WASH Acts
March – April 2021
A bimonthly newsletter highlighting efforts in advancing universal access to safe water, sanitation & hygiene in Indonesia.

Summary support:
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WASH challenges in Indonesia

6.2%* of households practice open defecation
94% of domestic wastewater makes its way into the environment
60% of schools do not have basic handwashing facilities
26% of primary health centers do not have basic sanitation facilities
69% of household drinking water sources showed a sign of fecal contamination

Over $19 Billion is required to achieve water and sanitation national targets by 2024

SDG6 Financing: UNICEF worked with BAZNAS to develop funding mechanism to leverage much needed Islamic financing for SDG-6. (see the Link for the technical guidance).

SDG6 Monitoring: The Ministry of Health conducted its first ever national water quality survey with UNICEF and WHO support setting a SDG baseline for national safely managed drinking water coverage.

Acceleration attainment of open defecation free East Java: UNICEF helped the provincial government to analyse the barriers to achieve an ODF East Java covering all the 38 districts. (see the Link for the ppt slides).

UNICEF’s COVID response enabled over 3.5 million people across schools, health care centres, households and public places in 6 provinces to practice proper hand hygiene (for details see the link).

Greater private sector engagement for WASH: UNICEF established a private sector alliance “WASH4Work” to promote WASH in workplace, communities and along the whole supply chain (for details see Call To Action: Bahasa and English).

Towards improving WASH and Infection Prevention measures in primary health facilities, with WHO, UNICEF supported the assessment of 400 PHCs using WASH FIT tool.

3M Real-time monitoring system covering 3 key hygiene practices - handwashing with soap, wearing a mask and safe distancing (3M) across schools, health care centres, households and public places in 6 provinces to practice proper hand hygiene (for details see the link).

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**Technical assistance**

**SDGs financing for WASH**

It is widely acknowledged that there is a financing gap to achieve the national water and sanitation targets, which cannot be met by households or government resources alone. Since 2017, UNICEF Indonesia has been working with BAZNAS - a government agency established for managing Islamic Social Funds (ZIS-Zakat, Infaq, Sadaqah) to develop a ZIS-based funding mechanism to enable poor households to build improved sanitation facilities in West Nusa Tenggara Province. To leverage Islamic financing to reach the poor, UNICEF provided technical support to Bappenas (Ministry of Planning and Development), BAZNAS and MUI (Indonesia’s association of senior Islamic Scholars) to develop technical guidance. The guidance will help BAZNAS mobilize ZISWAF for the provision of WASH services among the poor and scale it up across Indonesia. The dissemination of the guidance across 34 provinces is forthcoming. ([Link for the technical guidance](#)).

**Acceleration of open defecation free in East Java**

Despite the extensive efforts of the provincial government to end open defecation (OD), East Java has the largest population practicing OD (over 2.7 million people), accounting for over 16% of the OD population in Indonesia. UNICEF supported the provincial government to assess the enabling environment for implementing the national sanitation programme across East Java’s 38 districts/cities. The analysis helps identify gaps, targeted support and efficient resource allocation to accelerate ODF achievements in East Java. A high-level advocacy event in Java is planned shortly, with UNICEF support, aimed at strengthening governors’ commitment to eliminate OD in Indonesia. ([Link for the ppt slides](#)).

**Setting the SDG baseline for nationally safely managed drinking water coverage**

The SDGs set more stringent and ambitious service standards, including safely managed water services, to achieve greater health/ environmental outcomes. Monitoring safely managed drinking water requires testing water quality. In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF made advocacy efforts and provided technical support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure the water quality monitoring methodologies meet global standards. Leveraging government funds, the first national water quality survey was completed with over 200,000 house samples, resulting in the first national baseline figure for safely managed drinking water coverage in Indonesia (11.9%). This will serve as the basis for national SDG 6 roadmap development.

**Partnership**

**Greater private sector engagement for WASH**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to see the SDG targets of universal access to WASH realized, both public and private sectors need to respond collectively to ensure practices, infrastructure and services are in place to prevent disease transmission. Understanding the importance of WASH for business during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, UNICEF has piloted an initiative, WASH4Work (W4W), to improve WASH access in the workplace, community and supply chain. Initial discussions were conducted with several companies and associations to seek potential champions for W4W (Call To Action: Bahasa and English).

**WASH COVID response**

**Improving Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in healthcare facilities (HCFs)**

To identify and remove the practical challenges affecting the provision of WASH services, UNICEF, in partnership with WHO, conducted WASH assessments of HCFs using the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH-FIT) in five provinces, covering close to 400 primary HCFs. Findings from the assessment show that more than half of the HCFs across these provinces do not have adequate access to water, sanitation or handwashing with soap facilities. These findings were disseminated to relevant provincial and district stakeholders and action plans for WASH improvements in HCFs are being developed in response. At the national level, MoH, WHO and UNICEF are working together to strengthen national government systems for HCFs by adopting the newly introduced assessment tools.

**WASH COVID response update**

UNICEF provided critical WASH supplies for, including handwashing with soap stations, disinfection materials and COVID-19 hygiene kits, reaching more than 3.5 million beneficiaries across schools, health care centres, households and public places in 6 provinces. Provision of hygiene supplies also included distribution of one million soap bars in collaboration with Unilever, Ministry of Social Affairs and implementing partners across 11 provinces. UNICEF continued to build capacity for implementation of subnational protocols for WASH and IPC, reaching over 2000 health workers, community workers and subnational health officers through WASH and IPC sessions.

A Real-time monitoring system of 3 key hygiene practices – handwashing with soap, wearing a mask and safe distancing (3M) – for action planning

The hygiene monitoring system or the 3M, monitoring (The 3 Ms stand for HWWS, proper mask usage and safe distancing in Indonesian) has been scaled up to 20 provinces, to collect data on the three COVID-19 related hygiene behaviours in public places. The 3M monitoring initiative is based on structured observations conducted at the entrance of public places or institutions, such as markets, mosques or schools. Volunteers document HWWS facilities availability and proportion of the people they observe wash their hands with water and soap. The observers also note down whether people are correctly wearing a face mask, and whether people adhere to physical distancing measures. Volunteers report their data via smartphones that is collated by our 3M platform to further inform decision-making. The latest data from over 97,000 observations show a declining trend in all three hygiene behaviors: Only 25% of people were observed to be washing their hands with soap in public places. While handwashing practices are higher (at 60%) in places with HWWS facilities, the coverage of HWWS infrastructure in public places is severely inadequate (less than 50%).