re-review regulations and policies that have the potential to criminalise or discriminate against certain groups of people.
- Increase men's involvement in sexual reproductive health and rights education and advocacy. Engage with religious and society leaders to promote gender equality.
- Encourage the government to make regulations that are more gender-transformative in all aspects facing the climate crisis, education, health, and economic issues.
- Create safe spaces for female workers to achieve the same opportunities as the male workers. Actively support the participation and leadership of women from grassroots communities.

- Urge the government to review policies at the national and local levels that hinder the achievement of gender equality indicators.
- Bring more awareness to media and newsrooms at the national and regional levels related to GBV.
- Regulate corporations on their carbon emissions and the waste produced.
- Increase the access to climate finance for civil society, women's grassroots organisations, and local and indigenous communities.
- Ensure gender integration in the climate change agenda.
- Revise the government regulations regarding marine debris.
- Strengthen laws on environmental protection and sustainability with focus on mitigation, adaptation, and environmental restoration efforts. Ensure accountability for violators.
- Involve the marginalised communities in the DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) process of humanitarian relief.
- Support initiatives that are based on local wisdom and engage cultural practitioners.
- Allocate funding and implementation of gender-disaggregated data and the data disaggregation for any levels; national, province, regencies, and small communities and collaborate with youth-led organisations and communities to conduct data-producing research on the environment.
- Increase communities' awareness that climate crisis brings unstable circumstances that will affect women's SRHR.
- Strongly request more transparency at all levels from the government to the public.
- Improve the government's programme implementation and broaden the range of care areas, including to the rural areas.

The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum and ECOSOC Regional Youth Forum on March 19-21, 2022 on SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The Indonesia drafting team consists of Angeline Eugenia Ariestantya, Aqilla Izzi Fekrat, Dicky Aditiya Kurniawan, and Hendri Surya Widcaksana. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW, YouthLead, and Y-Peer Call To Action team.
