



# Analysis the Importance of Government Policies to Address Public Health

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**Abstract.** The pandemic period caused by the Corona virus disease 19 or COVID-19 is a serious threat to the whole country. This virus that originated in Wuhan, China, has the potential to affect the global economy and cause many serious problems in the medical world. In response to this problem, the Indonesian government has launched various policies to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The government, starting with the mask-wearing, social distancing and physical distancing movement, as well as for the region-wide restrictions known as PSBB. Not only that, the government also provides medical services to people exposed to the COVID-19 virus, the government pours a lot of money, funding not only revolves around public health services but also implemented a 3-timeline vaccination movement, funded people who lost their jobs, and more. Government policies can cause various positives and negatives, and this study examines what government policies are and what to prepare to deal with the possibilities that arise after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** Indonesia · COVID-19 · government policy

## 1 Introduction

Health is the first and foremost thing for the government in facing the COVID-19 pandemic. In overcoming the problem of the spread of COVID-19, the government has implemented various regulations to prevent transmission, including the mandatory movement to wear masks in the hope of reducing the risk of virus transmission through the air, the implementation of social distancing which is imposed on the entire community so that they can maintain a distance of at least 1–2 m in the hope that there will be no crowds and minimize physical contact, and the last is the implementation of the Implementation of Restrictions Community Activities (PPKM) Level 3 (three), Level 2 (two), and Level 1 (one) Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

PPKM has the function and purpose of implementing appropriate health protocols, including washing hands with soap, wearing masks, maintaining distance, avoiding crowds, and reducing mobility and also supporting the acceleration of the implementation of vaccination programs aimed at achieving herd immunity. In addition, the government has also financed people exposed to COVID-19 who are hospitalized and self-isolating at home by providing medicines to relieve symptoms that arise.

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In its implementation, what are the policies taken by the government to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic? So what happened to the policy after the COVID-19 pandemic?

## 2 Method

The method used is an evaluative research method. Evaluative research is a research activity that evaluates an activity/program that aims to measure the success of an activity/program and determine the success of a program and whether it is in accordance with what is expected. This research is also directed to assess the success of the benefits, usefulness, contribution and feasibility of a program of activities of a particular unit/institution. This research focuses on systematic scientific procedure's carried out to measure the results of a program or project (the effectiveness of a program) in accordance with the planned objectives or not, by collecting, analyzing and reviewing the implementation of the program carried out objectively. Then formulate and determine policies by first considering the positive values and advantages of a program.

## 3 Discussion and Overview

### 3.1 Government Policy in Making Rules in the Pandemic Era

Many countries have adopted a containment policy (which in the Big Dictionary of Indonesia translates as containment) to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The policy of requiring people to practice social and physical distancing (maintaining a safe distance between individuals and avoiding crowds) is not an easy thing for humanity on earth to get used to new association [1]. Some impose it wholly, partially or locally and to a minimum. Indonesia self-modifies it as Large-scale Social Restriction (PSBB) which is imposed by region, province or province/city depending on the severity of the outbreak which the central government assesses. Ministry of Health. The PSBB implementation rules are governed by Government Regulation (PP) No 21 of 2020 on large scale social restrictions. In addition, PSBB-related regulations are also contained in Presidential Executive Order (Keppres) No. 11, 2020 on the identification of public health emergencies. The PP and presidential decree were signed by President Joko Widodo on March 31, 2020.

At the time of the outbreak of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, it caused panic in the whole community and the government immediately managed to quell the panic that occurred in the community because if not treated immediately Immediately, it will cause many serious problems, including panic buying, scarcity of goods, and heavy transmission. In the process, the government has outlined four strategies that will be systematically implemented to strengthen physical distancing policy as a fundamental strategy to tackle the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. These strategies include (1) the mask-wearing movement in public spaces or outside the home (2) contact tracing (tracing) of positive cases treated with rapid testing or testing. Rapid testing, including those closest to them, healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients, as well as in communities where cases are high (3) Educate and prepare for bath isolation about some tracing results show positive or negative rapid test results for symptoms for self-isolation (4)

Hospital The isolation carried out during self-isolation is not quantifiable, particularly because there are clinical signs requiring definite hospital services [2]. However, the implementation is not smooth considering that the number of people in Indonesia ranks 4th most in the world at around 275 million people, no wonder the government experiences difficulties due to these factors and obstacles in regulating people who migrate between regions and between countries.

To limit mobility carried out by the community, a new regulation was made called Community Activities Restrictions Enforcement 2021 (PPKM) but at first this policy made it difficult for people to carry out their daily activities. The next one is a very important public health problem and is the main task of the government to minimize transmission and cure patients affected by COVID-19. Various kinds of actions and holding vaccine movements from phase 1, stage 2, and BOOSTER vaccines are accelerated by the government so that all people have additional immunity in order to minimize getting COVID-19.

### **3.2 Obstacles and Possibilities After the COVID-19 Pandemic**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government strives to ensure public health by financing care for people infected with the COVID-19 virus, Law 4 of 1984 on Infectious Disease Outbreaks defines that an outbreak is an infectious disease in a society whose number of sufferers increases markedly more than the usual circumstances at a certain time and area and can cause havoc [3]. The law has the intention to realize the highest level of health for the people of Indonesia which is part of the national development goals. Efforts to overcome an outbreak in an outbreak area must be carried out by considering the situation of the local community, including: religion, customs, customs, level of education, socio-economic, and community development. So it is hoped that efforts to overcome the outbreak will not experience obstacles from the community, instead through intensive counseling and an educational persuasive approach, it is hoped that the community will provide assistance, and participate actively.

The emerging market debt crisis that preceded the Covid-19 shock has two things that need to be emphasized in the context of the debate over debt reduction in developing countries after the Covid-19 shock. First, the debt crisis is ongoing. It is not limited to the poorest developing countries, but affects all income groups. Second, in general, the cause is not mismanagement at the national level, but economic and financial mismanagement at the global level. UNCTAD added that the fragility of the debt position of developing countries before the Covid-19 crisis was increasing due to the simultaneous change of foreign exchange assets and the value of public and private debt. Therefore, the domestic bond market is increasingly being invested by foreign investors. In terms of fiscal policy, the Indonesian government has recorded three economic stimulus measures. In the economic stimulus package on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, the Indonesian government spent IDR 405 trillion or 2.5% of Indonesia's gross domestic product (GDP) [4]. Financing is allocated to four program categories, namely social safety net (27%), medical assistance (19%), industrial assistance (17%), and national economic recovery (34%). Castro (2020) argues that the most effective policy to mitigate the impact of the loss of part of household income due to this pandemic is to increase unemployment insurance (UI) [2]. Unemployment insurance is the right program to protect unemployed groups of workers

from the risk of falling into poverty. As an automatic stabilizer, unemployment insurance shortens the response time of discretionary fiscal policies that can be hindered by political problems by redistributing funds to individuals to sustain themselves, maintaining purchasing power [5].

For this reason, it is important for the government to anticipate the possibility of an increase in inflation in the future, although in the future the inflation rate is expected to remain low. High inflation rates can harm the well-being of many Indonesian households, reduce purchasing power and increase poverty. High inflation meant the introduction of regressive taxes for the huge losses of the lower middle class and fixed income groups. On that basis, the government and Bank Indonesia must continue to maintain inflation expectations in the economy so as not to accelerate excessively and lose control. There are several things that need to be done to prevent the high rate of inflation in the future [6]. First, in order to maintain the mobility of production and distribution of goods and services, especially food products, such as rice and basic necessities, have a significant weight in the calculation of inflation calculations. In addition to keeping logistics running smoothly, the government may also need to provide capital support to business actors during the COVID-19 pandemic who are experiencing cash flow constraints in order to return to operation. In addition, if necessary, food import options should be opened and considered to maintained food stocks. Second, maintaining macroeconomic stability, particularly the rupiah exchange rate. The threat of a possible rate of the Fed raising interest rates forced BI to be cautious in setting monetary policy, especially in relation to the setting of the benchmark interest rate and the management of its foreign exchange reserves project. The difference between bi and the fed's benchmark interest rate must be kept attractive to foreign investors, in order to avoid excessive rupiah depreciation which can lead to an increase in inflationary pressure from imported goods (import inflation). Third, the government must gradually reduce the state budget deficit, improve budget allocations, and improve efficiency by reducing unnecessary budgets [7].

## 4 Closing

In carrying out the government system to regulate the conditions and problems experienced by a country, it must always take the interests of the people. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, handling and health services must also meet the standards set by Law No. 4 of 1984, the government bears all costs and the community can get proper facilities. The government must also prepare for the possibilities that will occur after the pandemic, if it does not prepare from now on, Indonesia will experience a very great financial crisis.

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