

The Role of NGO in Overcoming the Environmental and Food Crisis in Indonesia During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

Covid-19 is a new threat that has had a very influential in recent times. The high number of Covid-19 cases has an impact on human security problems including health, hunger, death, large-scale economic decline and increasing poverty rates. This human security problem occurs in all countries around the world, including in Indonesia. The purpose of the research is to explain what's role of Walhi as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in Indonesia to overcome food crisis in COVID-19 pandemic. This research used qualitative methods and green theory to analyze the issue. This research findings that Walhi carried out a form of prosecution on the government, which included urging the government and / or local governments to order the cessation of operations of companies in indigenous peoples' territories and territories. Then urge companies operating in indigenous peoples and community-managed areas to temporarily stop all their activities to support efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 in villages, and the other. Even Walhi carried out through cooperation and partnerships with local institutions, including government agencies, certain community groups, and other local community organizations

Keywords: Covid-19, WALHI, environmental, food crisis

Introduction

At present, almost all countries around the world are facing and experiencing problems in deployment Covid-19. Regarding the spread or problem of the Covid-19 pandemic this has also been conveyed by international organizations such as the WHO (World Health Organization) which is one of the health organizations where this organization also determines that Covid-19 is a global pandemic that can have a big impact on society. in various parts of the world. According to several findings, Covid-19 said that for the first time in Wuhan-China, a world health organization, the WHO, was declared a global pandemic that could be a threat to human safety and health.

As we also know, regarding the dangers of this pandemic, it has claimed many lives until now. This is evidenced by the high number of cases of death due to this virus which according to reports from Worldometers, the cases that tested positive for the famous Covid-19 worldwide on March 10 reached 37,784,079 people, of which the number of cases of death itself to date has reached more than 1 million (Worldometers, 2021). This is very unfortunate, because the high number of cases infected with this virus is also felt by large countries such as the United States. This can be seen from the large number of positive cases. Not only that, according to a report from BBC Indonesia that there are about half of the Covid-19 cases experienced and

occurring in the United States of a total of 28 confirmed cases worldwide plus how this pandemic has brought people around the world.

The existence of this pandemic has also become a challenge not only for certain countries but also a challenge for other countries. Because through this pandemic it can have an impact that is not small, but has a very large impact because of the existence of this pandemic it can make millions of people in the world lose their lives, even affect poverty and affect the food crisis which leads to the problem of hunger and death which also means this. impact on human security issues. When viewed from this, the issue of human security issues becomes an issue that is considered important, especially in contemporary studies. This is due to human security issues such as environmental issues, food issues, and even women's issues as well as problems such as terrorism and human rights. Therefore, in explaining the issue of human security, Anne Hammerstad also said that security is about achieving a social condition, be it political, even environmental and economic, which in this case has the goal of achieving life and freedom and dignity humans.

Due to the pandemic, in the end, the world must experience various crises such as hunger, food crisis, and even causing an

economic downturn, especially for developing countries including Indonesia and other developing countries. Indonesia alone has cases the number of patients who have tested positive for 336,761 people as of March 10, 2021, while for cases that have been declared dead, nearly 11 thousand people (Worldometers, Corona Virus Case in Indonesia, 2021). The existence of this number of cases during the pandemic period also has an effect on the economy. The reason is, during the Covid-19 pandemic there has been an increase in the number of unemployed and laid-off employees. In fact, this is conveyed in a report from the Ministry of Manpower (Kemenaker) which states that as many as 3.05 million workers have had to be laid off and sent home (CNBC, 2020).

From an increase in the number of unemployed that has occurred in Indonesia. of course also experienced and felt by other developing countries. This itself is conveyed in a report from CNBC Indonesia which states that the form of layoffs and an increase in the number of unemployed due to the Covid-19 pandemic are also being felt by the whole world. As for this research, based on the existing status quo, it shows that there has been no research on the role of NGOs in addressing environmental issues specifically during the pandemic. Therefore, the researchers tried to analyze further and in depth on the issue. The impact of this pandemic is not only disturbing health for elements of the world community and also on economic and

social aspects. But because of this pandemic, it has even affected environmental problems and also has an impact on food problems, and Indonesia is one country that feels this. But even so, the authors of this study also saw a role for Walhi in overcoming the environmental and food crisis caused by COVID-19 in Indonesia.

Research Method

In this study the authors used qualitative research methods as research methods. In general qualitative research is research that seeks to describe the cause of a phenomenon. According to Sugiono, qualitative research method is a study used to examine the condition of a scientific object, where researchers are the key tool. Then the data collection techniques that the authors do here are library studies, which are done by collecting data and studying a large number of documents (such as books, journals, literature and internet sources) related to research issues. Get the results from a special research (Babbie, 2014)

This study used green theory, green theory is a theory in international relations which in this theory discusses all issues related to the environment. Even this green theory becomes a theory that can be a solution and make a great contribution in international relations. It itself relates to how the beginning of this theory in the science of

International Relations. As for how this theory can become the theory of International Relations itself because of environmental problems that occur in global politics. At the time what was seen was his green political problem. This happened in the 20th century where at that time awareness of environmental problems began to emerge from various social movements. Because of the emergence of awareness and movement, green politics was finally included as part of the study of International Relations. (Ari & Gokpinar, 2019).

In this theory also try to look with a different point of view when compared to other theories. This theory attempts to criticize the impact of capitalism, or also try to criticize how the impact of war can have an impact on environmental problems. This theory also discusses several other studies, such as ecofeminism, and climate change which has been in the spotlight for decades. As for other general international relations issues, it is more about how politics and economy between countries only, without considering the form of effect or impact caused by it. Broadly speaking, climate change is currently in the spotlight and oaling is widely supported in green theory because in the perspective of green theory about climate change understand it as a direct consequence of human collective choices. In particular, these choices have led to the historical anthropocentric economic practices of historically arbitrary political groups (states), who have exploited

nature for their own short-term benefit. Climate change presents a clear case of injustice for today's and future people whose irresponsibility is causing it and ecosystems as a whole. Therefore, a solution requires an ecocentric theory of value and a more ethical than instrumental attitude towards our shared future human relationships. Green theory helps us to redefine issues like climate change in terms of long-term ecological values rather than short-term political interests. (Barry, 2014).

Therefore here the green theory observes that environmental and climate problems are no longer domestic problems of one country, but can be international security problems. Through this theory can provide an analysis for the study of International Relations to observe how the impact or influence of environmental issues that are now a lot of issues in the lyrics. My argument itself is supported by a statement from Steans which says that environmental issues or problems are transnational issues, then there needs to be a solution and a deeper study. Even according to Robin himself said that environmental problems become transnational issues whose studies can only be in green theory. (Eckersley, 2007). Looking at the statement, it is quite clear that this theory is so important and contributes to international relations.

But on the other hand, environmental issues themselves become an issue that is so difficult to find a solution for the country. The reason itself is due to the form of selfishness that has been built by each country that is more concerned with his country only. Not infrequently also development in a country or technological developments created by a country also has a big impact and ignores the environment, causing environmental problems that are difficult to solve by the world community.

Result

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment and the food crisis

After the announcement of the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia as of March, data on infected cases and those declared dead due to this pandemic has made Indonesia alone in ASEAN as the country experiencing the worst impact of the pandemic. As we also know, the data on cases that are positive in Indonesia are stated to continue to increase. This certainly creates problems and unrest for the Indonesian people. The reason is, since Indonesia has had high Covid-19 cases, not only have problems arisen in the health sector, but in fact the existence of this pandemic has also disrupted the socio-economic life and also the Indonesian people until now (Romli, 2020).

Even ironically, the total of the group is declared as vulnerable to poor and is stated as the almost poor group in Indonesia, the total itself is estimated to have reached three times more than the entire population, and those who are declared to experience poverty in the lower class, or in total it is 66, 7 million people (Puspensos, 2020). The increase in the number of these cases has affected the environment and also the food sector in the community which has caused many deaths due to hunger during the pandemic.

The Center for Clean Air and Energy Research (CREA) released that the world's CO2 emissions noted that the impact of the pandemic had made changes to the climate where CO2 emissions had decreased by 17% due to the Covid-19 quarantine implemented in various countries. Nearly half (43%) of the reduction in global emissions during the peak of the lockdown came from the transportation and industrial sectors, especially motor vehicles and commercial manufacturing plants. During pandemic times, urban air quality is improving. Images from the NASA Earth Observatory satellite show NO2 pollution in Wuhan China in sharp decline. The level of air pollution in New York was reduced by 50%, air quality in China increased by 11.4%, and NO2 emissions also decreased in Italy, Spain and the UK (Hadya, 2020). For Indonesia's condition, CREA said that the maximum emission reduction. Although emissions have decreased during the pandemic,

there has not been any change on a broad and long-term basis that is measurable. According to the Carbon Brief these changes are only temporary. The effects of this pandemic cannot yet be said to be pushing global CO2 emissions down a path. Under these conditions, when several countries have relaxed their lockdowns, dangerous air quality, both at local and global levels, is likely to return (Hadya, 2020).

As for seeing how Covid-19 affects the food crisis, it can be seen from how the food crisis arises because the consequences of Covid-19 have caused food deficits at this time, this in itself can occur due to social restrictions in a number of countries (Hadya, 2020). Globally, one of the food crises occurred in 2008. The crisis was largely caused by several factors, including: environmental factors related to meteorological conditions, which can be seen from the extremes of climate change, the level of prolonged drought, and also floods destroy land and agricultural infrastructure.⁶ In fact, several of these aspects have a direct effect on productivity. This results in crop failure or a decrease in agricultural productivity (Winsdel, 2015).

The food crisis, which was marked by a drastic increase in food prices, has a big impact when it is not accompanied by an increase in wages for workers. This is because the increase in food prices has implications for the ability of the community to meet food needs. In

addition, due to the increase in the number of poverty due to Covid-19, of course the people's purchasing power has also decreased and this means that it can also disrupt the food problem because this inability increases the number of poor people, and from this increase it is difficult for people classified in this looking for their food and food needs.

The problem of food security during a pandemic is one of the most vulnerable and dangerous problems for human security. How dangerous the problem of food security is is expressed by Mercado who says that an indication of food security is when all access to basic needs for food sources can be fulfilled (Mercado, 2020). However, due to the pandemic problem that has enveloped almost the entire world, it has affected the availability of foodstuffs, moreover this is exacerbated by the existence of policies in the form of restrictions on mobilization which here means that it can also increase the number of people experiencing hunger during the pandemic. Regarding how a pandemic can affect the problem of hunger and also the problem of food was conveyed by Burgui, where he said that because of an outbreak or disease it can cause a big problem of hunger and affect the problem of malnutrition (Burgui, 2020). Regarding how the impact of this pandemic affects the food problem, this means that it will also affect

the problem of hunger, poverty, and that means it can threaten human security problems.

The food crisis that occurred in Indonesia certainly did not only occur in one city or region. But this food crisis has also been experienced and felt by Indonesia, not least in the city of Yogyakarta, where the poverty and unemployment rates in Yogyakarta have also increased due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to a report from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) itself, in the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY) in March 2020 there was an increase in poverty, where the percentage for the poor was 12.28% (BPS, 2020). This increase in the number of poor people also affects the ability of the community to meet their basic daily needs. Especially considering how difficult it is to get food during this pandemic, therefore it requires a form of assistance from the community so that the people of Yogyakarta are able to survive during the pandemic and post-pandemic later.

As for the global level, it is said that Indonesia itself, which is experiencing a food crisis, is ranked 65th out of a total of 113 countries, while this data measures how the index of food security in the world in 2018. Because of this data also makes Indonesia the first place in the world. The ASEAN region as a country that has the lowest food

security, is below the position of Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam where they are in positions over 40 and below (Sakharina, 2020). According to a report from the Asian Development Bank itself, it is said that Indonesia's food condition is quite alarming because Indonesia itself said in a study that Indonesia experiences problems in the form of access to foodstuffs so that not a few suffer from hunger.

Moreover, during this pandemic period, many Indonesians had to lose their jobs and had to lose their livelihoods so that many cases of Indonesians experienced a crisis of hunger and poverty during this pandemic. In addition, it is also said that the food crisis that occurred during the pandemic in Indonesia was due to the form of restrictions or policies in the form of PSBB so that this made several economic sectors and also MSMEs in Indonesia not running and this certainly affected the movement of the community to meet their basic needs. daily.

In addition, because of this pandemic, it affects the price of food or daily necessities to increase or be more expensive. The existence of this policy or price increase but not matched by economic activity has resulted in a decrease in people's purchasing power, which in this case certainly has an effect on increasing the number of poverty and hunger in Indonesia during the pandemic. Due to this condition, Indonesia is forced to rely on the form of distribution of foreign foodstuffs, but in

fact abroad also experiences a form of crisis as experienced and felt by Indonesia (Fadhil, 2020).

If countries in the world experience a food crisis during the pandemic, coupled with how many countries have closed themselves off to forms of assistance, it will cause the world community including the Indonesian people to experience death due to hunger. In fact, according to a report from CNN, it is said that deaths from hunger due to lack and the occurrence of a food crisis are more dangerous than deaths due to a pandemic (CNN, 2020). Globally, climate change will also have an impact on world food availability. In its report last August 2019, the United Nations stated that climate change has threatened world food supplies.

More than 10% of the world's population is currently malnourished and climate change will worsen the situation. As written by The New York Times, the report compiled by 100 experts from 52 countries concluded that the food crisis due to climate change will trigger a bigger crisis, for example cross-country movement. As a result, climate change does not only affect countries that experience it, but also other countries that are immigrant destinations (Muhajir, 2019). However, despite the unrest due to climate change which had an impact on the food crisis during the pandemic, there are still groups of

Tresea, Sulistiaraniani, Kinanti Tamara, Azhar	The Role of NGO in Overcoming the Environmental and Food Crisis in Indonesia During the COVID-19 Pandemic
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organizations that care about and are working to overcome this crisis. One of them is the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Walhi in Indonesia.

Discussion and Analysis

The Role of Walhi as an NGO in Indonesia in Overcoming the Environmental and Food Crisis Due to COVID-19

Meanwhile, according to Brad Kenney, NGOs are non-profit organizations that exist outside the control of the government, business, political parties, or armed groups. They can range from highly structured global organizations to loosely tied local activists. Their sources of funds come from membership fees or assistance from international agencies or governments. Betts explained that non-governmental organizations include philanthropic foundations, special interest associations, cooperatives, training and research institutions, credit unions, women's organizations, and others, which bridge the aspirations of their members with the government. The activities of non-governmental organizations generally include education, training, community development, publishing, promotion, cooperatives, research and development, capital formation, appropriate technology, legal aid, family planning, health programs, consumer protection, transmigration,

environmental protection, and various projects that increase the income and welfare of the community.

Walhi (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup) is a local environmental non-governmental organization that is internally strong in its networks, structures and organizational mechanisms that are participatory and democratic and experienced, and its competence in networks at local, national and global levels (Rahmat, 2003). Walhi itself is an NGO which often records ecological disasters that often occur in Indonesia, including food crises and other crises caused by environmental problems (Walhi, 2014). Seeing the food crisis and also the environmental crisis caused by this pandemic, in the end, (Walhi, 2020) also carried out a form of prosecution on the government, which included:

Urging the government and / or local governments to order the cessation of operations of companies in indigenous peoples' territories and territories. manage the people;

Urge companies operating in indigenous peoples' and community-managed areas to temporarily stop all their activities to support efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 in villages.

Urge the government to provide protection and recognition to the areas of indigenous peoples and other areas managed by the people,

so that food needs can be fulfilled independently, especially in the current pandemic crisis.

Urge the government to focus on efforts to tackle COVID-19, by prioritizing the safety of the people at large, not the other way around making elites and corporations a priority in overcoming the impact of COVID-19.

Not only there, in this case Walhi also collaborated with FAO in overcoming the human impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is to first understand and identify the impact of the pandemic and ensure the sustainability of farmers' livelihoods. The output of the program that will be carried out is: (a) to achieve income stabilization and accessibility of foodstuffs, (b) ensuring the sustainability of food supply, and (c) ensuring food distribution actors are not infected with Covid-19. This program will focus on targeting vulnerable groups inclusively, such as subsistence farmers, farm laborers, traders small / middlemen, traditional fishermen, as well as other marginalized groups / indigenous minorities (MENLHK, 2021).

The implementation of the FAO and WALHI programs will be carried out through cooperation and partnerships with local institutions, including government agencies, certain community groups, and other local community organizations. Local organizations are close

to the territory and better understand conditions in the field, so that they will be at the forefront of identification, dissemination of information, and assistance. Several local institutions that have been involved in WALHI activities include extension workers, local governments, farmer groups, village financial institutions, and NGOs. In addition, coordination with local government agencies that handle Covid-19 will continue and be strengthened (Gunawan, 2020).

Conclusion

The existence of a pandemic has ultimately made the world have to experience various crises such as hunger, food crisis, and even causing an economic downturn, especially for developing countries including Indonesia and other developing countries. About how a pandemic can affect the problem of hunger and also the problem of food was conveyed by Burgui, who said that because of an epidemic or disease it could cause a big problem of hunger and affect the problem of malnutrition. Regarding how the impact of this pandemic affects the food problem, this means that it will also affect the problem of hunger, poverty, and that means it can threaten environmental problems as well as food problems. The food crisis, which was marked by a drastic increase in food prices, has a big impact when it is not accompanied by an increase in wages for workers. This is because the increase in food prices has implications for the ability of the community to meet food

needs. In addition, due to the increase in the number of poverty due to Covid-19, of course the people's purchasing power has also decreased and this means that it can also disrupt the food problem because this inability increases the number of poor people, and from this increase it is difficult for people classified in this looking for their food and food needs. However, in this case, the existence of the environmental and food crisis in Indonesia also has the role of NGOs such as Walhi. Meanwhile, Walhi (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup) is a local environmental non-governmental organization that is internally strong in networks, participatory and democratic and experienced structures and organizational mechanisms, and has competence in local, national and global networks. Walhi itself is an NGO which often makes notes on ecological disasters that often occur in Indonesia, including food crises and other crises caused by environmental problems.

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Tresea, Sulistiaraniani, Kinanti Tamara, Azhar	The Role of NGO in Overcoming the Environmental and Food Crisis in Indonesia During the COVID-19 Pandemic
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Declaration of Conflict Interest

Tresea, Sulistiaraniani, Kinanti Tamara, Azhar	The Role of NGO in Overcoming the Environmental and Food Crisis in Indonesia During the COVID-19 Pandemic
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The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article (Please include such a declaration in this section if you use English).

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