

**ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DURING  
MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
THE GOVERNMENT**

**ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

NO	ISSUES / CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	<p><b>Indigenous People Without Citizenship Status (Statelessness):</b></p> <p>i. Certain groups such as the stateless group are the most affected and need greatest assistance during the MCO. If they are excluded from relief assistance, they will be doubly victimized.</p>	<p>State Governments should never neglect this group and should find immediate solution to this issue.</p> <p>i.</p> <p>MCO impact and post MCO impact to this group should be studied properly.</p> <p>ii.</p>
2.	<p><b>Covid 19 Screening and Test:</b></p> <p>i. In Sabah and Sarawak, migrants and statelessness people are afraid to report symptoms and get access to Covid 19 screening because of risk of being arrested or detained by the authority.</p>	<p>i.</p> <p>The Government must ensure that everyone can obtain testing and treatment for COVID-19 on a nondiscriminatory basis including those migrants and Indigenous People without citizenship.</p>

3	<p><b>Food and relief assistance</b></p> <p>i. Covid 19 pandemic might devastate poor rural indigenous communities who already living with deprivation and penury, weak resilience and limited access to government resources and services especially during the MCO period. Support from NGOs were also interrupted as travels from district to district were restricted and community meetings were strictly prohibited without the Government consent.</p>	<p>i. Establish NGOs friendly guidelines which will allow</p> <p>ii. NGOs to help distribute donations/aid to those in need during the Movement Control Order (MCO). However, it must be in accordance with the instructions of the National Security Council (MKN) and the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988.</p> <p>Extend monetary support by the Government to NGOs.</p>
	<p>Extension of aid for rural communities may drop quickly.</p> <p>ii. Donations dry up amid the pandemic and NGOs were struggling to stay afloat financially.</p> <p>iii. Poor Indigenous People, not only in rural areas but also in urban squatters, are stuck indoors with no income and no way to earn money during MCO.</p> <p>iv. Limited or no ATM machines in rural/interior areas of Sabah and Sarawak.</p> <p>v. Red tape among the implementing agencies for relief assistance distribution.</p>	<p>iii. Close cooperation between the Government and NGOs in distribution relief assistance.</p> <p>iv. Flexible procedures, including closing of gaps and to ease bureaucracy loopholes.</p> <p>v. Distribution of cash aid to those who live in rural/interior areas of Sabah and Sarawak.</p>

4	<p><b>Information gathering in regards to Indigenous People without identification documents</b></p> <p>i. Lack of information-sharing between the Government and NGOs, between NGOs resulted in overlapping aid assistance. Some families are receiving twice and others, nothing at all.</p>	<p>i.</p> <p>Better coordination and information sharing between these parties to avoid miscommunication and to reduce red tape.</p>
5	<p><b>Post MCO</b></p> <p>i. With the nationwide MCO in place, the effects of the MCO will ripple through all industries and sectors, which will also affect the Indigenous</p>	<p>i.</p> <p>Government support are most welcomed to navigate financial difficulties that will surface post MCO.</p>
	<p>People. Currently, these people are struggling to generate some level of income to stay afloat, especially to those whose living is dependent on daily wages.</p>	<p>ii.</p> <p>Advising employers not to simply terminate or deducting wages of their employees post MCO.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p><b>Gender-based violence and women’s role at home</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Unrecognized women's unpaid care work as part of essential service.</li> <li>ii. Violent behavior behind closed doors are set to skyrocket.</li> <li>iii. Women are providing unpaid care work and labor that is deemed infinitely elastic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Recognize women's unpaid care work as part of essential service and provide a national safety net for women in terms of cash at hand and/or tax benefits, even after the crisis.</li> <li>ii. To take immediate steps to support the good work that had been done to ensure victims of domestic abuse and gender-based violence have safe havens.</li> <li>iii. Immediate action required to guarantee and recognize unpaid family members and community front liners as essential workers.</li> </ul>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Non-Partisan Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Covid 19 occurred when the political temperature in the country was still high. As a result, it is difficult to promote non-partisan politics compounded by the fact that politicians may give priority to their political supporters first for scoring political points. Problems arise when it comes to the distribution of relief assistance for the Covid 19 that is based on the political divide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Government must be fair and embrace non-partisan approach to direct all aspects of the public health response as well as effort to provide relief amid COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>