The Role of Local Governments towards Achieving the SDGs during Post-COVID-19 Era

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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.”
Limited progress on environmental goals

On-track

Stagnant

Regressed

East and North-East Asia

North and Central Asia

Pacific

South East Asia

South and South West Asia

Source: UNESCAP
Local and Regional Governments and their Associations in Asia Pacific Take the Lead to Attain the SDGs

The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda have been widely embraced in the Asia-Pacific region. Most governments are working towards involving them in several development policies and planning & monitoring frameworks at the national and sub-national levels.

Asia Pacific region is already home to 59% of the world’s population, over 50% live in urban areas, and is expected to be the second most rapidly urbanising region in the coming decades. Local actions play a critical role in achieving a sustainable future.

In the ASPAC region, a number of Local Government Associations (LGAs) at the national and regional levels are making substantial efforts to disseminate global agendas, mobilise members, promote peer-to-peer exchanges and build alliances with local stakeholders, NGOs, CSOs, the private sector and academia.

In countries like Japan, South Korea, China, Indonesia, the Philippines or Australia, Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) are aligning their policies and development plans with the SDGs (although in federal countries this efforts mainly remain at state or provincial level).

Source: GOLD V : Monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
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)

Advocacy and Policy Recommendations

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

LGs/LGAs Solidarity

Donations among LGs/LGAs members of UCLG ASPAC

Fostering Opportunities in Tapping Alternative Financing

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

Capture Smart Practices of LGs

Documentation and promotion of smart practices of LGs in handling & recovering from COVID-19
Ongoing Research and Findings to Inform Policy Pt.1

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.
- 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.
Ongoing Research and Findings to Inform Policy Pt.2

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.

**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.
Advancing UCLG ASPAC Function as Knowledge Hub

UCLG ASPAC generates knowledge, documents smart practices and facilitates dialogue between LGs, LGAs and other stakeholders to foster exchange of innovations in handling and recovering from COVID-19

- Virtual discussion forum (webshares) to discuss initiatives in tackling the pandemic are being conducted every week since April 2020 (bi-weekly for the Asia Pacific level, and bi-weekly for Indonesian audience).
- **Upcoming**: Pocket book for legislative and executive decision makers on the impact of COVID-19 to the SDGs, smart practice compilation of LGs in handling the pandemic & its contribution towards the SDGs, policy recommendations.
LGs/LGAs Solidarity in Facing the Pandemic

UCLG ASPAC bridging its members to distribute donations of health equipment and supplies

UCLG ASPAC has distributed about 400,000 of surgical masks in total, and 300 thermometers from Haikau, Xian, Yiwu, Guangzhou and Zhengzhou City of the People’s Republic of China to Jakarta, Surabaya, Bogor, Yogyakarta, Pangkalpinang, Wakatobi and Padang in Indonesia, Lahore in Pakistan, Iriga, and Makati in the Philippines.
Local Initiatives (COVID-19)

- **Supply Chain**
  - Food Resilient
    - Basic goods on the Wheel in Iriga City, the Philippines

- **Technology**
  - Digital Service
    - Traditional Market online-based (Jember City, Indonesia)

- **Economic & Stimulus package**
  - Safety Net Programme
    - Jeonju City safety net programme is the best practice in South Korea

- **Community Engagement**
  - Grassroot Voluntary
    - Jago Tonggo (neighborhood initiative in Central Java, Indonesia)

- **Data Synchronization**
  - COVID-19 Dashboard Template
Many cities in the Philippines have started a mobile market that sells food and goods directly to reach the citizens, such as Makati, Iriga, Baguio and Catbalogan. Some have initiated digital platform for the traditional market.

### Makati Mart

The Makati Mart programme began its operations in Makati City on 30 March 2020. With this initiative that provides another source of basic goods, people will not crowd the supermarkets or have to leave their homes. People are encouraged to bring their own eco bags and observe social distancing.

### Catbalogan E-Market

Residents may order groceries, fruits & vegetables, poultry products, and medicine. Orders can be made by sending a message to the Catbalogan E-Market Facebook page or to the identified mobile numbers and goods are delivered straight to their homes.
Alternative Financing Towards the SDGs – Indonesia Best Practise

Financial agencies

private sector

philanthropic foundations

Badan Amil Zakat Nasional (Baznas)
Digital Economy in Indonesian Cities

Indonesian cities are taking the opportunity from the pandemic to accelerate transformation in the economic digitalisation, partnering with startups and fintech.

01, Online traditional market
Yogyakarta City established cooperation with Indonesian unicorn online platform Go-JEK & Tokopedia to help traditional markets & MSMEs sells their products online, offering free shipping costs for customers.

Jambi City has also created similar initiatives. Sangkek, a mobile-based application developed by their local millennials.

02, Virtual tours
Sawahlunto City create virtual tours to promote heritage tourism destination while enforcing health protocol, alongside applying retribution to gain income to limit number of visitor and cashless payment.

The Ombilin old coal mining is listed as one of the world heritage by UNESCO and is promoted by Sawahlunto City through virtual tour during the pandemic.

The Mayor of Jambi endorsed the local mobile apps to support locals in delivering their goods to help enforce physical distancing.
Pariaman City applies diversity of measures to address the impact of the pandemic while ensuring various attainment of the SDGs.

- Timely, easy cash assistance for impacted households.
- Regular social welfare data updating during pandemic period.
- Ensuring local food availability by regulating agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries production, as well as halting outflow of food products from locality.
- Promote home garden and fish pond in the household compound to supplement food supply.

- Blended learning program for school students through online schooling, with reports delivered by homeroom teachers.
- Development and usage of online application to avoid dropouts & increase access to education during Pandemic through SIPIN TAR registration apps for new school-age students and One-Family-One-Graduate (SAGA) for university-age students.

- Increase the number of specialist doctors, healthcare workers and equipment with capability to detect and treat COVID-19.
- 24 hour cross-border COVID-19 check points with more than 60 health volunteers undertaking.
- Centralising maternity health services away from COVID-19 hospitals.

- Ensured timely and easy cash and social assistance services to workers of affected sectors.
- Strengthened capacity in online/online licensing services.
- Ensure continuity for trading of essential products.
- Ensure compliance of New Adaptive Era health protocols for traditional markets & tourist destinations, including limited capacity and levy.
- Moratorium for micro, small and medium enterprise loans from local agencies.
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 communications
4. Public information access
5. Law enforcement quality

1. Maritime economy
2. Coastal citizens well-being
3. Disaster resilience
4. 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

Short-term Development Focus to Attain the SDGs*

Example from Indonesia RKPD 2021, adopted from MOHA presentation at Webshare#10 UCLG ASPAC
Way Forward towards “The New Normal”

5 Key Player in handling COVID-19 in local government

Penta-helix Model

Government

Community

Business

Academia

Media
Key Takeaways in Accelerating the SDGs in the Pandemic

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

**Innovative and effective efforts in handling the pandemic matters in accelerating the SDGs**

As the pandemic impacts all of the SDGs, handling the pandemic effectively can help to accelerate the slow progress of SDGs attainment. Identifying short and medium-term development focus to attain SDGs can be a good start.

**Integrated approach to ensure co-benefit**

As LGs experienced significant budget costs to handle the pandemic, an integrated approach can be an 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. (Crowdfunding, Zakat, etc).

**Building Back Better**

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