



Cooperation World Health Organization Member in Handling Covid-19

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Abstract. Covid-19 is an outbreak that originated in China, more precisely in Wuhan. At the end of 2019, China reported the discovery of a new disease outbreak, namely the coronavirus, which spread rapidly to various countries. So on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared this disease is a global pandemic. The Covid-19 virus, known as the coronavirus, is sweeping the world, including Indonesia. Covid-19 is an infectious disease that spreads quickly to various parts of the world, including Indonesia. The Covid-19 pandemic that has spread ultimately brings terrible risks in various sectors, such as the economic, social, and cultural sectors. Countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are not only Indonesia, but almost all parts of the world are also affected by this pandemic. Covid-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus transmitted from animals to humans.

Keywords: World Health Organization (WHO) · Covid-19

1 Introduction

World Health Organization announced a global pandemic called Covid-19 or Corona Virus Infectious Disease 19 in March 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic began with an outbreak of coronavirus, more precisely in Wuhan, in early December. Covid-19 is a new type of disease that causes mild to severe symptoms. The virus that causes Covid-19 is Sars-CoV-2. The virus outbreak is thought to have started from animal meat sold in the market and infected some people. The Covid-19 pandemic has spread rapidly to many countries. This global pandemic has become very difficult for all countries, including Indonesia. Not only has this impact on the health aspect, but this pandemic has an equally significant impact on the economic, life, and social aspects due to the existence of social restrictions and quarantine policies in several areas which have limited community activities, resulting in a decline in economic conditions and changes in social conditions.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected a number of nations, including Indonesia, and has had a significant influence on a number of industries, especially the education sector. To prohibit the coronavirus from spreading, the government implemented the Bear-Scaled Social Restriction (PSBB) policy, which required that all activities performed outside of the home be suspended until the Covid-19 pandemic abated [1].

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The rapid transmission of the virus explains why there are more COVID-19 cases in the neighbourhood. Alphacoronavirus and betacoronavirus, which can infect people, are necessary reservoirs for the transmission of COVID-19 to humans. The spread of COVID-19 among people will be facilitated by close contact with COVID-19-infected individuals. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, droplets carrying the SARS-CoV-2 virus are released into the air, which is how COVID-19 is spread. The Covid-19 virus is hazardous, as the WHO says that COVID-19 is a global pandemic reaching more than 121,000 cases worldwide. Globally, the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases is going quite fast and has spread to almost all parts of the world. As of February 13, 2021, 108.7 million people worldwide have been infected with Covid-19 and have reached 233 countries worldwide [2] (Fig. 1 and 2).

The spread of Covid-19 has also reached Indonesia. On March 2, 2020, the President of the Republic of Indonesia announced the first patient in Indonesia who was confirmed positive for Covid-19. On February 13, 2021, as reported by kompas.com 1,191,990 Indonesians were confirmed positive for Covid-19. In early 2021 there was a significant spike in Indonesia’s daily positive Covid-19 cases. On December 3, 2020, an additional 8,369 confirmed positive Covid-19 patients were the highest record throughout 2020 [3].

Indonesia pays attention to the safety of citizens abroad in the context of foreign policy to protect Indonesian citizens, which is one of Indonesia’s priorities. In the language of government policy, efforts to repatriate Indonesian citizens are part of what is

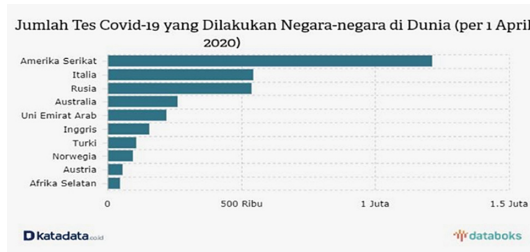


Fig. 1. Global Covid Spread Graphic

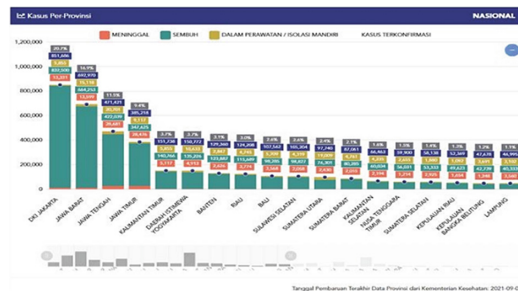


Fig. 2. Indonesia Covid Graphic, Kompas.com

referred to as “presenting the state” among Indonesian citizens abroad. Indonesia cooperates with three parties, China, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates, through state or private companies. This international cooperation also returns to domestic interests, namely the provision of vaccines against Covid-19 estimated to be used in early 2021. Indonesia’s cooperation with the United Arab Emirates in health services related to Covid-19 can strengthen Indonesia’s position as a country that receives cooperation that provides direct benefits without choosing a particular country.

Moreover, the United Arab Emirates is a country in the Persian Gulf where the majority of the population is Muslim, so Indonesia’s diplomacy of cooperation will provide a balance with cooperation with China. Various countries carry out collaboration in the search for a Covid-19 vaccine. According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO) on August 28, 2020, 33 vaccine candidates have entered the clinical trial stage, and 143 vaccine candidates are still in the pre-clinical trial stage worldwide. Indonesia has a comprehensive understanding of potential vaccines currently in the pilot phase.

2 Discussion

2.1 World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a United Nations agency that acts as the international public health coordinator and is also based in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO constitution states that the aim of the establishment of WHO is for all people to achieve the highest possible level of health. The function of the World Health Organization (WHO) is to achieve maximum health for all people around the world. To achieve this, WHO is actively carrying out tasks such as tackling health by assisting and implementing restrictions on infectious diseases, providing health assistance to countries that need assistance, assisting in improving welfare and maternal and child health, and assisting in conducting research. -Research related to health. The World Health Organization (WHO) also has broad Health-related responsibilities in dealing with Global Epidemics, reducing deaths on the ground, and eliminating Vaccine-treatable Diseases. WHO can make recommendations to the Member States on what should be done to improve the health of citizens and prevent the spread of disease outbreaks. The world condition during the COVID-19 pandemic poses a challenge for many developing countries that have to build their health resilience amidst the sluggishness of their economy, health services, or medical infrastructure. So that a coalition will be the most rational choice for countries, even though prioritising national interests is an absolute thing for every country that is included in the Health diplomacy round.

2.1.1 Corona Virus Disease

China announced towards the end of 2019 that there had been cases of an epidemic of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, in Wuhan. The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed this illness a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 as a result of the rapid global spread of outbreaks of this illness. As the number of fatalities rises over time, the COVID-19 infection rate is becoming more and more concerning. Every nation in the globe is making every effort to contain this epidemic in order to stop the virus’ spread,

lower the number of people exposed, and lower the death toll. When this pandemic strikes, affluent nations like the United States and Britain appear to be unable to control the virus's spread and are unable to lower the number of casualties. As a result, a nation's development and riches do not ensure victory over the COVID-19 attack. Indonesia itself is very concerned about the safety of citizens abroad in the context of foreign policy to protect Indonesian citizens, which is one of Indonesia's priorities. In the language of government policy, efforts to repatriate Indonesian citizens are part of what is referred to as "presenting the state" among Indonesian citizens abroad. There is special attention to Indonesian citizens in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, which is the centre of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, as can be seen from President Jokowi's statement on January 31, 2020, which ordered the cabinet to repatriate Indonesian citizens from there.

However, the order to repatriate Indonesian citizens can only be carried out indirectly because several procedures must be followed. In this repatriation operation plan, the TNI has prepared several aircraft to support the plan to repatriate Indonesian citizens from Hubei Province. Indonesian representative offices abroad also pay full attention to the fate of these Indonesian citizens, whether they are repatriated or remain where they are now. Everything has come to the attention of the Indonesian government because after March and then April, there were no signs of the Covid-19 pandemic abating. In a short time, more than 100 countries were affected by this epidemic, so it also pressured Indonesia to find out the rescue level of citizens abroad. The repatriation of Indonesian citizens is not only in Wuhan (China) locations but also in various countries with many migrant workers, such as Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia. Even the repatriation with facilitation from the government was carried out for Indonesian workers who were on cruise ships. In addition to repatriating Indonesian citizens, Indonesia has also adopted a policy of monitoring Indonesian citizens exposed to COVID-19 abroad [4].

Due to save Indonesian citizens, it is necessary to improve communication and coordination with countries with a high number of confirmed cases of Indonesian citizens with COVID-19, especially Malaysia, India, and Singapore. Evacuating migrant workers, students, crew members, and visitors from Indonesia from China, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia is the first step in the right direction for Indonesia. The repatriation of Indonesian citizens from foreign countries hit by dangers such as the Covid-19 pandemic has become one of Indonesia's foreign policy characteristics, especially in the era of President Joko Widodo. In rescuing residents affected by the conflict in Syria, for example, Indonesia took a proactive stance to evacuate residents from dangerous areas. Likewise, the repatriation of citizens from Malaysia is carried out continuously for those who have problems. For any nation to successfully combat this deadly virus, international cooperation is urgently required. Southeast Asian nations are not exempt from this COVID-19 viral attack either. An important non-traditional security concern in Southeast Asia has emerged as a result of the illness pandemic.

As soon as the COVID-19 was announced, the nations of Southeast Asia decided on their national attitudes and internal strategies. Each nation has its own set of policies. For instance, some nations, including Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, favour a lockdown strategy. Other nations, like Indonesia, favour social segregation policies (Fig. 3).

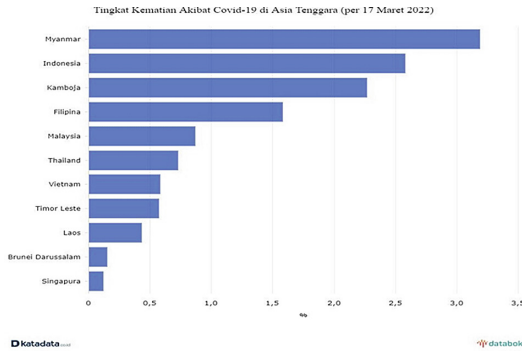


Fig. 3. Source: Katadata.com

2.1.2 International Cooperation Facing Corona Virus

Facing these conditions, ASEAN, a regional organisation that facilitates cooperation between countries in Southeast Asia, synergises to suppress the coronavirus’s negative impact. Cooperation is carried out through the mechanisms of ASEAN, ASEAN + 3, to cooperate with other organisations. The various partnerships covered a wide range of topics, including initiatives for tourism and travel as well as economic solutions and health sector mitigation. The ten ASEAN states all concurred on a number of key themes regarding how to handle COVID-19, including boosting cooperation against COVID-19 through information sharing, best practises, research advancement, epidemiological advancement, and others.

Protecting ASEAN citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic, enhancing public outreach and efforts to combat stigmatisation and discrimination, pledging to take collective action and coordinate policies to mitigate economic and social impacts, emphasising the significance of a comprehensive approach involving multi-stakeholders and multi-sectoral, appointing ASEAN economic ministers to ensure supply chain connectivity so that trade can continue, and supporting the realisation of ASEAN integration are other important factors. In order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the leaders of the ASEAN nations have also resolved to create a regional fund. The establishment of the Response Fund seeks to guarantee the accessibility of crucial medical equipment and supplies throughout the ASEAN area. The money is obtained through reallocating already-existing and free funds. Funding for this project came in part from assistance from ASEAN partners including ASEAN Plus Three. Along with this investment, a pledge is made to avoid wasting money on items that are important for fighting COVID-19, such as food, medicine, and other basic necessities. Establishing communication channels between groups of scientists with particular expertise, medical specialists, and other pertinent professions, including social and policy experts, is one of the other areas of international cooperation in dealing with Covid-19. The economic crisis and the health issue are both current topics of conversation. Indonesia’s diplomacy to encourage this cooperation can be seen in the ASEAN meeting.

The Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered four important issues in advance of the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) in April

2020. First, Indonesia promotes the implementation of the outcomes of the meetings of the health ministers of ASEAN and ASEAN + 3 member nations. Second, Indonesia suggested that the ASEAN + 3 Summit forum cover the “Supply Chain and Flow of Goods during the Outbreak” agreement. Thirdly, Indonesia emphasises how crucial it is for ASEAN to uphold the necessary health norms in order to protect its members’ citizens, particularly migrant workers. Fourth, Indonesia suggests that in order to pay for the acquisition of medical supplies and other essentials, the ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund be collected from the ASEAN Development Fund and the ASEAN + 3 Cooperation Fund. In the ASEAN cooperation forum, Indonesia has proposed a broader framework for cooperation [5]. Not only saving their respective citizens but also financing and purchasing health protection equipment. In it, Indonesia implicitly wants to cooperate in the treatment of Covid-19. The desire for cooperation in finding a vaccine and various steps in overcoming Covid-19 has been Indonesia’s position since the beginning.

2.1.3 Corona Virus Vaccination

In addition to the aforementioned cooperation, there are four other bilateral partnerships in the international quest for a Covid-19 vaccine for Indonesia. The collaboration between Indonesia and China is the first thing that becomes apparent because it is also carrying out clinical trials in Indonesia. Bio Farma and Sinovac have a collaboration agreement for the delivery of 40 million doses of vaccine to Indonesia. The pursuit of a vaccination that will protect the populace cannot be isolated from a free and engaged foreign policy. Despite the fact that Indonesia is collaborating with other nations in the health sector, every decision it makes will have political repercussions. In light of this, Indonesia’s decision to expand its collaboration with other nations and overseas businesses can be seen as the personification of a free and active foreign policy. China’s cooperation with the United Arab Emirates is also an indication of an independent policy. Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi witnessed the signing of two cooperation agreements between G42, a UAE Health technology company, with Kimia Farma and Bio Farma. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kimia Farma and G42 will develop vaccine products with cooperation in medicinal products, health services, research and clinical trials, vaccine production, and others. Meanwhile, with Bio Farma, G42 will establish cooperation in research, development, production, and distribution based on laser technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Covid-19 screening. Indonesia’s cooperation with the United Arab Emirates in health services related to Covid-19 can strengthen Indonesia’s position as a country that accepts cooperation that provides direct benefits without choosing a particular country.

Moreover, the United Arab Emirates is a country in the Persian Gulf where the majority of the population is Muslim, so Indonesia’s diplomacy of cooperation will provide a balance with cooperation with China. The third collaboration is the cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea during this COVID-19 pandemic [6]. Furthermore, what is in the spotlight here is not only the government but this collaboration. The parties involved are Indonesian private companies supported by the government to seek vaccines to protect Indonesian citizens. This cooperation between Indonesia and South Korea is carried out through the company PT Kalbe Farma Tbk (Kalbe) by signing a memorandum of understanding with a company from South Korea, namely Genexine,

Inc. Genexine Inc. is a bio-medicine and biotechnology company listed on the South Korean stock exchange. With this particular focus on cooperation with South Korea and even though the second private company, there is an expansion of the non-state role in bilateral cooperation. It should be noted that this South Korean product has a different approach from China in producing the Covid-19 vaccine. With the support of the Indonesian government, private companies are also open to developing cooperation in the manufacture of vaccines against Covid-19. The fourth collaboration occurred between Bio Farma and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI). The global public-private partnership is based in Norway.

This form of cooperation is in the form of technology transfer for vaccine formulations that CEPI has developed for Bio Farma. The target is that Bio Farma can become one of the lists of 10 companies that can produce CEPI vaccines. The implementation of Indonesia's foreign policy in opening this collaboration can be seen in diplomacy, the first route, which state companies facilitate, and the multi-track, which includes private companies. With the combination in the form of a genuinely inter-private partnership and then a state-owned company from Indonesia, it will be interesting to follow the extent of the impact of this cooperation in bilateral relations. The choice of a combination of cooperation with China, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates, intentionally or coincidentally, indicates the implementation of a free and active foreign policy. Cooperation with China alone can create perceptions in Western countries that justify the closer political relations between the two countries. Cooperation with South Korea and other countries can be balanced so that Indonesia's diplomatic steps through cooperation in the search for a Covid-19 vaccine do not lead to the emergence of new problems in Indonesia's foreign policy, which is known as a free and active orientation. In addition, the United States also provided vaccine assistance to Indonesia. The United States Ambassador to Indonesia, Sung Y. Kim, congratulated Indonesia on the arrival of three million doses of the Moderna vaccine from the United States government. The United States government will provide one million additional doses to Indonesia as part of this phase of vaccine delivery. Vaccine diplomacy for vaccine-producing countries is helpful and valuable for strengthening the identity and future technological relations between countries worldwide. The discovery of vaccines in various countries such as the United States, Britain, and China has given new enthusiasm for recovering the world's economy. However, this still raises new problems, namely how effective the vaccines that have been found are in preventing the accelerated spread of the virus, as well as inequality in access to vaccines for all countries around the world. The World Health Organization moved faster after Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic at the end of 2019 by forming a collaborative forum called COVAX with GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) and CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) [7]. This collaborative forum aims to accelerate the development and manufacture of Covid-19 vaccines and ensure fair and equitable access for every country worldwide.

Indonesia itself has expressed interest in joining the COVAX collaboration since October 2020. Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi stated that Indonesia has the right to receive official Official Development Assistance (ODA) assistance in the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) for the provision of Covid-19 vaccines in a multilateral framework. Through this collaboration, Indonesia

has secured 440 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine until the end of 2021. The total number of vaccines that have been received has reached 173 million doses. More than 180 countries have joined COVAX. This shows the spirit of multilateral vaccine diplomacy in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic through fair and equitable distribution of vaccines worldwide. However, bilateral routes are also often taken due to the very dynamic nature of Covid-19 transmission. The factor of population gaps and different levels of vaccine efficacy often end up making countries scramble to get the vaccine.

3 Conclusion

World Health Organization is one of the agencies under the auspices of the United Nations, which was established by an agreement between governments and carries out broad international responsibilities in the health sector as regulated in the United Nations Charter, namely Article 57 and Article 63 paragraph (2). WHO has been slow in announcing the Covid-19 outbreak as a pandemic, which has had a global impact on the world community. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR issued human rights guidelines that need to be met during various Covid-19 pandemic situations, namely respect and fulfilment of rights. Fundamental human rights in the social, economic, and cultural fields. The world condition during the COVID-19 pandemic poses a challenge for many developing countries that have to build their health resilience amidst the sluggishness of their economy, both in health services and medical infrastructure. So that a coalition will be the most rational choice for countries, even though prioritising national interests is an absolute thing for every country that is included in the Health diplomacy round. Indonesia cooperates with three parties, China, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates, through state or private companies. This international cooperation also returns to domestic interests in early 2021. The choice of a combination of cooperation with China, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates is intentional or coincidental. It indicates that the implementation of a free foreign policy is active. Simply cooperating with China can influence Western perceptions to support closer political ties between the two nations. Cooperation with South Korea and other nations can be balanced so that Indonesia's diplomatic efforts through collaboration in the hunt for a Covid-19 vaccine do not result in the formation of new issues in Indonesia's foreign policy, which is referred to as a free and active orientation.

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