

## PRESS RELEASE

### **PMI Forges Vital Partnership on the Stockpile Project for Strengthening Preparedness and Response to the COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Disease**

**23 April 2024** – Today, Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) - Indonesian Red Cross Society with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) officially commence the The Stockpile Project for Strengthening Preparedness and Response to the COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Disease, supported by the Japanese Government through the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). This event is to demonstrate collaboration among stakeholders in executing the implementation of the project.

The commencement of this collaboration is marked by the signing of the plaque entitled, “The Stockpile Project for Strengthening Preparedness and Response to the COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Disease,” signed by four respective representatives; A.M Fachir, Secretary General of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Toru Morikawa, Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), H.E. Mr. Nagai Katsuro, Deputy Chief of Mission, Japanese Embassy to Indonesia, and Elkhan Rahimov, Head of Delegation and IFRC Representative to ASEAN, Country Cluster Delegation for Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Timor-Leste.

With the allocation of around 2 million USD from the Japanese Government through Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the project is set to be implemented within a 24 months period. This project is to enhance preparedness capacity for emergency health situations and other emerging infectious disease outbreaks through the procurement, storage, and rapid distribution of essential supplies. Specifically in Indonesia, the project aims to facilitate swift responses to public health emergencies.

Secretary General of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), A.M Fachir said, “the Covid-19 pandemic has provided us with lessons to ensure that the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) is ready to assist the community during health crises. The collaboration established today aims to equip PMI with facilities and systems to store and provide essential medical supplies, such as personal protective equipment, medicines, and other medical equipment, quickly and efficiently in emergencies. These facilities are key to minimizing response time and ensuring preparedness and response in facing health crises.”

Along with the IFRC overseeing and ensuring the quality of the project, timely reporting, supporting partnership and coordination with relevant stakeholders, the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) is also engaged in internal and external coordination efforts to identify essential health equipment needed for emergency situations. With sufficient warehouse facilities established across 6 regions, the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) is actively identifying and preparing them to serve as storage facilities for the coming essential health supplies.

Executive Director of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Ambassador Toru Morikawa said, “I am delighted to witness the advancement of this project, as it boosts our collective efforts towards regional health resilience, and I am eagerly anticipating the positive impact that this project will bring to our partner countries by strengthening the preparedness and response mechanism to the infectious diseases.”

#### **Tentang Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI)**

Indonesia Red Cross Society (PMI) is the national Red Cross society in Indonesia, and one of the components of the international movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Founded on 17 September 1945, the PMI networks are in all 34 Provinces and 443 cities all over Indonesia. As an organization based on voluntary service, PMI works with firm hold on the Seven Fundamental Principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universalities). The PMI's Mandate is to provide assistance to victims of disaster and conflict as well as the specific mandate given by the government as a voluntary blood donor service. One of the PMI's priorities is to encourage the empowerment of communities' capacity in disaster risk reductions.

#### **About Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**

ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organizations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance & economy, media, public health and sustainable development. Founded in 1997, ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organization located in Singapore. It is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

### **About IFRC CCD Jakarta**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through its Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore and Timor-Leste, based in Jakarta, provides support to the Indonesian Red Cross Society on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. IFRC CCD Jakarta together with IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) also supported and equipped PMI with technical guidelines to provide the best quality of services to communities. The IFRC in Indonesia also acts as representative to ASEAN on behalf of the IFRC network.