KEEPING INDONESIA SAFE FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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KEEPING INDONESIA SAFE FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Lessons Learnt from the National Economic Recovery Programme

Editors:

Sri Mulyani Indrawati Suahasil Nazara Titik Anas Candra Fajri Ananda Kiki Verico





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Glossary

ABW Activity-Based Workplace ADB Asian Development Bank AFC Asian Financial Crisis

AIDRAN Australia-Indonesia Disability Research and

Advocacy Network

ALZI Alzheimer Indonesia

AMMS Acceptability of Mental Health Mobile App

Survey

APBD Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Daerah

(Regional Budget)

APBN Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Negara (State

Budget)

ARG Anggaran Responsif Gender (Gender-Responsive

Budget)

ASPD Asistensi Sosial Penyandang Disabilitas (Social

Assistance for People with Disability)

BAPPENAS Badan Perencanaan dan Pembangunan Nasional

(National Development Planning Agency)

BCP Business Continuity Plan

BI Bank Indonesia (Indonesia's Central Bank)
BLT Desa Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa (Village

Fund Direct Cash Assistance)

BNPB Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana

(National Disaster Management Authority)

BOK Bantuan Operasional Kesehatan (Health

Operational Assistance)

BP Bukan Pekerja (Non-Wage Worker)

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BPJS Kesehatan Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial Kesehatan

(Social Security Agency for Health)

BPJS Ketenagakerjaan/ Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial

BPJAMSOSTEK Ketenagakerjaan (Social Security Agency for

Employment

BPK Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan (Audit Board of

Indonesia)

BPKP Badan Pengawasan Keuangan dan

Pembangunan (Indonesia's National

Government Internal Auditor)

BPNT Bantuan Pangan Non Tunai (Non-Cash Food

Assistance)

BPS Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia)
BPTKLW Bantuan Tunai untuk Pedagang Kaki Lima dan

Warung (Cash Assistance for Street Vendors and

Stall Owners)

BPUM Bantuan Produktif Usaha Mikro (Productive

Presidential Assistance for Micro Businesses)

BST Bantuan Sosial Tunai (Cash Social Assistance)
BUKU Bank Umum Kegiatan Usaha (Commercial Banks

Classification Based on Business Activities)

C&E Customs & Excise

CAD Current Account Deficit

CBT Climate Change Budget Tagging

CEISA Customs and Excise Information System and

Automation

CIO Chief Information Officer
CIT Corporate Income Tax
COVID-19 Coronavirus 2019

DAK Dana Alokasi Khusus (Specific Allocation Fund)

DALY Disability Adjusted Life Years

DAU Dana Alokasi Umum (General Allocation Fund)
DBH Dana Bagi Hasil (Revenue Sharing Fund)
DID Dana Insentif Daerah (Regional Incentives Fund)
Dit P2MKJN Direktorat Pencegahan dan Pengendalian

Masalah Kesehatan Jiwa dan Napza (Directorate of Mental Health and Drugs

Problem Prevention and Control)

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DJBC Direktorat Jenderal Bea & Cukai (Directorate

General Customs & Excise)

DJP Direktorat Jenderal Pajak (Directorate General

of Taxes)

DPD Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (The Regional

Representative Council)

DPR Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (The People's

Representative Council/Parliament)

DRM Domestic Resources Mobilization

EA Enterprise Architecture

ECEC Pendidikan dan Pengasuhan Anak Usia Dini

(Early Childhood Education and Care)

EoDB Ease of Doing Business

EU European Union

EUA Emergency Use of Authorization

FAS Free Alongside Ship FGD Focus Group Discussion

FWA Flexible Working Arrangement

FWH Flexible Working Hour FWS Flexible Working Space

G20 Group of Twenty

G2B Government to Business
G2C Government to Citizen
G2E Government to Employee
G2G Government to Government
GBD Global Burden Disease
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GDS Government Debt Securities

GFC Global Financial Crisis

GGGI Indeks Kesenjangan Gender Global (Global

Gender Gap Index)

GOI Government of Indonesia

GRDP Gross Regional Domestic Product

GS Government Securities
GSO Green Shoe Option
HCW Health Care Worker
HI Herfindahl Index

HIMPSI Himpunan Psikologi Indonesia (The Association

of Indonesian Psychology)

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HKPD Hubungan Keuangan antara Pemerintah Pusat

dan Pemerintahan Daerah (Intergovernmental

Fiscal Relation)

HPP Harmonisasi Peraturan Perpajakan (Harmonized

Tax Regulation)

HPV Human Papilloma Virus

HSBC Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ICD International Statistical Classification of Diseases

and Related Health Problems

ICMA The International Capital Market Association ICT Information and Communication Technology

IDR Indonesia Rupiah

IIGF Indonesia Infrastructure Guarantee Fund
IJP Imbal Jasa Penjaminan (Guarantee Fee)
ILO International Labor Organisation

IMF International Monetary Fund

ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification

of All Economic Activities

IT Information Technology

JKN Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional (National Health

Insurance; NHI)

J-PAL The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

JPY Japanese Yen

KITE Kemudahan Impor Tujuan Ekspor (Ease of Import

for Export)

KLC2 Kemenkeu Learning Centre 2

Komnas Perempuan Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan Terhadap

Perempuan (National Commission on Violence

Against Women)

KPPN Kantor Pelayanan Perbendaraan Negara (State

Treasury Payment Office)

KPR Kredit Kepemilikan Rumah (House Ownership

Loan)

KPSI Komunitas Peduli Skizofrenia Indonesia

(Indonesian Schizophrenia Care Community)

KSSK Komite Stabilitas Sistem Keuangan (Financial

System Stability Committee)

KUR Kredit Usaha Rakyat (People's Business Credit;

The Low Interest Rate Credit Programme)

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LD UI Lembaga Demografi (Demographic Institute),

University of Indonesia

LES Large-sized Enterprises
LGST Luxury Goods Sales Tax

LKPP Laporan Keuangan Pemerintah Pusat (Central

Government Financial Report)

LM Liability Management

LPDB Lembaga Pengelola Dana Bergulir (Revolving

Fund Management Agency)

LPEM UI Lembaga Penyelidikan Ekonomi dan Masyarakat,

Universitas of Indonesia (Institute for Economic and Social Research–Faculty of Economics and

Business, University of Indonesia)

LPS Lembaga Penjamin Simpanan (Indonesia Deposit

Insurance Corporation)

LS Laporan Surveyor (Surveyor Reports)

MAHKOTA Program Menuju Masyarakat Indonesia yang

Kokoh dan Sejahtera (Towards a Strong and

Prosperous Indonesian Society Programme)

MENA Middle East and North Africa
MEs Medium-sized Enterprises
MiEs Micro-sized Enterprises

MoECRT Ministry of Education and Culture, and Research

and Technology

MoF Ministry of Finance
MoH Ministry of Health
MoM Ministry of Manpower

MSMEs Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

NIM Net Interest Margin

NLE National Logistics Ecosystems

NPL Non-Performing Loan

NTT Nusa Tenggara Timur (East Nusa Tenggara)

NWOW New Ways of Working

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development

OJK Otoritas Jasa Keuangan (Financial Services

Authority)

P3B Perjanjian Penghindaran Pajak Berganda (Tax

Treaty)

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PAD Pendapatan Asli Daerah (Own Source Revenue) **PBPU**

Pekerja Bukan Penerima Upah (Non-wage

recipients)

PBS Project-Based Sukuk

PEN

PCR Polymerase Chain Reaction

PCV Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

PCPEN Penananganan COVID-19 dan Pemulihan

Ekonomi Nasional (COVID-19 Responses and

National Economic Recovery Programme) Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional (National

Economic Recovery Programme)

PERPPU Peraturan Pemerintah Pengganti Undang-

Undang (Government Regulation in lieu of

Law)

PFM Public Financial Management

PIT Personal Income Tax

PKH Program Keluarga Harapan (Family Hope

Programme)

PKI. Pedagang Kaki Lima (Street Vendors) PLM Penyangga Likuiditas Makroprudensial

(Macroprudential Liquidity Buffer)

PLN Perusahaan Listrik Negara (State Electricity

Company)

PMK Peraturan Menteri Keuangan (Ministry of Finance

Regulation)

PMN Penyertaan Modal Negara (State Equity

Participation)

PNM Mekaar Program Permodalan Nasional Madani

> Membina Ekonomi Keluarga Sejahtera (Fostering a Prosperous Family Economy

Programme)

PP Peraturan Pemerintah (Government Regulation)

PPE Personal Protective Equipment PPh Pajak Penghasilan (Income Tax)

PPKM Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat

(Community Activities Restriction Enforcement)

PPP Public-Private Partnership PPP Purchasing Power Parity

PROSPERA Program Kemitraan Indonesia Australia untuk xxvi Glossary

Perekonomian (Australia Indonesia Partnership

for Economic Development)

PSBB Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar (Large Scale

Sosial Restrictions)

PSLD Pusat Studi Layanan Disabilitas Universitas

Brawijaya (Centre for Studies on Disability

Services)

Puskesmas Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat (Public Healthcare)

QE Quantitative Easing

RBTK Reformasi Birokrasi & Transformasi

Kelembagaan (Bureaucracy Reform and

Institutional Transformation)

RT/RW Rukun Tetangga/Rukun Warga (Community

Group)

SAKTI Sistem Aplikasi Keuangan Tingkat Instansi

(Financial Application System for Agency)

SARS Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

SAS Special Access Scheme

SBN Surat Berharga Negara (Government Securities)

SBSN Surat Berharga Syariah Negara (Sharia

Government Securities)

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SEC Securities and Exchange Commission
SEJIWA Kesehatan Jiwa (Mental Health)

SEs Small-sized Enterprises
SID Single Investor Identification

SKB Surat Keputusan Bersama (Joint Decree)
SMEs Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

SOEs State-owned Enterprises

SOP Standard Operating Procedures

SPAN Sistem Perbendaharaan & Anggaran Negara

(State Budget & Treasury System)

SPBE Sistem Pemerintahan Berbasis Elektronis

(e-Government)

SSA Sovereign, Supranational and Agency

SUN Surat Utang Negara (Government Debt Securities)

SWR Sukuk Waqaf Retail (Sukuk Waqf Retail)
TKDD Transfer ke Daerah dan Dana Desa

(Intergovernmental Transfer)

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TNP2K TNP2K (Tim Nasional Percepatan Penanggulangan

Kemiskinan / National Team for Acceleration of

Poverty Reduction)

Umi Pembiayaan Ultra Mikro (Ultra-Micro Financing

Program)

UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and the Pacific

UNICEF United Nations International Children's

Emergency Fund

UU Undang-Undang (Law)

UU HPP Undang-Undang Harmonisasi Peraturan

Perpajakan (Harmonized Tax Law)

VAT Value Added Tax
WFH Working From Home
YLD Years Lived in Disability

YoY Year on year

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Foreword

Keeping Indonesia Safe from the COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons Learnt from the National Economic Recovery Programme

Sri Mulyani Indrawati, PhD, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia

"If the past is cut off, the future does not exist" (Alexander Lowen). This book shows us that past experiences were the best teacher to face the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic. We are trying to record every single step we took to absorb any economic impacts of the pandemic for the lessons learned to the next generations.

1. BACKGROUND

The unprecedented COVID-19 virus became a global pandemic in 2020. Indonesia's first case of COVID-19 was found on 2 March 2020. The pandemic dramatically changed human life as all public places such as airports, seaports, train stations, bus stations, malls, shopping centres, roads, railways, restaurants, hotels, and movie theatres were suddenly

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closed. People work and pray from home, and students, teachers, and lecturers study from home. There were only essential activities that are exempted from mobility restrictions.

Changi Airport in Singapore, one of the busiest airports in the world, was suddenly empty. Jakarta, like other big cities in the world, suddenly changed from a high-density and traffic-jam metropolitan to an empty city with empty roads. The public crowd suddenly disappeared, and economic activities were just stopped and hibernated.

People have no memories of the global pandemic as the latest one was around one century ago, from 1918 to 1920, when the world faced a global pandemic of the H1N1 virus, well known as the Spanish flu, infecting around one-third of the world population. No prior reference can be used on how the COVID-19 pandemic will end. The only vivid figures that people can imagine about the end of the pandemic were taken from the movies that displayed the global pandemic, such as *Outbreak* (1995), *Quarantine* (2008), *Black Death* (2010), *Contagion* (2011), *Flu* (2013), and *Infection* (2019). At the very least, these movies gave optimism that the pandemic is bearable and can be cured.

The real game changer in the global COVID-19 pandemic is vaccine production that can be publicly available within one year. It is an extraordinary outcome as it usually takes more than five years to make the vaccine available for public use.

2. IMMEDIATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The COVID-19 global pandemic that has changed human life dramatically made governments all around the world alter existing policies to combat the pandemic. Some governments decided on hard-core lockdown. Some others applied the so-called 3T of Tracing, Tracking, and Treatment, while others implemented conditional people mobility by region based on positivity rates. Indonesia adopted conditional people mobility complemented with 3T policies.

The impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the economy is similar to the impact of the Spanish flu one hundred years ago. The pandemic resulted in lower aggregate demand from consumption and investment. With the contraction in consumption and investment, the government must come to the rescue to compensate for the decline. However, the pandemic also hit the government revenue from taxes and non-tax as economic

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activities slowed. With the government expenditure expected to increase to cushion the economy from the shock, given the decline in revenue, the government budget deficit is expected to soar.

Allowing the deficit beyond the mandated threshold can be dangerous for the economy. A prudent and accountable fiscal management needs to be established. Empirical evidence in this book showed that the increased budget deficit was effective as the fiscal discipline was already established for several years before the government budget deficit expanded above 3 per cent of the GDP. The fiscal discipline has generated positive outcomes on the output gap that economic growth is consistently higher than the inflation rate with a continuous decrease in the open unemployment rate, poverty rate, and income inequality.

3. FUNDAMENTAL FISCAL POLICY RESPONSE: PRUDENT COUNTERCYCLICAL

Indonesian fiscal policy follows the principle: *during positive economic growth, it is maintained to be not crowding out, while during negative economic growth, it must be countercyclical.* The latter is temporary and depends on the economic recovery cycle. Therefore, in the policy responses designed to handle the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact, as outlined in Law No. 2/2020, the Government of Indonesia adopted a countercyclical fiscal policy for a limited period only, designed for three years, from 2020 to 2022.

Political economic theory explains that whenever a government faces a crisis, it might have to make emergency and extraordinary policies that can swing between discretion and rule-based ones. When the global pandemic of COVID-19 finally hit Indonesia in March 2020, the Government of Indonesia had to make quick yet effective policy responses, which can be discretionary but also has to be rule-based at the same time.

The government, after evaluating the situation and the pandemic's possible impact, made a fundamental decision to expand the annual budget deficit above 3 per cent of GDP for three years before returning to below 3 per cent of GDP in 2023. This three-year time frame had been chosen based on at least three considerations: a lesson from the Spanish flu time frame, the trust in technological advancement to produce the vaccine or medicine within three years, and the political-economic outlook before the next presidential election in 2024. Allowing an annual budget deficit

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above 3 per cent is discretionary in nature but framed under the rule of law—Law No. 2/2020.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic had also changed Indonesia's established institutional, political and economic arrangement into a totally different one that can be labelled an "extraordinary" process, mostly against existing practice. The pandemic required changing political relations within government institutions, across government institutions, and with the parliament. As a democratic country, the process of enacting legislation is complex that the government has to obtain legal approval from the parliament, be supervised by the Audit Board of Indonesia (*Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan*), General Attorney (*Kejaksaan Agung*), and the Corruption Eradication Commission (*Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi*). This book discusses the dynamics on the ground when the government seeks political and legal support for enlarging the annual budget deficit for countercyclical.

In handling the pandemic, Indonesia's government aimed to keep the COVID-19 pandemic contained so it did not become economic and financial problems. We consider the best panacea to cure the health and low-demand problems is activating the role of countercyclical fiscal policy. Unlike the shock in aggregate supply, indicated by negative economic growth and hyperinflation, the global pandemic also hit aggregate demand. It then created a significant distinctiveness of a low inflation rate with negative economic growth. The first involves a moral hazard that requires structural reform, while the latter is a kind of liquidity trap that needs a countercyclical government budget deficit.

This countercyclical fiscal requires a healthy fiscal condition because the budget must be enlarged and the budget deficit exceeding the 3 per cent cap. The budget deficit reached –6.34 per cent in 2020, –5.7 per cent in 2021 and –4.85 per cent in 2022. The increasing budget deficit will need financing in the near future. The source of financing requires mixed macroeconomic policies, one of which comes from the central bank's support. From the regional perspective, the local government is also expected to be able to move quickly and act out of the box in the midst of a pandemic. For this reason, the central government encourages the reallocation and refocusing of the budget from Transfers to Regions and Village Funds (TKDD) as an effort to support healthcare, social safety nets, and economic recovery as well as for COVID-19 vaccinations and incentives for health workers from the budget perspective. In addition,

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through the Special Mission Vehicle (SMV) of the Ministry of Finance, the Government prepared a loan scheme for local governments as part of the National Economic Recovery (PEN) Programme to anticipate regional government budget limitations.

4. MIX MACROECONOMIC POLICIES: FISCAL AND MONETARY COLLABORATION

When designing the macroeconomic policy mix to respond to the pandemic, the policymakers benefited from the playbooks that Indonesia had from the previous crises: the 1998 Asian Financial Crises (AFC) and the 2008 Global Financial Crisis (GFC). The first crisis left Playbook One as its footprint, and the second left Playbook Two as legacies. Playbook One gave significant reforms to the independence of the central bank (Bank Indonesia, BI) and the establishment of the Deposit Insurance Corporation (*Lembaga Penjamin Simpanan*, LPS).

Fast forward to designing the pandemic policy response, policymakers faced a dilemma of soaring financing needs to finance the budget deficit and the less favourable sovereign bonds market. To finance the deficit, the government asked for the central bank's support to share the burden of the financing cost. The framework was reflected in the SKB (*Surat Keputusan Bersama*) I on 16 April 2020, as the first joint decree between the Ministry of Finance and BI, in which BI acted as a "standby buyer" of the government bonds, SKB II and SKB III for the burden sharing.

Reflecting on Playbook Two from the 2008 GFC which gave birth to the Financial Services Authority (*Otoritas Jasa Keuangan*, OJK), it is important to note that the policy responses during the pandemic were made possible by the existence of the authority. During the pandemic, OJK closely monitored the condition of financial institutions. Prudent, calculated measures and close collaboration between BI, OJK, and LPS under the Financial Sector Stability Committee (*Komite Stabilitas Sektor Keuangan*, KSSK) chaired by the Minister of Finance prevented LPS and OJK from utilizing their economic crisis protocol in 2020 and 2021. The government's ability to isolate the COVID-19 global pandemic as public health crisis with prudent countercyclical policy protected Indonesia's economy from stagflation and financial crises.

In turn, this global COVID-19 pandemic provided Indonesia with Playbook Three outlining policy responses to contain the pandemic Foreword xli

and guide the economy out of the crisis, which will be very important for Indonesia and other countries to face future pandemics. Amidst the global pandemic, in 2020 and 2021, Indonesia's economy successfully returned to the pre-pandemic level and entered positive economic growth with annual growth with a relatively low inflation rate. Both indicators generated a stable nominal exchange rate which is important for BI. These achievements would not be there without solid cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and BI and strong support from the OJK and LPS.

5. CONCLUSION

The global pandemic hit Indonesia in early 2020, decreasing its annual economic growth from 2.97 per cent in the first quarter to –5.3 per cent in the second quarter and increasing open unemployment from around 5 per cent to 7 per cent in the second quarter within only six months. The poverty rate increased to more than 10 per cent and the inequality increased as indicated by the increase in the Gini ratio, from 0.380 to 0.385.

Nevertheless, with relentless efforts and appropriate required policies, the Government of Indonesia's countercyclical fiscal policy, with support from the central bank, rode the wave and returned to positive economic growth with a stable annual inflation rate in 2021. The outcomes were back to the pre-pandemic level with a non-inflationary growth pattern. Indonesia had returned to the upper middle-income country status as of the pre-pandemic level of 2019.

The annual economic growth has recovered from –2.1 per cent (2020) to 3.7 per cent (2021), while the annual inflation rate (CPI) was stable, increased stable, and low from 1.7 per cent to 1.9 per cent. This magnificent achievement is consistent with other outcome indicators. The open unemployment rate decreased from 7.1 per cent in August 2020 to 6.5 per cent in August 2021. The Gini ratio in 2021 was 0.381, which returned very close to the 2019 level at 0.380. The 2021 poverty rate had returned to below 10 per cent of the population, that is, 9.7 per cent.

In addition to government efforts like aggregate supply side problems in the AFC 1998 and GFC 2008, at any time Indonesia's economy faced economic crises, including the aggregate demand challenges, Indonesia's Current Account somehow turned to a surplus and compensated for other macroeconomic variables. These experiences humbly reminded us of *Ora et*

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Labora (Pray and Work). We indeed understand that economic equilibrium is arranged by the Invisible Hand and not over human efforts per se.

Finally, this book is about something worth reading—the effective policy known as the National Economic Recovery Programme (*Program Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional*, or PEN), which the Government of Indonesia did something worth writing. This book records and provides readers with various lessons learnt on how Indonesia navigated the first two years of the global COVID-19 pandemic.