Preface

The number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) around the world now exceeds 60 million, and about 1.5 million people have died.[1] Indonesia had reported more than 500,000 cases and about 17,000 deaths as of 30 November 2020. The case fatality rate in the old-age group or those 60 years old and above is higher compared to the younger adult group, which accounts for 38.5%.[2]

Riskesdas (*Riset Kesehatan Dasar*: Basic Health Research) Data of 2018 reports that older people are more likely to suffer from non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes mellitus, stroke, hypertension, and arthritis, than younger generations. Many studies found that hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases are the most prevalent comorbidity amongst the death cases from COVID-19. Amongst the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia, hypertension accounted for 50.5%, diabetes 34.5%, and cardiovascular disease 19.9%.[3] This is why older people are considered the most affected group during this pandemic.[4]

This phone survey of older people and COVID-19 in Indonesia, therefore, aims to (i) measure the general knowledge of older people regarding COVID-19 and their sources of information; (ii) compare the welfare of older people before and during the COVID-19 pandemic; (iii) understand the difficulties they face during the pandemic; (iv) monitor the assistance they receive during the pandemic; and (v) identify the most suitable policies on their health and welfare.

[1] https://covid19.who.int
[2] https://Covid19.go.id.
[3] ibid
[4] http://www.padk.kemkes.go.id/article/read/2020/04/23/21/hindari-lansia-dari-Covid-19.html.

This study was initiated by the Bappenas (*Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional*: National Development Planning Agency) and sponsored by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). The data collection, including technical support, instrument design, and basic analysis, was conducted by SurveyMETER. This report was compiled based on the analysis of the data collected from the first round of the survey in July 2020.

The first round of phone survey was implemented in July 2020 and the second will be conducted in November 2020. We randomly selected the respondents from the older people registered in SILANI (Information System of Older People) which is implemented in three provinces of Indonesia: *Daerah Istimewa* Yogyakarta (DIY), Bali, and *Daerah Khusus Ibukota* (DKI) Jakarta. In these three provinces, seven districts or cities were selected as project areas: Sleman District, Bantul District, Yogyakarta City, Denpasar City, Gianyar District, West Jakarta City, and South Jakarta City. From each of these seven districts/cities, one village or *kelurahan* was selected. As a result, the project area of SILANI consisted of seven villages/*kelurahan*.[5] The total number of respondents is 3,500, and this was divided proportionately amongst the villages according to the population of older people who have phone numbers in each village. The sampling was made randomly within each village.

SurveyMETER wishes to thank Bappenas and ERIA for the support provided – from the preparation to data collection until data analysis. We hope that the result of this phone survey will be good inputs for the government and the policymakers in their efforts to improve the welfare of the community, particularly of the older people.

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[5] To protect the research subject, names of research villages remain undisclosed. *Kelurahan* is an administrative subdivision like *desa* or village in urban communities.