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The Global Role of Cities Government on Tackling Covid-19

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ABSTRACT

This study illustrates how the global role of city in tackling Covid-19 with paradiplomacy. Globalization and Decentralization have encouraged substate actors to take the opportunity to conduct international relations and cooperation in an effort to combat the negative impacts of Covid-19. The method of this study is a literature review of 20 journal articles from Google Scholar and ResearchGate with paradiplomacy, the global role of cities, and the handling of covid-19 as keywords. The study also used sources from credible news websites. Data analysis using MAXQDA with coding methods. The codes are classified based on the categories of journals and articles that have been collected. As a result, the world's city governments have some aggressive responses to combat Covid-19. The responses are cooperation through sister city schemes, global city networks, partnerships with NGOs, partnerships with IGO, seeks to promote dialogue in diplomatic tensions, partnerships with foreign military forces and conducting foreign missions. The current article aims to support future research in this growing field by highlighting some of the most important findings, questions, and approaches, focusing on how paradiplomacy creates a pattern of communication between cities, especially during difficult times such as a pandemic.

Keywords: Paradiplomacy, city global role, city networking, Covid-19

ABSTRAK

Studi ini menggambarkan bagaimana peran global pemerintah kota dalam menanggulangi Covid-19 dengan paradiplomasi. Globalisasi dan Desentralisasi telah mendorong para pelaku substate untuk mengambil kesempatan melakukan hubungan dan kerja sama internasional dalam upaya untuk memerangi dampak negatif Covid-19. Metode dari penelitian ini adalah tinjauan literatur dari 20 artikel jurnal dari Google Scholar dan ResearchGate dengan kata kunci paradiplomasi, peran global kota, dan penanganan covid-19. Studi ini juga menggunakan sumber-sumber dari situs web berita yang kredibel. Analisis data menggunakan MAXQDA dengan metode coding. Kode-kode tersebut diklasifikasikan berdasarkan kategori dari jurnal dan artikel yang telah dikumpulkan. Hasilnya, pemerintah kota di dunia memiliki beberapa respons agresif untuk memerangi Covid-19. Respon tersebut antara adalah kerjasama melalui skema sister city, jaringan kota global, kemitraan dengan LSM, kemitraan dengan IGO, berusaha untuk mempromosikan dialog dalam ketegangan diplomatik, kemitraan dengan pasukan militer asing dan melakukan misi asing.

Kata Kunci: Paradiplomasi, peran global kota, jejaring kota, Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

Pandemic Coronavirus Disease 2019 or known as SARS-CoV-2, detected in wuhan, since December 2019. Due to the virus spreading quickly to all over the world, in march 2020 World Health Organization (WHO) declared Coronavirus Disease as a global pandemic (WHO, 2020a). There are more than 118 cases in 114 countries in 2020, causing more than 4.630 deaths, and the rest of the thousand people are still in the care units (WHO, 2020b). In line with the virus's massive spread, Covid-19 became the world concern not only WHO who put its concern to solve this issue, but also the virus became the global concern among all the countries and citizens. Considering it become a global pandemic, international cooperation seems to be the best way to solve this problem by involving state and sub-state actors. (Salahudin, 2020).

In Indonesia, the National Government of Indonesia launched the regulations under the Ministry of Home Affairs No 20, year 2020 on March, 14 2020 regarding the acceleration addressing Coronavirus Disease for local governments. In order to deal with Covid-19, The regulations stated that it is necessary to take quick, precise, focused and integrated actions. The synergy between national and local governments is as important as those actions. Normatively, the source of handling Covid-19 from local governments cannot do much because everything is centralized to the national government and local governments can make the policy response in their local area (Indonesia, 2020). However, in fact, virus spread cannot be counteracted by region, country and continent, they know no borders. Moreover, the Covid-19 not only hit the health sector, but affected all the industry sectors to the point it affected the global supply chain. That is why, The COVID-19 pandemic is requiring all levels of government cross country to act to get this virus done (Dwikardana, 2020).

The state cooperation through their national government has been explained in many literature and some of the cases show that national states lack effective response, procedures and equipment in terms of tackling Covid-19 (Anna Rudakowska and Craig Simon, 2020). The cases of Brazil and the United State represent tragic examples of how the national government works on pandemic denial and lack of appropriate policies. The Brazilian Government seems to be "deliberate negligence" while the US Government seems to be "willful ignorance". Those cases have become the evidence to support the allegations that politicians at the highest level, seemed to be more concerned about political gains and self-interest rather than political solutions on the ground to the spread of the virus (Anna Rudakowska and Craig Simon, 2020). On the contrary, cooperation between countries through their regional government is still rarely highlighted, even though there is a claim that the local governments are more efficient than their national counterparts and very often local governments are able to get things done, while states do not deliver (Pipa & Hachigian, 2020).

Cities play a crucial role in tackling a pandemic: when it comes to response to epidemics, even if the central government decides nationwide preventive measures and launched nationwide economic stimulus packages, ultimately it is the responsibility of the cities to implement the restrictions, manage the situation on a daily basis and play the major leadership role in moving towards the 'new normal'. (Anna Rudakowska and Craig Simon, 2020). On a large scale, Covid-19 required the local government to do everything in their power to protect their citizens, no exception working on international cooperation. Globalization creates international relations that are no longer dominated by state actors but also non-state actors, including sub-state actors like local or city government (T. A. Mukti, 2020).

In 1970, the concept of decentralization started to allowed local government to play an important role in the world economy (Magone, 2006). As international relations expand, decentralization implies the role of non-central government actors in the international activities as the extension of their national government. This phenomenon is known as paradiplomacy. Paradiplomacy is not something new. It has existed since the middle of 18 century, and has acquired a new prominence in recent decades as a result of the transnationalization of the global economy and the rise of global connectivity (Cornago, 2018).

Since Covid-19 hit the world, paradiplomacy emerged with a new pattern (Aldecoa and Keating, 2013). For example, Barcelona (Spain) has decided to spend 400,000 euros to fight Covid-19 in overseas cities, such as Amman (Jordan), Saïda (Lebanon), Tetouan (Morocco) and Maputo (Mozambique). Likewise, Frankfurt (Germany) has donated 10,000 euros to its sister city Milan (Italy) to help fight against the pandemic. In South America, which is the country most affected by Covid-19, there is also a reorientation in paradiplomacy to deal with the pandemic. For example, the Argentine province of Córdoba turned to its sister city agreement with the Chinese city of Chongqing for medical supplies. In a similar way, the Bío Bío region in Chile is also strengthening cooperation with the Chinese province of Hubei to procure medical equipment supplies to fight the pandemic (Kuznetsov, 2014). Sister city Bandung and the Suwon (South Korea) has also experienced a reorientation in efforts to overcome COVID-19. It was recorded that the Covid-19 cases in Bandung until September 2020 reached 1,300 cases, 166 active cases, 1076 patients recovered, 58 deaths, and suspected cases of the corona virus reached 7716 people (Kurniawan, 2020). The spike of Covid-19 demands for public discipline by obeying health protocol, and one of which is using masks. Indeed, since the beginning of the pandemic, the demand for personal protective equipment including masks, has soared to unprecedented levels. To keep up with the condition, the Bandung city government seeks an initiative to its sister city Suwon about the procurement of masks. Suwon has sent total of 20,000 KF 94 or KF 80 masks worth 296,771,000 rupiah.

In line with the increase in these diplomatic initiatives, states have also imposed strict restrictions on their territories, although previously they had been “loosened” by globalization and the wave of globalization and decentralization (Duran, 2016). The central government has also implemented restrictions on free transit, tightened border controls and strengthened their presence in international relations (Allam, Dey and Jones, 2020). A region’s success will boost its leader’s image, how regional heads’ policies reach the public through the media, notwithstanding social or physical distance, shows that they remain in the limelight while reviewing the implementation of public policies (Wardman, 2020).

Regarding paradiplomacy, the government’s main objective is to safeguard the safety of its residents. With various paradiplomacy activities, the opportunities for regions to participate in the global arena will be more open with the promotion of decentralization, which will improve services to citizens. Paradiplomacy can shape regional leaders’ public personas. This is backed by regional leaders’ ability and expertise in implementing programs and policies, including through paradiplomacy that accelerates regional development. Subnational actors’ role in paradiplomacy, in line with the government’s foreign cooperation framework, must be supported by a good management and governance system so local governments and the central government can synergize and coordinate effectively in realizing mutually supportive and mutually beneficial foreign cooperation programs. Continuous paradiplomacy during COVID-19 can be a breakthrough to start economic recovery in the region and increase a positive image among the public.

The paradiplomacy scenario of the Covid-19 era raises the main question, “What is the role of the city government addressing Covid-19? The main purpose of this paper is to provide an overview related to the city government’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic and see how the city’s role in handling Covid-19 in a global context.

RESEARCH METHOD

Procedure

The method used is a literature review, which is method that evaluate the state of knowledge on a research topic to answer the research question (Snyder, 2019). The literature search was limited to articles published from 2019-2022. The research database search resulted in keywords search “Paradiplomacy and Covid-19” results obtained 350 articles from Google Scholar, 800 articles from Researchgate. Keyword search “Sister City for Covid-19” results obtained 220 articles from Google. Keyword search “ Cities for Global Health” results obtained 160 articles from Google. Keyword search “*Paradiplomasi era Covid-19*” results obtained 80 articles from Google. After scanning the title, year of publication, and duplication, there are 8 relevant journals, 6 articles from institutions’ websites and 6 news articles.

Analysis

The method used is the software MAXQDA with coding. MAXQDA is considered the best tool to help the author to analyze the data due to some reasons, following: MAXQDA is easier to install on Mac operating systems, limitless documents and limitless coding. The technique analysis can be explained with the following steps: upload the documents from computers to software MAXQDA, the second step we need to read and understand the text to make a code in every relevant word based on our research question. The code that has been made, is collected by the category (next we call the category as code and code as a sub-code). To make it easier to identify, each code has a different color. And the color of the sub-code adjusts to the code color. After we make categories, the next step is visualizing those categories into code and sub-code networking.

Limitation of data analysis using MAXQDA through coding method, the final result is represented based on the number of numbers listed next to the categories visualized through the category network. The way this software works does not group data based on author, type of research, instrument used, but analyzes based on similarity of content.

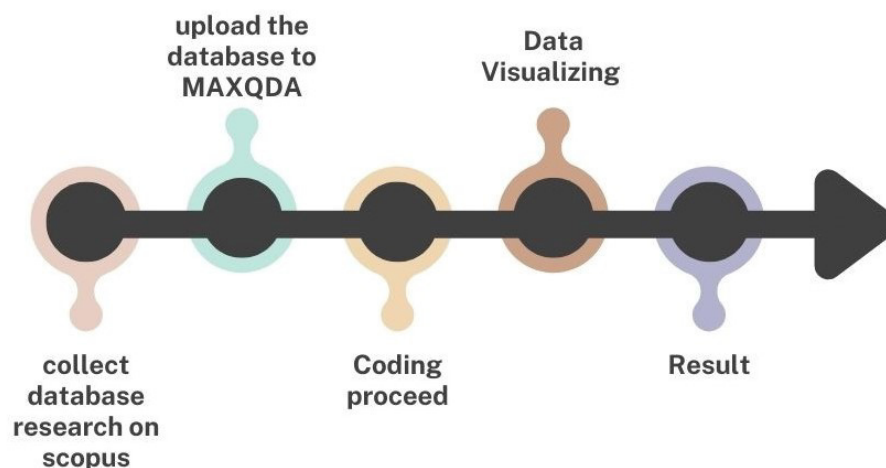


Figure 1. Research process

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding on the data analysis with software MAXQDA through coding method based on 20 literature review that have been collected, the result show that paradiplomacy of local government in the world on tackling Covid-19 can be described as the following statements:

Code (Strengthening Sister City Cooperation) with subcode: Personal protection Aids, Morals Supports, sharing knowledge through Virtual Conference, Financial Support, Economic Recovery Forum, Medical Equipment Support, Medication Support, sending expertise to help recovery

- Code (Global City Networking) with subcode: Created Digital Platform to share experiences and information (14), Participating on Global Conference, Participate on Cities Against Covid-19 Global Summit 2020, Economic Recovery Forum, Creating Digital Platform as a Communication Tools, Participating on Global Vaccine Summit 2020.
- Code (Partnership with Non Intergovernmental Organization (NGO)) with subcode: non-clinical support, Logistics Support, Provide Covid-19 test for Firefighter, Personal Equipment Support, Provide Information Covid-19, Provide retirements house, Provide Health Facilities, Epidemic Prevention act and Control
- Code (Partnership with Intergovernmental Organization (IGO)) with subcode: Creating Health City, make sure that hospitals have enough capacity, Provide Personal Protection Equipment & Medication, Participate on sharing experience forum, Involved in Multilateral Health Care System, Provide water, electricity, medical referral
- Code (Strive to Promote Dialogue in Diplomatic Tension Situation) with subcode: Strive for the success of negotiation process, Ensuring the adequate of medical tools
- Code (Foreign Mission) with subcode: Provide relevant information about Covid-19, Send Personnel to help foreign citizen in the City
- Code (Partnership with Foreign Army Force) with subcode: Sharing Relevant Information about Covid-19, Moral Support

The data visualized from the code and subcode above, can be shown at Figure 2. Code networking that picture 2 shows explains the answer of the research question based on the 20 literature review.

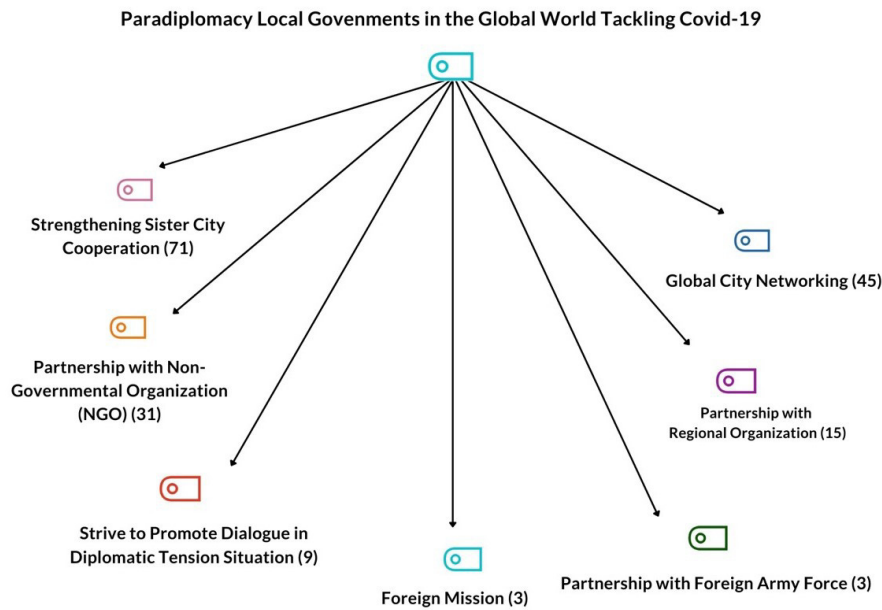


Figure 2. Code Global Role of City Governments in the Tackling Covid-19

Sister City Cooperation

Based on the Analysis using MAXQDA, the cooperation under the Sister City schema are a type of collaboration that is widely used by local governments in the world to overcome Covid-19 with the highest percentage of 39.2%, followed by Global City Networking with 26.5 %, Partnership with NGOs as much as 17.7%, Partnership with IGO as much as 8.3%, Strive to Promote Dialogue in Diplomatic Tension Situation as much as 5,0%, Partnership with Foreign Army Force and Foreign Mission with the same number of codes, namely 1,7%. The data can be visualized as shown in Chart 1.



Chart 1. Percentage Paradiplomacy Cities in the Global World by Code

In the code of Strengthening Sister City Cooperation in order to fight against Covid-19, the local governments carry out several collaborative activities that aimed at overcoming the spread of Covid-19 and post-Covid-19 recovery efforts which can be described in Figure 3.

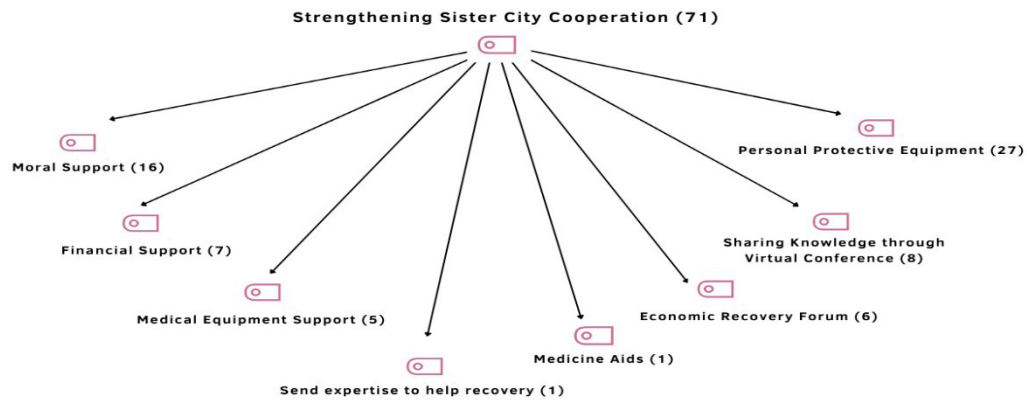


Figure 3. Subcode Networking of Strengthening Sister City Cooperation

The Covid-19 has reminded the world of one of the greatest lessons in history: that no man can live as an island. It means no one is truly self-sufficient, everyone must rely on others in order to thrive. The pandemic proved that without strong collaborations between entities an obstacle as fierce as the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overcome (Paul, 2021). Talk about which, the partnership and collaboration among the cities has been established since the start of the century. However, before the Covid-19 struck the world, their aim was limited to growth and development of the concerned cities. The pandemic made many cities realise that their sister city can actually help them survive (Paul, 2021). Strengthening the cooperation among sister cities to overcome the pandemic together can be achieved in various ways like what we described in code networking in the picture above.

Based on the picture networking subcodes above, the data has been converted into percentage and resulting as we can see in the following chart 2.

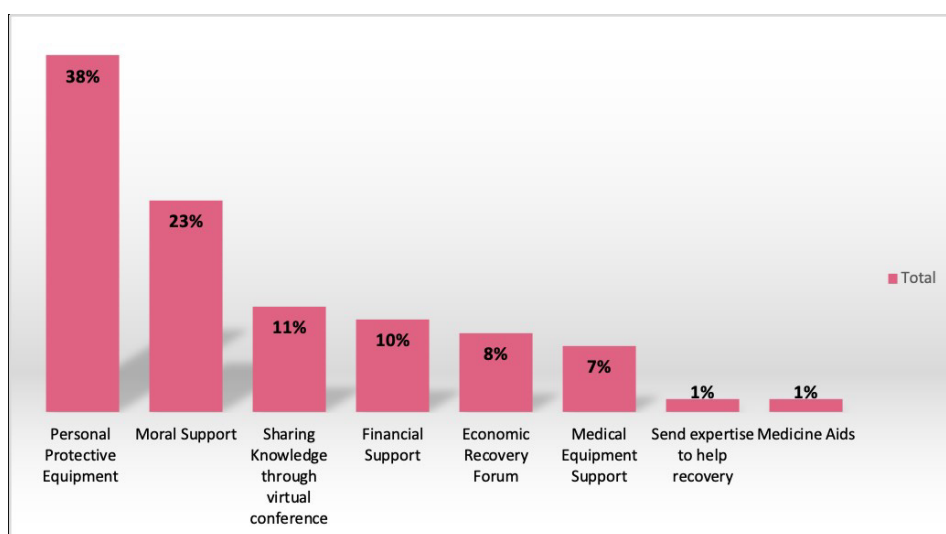


Chart 2. Presentage Sister City Cooperation Actions Fight Against Covid-19 by Subcode

The activities that are mostly carried out is providing Personal Protective Equipment with the highest presentage which is 38%. The personal protective equipment assistance includes masks (Bagian Kerjasama Kota Bandung, 2020) (Britney Bouie, 2020), medical protective clothing and scrubs (International Affairs & Trade Division, 2020), gloves and goggles (Can Kao Xiao Xi, 2020), and the disinfectant given to its sister city (Can Kao Xiao Xi, 2020). The second activity that was carried out is providing moral support with 23%. Indeed, soon after *the COVID-19* outbreak, most of government sent their solicitude to their sister city like what the sister city of Beijing done. 24 sister city include Tokyo, Seoul, Cologne, London and Moskow expressed their support to beijing by letters (Can Kao Xiao Xi, 2020).

The third activity that carried out by local governments is sharing knowledge through virtual conferences with presentage 11%. Sharing knowledge through Virtual Conference is mostly done through digital platforms such as Zoom (Anna Rudakowska & Craig Simon, 2020), and Google meet (Alfarisi, 2021). One example of a virtual conference activity is the 2020 Cities Against Covid-19 (CAC) Global Summit, initiated by the Seoul city government and attended by mayors from 45 cities around the world from 31 countries (Shon, 2021). Knowledge sharing activities are also carried out such as through videos with the aim of exchanging experiences and information related to the completion of Covid-19 and efforts to recover from Covid-19 (Porto News, 2020). The fourth with presentage 10% is the financial aids. The financial aids here refers to the fund donations. The fund donations actions mostly initiated by their citizens In order to returning the favor for the help from their sister city. The cities that help its sister city with fund donation are the city of Daegu (South Korea) (Sister Cities International, 2021), and the city of San

Antonio (Texas) (Sister Cities International, 2021). The next activity is the economy recovery forum with presentage 8%. Many discussions of economic recovery efforts are carried out between sister cities through their virtual meetings (Vina Amalia El Khawarizmi, 2020).

Gave medical equipment support is the activity carried out by local government with presentage 7%. The medical support sent by the city government to its sister cities such as mobile intelligent temperature detectors and thermal imagers (Can Kao Xiao Xi, 2020). There are also medicine aids that sent from sister city, with presentage 1%. This case can be seen by the cities in China that sent china traditional medicine to its sister city. The last is sending expertise to help recovery with presentage 1%. For example, this activity has been done by Shanghai to Mumbai. One of the agenda on the round meeting table Shanghai and Mumbai is sharing Shanghai best practice handling Covid-19 and their recovery. On the discussion, Shanghai discuss to send their expertise to Mumbai to help its sister city recover from Covid-19 (Sifra Lentin, 2020).

Global City Networking

The Global City Networking is the second most widely carried out activity by local governments in the world to deal with Covid-19, with a percentage of 26.5% (see data visualization in figure 3). Global City Networking has six subcodes where the subcodes reflect the activities carried out, as visualized in Figure 4.

As the government across the globe tried to overcome the rapid spread Covid-19 in the various ways, the cities are fostering collective responses by sharing scientific knowledge, best practice and another relevant information through joining international initiatives such as Global Conferences, Global Summit, and creating digital platform. Based on the picture networking subcodes above, the data has been converted into percentage and resulting as we can see in the following chart 3.

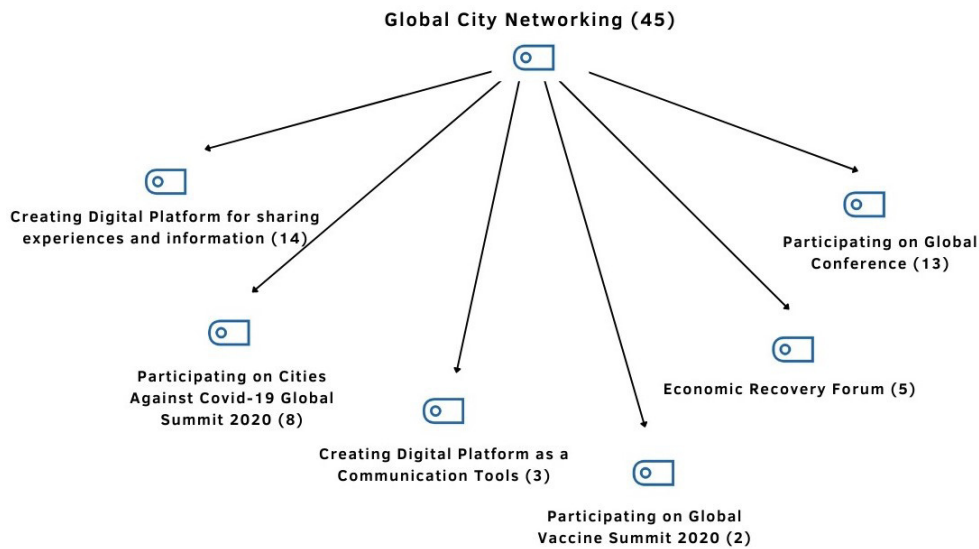


Figure 4. Subcode Networking of Global City Networking

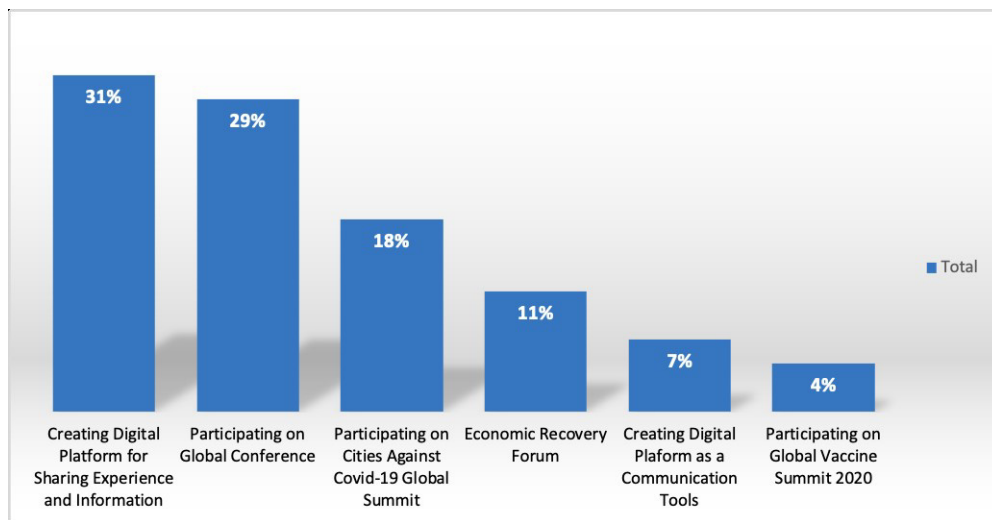


Chart 3. Presentage Global Cities Networking Actions Fight Against Covid-19 by Subcode

Based on chart above, the most activity done by the local government is Creating Digital Platform for Sharing Experiences and Information with highest presentage 31%. The digital platform that is popular among the government is the website. Through the government official website, they can share the information, knowledge and best practice in dealing with Covid-19 (Moser & Moser, 2005). In Seoul, South Korea, the local government utilized the government website to share information and best practice to the international community (Shon, 2021). This initiative has also been adopted by some local governments such as Jakarta Government (Luerdi, 2021), and European Union cities

and the Global Parliament of Mayors (Anna Rudakowska & Craig Simon, 2020). Another kind of digital platform that is popular are zoom, and WhatsApp (Anna Rudakowska & Craig Simon, 2020). The following activity is Participating in a Global Conference with 29%. The virtual forum is also widely used to share experiences, knowledge and information related to Covid-19. In order to fight against Covid-19 together, the local governments in the world join in Cities Against Covid-19 Global Summit 2020 with 18%. This conference was initiated by the city government of Seoul. This was held virtually which can be accessed via Youtube by the mayors from 45 cities in 35 countries. The event is designed to invite expertise to share their experiences in dealing with Covid-19 and discussions related to future responsive measures online, instead of physical offline gathering (Social Innovation Exchange, 2020).

The global networking also utilized for dicussed about economic recovery with presentage about 11%. This topics has been cpnducted in several important forums, as the C40 Cities Global Mayors with the main focus on ensuring that the national government supports investment in the regions for a healthy, fair and sustainable economic recovery effort (Anna Rudakowska and Craig Simon, 2020). The UCLG forum was also used for suggestions in discussing economic recovery efforts through live sharing using the hashtag #BeyondTheOutbreak (Anna Rudakowska and Craig Simon, 2020). Creating Digital Platform as a Communication Tools is also to be one of the several concerned with presentage about 7%. Digital platform that is popular among government levels to connect with each other is WhatsApp Group (Anna Rudakowska & Craig Simon, 2020). The acceleration of economic recovery is also carried out through promote equal distribution of vaccinations in various countries through the Global Vaccine Summit 2020 (with presentage 4%). Due to the need for vaccines that are so important during the Covid-19 period, vaccine shortages in several countries often occur. Thus, through this Global Vaccine Summit, the world is trying to warn of vaccine nationalism and ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for every country, especially for middle and low-income countries (Shon, 2021).

Partnership with Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Code Partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is the third most widely carried out activity by local governments to deal with Covid-19, with a percentage of 17.7% (see data visualization in figure 3. The Code Partnership with Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) has 10 subcodes where the subcodes reflect the activities carried out in the code, as visualized in Figure 5.

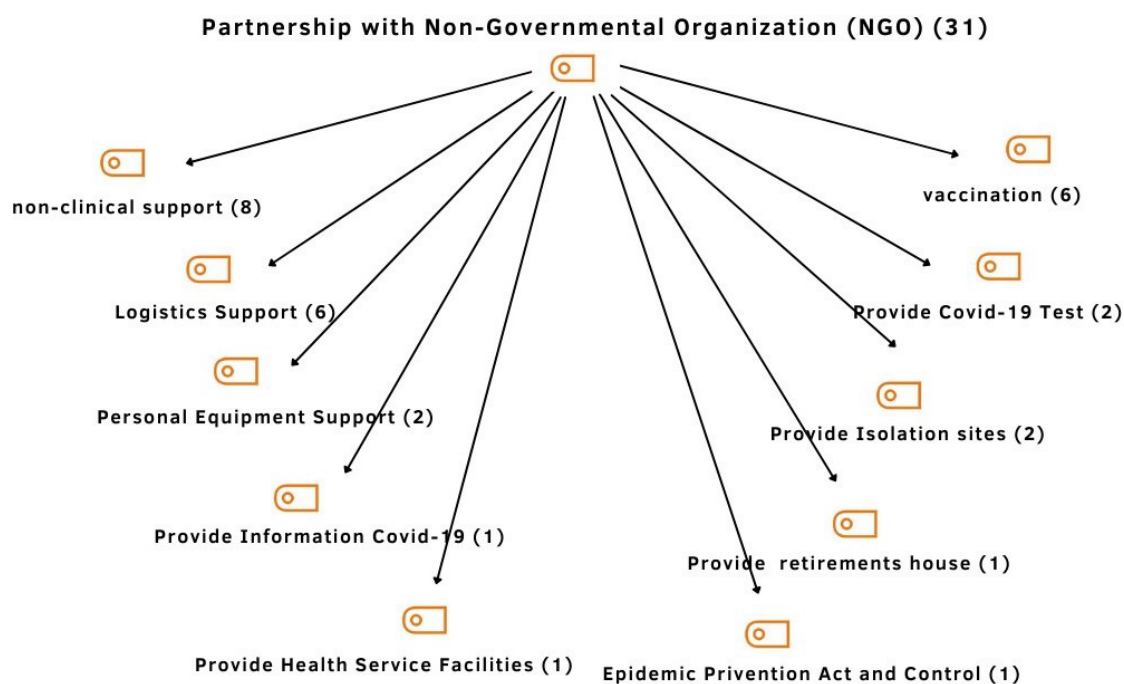


Figure 5. Subcode Networking of Partnership with Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Awareness of the dangers of a crisis, provided that prompt and effective action is taken by the local government, can be an excellent way to save people’s lives at risk. Participating non-state actors will be very important to address the Covid-19. Collaboration between local government and Non-Governmental Organization would be beneficiaries to society because these organization are voluntary groups that seek to provide public services, support public policy and build capacity for social reconstruction by being independent governments (Moenian et al., 2022). In this context, there are some activities done by the collaboration between local government and NGO as we can see in the Figure networking above. Based on the picture networking subcodes above, the data has been converted into percentage and resulting as we can see in the following chart 4.

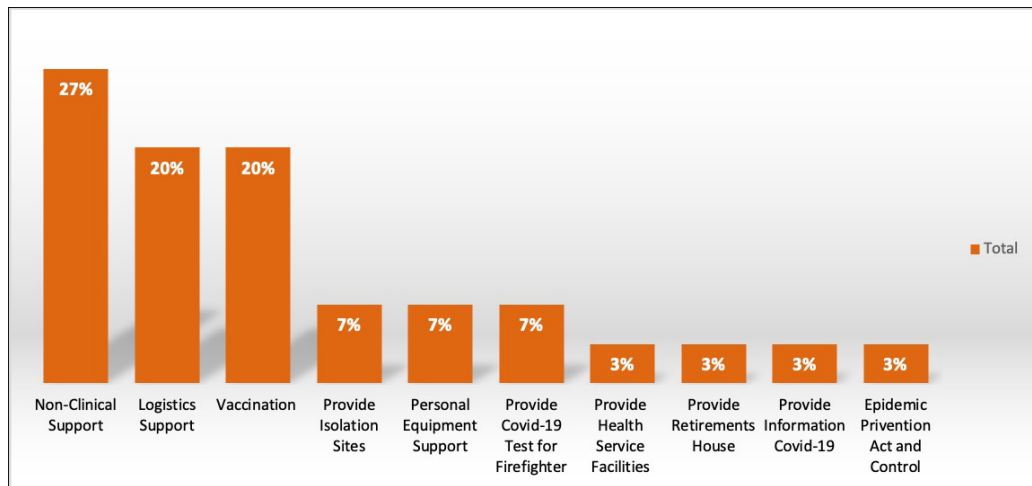


Chart 4. Presentage Partnership with NGO Actions Fight Against Covid-19 by Subcode

Based on chart above, the activities that are mostly carried out by local governments in the world are establishing partnerships with NGOs, is give non-clinical support with 27%. Non-clinical support such as psychological assistance provided through free counseling, door-to-door visits to several communities, and friendly calls to provide psychological support to people who are experiencing isolation and loneliness (Canadian Red Cross, 2021). The next activity with the presentage 20% are logistics support and vaccination. Logistics support is given to people who are in isolation in their homes (Oxfam, n.d.). In term of vaccination, the request submitted by local governments to their NGO partners is assistance in providing vaccinations, including clinical and clinical staff support, which includes registration, onsite logistics support, vaccination, and aftercare monitoring (Canadian Red Cross, 2021).

Furthermore, the activities with presentage 7% carried out by local governments are Provide Isolation Sites, Personal Equipment Support, and Provide Covid-19 Test. in order to Provide Isolations site, York Region government along with Red Cross provide isolation centre for individuals who need an alternative place to self-isolate while they are awaiting test results or require a place to stay to protect the health and safety of their families (Canadian Red Cross, 2021). The government also provided Personal equipment support such as personal hygiene and comfort items to individuals in isolation. Meanwhile, proving test Covid-19 done by the government of Northern Ontario and Red Cross. Antigen test has given to firefighter (Canadian Red Cross, 2021).

Other activities done by local governments and NGO are Provide Health Service Facilities, Retirements House, Information about Covid-19, and Prevention Act and Control with total 3 % for each code. In order to provide health service facilities, the government of Toronto along with Red Cross together provide teams of nurses and pyysicians to

augment or relieve existing hospital staff in the Greater Toronto area who have been working tirelessly to provide care during pandemic (Canadian Red Cross, 2021). Together with the local government of Toronto, along with the funds provided by the region, Red Cross helped to find a proper retirement house to support the health and safety of those in need. The last, is the Epidemic Prevention Act and Control. This activity is like mobilizing a virtual personal disaster assistance team to help people in emergencies such as when floods and landslides occur (Canadian Red Cross, 2021).

Partnership with Regional Organization

The Code Partnership with Regional Organization is the third most widely carried out activity by local governments in the world to deal with Covid-19, with a percentage of 8.3% (see data visualization in Figure 3). The Code Partnership with Regional Organization has 7 subcodes where the subcodes reflect the activities carried out in the code, as visualized in Figure 6.

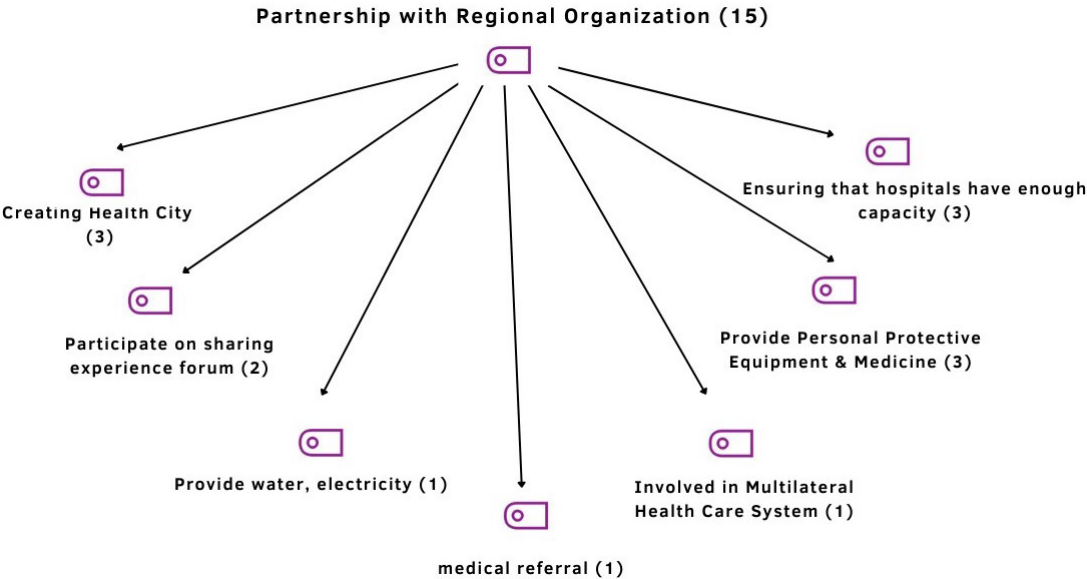


Figure 6. Subcode Networking Partnership with Regional Organization (IGO)

Since Covid-19 was first discovered, it exploded into a pandemic resulting in devastating effects of human lives and global recession. Most countries have been struggling to fight against Covid-19 while their economy has been damaged. The Caribbean is one of the examples of the tourism-dependent subregion countries that suffer from Covid-19. The tourism countries will likely feel the negative impacts of the crisis for much longer than other economies (Behsudi, 2020). Whether nations or subregions must find innovative ways to address health and economic concerns, and regional bodies are possible

mechanisms for facilitating international cooperation to overcome those problems through some actions. Based on the picture networking subcodes in Figure 6, the data has been converted into percentage and resulting as we can see in the following chart 5.

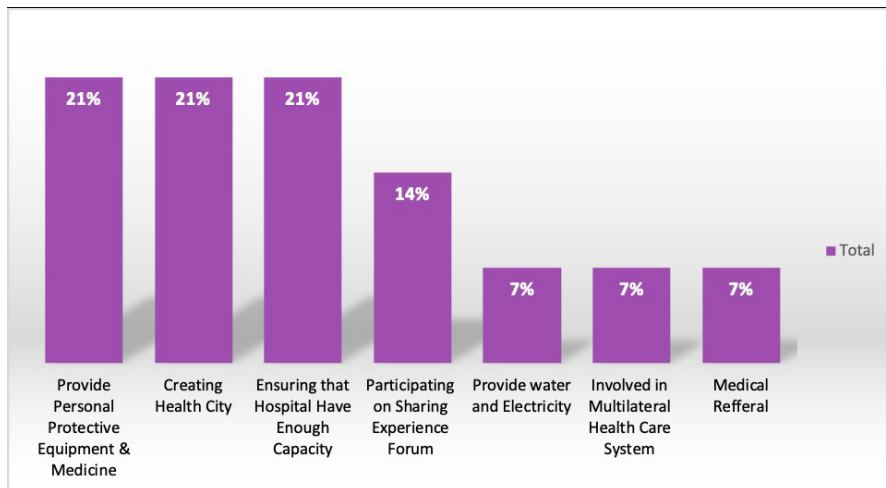


Chart 5. Presentage Partnership with Regional Organization Actions Fight Against Covid-19 by Subcode

Based on the data visualization above, the activities that are mostly carried out to deal with Covid-19 are Provide Personal Protective Equipment & Medicine, Creating Health City, and Ensuring that Hospital Have Enough Capacity to accommodate the Covid-19 patient with 21% for each code. In these activities, can be seen from Caribbean case. The immediate priority of Personal Protective Equipment as well as the need for front staff which includes testing kits, diagnostic equipment, drug treatment, tracing and tracking software (Resiere et al., 2021), and ICU capacity, Caribbean seeks regional cooperation with CARICOM, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). This allowed personal protective equipment and ICU Capacity transfers by friendly governments to the Caribbean (Resiere et al., 2021). Meanwhile, Creating Health City can be seen in the Seoul case. The Government of Seoul along with WHO creating health city. Healthy Cities is a framework for a participatory process initiated by WHO to respond to health issues that have emerged due to urbanization and during the Covid-19 Seoul and WHO strengthening their cooperation on health city to encounter the Covid-19 (Shon, 2021).

The next activity is participate in sharing experience forum with 14%. With the regional member organization countries, local government share their experience through webinars. The last three activities are Provide water and electricity, Involved in Multilateral Health Care System, and Medical Referral with 7% for each code. Provide water and electricity

can be seen in cooperation government of Jakarta dan UNHCR. In order to provide personal need for refugee during pandemic, government and UNHC together handle this issue (Hubert & Dermawan, 2020). As for Involved in Multilateral Health Care System which integrated health system within region like Carribean government build robust health care systems with its regional cooperation (Resiere et al., 2021). The last, in order to the patients safty, local government provide medical referral for them.

Strive to Promote Dialogue in Diplomatic Tension Situation

The code Strive to promote dialogue in diplomatic tension situations is the fourth most widely carried out activity by local governments in the world to deal with Covid-19, with a percentage of 5.0% (see data visualization in Figure 3). The Strive to promote dialogue in diplomatic tension Situation code has 2 sub-codes where the sub-codes reflect the activities carried out in the code, as visualized in Figure 7.

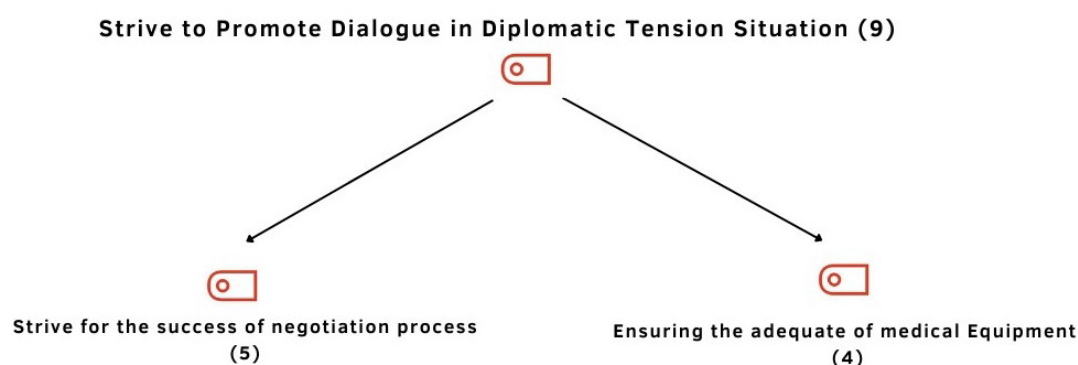


Figure 7. Subcode Networking of Strive to Promote Dialogue in Diplomatic Tension Situation

The medical equipment battle during Covid-19 is an inevitable phenomenon that is happening now. Due to the risk of the health system's collapse in national level, some national government blocked, rerouted, and confiscated loads of medical equipment destined for other countries as in the case of the United States, Germany, and France, which rerouted cargo with medical equipment from China that were being shipped to Italy, Czech Republic, and Brazil (Alvarenga et al., 2020). It resulted in diplomatic tension amongst countries. Even worse, in specific cases like in Brazil, the national government is passive towards the situation. Faced with the difficulties that blocked medical equipment to their state, the subnational entity decided to act and take responsibility by being involved in international relations.

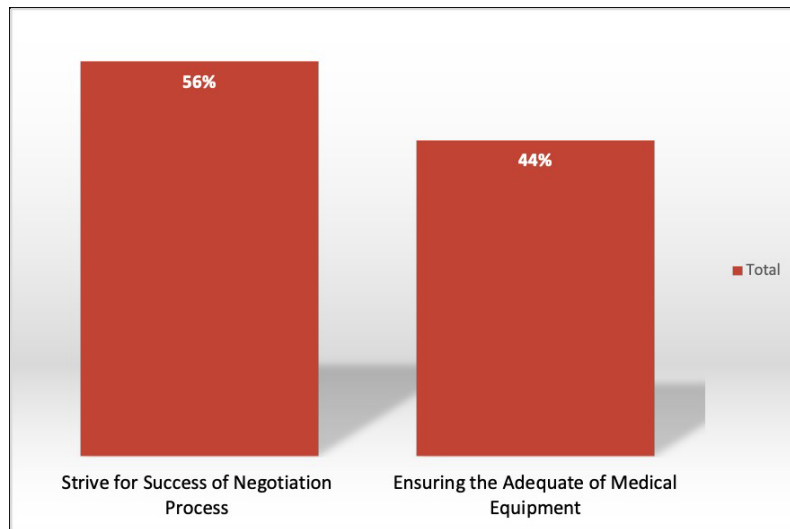


Chart 6. Presentage Strive to Promote Dialogue in Diplomatic Tension Situation by Subcode

Based on the chart above, the activities that are mostly carried out by local governments in the world in seeking dialogue in a state of diplomatic tension are Strive for the Success of Negotiation Process with the highest presentage about 56%, followed by Ensuring the Adequate of Medical Equipment about 44%. Changes in global conditions are very dynamic, confronting local governments in various situations related to diplomacy in international relations. Including, in situations of diplomatic tension between his country and other countries (Anna Rudakowska and Craig Simon, 2020). In special cases, such as in Maranhao, Brazil, Brazil's diplomatic tensions with the largest ventilator supply country, namely China, have a negative impact on Brazil which requires ventilators (Alvarenga *et al.*, 2020). Plus domestic polemics, which forced the Maranhao state government to ignore the President's role and continue to seek successful negotiations with China to obtain ventilator supplies (Alvarenga *et al.*, 2020). Despite being in a state of diplomatic tension, the regional government continues to strive for the fulfillment of medical equipment to support the treatment of Covid-19 patients in its territory (Alvarenga *et al.*, 2020).

Partnership with Foreign Army Force

Code Partnership with Foreign Army Force is the fifth most widely carried out activity by local governments in the world to deal with Covid-19, with a percentage of 1.7% (see data visualization in figure 3). The Code Partnership with Foreign Army Force has 2 sub-codes where the sub-codes reflect the activities carried out in the code, as visualized in Figure 8.

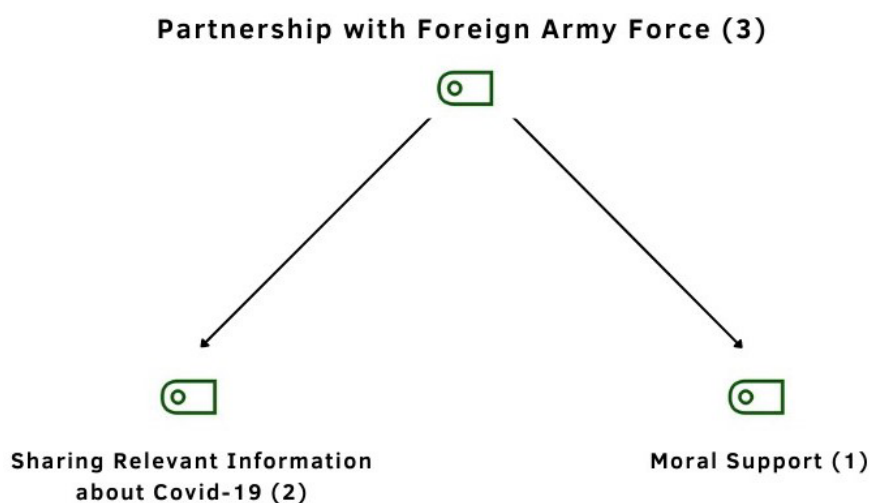
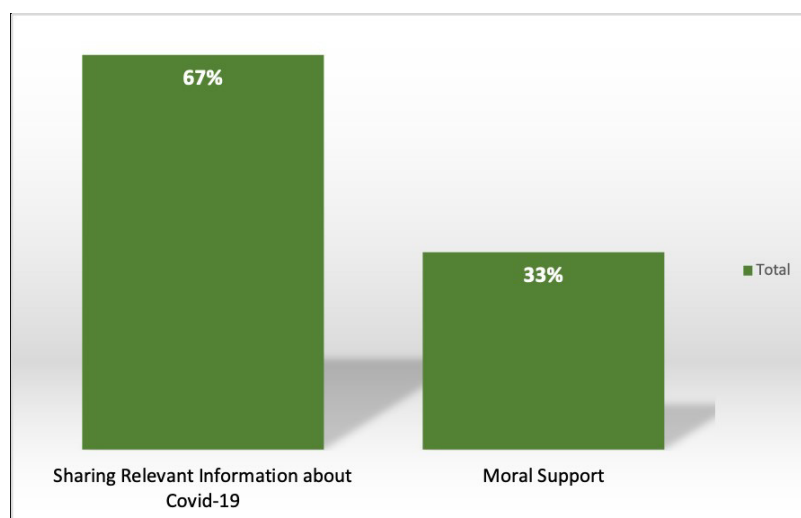


Figure 8. Sub-Code of Partnership with Foreign Army Force

Pandemic has exposed the urgency for solidarity and all the entity approaches to eradicating the virus. Pandemic makes cities realise that working closely with foreign army forces in their region is also important.



SISIPAN 02-1

Based on the chart above, the activities that are mostly carried through Partnership with Foreign Army Force are Sharing Relevant Information about Covid-19 with the highest presentage about 67%, followed by Moral Ssupport about 33%. Like the cooperation between Daegu (South Korea) and US Army Force, both of them collaborate to combat the Covid-19 together through sharing relevant and latest information about Covid-19 di

Daegu including the new confirmed cases, death and any other information. For the US Army Force, the information that Daegu local government gave was very useful to make it easier to monitor the situation and protect its troops (International Affairs & Trade Division, 2020). Furthermore, both of them give moral support to each other in order to combat Covid-19 together.

Foreign Mission

Code Foreign Mission is the sixth most widely carried out activity by local governments in the world to deal with Covid-19, with the same percentage as the partnership with Foreign Army Force sub-code with a total of 1.7% (see data visualization in figure 3). The Foreign Mission code has 2 sub-codes where the sub-codes reflect the activities carried out in the code, as visualized in Figure 9.

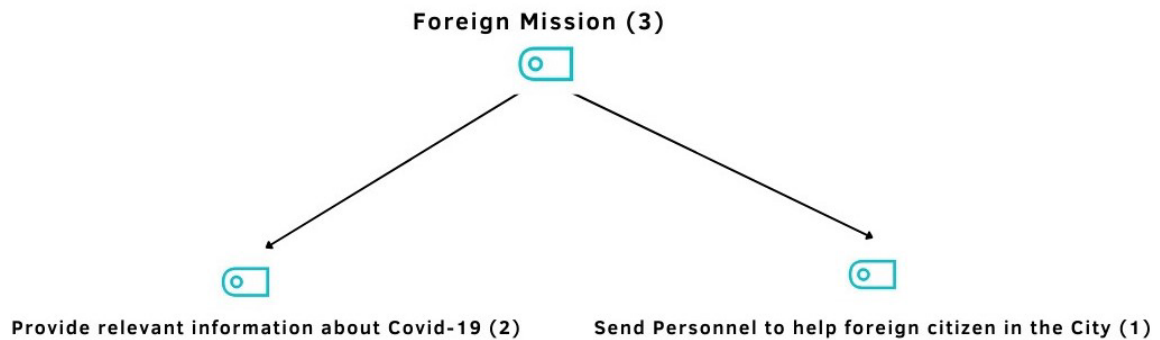
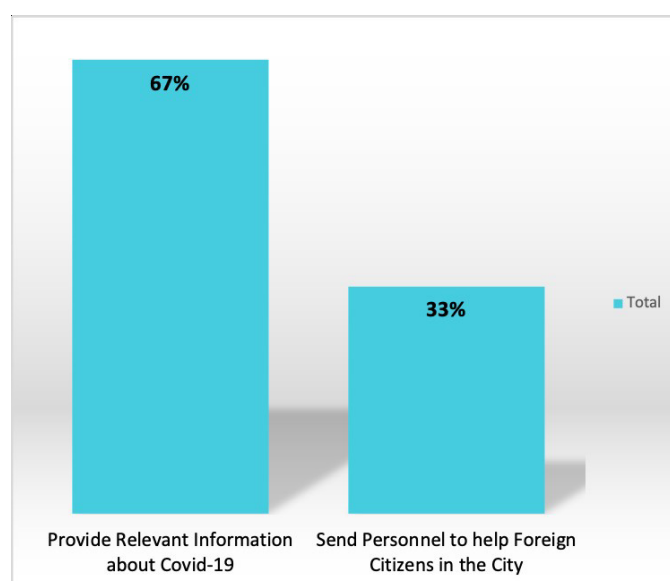


Figure 9. Sub-Code Foreign Mission

Like how important it is for the local government to conduct partnership with others addressing Covid-19, some cases showed that cities are closely working with foreigners. This case can be seen in the case of Korea working closely with UK, Franch, Chines, Indonesia, Japan, and India embassies during this pandemic (International Affairs & Trade Division, 2020). In this context, conducting the mission, there are two activities that have been carried out by the local government.



SISIPAN 02-2

Based on the chart above, the most activities carried on the Foreign Mission activities are Provide Relevant Information about Covid-19 with presentage about 67%, and the code of Send Personnel to help Foreign Citizens in the City with total code 1. As a form of solidarity and to provide a sense of security for friendly countries, local governments provide the latest news through the embassy offices of friendly countries regarding the condition of their citizens. Local governments also deploy personnel to assist foreign nationals who need assistance (International Affairs & Trade Division, 2020).

CONCLUSION

Solidarity between cities through cooperation networks (paradiplomacy) is established through activities to share information, experiences, and means for handling COVID-19. Communication between cities is so efficient because their networks are often direct and informal. In the COVID-19 emergency situation, the regional/city government gave a more agile response than the national government for at least three reasons. First, the policy of the Central Government which is slow or fluctuating in determining covid as a pandemic and related policies. Second, the occurrence of diplomatic tensions between countries which has led to the slow pace of international cooperation in handling Covid. And third, in handling COVID-19, many countries doubt the credibility and role of WHO. This is because the WHO's policies are also often changing in providing guidelines for handling COVID.

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