



## MEDIA RELEASE

### GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA AND UNICEF SIGN AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN IN 2009

Jakarta, December 16, 2008: The Indonesian Government and UNICEF today signed a US\$ 93,5 million cooperation agreement to scale up efforts to improve conditions for children in Indonesia in 2009 and to support the fulfillment of their rights.

The agreement was signed by the Deputy Head of National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) for Human Resources Development and Culture, Nina Sardjunani and the UNICEF Representative in Indonesia, Dr. Gianfranco Rotigliano.

The US\$ 93.5 million, a decrease of US\$ 28.5 million compared to 2008, is to support the Government's ongoing efforts to address the challenges related to maternal and child health, malnutrition, access to improved water and environmental sanitation, basic education, child protection, fighting HIV/AIDS and support for emergencies. The programmes will cover activities in 16 provinces, 122 districts and cities across Indonesia.

The decrease in next year's budget is due to the scaling down of the Tsunami response in Aceh and Nias. The programme has shifted focus from a massive emergency relief effort towards post-conflict and sustainable development.

"Next year is critical to the success of the Government's effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," said UNICEF Indonesia Representative, Dr. Gianfranco Rotigliano at this morning's 2009 Annual Work Plan signing ceremony.

Indonesia shows a mixed picture in relation to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators. Achievements have been notable in poverty reduction, in maintaining high net primary school enrolment, in reducing child mortality and in improving access to clean water. However, there is also stagnation with regards to reductions in malnutrition, persistently high levels of maternal mortality and limited access to improved sanitation. "I believe that the Indonesian Government is prepared to address those issues and UNICEF stands ready to support them in realizing the rights of all Indonesian children in the area of their survival, development, protection and participation," Dr. Rotigliano said.

UNICEF commends the development of 'Indonesia's road map to 2014' concerning aid for development effectiveness, which has the objective to shape aid effectiveness agenda from a Middle Income Country perspective. The roadmap is built on three pillars: strengthening country ownership over development, delivering and accounting development results, and building more effective and Inclusive Partnerships for Development.

Programmes implementation in 2008 faced a number of constraints, including weak documentation and absence of mechanisms to scale up good practices and models using increasing Government's resources, as well as insufficient quality data for planning, monitoring, reporting and identification of disparities / vulnerable children and women.

The Deputy Head of Bappenas, Nina Sardjunani, said that the Government expects that the results of the annual review conducted by UNICEF and its counterparts earlier this year will contribute towards strengthening inter-sectoral coordination at national and sub-national levels, thus giving focus to programme convergence for children and women in Indonesia. "Stronger technical assistance will provide a platform which nurtures best practices that are sustainable, replicable, based on evidence, accommodates gender mainstreaming and disparity reduction."

The 2009 agreement was jointly developed by the Government and UNICEF including extensive consultations across the country.

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