Introduction

COVID-19

Empowerment ?
- How can people empower themselves to strengthen their own human security rather than relying solely on protection provided by the States?

- How has human security evolved through the challenges presented by the spread and process of containment of COVID-19?

Protection
- Government
- Lockdown intensified human insecurities

- *People-centered*
- *Comprehensive*
- ***Context-specific***
- *Prevention-oriented*

(2012 UNGA Resolution)

8 case studies

Case Studies

Country	Theme of human security	Title
Indonesia 1	Food security	COVID-19 Impact on the Most Vulnerable Communities in Indonesia
Indonesia 2	Environment	COVID-19 and Plastic Pollution in the Citarum River, Indonesia
Philippines 1	Gender	From Vertical to Horizontal Empowerment of Women in Peace and Security: Toward a Feminist Perspective of Human Security
Philippines 2	Health	'Lacking in Care':COVID-19 'Shadow Pandemics' in the Philippines
Philippines 3	Conflict	COVID-19 and BARMM: The Nested Process of Protection and Empowerment
Thailand	Elderly people	Aging Society in Thailand during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Vietnam	Poverty	Urban Poverty during COVID-19 in Vietnam: Case Study of Ma Lang-Dong Tien Neighborhood, Ho Chi Minh
Japan	Displacement	Finding Empowerment Amidst Displacement and Immobility during Disasters

Protection vis-à-vis COVID-19

Lockdown as the primary protection measure	Other protection measures	Consequence
Indonesia Philippines Thailand Vietnam	Indonesia case 1: Cash transfer	Efficient but coordination issues
	Indonesia case 2: Environmental education	Raised people's awareness
	Philippines case 1: N/A for nationwide CSOs	Vertical empowerment
	Philippines case 2: N/A for health workers	Hidden pandemics
	Philippines case 3: devolution of powers	Devolution of top-down strategies
	Thailand : Cash support for elderly people	Left behind due to digital division
	Vietnam: N/A for urban poor	Double burdens
No Lockdown Japan	Provision of temporary housing for elderly people displaced by flood	Valued as a step toward empowerment

Measuring Empowerment

Naila Kabeer's three parameters

➤ **Resources**
➤ **Agency**
➤ **Achievement**

- No single model for empowerment

- Differences make empowerment strategies vary

- Significance of time factors

- Empowerment remained a potentiality

Case	Resource	Agency	Achievement
Indonesia 1	Transferred cash	Freedom to choose	An entry point for empowerment
Indonesia 2	Environmental education	Understanding of the danger of waste plastic pollution	A change in residents' behavior
Philippines 1	Local women's CSOs	Humanitarian and human rights activities	Horizontal empowerment
Philippines 2	Support from family & friends	Self-help & mutual-help	No choice, barely empowered?
Philippines 3	Cash, material aid, and shared information	Networking and information dissemination	Not clear but increasing vaccination rate etc.
Thailand	Community isolation	Networking of civil society groups	Not clear
Vietnam	Scarce resource	Self-help	Vicious poverty
Japan	Temporary shelters	Freedom to choose what people want	An entry point for empowerment

Conditions of Empowerment

World Bank's
Four institutional conditions of empowerment

Access to information
- A two-way flow (G⇄P)
- To make own choice based on information

Inclusion & participation
- Included in decision making
- Participation enables people to control over decisions and resources

Accountability
- The ability to hold public officials, private employers, or service providers accountable
- Three types of accountability mechanisms: political, administrative and public

Local organizational capacity
- The ability of people to work together, organize themselves, and mobilize resources to solve problems of common interests

Case	Information	Inclusion & participation	Accountability	Local organizational capacity
Indonesia 1	Information on cash transfer	Identification of eligible residents	G and village authorities are accountable	Local G for registration, while NGOs for capacity building
Indonesia 2	Dissemination of environmental info & education	Social media plays a role for inclusion & participation	G and local authorities are accountable	NGOs and a university encourage locals to take actions
Philippines 1	Training oh human rights by nationwide CSOs	Participation of local CSOs	Vertical and horizontal accountability among CSOs	Horizontal cooperation among local CSOs and women's groups
Philippines 2	No	Health workers & women activists are excluded	G is not accountable	Emergence of community-driven self-help strategies
Philippines 3	Smooth info flow as forms of devolution of authority	Devolution of authority enhances inclusion and participation	G,BTA, LGUs & CSOs are accountable	In the BARMM, vertical and horizontal cooperations enhance people's choices
Thailand	No	Digital cash-transfer excluded elderly people	G is not accountable	Community isolation by a network of CSOs
Vietnam	No	Urban poor: excluded from social safety net	G is not accountable	Money rotation
Japan	Kuma Village Recovery Plan	Displaced people are included in the recovery plan	G, village authorities & NGOs are accountable	Displaced residents make their temporary homes livable

Lessons Learned for Future Pandemics

- Preparation is necessary in normal times

- Genuine support should reach the most vulnerable, the poor, the elderly, and destitute women

- While protecting, the government needs to take into account the conditions of people's empowerment

- Our efforts to promote human security through the combination of empowerment and protection should continue in the post-COVID-19 era

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Thank you for your attention.