

# The social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on households and strategic policy recommendations for Indonesia

## Pathbreaking survey collaboration to inform better policy

- **Largest survey of Covid-19 yet** based on face-to-face interviews with households identified by BPS.
- **12,216 households** surveyed across all 34 Indonesian provinces in **October-November 2020**.
- Particular attention on **children** and **other groups**, women, people with disabilities.



Photos by DTS enumerators

# Impact on households

# The impact of Covid-19 on household finance has been severe and is likely to continue in 2021



3 in 4 face  
reduced income



Among those who switched  
jobs, 1 in 2 formally employed  
moved to informal jobs



1 in 2 have no  
savings to  
support  
themselves



9 in 10 family  
businesses  
hit



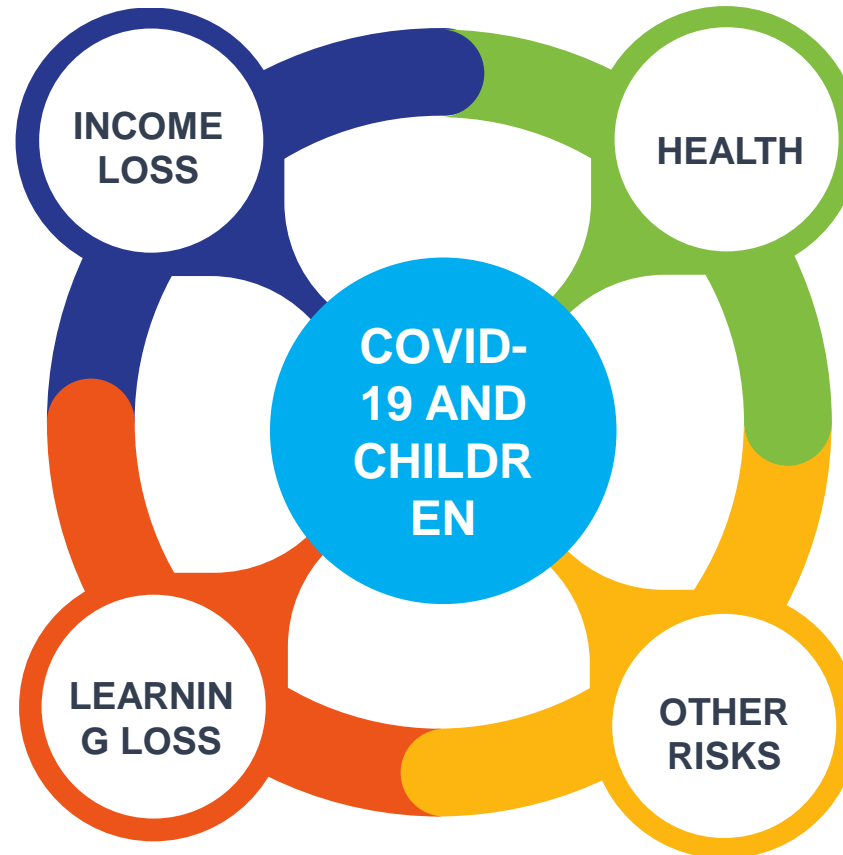
## Children are missing out

### Income Loss

- 75.3% households who have children.
- 2.1 million more children in poverty

### Learning Loss

- Almost 3 in 4 parents concerned
- 57% do not have reliable internet



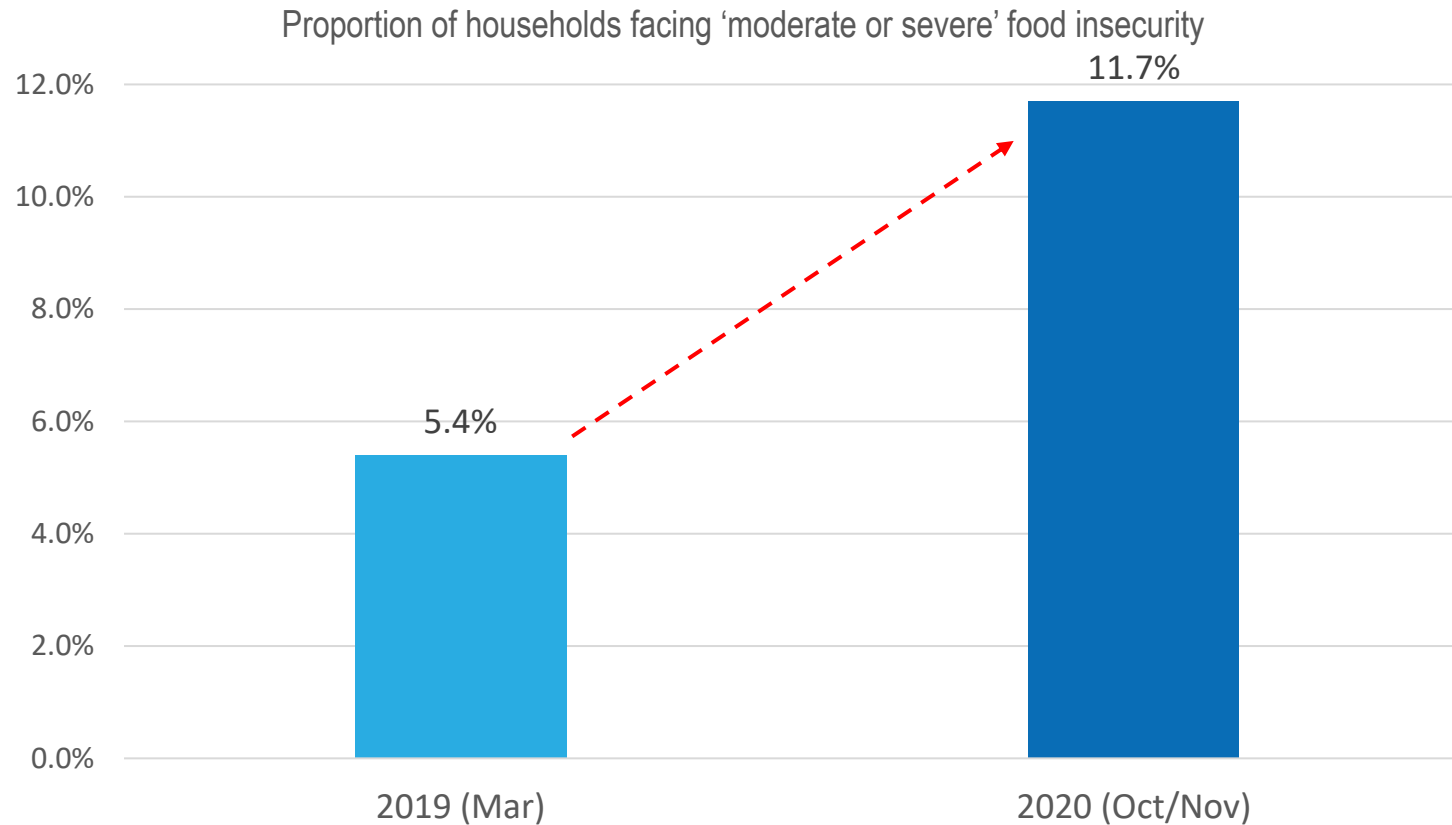
### Health

- 40% fear their children will contract COVID-19
- 13% with children under 5 did not vaccinate

### Other risks

- 45% reported behavioural challenges among their children.
- 7% had at least one child who is working. Out of this, 2.5% had started working since the pandemic.

# Food insecurity is a watchpoint



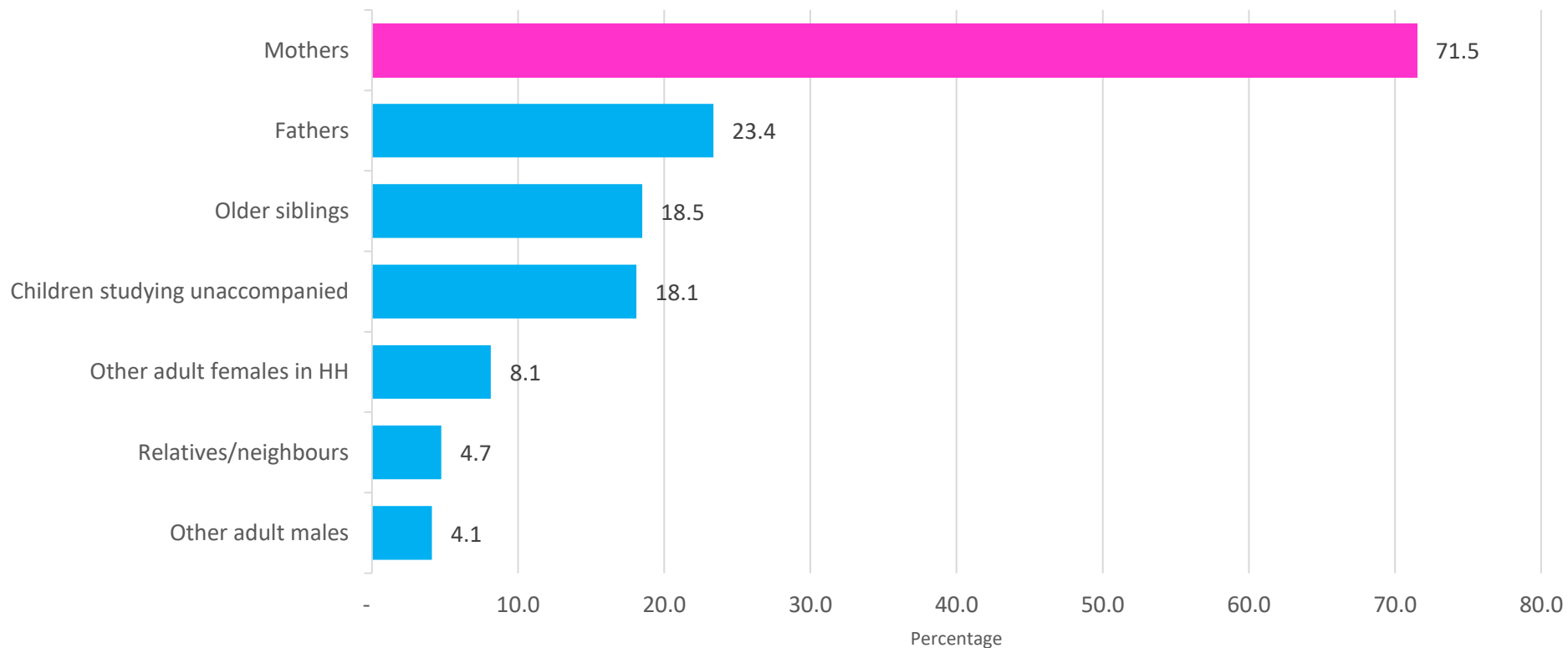
## Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) Survey Module (FAO)

Q#	FIES Indicator	Severity
1	WORRIED	Light
2	UNHEALTHY	
3	FEWER FOOD	
4	SKIPPED MEAL	Moderate
5	ATE LESS	
6	RAN OUT	Severe
7	HUNGRY	
8	WHOLE DAY WITHOUT	

Note: This is a rough estimate based on survey results. There are methodological differences between 2019 BPS estimate.

## Gender inequalities widen as women take on more responsibilities

### Main carer supporting children with remote learning (by HH with school-age children)



*“During the mornings, I am an emotional wreck. I have to cook for the family, clean my house, wash clothes, bathe my children. On top of this, I have to help my older child to learn online while carrying my baby.”*

*Mother of two children, Tabanan Regency, 14 December 2020*

# People living with disabilities are struggling in different ways

**8 in 10**

Decrease in  
income among  
households  
with 'mild'  
disability



**1 in 3**

Disruption in access  
to health for  
households with  
children &  
individuals with  
more severe  
disability

*"I have been postponing taking my son for his regular physiotherapy at the hospital. The facility is not closed but I am afraid of getting COVID-19 if I go there. But, his legs have started to get weaker and he says it hurts when he walks."*



# Mental health of children and adults is taking a toll



## Unhappiness, depression excessive anxieties

Head of household 17.2% and  
their spouse 16.2%



### Main reasons

68.3% Money and job issues



51.9% worried about being  
infected and/or losing family  
members to virus.



## Children are under stress

20.5% find it harder to  
concentrate



12.9% becoming angry and  
rebellious more often

7% sad



6.5% trouble sleeping

# Reach of government support

# Social assistance is reaching many people in need but it could reach farther

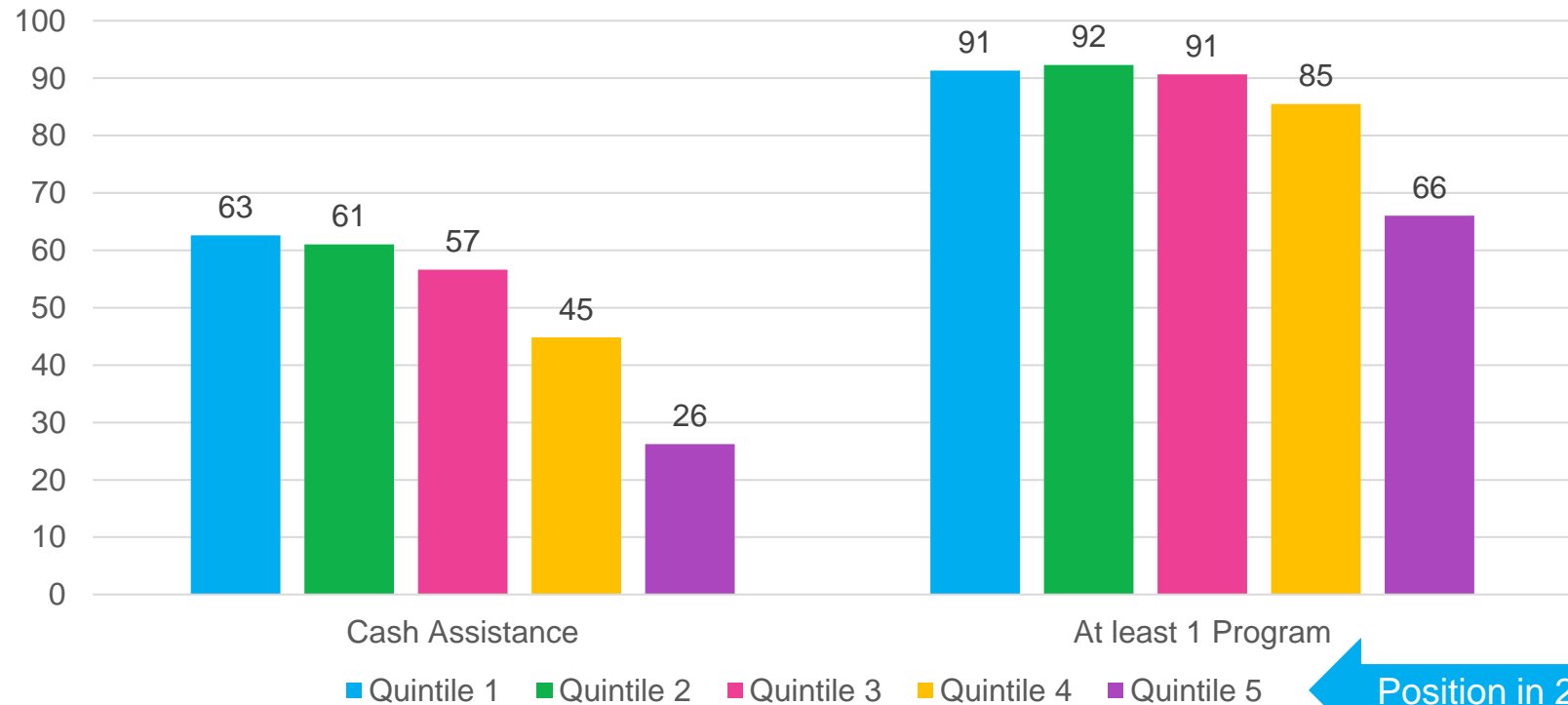
**85%** received at least one form of social assistance

**51%** received cash assistance

But **1 in 3** in bottom 40% did not receive cash

- 32.7% with children, 41% in urban areas did not receive

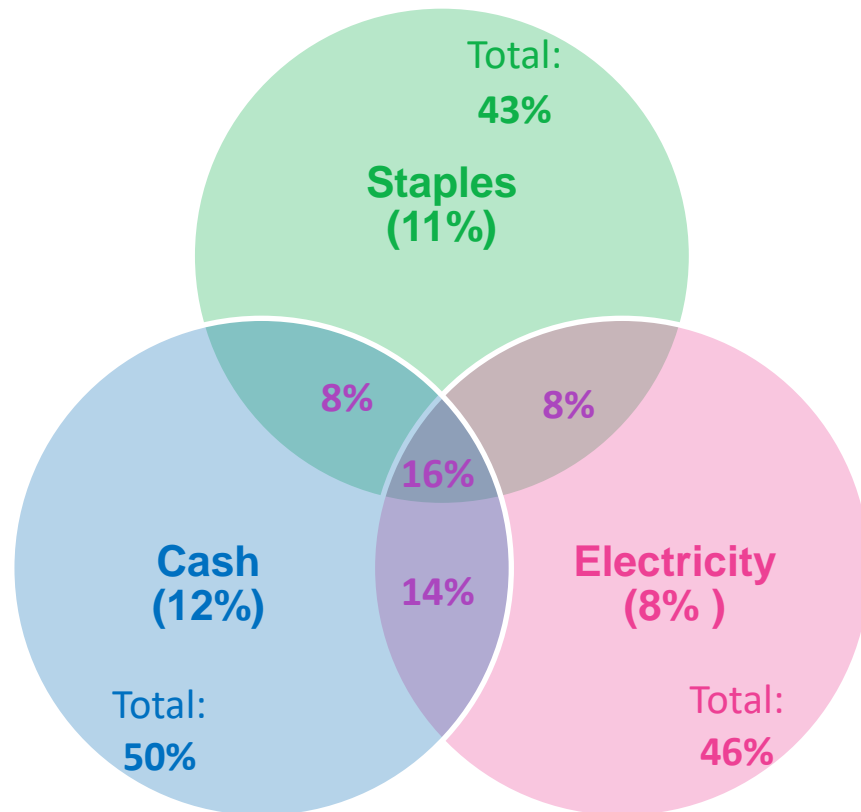
Poorest and most vulnerable received the most support



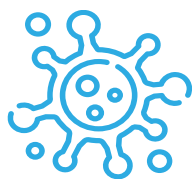
But, households in all quintiles were impacted by COVID-19 pandemic in 2020

# Many people received complementary assistance

Complementarity among three largest programs by all recipients (in %)



# Very few running a small family business received support

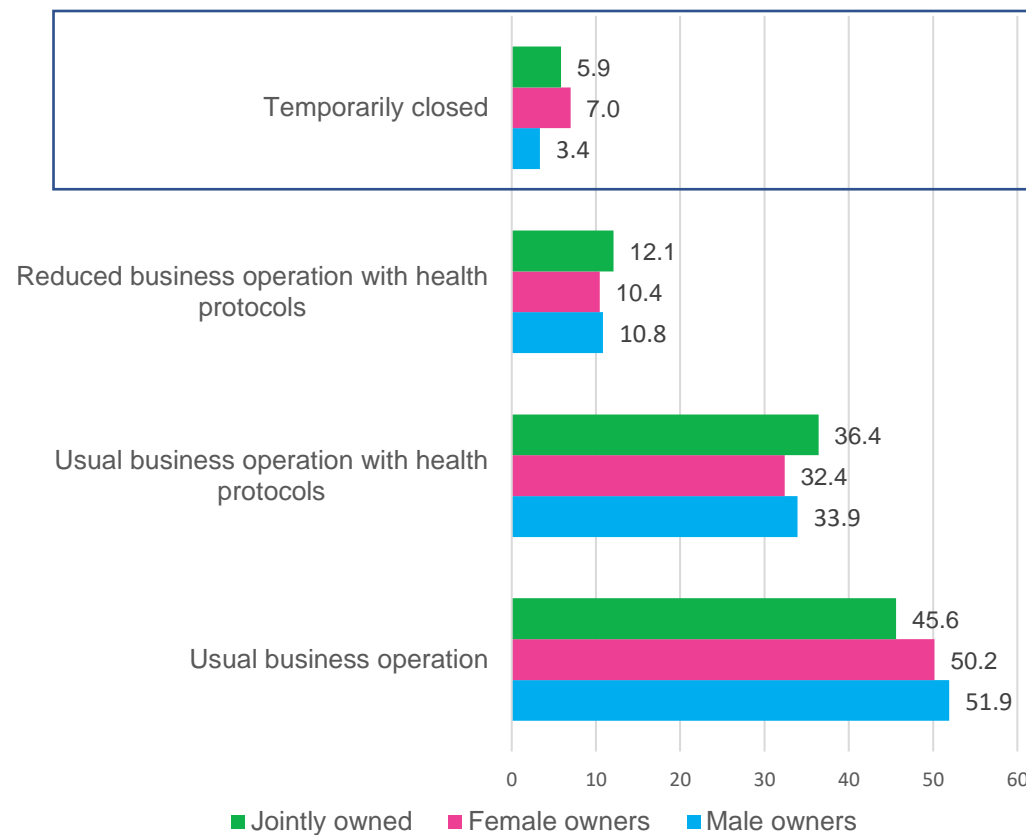


90% of households with business\* impacted by COVID-19 shocks



Only 7,5% received business support\*\*

More female owned business had to close down



\*One third of all households has at least one member running a business

\*\*This is much lower than findings in typical business survey because this joint-survey is based at household level, instead of business. Hence, it is more likely to capture the smallest and most informal business.



## Voices of social assistance recipients



67.4%

Assistance is 'helpful'

72.6%

Cash is preferred

*“ We started to receive social assistance for the first time during this pandemic, after my husband was laid off from his job. So far, we have received Rp 500,000 cash assistance in August and then two rounds of food staples in September and October. All the support have been helpful. I was able to use the cash to pay for some of my medial treatment.”*

*Female, lower body disability, Banjar City, November 2020*

# Strategic recommendations

## Pathways to support children more



**Ensure  
children  
continue  
to learn**



**Enhance social  
protection to  
households**



**Keep children  
healthy and  
nourished**



**Protect children  
from violence,  
abuse and  
stress**



## Recommendations for building on effective social measures to reach more people



**Expand  
food  
assistance  
& combat  
supply  
disruptions**



**Maintain  
support to  
lower  
middle and  
middle  
class**



**Continue to  
assist more  
family  
businesses  
to recover**



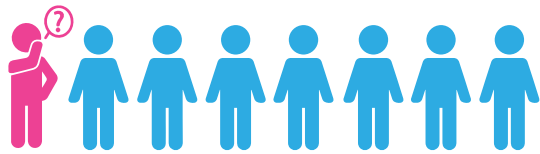
**Extend  
social  
assistance  
and  
minimize  
health  
disruption**



**Recognize  
and  
reduce  
women's  
care work**

## Accelerate investments to improve delivery

Develop user friendly medium with up to date information about social assistance and business support programs

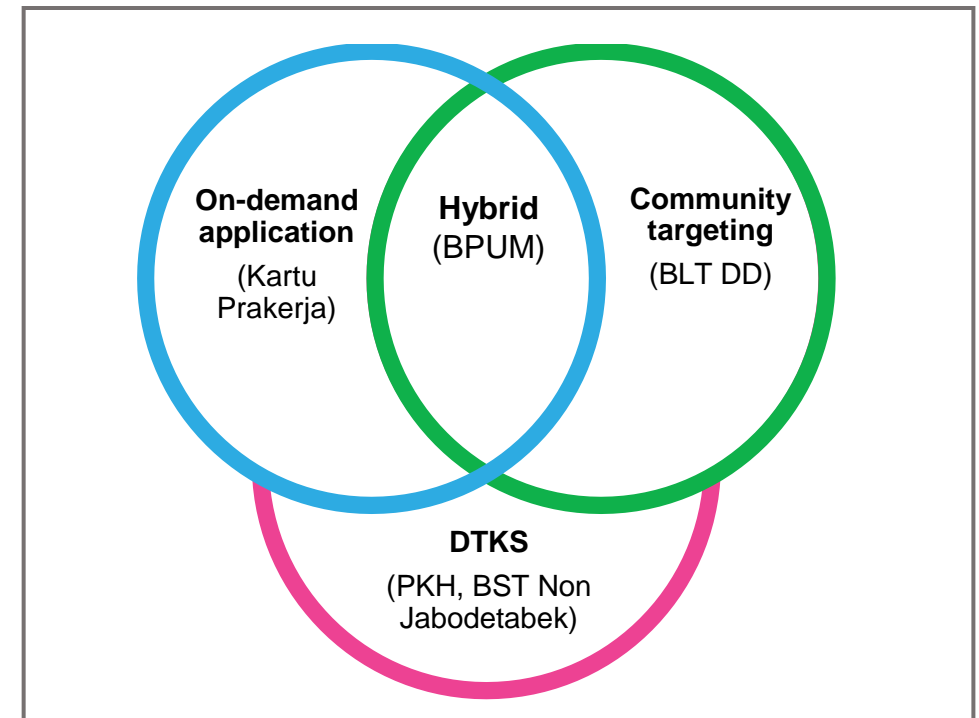


**1 out of 8 cash transfer recipients** did not know which program they had received.



**4 out of 10 households** with microbusiness unaware about available support.

Link new registrations to social assistance into single database for future targeting



**Thank you**