

# STORIES OF IMPACT AND RESILIENCE

FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

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

My name is Siti Marfuah. People know me as a person with a psychosocial disability with emotional and behavioural barriers. I have a husband, and two children who are in school.

## BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

I ran a food production business with assistance from my sister. I worked to make bakpia, biscuits filled with sweet mung bean paste, and yangko, sweet rice flour jellies. They are both local foods from the region where I live. I was able to work there thanks to the skills I learned when I attended some training that my relatives suggested

## DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic, which required lockdown policies, reduced the demand for bakpia and yangko. This situation caused my income to decrease a lot. When I had no money, my husband who works as a construction worker, would help me from his income. Sometimes I also borrowed money from my family, when there were children's needs that must be met immediately. Not being able to work was a problem for me, not just because of the money but also because

## SITI, INDONESIA



being busy helps me to keep mentally stable.

I am registered as part of a vulnerable group of beneficiaries, so I received one tranche of aid from the government in the form of money and food. However, the aid was only enough to help me survive temporarily.

## AFTER THE PANDEMIC

I am working and saving money so that I can help my children to get a good education and have a good future.

*This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and produced by SAPDA and Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, through the CBM-Nossal Partnership. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.*



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