

SUMMARY
MIGRANT AND UNDOCUMENTED PERSON ISSUES IN SABAH
DURING MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
ISSUES FACED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	ISSUES/CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATION/SUGGESTION
1	<p><i>Study conducted by UN Country Team; Study on the issue of Undocumented Person in Sabah:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. There is a request to refine the study in terms of Political Will, corruption issues, integrity and the role of the 'State' in addressing migrant's problems and the undocumented person in Sabah.</i> <i>ii. The impact of MCO (Post-MCO) issues on the vulnerable group should be thoroughly examined.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The state Government should accept and it is recommended that this study to be tabled as soon as possible after MCO period ended. The Sabah State Government is seen to be committed and serious in seeking solutions to this problem based on the recommendations and policies that have been set out in this study.</i>
2.	<p><i>Health Screening for Covid-19:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. According to NGOs in the West Coast area of Sabah; In the district of Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Semporna, there are still many migrants and undocumented person decline to conduct the health screening due to the possibility of being arrested and detained due to lack of legal documentation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The government has mentioned that all migrants and persons without legal documents will not be arrested and therefore were instruct to undergo the Covid-19 health screening. This information needs to be delivered and informed to all migrants and undocumented person, through a proper channel.</i>

<p>3</p>	<p>Access to food and Government assistance</p> <p>i. These groups are found to have difficulties on receiving food assistance. During MCO period, it is reported that they have no alternatives to basic needs such as daily food. NGOs reported when they try to help this community by supplying food supplies, they were blocked by the authorities and were not allow to deliver food supplies. In addition, the NGOs have to wait up to three days to deliver the food supplies to families that were affected.</p> <p>ii. NGOs do not have sufficient funds to help this group and they have to use personal financial resources to deliver assistance to those who need it.</p> <p>iii. In general, most of the migrants and undocumented person depends on daily wages as their source of income. This MCO, which has been announced since 18 March 2020, has created a direct loss of income and cause difficulty in securing food supplies. Infact there is no help at all in order for them to survive.</p>	<p>i. The government has announced that all given assistance will be made through the Social Welfare Department (JKM). The Government must ensure that the NGO assisting the community of which registered under the Social Welfare department will not go through a bureaucratic process, the registered NGOs should be categorized as an essential service category, which they will not be blocked by the police or block by other enforcement agency. These instructions should be communicated to all relevant agencies to ensure the coordination and smoothen the aid delivery process.</p> <p>ii. The Government must provide special funds and cooperate with NGOs who are ready to assist the community. The allocation of budget to NGOs will ensure that no one is marginalized following the government policy of 'leaving no one behind'. This is important because these people are living in a shortage and loss of income during the PKP period and make it difficult for their lives.</p> <p>iii. Assistance such as food supply, health screening and others that require to be channeled to this community can be carried out with the help of local non-governmental bodies (NGOs) as they know more about the community areas and at the same time, it can reduce the concerns of this community that their settlement will be ambushed by the government authorities after the Covid-19 crisis.</p>
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<p>4</p>	<p>Data collection for migrant families and undocumented person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NGO reports that there are problems related to data records for families that yet to received or those who have received the assistance. The lack of information sharing resulted in a family receiving assistance more than once, while some do not get any help at all. ii. <i>The Natives (without legal documents), they are set aside in receiving assistance from the Government. This is because the data used by the Government - yet to be updated.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>The Government must assist the migrants and the undocumented person by giving cooperation through responsible agencies such as the Sabah State Welfare Department to cooperate with the NGOs involved thus to record the data of each family involved into the department data system.</i> ii. <i>The Sabah State Government has to update data in the government assistance application so that the Natives (without legal documents) can be registered in the list of such assistance systems. The district office should ensure the head of village, MPKK to submit the name and update the data of each family in their village immediately. The Government must share the data with the NGOs involved enabling assistance to be channeled efficiently.</i>
<p>5</p>	<p>Planning after MCO (Post MCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Most of these communities were working in small and medium plantation sectors. There is a report saying that an oil palm estate operator do not pay the employee salaries and the employer force the employees to sign a letter of willingness to be whereby their salary to be deducted. This will gives an impact towards the social and economic problems of the family when they don't have any income to spend according to the family's needs.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>The Government should take the initiative by allocating some funds to the community to assist them during the MCO period.</i> ii. <i>The State Government through the agency/Department must periodically conduct regular inspections into fields or any area that has many migrants and undocumented persons,</i>

	<p><i>Criminal cases were also increased due to the needs of survival.</i></p>	<p><i>to ensure that the employer does not violate the rules set by the government.</i></p> <p><i>iii. It is recommended that the Government to get in touch with the Embassy of the country involved such as the Indonesian embassy, to encourage the embassy to extend the aid of their people who have difficulties in Sabah.</i></p>
6	<p>Less information on Covid-19 in multiple languages</p> <p><i>i. The migrants and the undocumented person in Sabah are consist of various nationalities. The issue of language constraints becomes a barrier in understanding information about Covid-19, of which mostly in Malay or English language. Furthermore, these people are not aware and they does not aware of the steps need to be taken to avoid infection and the spread of outbreaks.</i></p>	<p><i>i. All parties including NGOs, CSOs should be given exposure as well as awareness in various languages in order to contain the Covid-19 outbreak.</i></p> <p><i>ii. It is necessary to distribute brochures in various languages among these communities especially for those living in remote areas.</i></p> <p><i>iii. The authorities who is dealing with this communities should have interpreters or other alternatives (such as getting a translator) so that the information or instructions delivered can be understand by them.</i></p>
7	<p>HIV Patient Issues</p> <p><i>i. The issue of HIV patients who find hard to get the supply of HIV medicines continuously. This is due to loss of source income and the price of the medicines is too expensive. According to Ministry of Health (MOH) subsidize-medicine is only given to citizen-status patients. Currently, the NGOs have to use their own personal funds in order to cover the expensive HIV medicine.</i></p>	<p><i>i. The Government should consider assisting by giving medical subsidy during the MCO period given the urgent requirements.</i></p>

