

STORIES OF IMPACT AND RESILIENCE

FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

IIK, INDONESIA

Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions

My name is Sri Pamularsih, I am usually called lik. I had Polio, so now I use two crutches to walk. I have two children, and my husband has also had polio, but he doesn't need aids.

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

My husband and I opened a mineral water refill business where we would buy water in bulk and fill people's containers. We had been running this business for several years, and we used to sell as much as 60 containers of 20 litres per day. Most of my customers were students who lived near my shop.

DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic made me lose most of my customers. The social distancing policy required students to take online lectures in their hometown. This situation made my income drop by about two thirds. Government policy required me to close the shop early and that made things worse. The pandemic also made my needs increase. I needed to spend more money on the internet because my two children had to do school activities from home online. I combined with neighbours to pay for Wi-Fi service, and there was a little government subsidy to help us. There was also a government assistance program that provided a box of foods for people with disabilities, it helped but wasn't enough to meet our needs.

I discussed with my husband how to keep the business running and we decided that along with delivering water,



we would also deliver shopping for anything people need at home. They would just text me and I sent their order. I also started a small vegetable garden at home so we could grow fresh food.

I am a member of HWDI (Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities), and I helped to submit a proposal for assistance to the government. It did not pass because according to the government, everyone is affected by this pandemic and not only us people with disabilities

AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Now, I plan to expand my business to include some more goods, and to keep going with the online orders. Students are back at school and things are getting better again, although they are not as good as they were.

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