

Analysis of the Role of Philanthropic Institutions during the Covid-19 Pandemic; Aksi Cepat Tanggap Case Study

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Abstract: *This study analyzes the role of philanthropic institutions during a pandemic. The purpose of this study is to describe, examine and analyze more deeply the role of the Aksi Cepat Tanggap philanthropic institution in helping the government during the pandemic. It is hoped that this research will be able to help influence the wakif's decision to waqf for the welfare of the people. The method used is qualitative method with literature study with references from various existing sources. Researchers also took samples from several Aksi Cepat Tanggap (ACT) programs such as humanity medical service, humanity care line and sahabat UMI, along with opinions from several program beneficiaries. From this research, it can be concluded that ACT as a philanthropic and humanitarian institution, in collaborating and assisting government programs, has a role during the pandemic to help affected communities. The roles carried out include the role in the health sector through HMS, the role of food through HCL and the role of Entrepreneurship with the sahabat UMI program. As one of the Islamic philanthropic institutions, ACT continues to strive to increase the expansion of benefits for wider welfare in helping the government to improve the welfare of the people and the nation. Funds from the managed people are reused for the people as part of the benefits of Islamic social funds such as zakat, infaq, alms and waqf, for that the importance of awareness to give alms is important for the greater welfare of the people as part of the welfare of the nation.*

Keywords: *Philanthropy, Pandemic, Aksi Cepat Tanggap*

1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia has had an impact on the community's economy. The first coronavirus findings were announced on March 2, 2020. Not long after that, the pandemic slowed the economy in the first quarter of 2020, so that it only grew 2.97 percent (yoy). In fact, the economy shot 5.07 percent in the same period in the previous year. In the first quarter of 2021, it was recorded that economic growth was minus 0.74 percent. The contributor to 56.93 percent of GDP, household consumption, has not yet recovered, so it is recorded at negative 2.23 percent. A total of 11 sectors are still 'bloody', but improved compared to conditions in 2020. Meanwhile, the other six sectors managed to grow positively with the increase in the information and communication sector dominating at 8.72 percent. (CNN Indonesia, 2021)

The government has tried to make a program to overcome this problem. As is known, the government held a National Economic Recovery (PEN) program for the underprivileged to the business world. In 2020, for this program, 695.2 trillion rupiah has been budgeted and in 2021 the amount has increased to 744.7 trillion rupiah. The PEN program in 2020, apart from being an emergency response to control the impact of the pandemic, is also a support for public consumption and the sustainability of the business world. The realization of the PEN Program from 2021 to October 22 reached 433.91 trillion rupiah, which is 58.3% of the 744.77 trillion rupiah ceiling. In the 2021 PEN, budget policy is more flexible because it adapts to the dynamics of the pandemic that is changing so quickly. Deputy Minister of Finance Suahasil Nazara in ekon.go.id, conveyed the details of PEN realization as of October 22, 2021, as follows:

1. Realization of the Health cluster of Rp116.82 trillion (54.3%);
2. Perlinsos cluster realization of Rp125.10 trillion (67%);
3. Realization of Priority Program clusters amounting to Rp68.07 trillion (57.7%);
4. Realization of the MSME & Corporate Support cluster of Rp63.20 trillion (38.9%); and
5. Realization of the Business Incentives cluster of Rp60.73 trillion (96.7%) (Ekon.go.id, 2021).

2. Guide for Author

2.1. Pandemic Covid-19

Coronavirus, as the author quoted via covid19.go.id, is a large family of viruses that cause disease in humans and animals. In humans, it usually causes infectious diseases of the respiratory tract, ranging from the common cold to diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). A new variant of the coronavirus found in humans in Wuhan, China in December 2019, was named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV2) which causes Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) (Covid19.go.id).

2.2. Covid-19 in Indonesia

All Data from detikhealth.com, the first time COVID-19 was reported to have entered Indonesia was on March 2, 2020 in Depok, West Java, where the first transmission was revealed after patient 01 made close contact with a Japanese citizen who was positive for COVID-19 when examined in Malaysia. on Valentine's night, February 14, 2020. Two days after that, patient 01 felt unwell and complained of COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, and fever within 10 days. During treatment at the hospital in Depok, patient 01 was treated because he was diagnosed with bronchopneumonia, which is a type of pneumonia that causes inflammation of the lungs. After it was reported that his colleague who was a Japanese citizen was positive for COVID-19, patient 01 was immediately referred to the Sulianti Saroso Hospital (Health.detik.com, 2021).

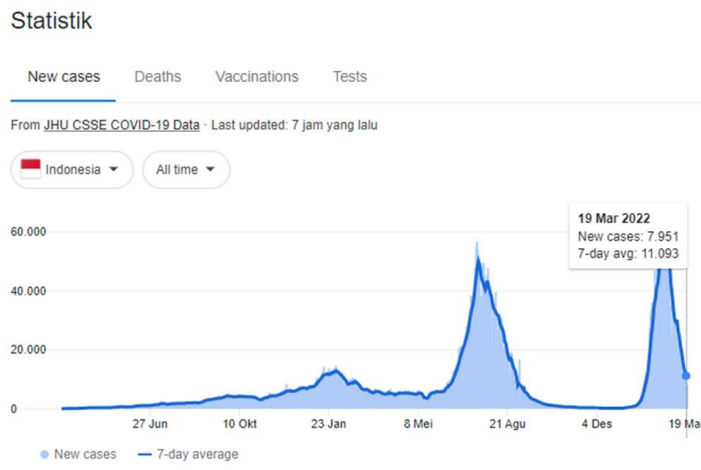


Fig. 1: is data on Covid-19 in Indonesia until March 18, 2022 quoted through JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data.

2.3. The Impact of the Pandemic in Indonesia

According to a public policy observer, Saiful, as the author quoted from beritasatu.com, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the world's economic and social sectors, including Indonesia. Saiful continued, there are three major impacts of this Covid pandemic on the national economy.

The first impact, according to him, is the weakening of household consumption or purchasing power. According to Saiful, in a virtual talk show titled "Chat Together Live" with the theme "The Impact of Covid-19 on the National Economy", on Radio Muara Jakarta, recently, the economy will increase if the absorption or purchasing power is also high. Markets that are successful in creating regulations, he continued, are markets that

are able to create high purchasing power because regulation of purchasing power has an effect of about 60% on the rise of an economy.

The second impact that he said was the uncertainty, when it would end so that the investment sector also weakened which had implications for the cessation of a business. According to Saiful, if we analyze business actors in the warteg sector, for example, transportation, traveling, maybe also the world of artists, musicians, artists, dangdut, and so on, things like this refer to the dismissal of several employees or layoffs, and so on.

Meanwhile, the third impact is the weakening of the economy which causes commodity prices to fall. As a result of this impact, the Government has taken quick action, vaccination programs, including the national economic recovery program, BLT, SME/UMKM business capital assistance (Beritasatu.com, 2021).

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However, the government needs the support of all parties for the acceleration of the program. One of those who also took part in helping the community during the COVID-19 pandemic was the philanthropic organization Aksi Cepat Tanggap or what we know as ACT. With a vision to become a professional global humanitarian organization based on generosity and global community volunteerism to create a better world civilization, ACT continues to collaborate with the government and the private sector in helping affected communities (Act.id).

2.4. Aksi Cepat Tanggap

As a foundation operating in the social and humanitarian fields, legally, Aksi Cepat Tanggap (ACT) was officially launched on April 21, 2005. ACT has expanded its activities, starting from emergency response activities, post-disaster recovery, community empowerment and development, as well as spiritual-based programs such as Qurban, Zakat and Waqf to expand the work (Act.id).

1. Vision

To become a professional global humanitarian organization based on global community philanthropy and volunteerism to create a better world civilization.

2. Mission

- a. Organizing and managing various humanitarian issues in a planned, conceptualized, integrated, and sustainable manner so that it becomes an ideal formula in overcoming various humanitarian problems at local, national, regional and global scales.
- b. Organizing and managing all potentials of global community generosity as social capital to overcome various humanitarian problems at local, national, regional and global scales.
- c. Organizing and managing all potentials of global volunteerism as social capital to overcome various humanitarian problems at local, national, regional and global scales. (Act.id)

2.5. The Role of ACT during the Covid-19 Pandemic

2.5.1. Humanity Medical Service

The Humanity Medical Service Program is an online or online-based medical consultation service program provided by a team of professional doctors for relatives who need medical services during a pandemic so that people do not need to visit a doctor and also provide medicines and vitamins that are delivered directly to the homes of relatives in need (Benihbaik. com).



Fig 2: sources of ACT's free ambulance service: <https://relawan.id/2021/07/26/hms-act-bantu-warga-yang-medang-menjalani-isoman-di-rumah/>.

Face-to-face health services are something that is avoided during the pandemic, but the needs of the community are increasing, especially for those who have been diagnosed positively with Covid-19. Therefore, Aksi Cepat Tanggap (ACT) launched Covid-19 Medical Careline Services, an online-based health consultation service. The MCS Covid-19 service from ACT can reach all communities in the operational area in the form of consultation services, drugs, ambulance services, home care, and the integration of other medical programs for free. To access it, the public can call 021-2940-7165 (News.act.id).

That's not enough, dr. Arini, a volunteer doctor for Covid-19 Medical Careline Services, revealed that this program initiated the presence of the latest health services, namely motorbike ambulances and corpse ambulances. The existence of this program since July 6, he admitted, is very helpful for the community, especially those who are undergoing independent isolation in their respective homes. According to dr. Arini, almost all people are surprised by this program, because it is provided free of charge from consultation to drug delivery as the author quoted from volunteer.id (Relawan.id, 2021).

2.5.2. Humanity Care Line

This program is a service based on toll-free telephone communication which is a service to provide basic food for residents affected by the Covid-19 outbreak and those who are quarantined in areas so that it is difficult to obtain basic food needs, especially rice. In detail, this program is a program service center that is integrated in the Free Food Operation Program (OPG) for communities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The daily workers who are also most affected are online motorcycle taxi drivers or ojol. This is because their income is highly dependent on daily orders. Based on available data, the number of online motorcycle taxi drivers in Jabodetabek is around 1.25 million people (News.act.id).



Figure 3: is a picture of the ACT Humanitarian Institution giving hundreds of kilograms of rice to 20 poor people in Grogol Village, Grogol District, West Jakarta. Photo: ACT Doc, source: <https://metro.sindonews.com/read/6417/171/penerima-bantuan-via-humanity-careline-act-di-grogol-merasa-hasil-1587611043>

One of the beneficiaries of this program, Maemunah, thanked ACT because with this rice assistance their burden was reduced. Maemunah is one of the residents of RT 008/RW 009, Grogol Village, Grogol District, West Jakarta who was affected by the pandemic. She admitted that her husband had not worked for three months, so he was experiencing economic difficulties. As the author quoted from actnews.id, while holding back tears when he said it, every night he wakes up crying saying what he wants to eat tomorrow. She hopes that Indonesia will soon be freed from this pandemic disaster, so that her husband can work again (Sindonews.com, 2020).

2.5.3. Sahabat Usaha Mikro Indonesia

This step was taken by Aksi Cepat Tanggap (ACT) to encourage the pace of micro and ultra micro businesses which were in a slump due to the pandemic. Through this program, since May 28, 2020, there have been 3,372 families driving ultra micro businesses that have received this venture capital alms. The Umi, the majority of whom are the backbone of this family, come from 216 regencies and cities spread across Indonesia. Thousands of volunteers spread across various regions in Indonesia, have reached 1,596 villages and kelurahan where the beneficiaries are currently driving the wheels of their lives.



Fig 4: is Esti Setiasih, one of the beneficiaries of Sahabat UMI along with Haykal Kamil who also delivered the generous mandate to him on Friday (5/6) 2020. ACTNews/Gina Mardani), source <https://news.act.id/berita/sahabat-umi-jangkau-3-000-lebih-pelaku-usaha-ultra-mikro>

Esti Setiasih, one of the beneficiaries who is currently the foundation of her family's needs through a grocery shop business. As a widow who takes care of two children with special needs, she has to take her children to therapy regularly. He also had to come several times to ask for a referral letter to a certain hospital because he used health insurance from the state (News.act.id).

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