



United Cities and
Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

Strengthening Local Governments in Attaining the SDGs in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 International Mayors Forum
Local Governments and the SDGs in Times of COVID-19 Pandemic
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By Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
UCLG ASPAC Secretary General

- ❖ International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) was established in 1913 in Belgium, while IULA ASPAC, headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia was set up in September 1989.
- ❖ UCLG ASPAC was established in Taipei on 14 April 2004, as the new entity of IULA ASPAC
- ❖ The Asia and Pacific region is the biggest Regional Section in UCLG, linkages to more than 10,000 local governments.
- ❖ UCLG ASPAC represents well over 3.76 billion people

Mission

“To be the united voice and world advocate of local governments, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.”





COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs: Achievement and Challenges



Challenges

Most economies have already experienced contraction.

- The pandemic could force millions of people into extreme poverty this year.
- The informal sector, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and migrant workers left vulnerable from lockdown measures.
- Digital connectivity divide perpetuates inequalities.

Yet,

- Inequality is widening
- Gender equality and women's empowerment must be attained

Progress has been uneven:

- Income poverty continues to fall
- Reductions in undernourishment
- Access to quality education, basic sanitation and sustainable energy increased

Local Government in each country face different challenges.

It could be the limited cross-sectoral cooperation, conflict of interest and tradeoffs in implementing SDG agendas, unsustainable financial scheme, raising awareness difficulties, or the accountability and measuring performance.

Local Governments are the frontliner in facing COVID-19 Pandemic

Urban areas have become the epicentre of the COVID-19 Pandemic



Short-term Development Focus to Attain the SDGs*

- 1 Comprehensive social protection system
- 2 Basic services for the poor
- 3 Sustainable livelihood for the poor



- 1 Improve food production
- 2 Stabilise food price
- 3 Quality food and nutrition consumption
- 4 Risk mitigation towards food security
- 5 Welfare of food business holders



- 1 Diseases control
- 2 National health insurance



- 1 Quality education services
- 2 Education appraisal system



- 1 Management of clean water and sanitation
- 2 Multi-level and multi-stakeholder synergy for clean water and sanitation
- 3 Infrastructure financing
- 4 Water quality and quantity for households



- 1 Tourism promotion and marketing
- 2 Tourism industry
- 3 Institutional development
- 4 Human resources competency & climate
- 5 Micro-inclusive policy



- 1 Demographic data and information quality
- 2 Fixed/wireline broadband
- 3 Inclusive investment climate for domestic investor



- 1 e-government
- 2 Public service quality
- 3 Transparency of information and public comms
- 4 Public information access
- 5 Law enforcement quality



- 1 Maritime economy
- 2 Coastal citizens well-being



- 1 Disaster resilience



- 1 Sustainable production and consumption pattern



- 1 Inclusive growth
- 2 Social protection for informal workers
- 3 Basic services for the poor
- 4 Rural economy and agriculture
- 5 Price stability
- 6 Lower inflation



- 1 Infrastructure financing
- 2 Mainstreaming PPP for infrastructure
- 3 Value of money
- 4 Agroindustry
- 5 Manufacture industry
- 6 Tourism, Creative Economy, MSMEs and cooperation

Fundamental Aspects to Support and Encourage Local Government in Achieving SDG Targets



Establishing as many as possible a knowledge hub and coordination platform to provide best practices alternatives as well as cooperation opportunities for the local government.

Channeling local government with the private sectors, philanthropic foundations, or global donors to provide a financial alternative that will be sustaining the achieving SDG target effort.

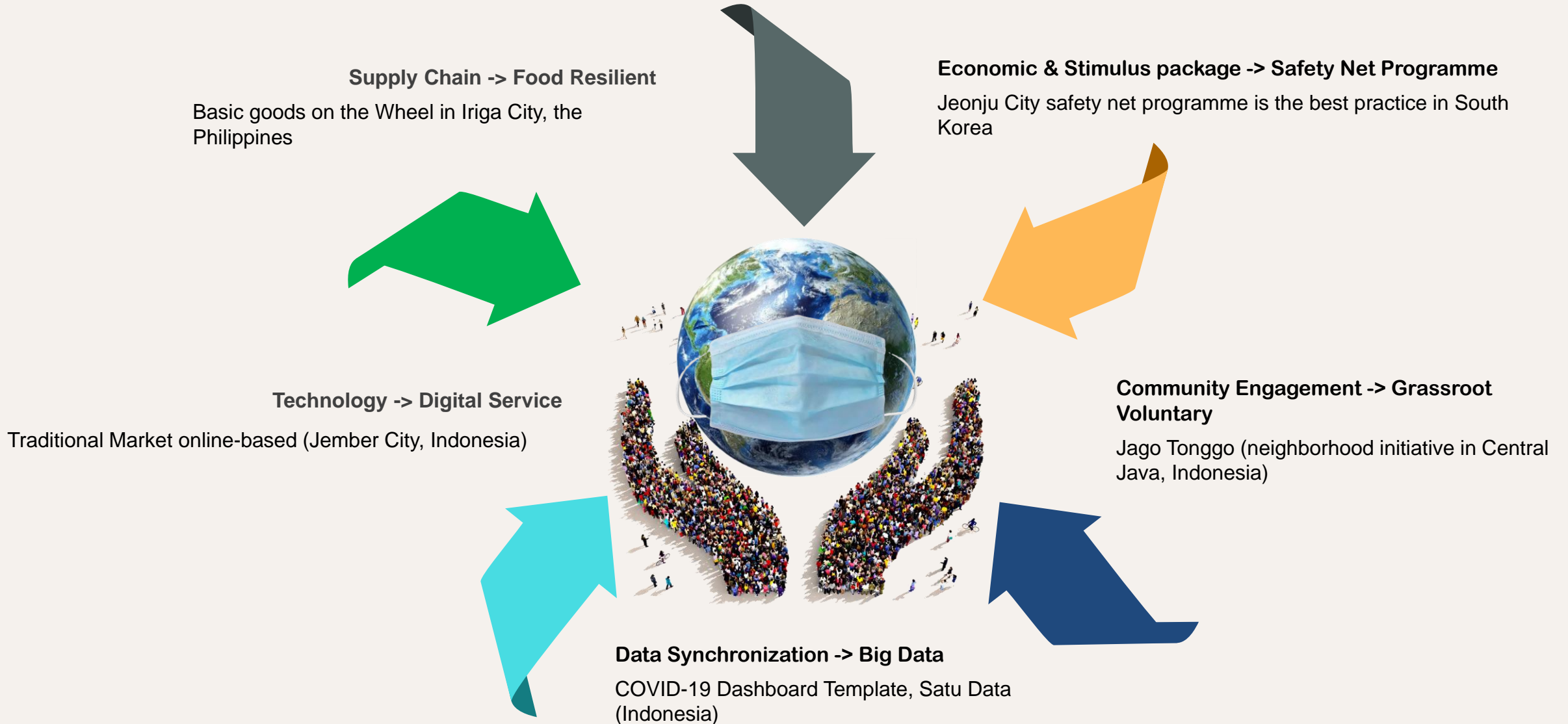


Providing a wide range of training and capacity improvement that match with the local context and SDG issues in each city.

Development of VLR (Voluntarily Local Review) and **soon VSR** (Voluntarily Sub-National Review). **Importantly facilitate the engagement of LGs in VNR** (Voluntarily National Review) processes



Local Initiatives to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts





UCLG ASPAC Efforts in Aligning LGs' COVID-19 Response and Recovery with the SDGs

Using the opportunity of the pandemic to show the close linkages between the impact of COVID-19 to all goals of the SDGs

Foster Knowledge Exchange

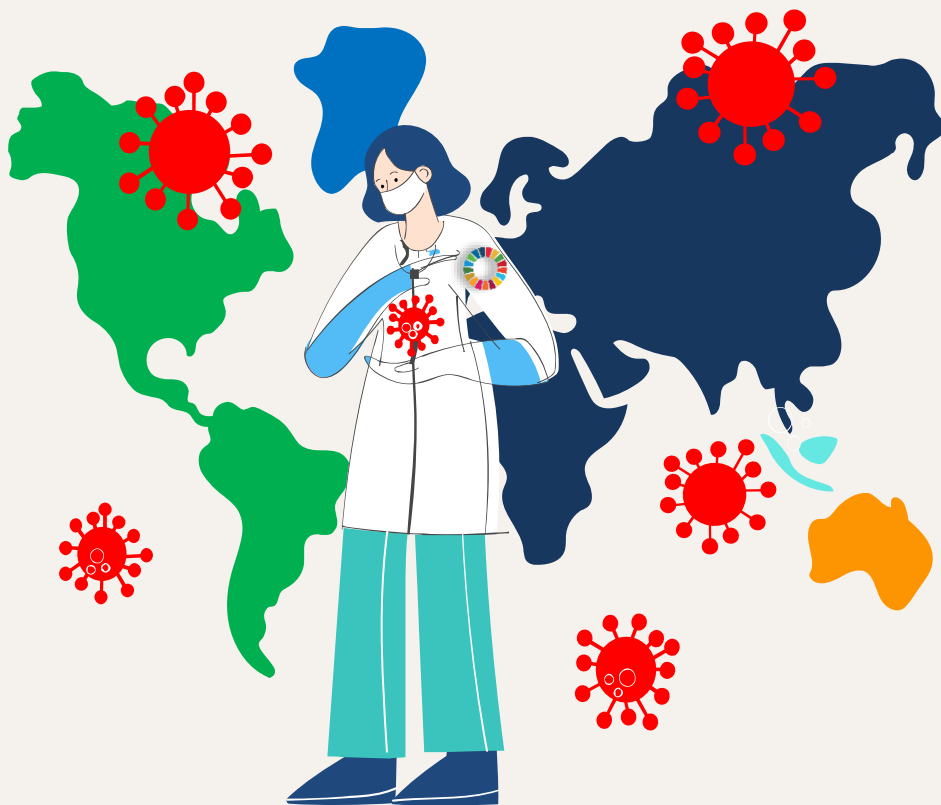
Virtual knowledge exchange between UCLG ASPAC LGs & LGAs members and other stakeholders (including through programmes/projects)

LGs/LGAs Solidarity

Donations among LGs/LGAs members of UCLG ASPAC

Capture Smart Practices of LGs

Documentation and promotion of smart practices of LGs in handling & recovering from COVID-19



Advocacy and Policy Recommendations

Ongoing research and policy recommendations based on evidence & collective needs of UCLG ASPAC members

Fostering Opportunities in Tapping Alternative Financing

Match-making virtual events at national and international level (e.g. telemedicine & tourism) and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships.



Findings to Inform Policy

UCLG ASPAC is working with development practitioners, research institution and local SDGs Centers in Indonesia to produce evidence-based policy recommendations **to support local governments in addressing the pandemic situation and its impact while ensuring its contribution for the SDGs attainment.**

Financing the SDGs

- ✓ Financing effectiveness for programs in addressing the pandemic impacts needs to be improved (alternative financing on SDGs: e.g. Philanthropic foundations, financial agencies, private sectors, Zakat Agencies).
- ✓ Demographic and social safety net data needs to be synchronized to ensure the most vulnerable and impacted groups are covered.
- ✓ Financing analysis knowledge of LGs officials needs to be further improved to ensure the appropriate enabling environment and inclusive policy are established



Effective Awareness Campaign Policy

- ✓ A formulation of tailor-made and risk perception-based Communication Strategy for local governments are needed.
- ✓ Inclusion of health protocol in the issuance procedure for Environmental Permit and Development Permit.
- ✓ Enhancement of clean water and sanitation services in High-Risk area for COVID-19 transmission



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Economic recovery in tourism sector

Tourism needs to be better integrated with other sectors based on the local context, such as agriculture & fisheries. ✓

Adapting the focus to outdoor and natural tourism destination. Focus on domestic tourism/local tourist. Permanently apply health protocols (safe tourism). ✓

Storynomics dan storytelling to improve the quality of tourism activities, rather than just focusing on # of tourists. ✓



Addressing Social Impacts from the Pandemic

✓ Ongoing assessment on the most significant social impacts from the pandemic (including gender-based violence, increasing poverty, quality education, mental health).

Data Synchronisation for Effective Social Safety Net

✓ Better data management, integration, and governance are needed to ensure the accuracy of data, such as through Sata Data Indonesia.

✓ Collaboration with data platform service provider can help LGs to address the gap of capacity, standard data compliance and continuity of data collection

Way Forward towards “The New Adaptive Era”

Penta-helix Model

5 Key Player in handling COVID-19
in local government



Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) Southeast Asia

- GCoM is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,000 cities and local governments to reach an annual emission reduction of 2.3 billion tons CO₂ by 2030.
- **UCLG ASPAC acts as the GCoM Secretariat for Southeast Asian region**, fostering collaboration with partners within the region to support SEA cities' climate ambition. There is a plan to consolidate the work of GCoM throughout Asia and the Pacific by having one Secretariat for GCoM in the region.



International Urban Cooperation (IUC)



UCLG ASPAC manages IUC Asia HelpDesk A program funded by the EU.
IUC Asia selects twelve cities to receive technical assistance as pilot cities to develop Climate Action Plans (CAPs) in compliance with GCoM's Common Reporting Framework (CRF).

The pilot cities are comprised of:

Palembang, Depok, Malang, Denpasar and Makassar in **Indonesia**,
Penampang, Tawau, Muar and Hang Tuah Jaya in **Malaysia**
Tam Ky, Da Nang and Can Tho in **Vietnam**.

CRIC (Climate Resilience and Inclusive Cities)

- The CRIC project proposes a long lasting and unique cooperation through a triangular cooperation between cities and research centres in Europe, South Asia and Southeast Asia
- CRIC will contribute to sustainable integrated urban development, good governance, and climate adaptation/mitigation through long lasting partnerships, and tools such as sustainable local action plans, early warning tools, air quality and waste management in consultation with experts' panel.





Key Takeaways in Accelerating the SDGs in the Pandemic

LGs has taken various innovative solution to handle the pandemic and its impact. The following approach can be beneficial when applied in planning and implementing the solutions.



Partnership/ Collaboration

Partnership/ collaboration is the key to create a new dual formulation of internal and external circulation through openness and connectivity.

Innovative and effective efforts in handling the pandemic matters in to build cities more resilient and sustainable

As the pandemic impacts all of cities sector, handling the pandemic effectively can help to mitigate wider impacts of the pandemic.

Integrated approach to ensure co-benefit

As LGs experienced significant budget costs to handle the pandemic, an integrated approach can be efficient way to ensure multiple sectors and issue are covered and co-benefitted.

Mobilise resources through multi-stakeholder approach

LGs can't do it alone. Mobilising resources beyond the LGs budget have never been critical than now.

Building Back Better

Recover to normal (bounce back) does not always means the best option. The pandemic provide an opportunity to reflect on lesson learned, and to build back better and faster and stronger.



Thank you

United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific

Jakarta City Hall, Building H, 21th floor

Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan No. 8-9

Central Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

Phone: +6221 38901801/ 38901802



bernadia@uclg-aspac.org



Bernadialrawati



Bernadialrawati