It has been almost 18 months after schools in Indonesia were closed to curb the spread of COVID-19 with over 60 million students affected by nationwide school closures in March 2020. School closures impact not only on students’ learning, but also on their health and well-being at critical developmental stages. Access to basic WASH services are more critical than ever to keep students safe in returning to the classroom. The WASHActs-3 highlights UNICEF efforts to support the safe reopening of schools, in collaboration with government, development and private sector partners.

UNICEF has been supporting school safety by supporting development of a technical guideline and video tutorial for handwashing facilities, data analysis for schools and madrasahs, in addition to technical support to local government.

The National Handwashing Coalition supported the safe reopening of schools by providing COVID-19 Safe School Kits with essential hygiene supplies to 15,000 schools and madrasahs. See more details in English & Bahasa.

A sustainability study of handwashing facilities was conducted in public places in South Sulawesi and Aceh provinces to identify factors for improving sustainability.

The technical guideline on utilization of Zakat (Islamic alms) for improving WASH access among the poorest was officially launched in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Bappenas.

UNICEF has been supporting school safety by supporting development of a technical guideline and video tutorial for handwashing facilities, data analysis for schools and madrasahs, in addition to technical support to local government.

Summary support:

- A bimonthly newsletter highlighting efforts in advancing universal access to safe water, sanitation & hygiene in Indonesia.

- At least a $4 return for every dollar invested in water and sanitation services.

- Over 60 million learners affected by school closure.

- 60% of schools do not have basic hand-washing facilities.

- 44% of Madrasah lack basic hand-washing facilities.

- Rural schools are 1.7 times less likely to have basic sanitation access compared to urban schools.

These achievements are made possible by the generous contributions from various donors. Your support will help advance realization of child rights in Indonesia.

For more information contact: Mitsunori Odagiri, WASH Specialist (modagiri@unicef.org) or Kannan Nadar, Chief of WASH (knadar@unicef.org)
UNICEF has developed a hygiene behaviour change training guide to improve Handwashing with Soap (HWWS) practices in Indonesia. Based on evidence generated from a formative research, the training guide contains a set of systematic interventions to promote and sustain HWWS practices in communities, schools and in health care facilities. The training content provides front-line government and development staff a theoretical and practical understanding of the linkages between hygiene and health outcomes, the role of behaviour change interventions in triggering emotional responses, and techniques to apply behaviour change interventions in targeted settings.

The training guide was officially launched by the Director-General of Public Health, Ministry of Health (MoH). This is a major step towards mainstreaming hygiene behaviour change interventions into ongoing national WASH programmes. Key ministries were engaged at the launch event including the Ministries of Education & Culture, Religious Affairs, Public Works and Housing, Tourism, Trade, Transportation, and Bappenas. To build the capacities of government agencies, front line environmental health staff, health promoters, teachers, and development practitioners, a series of national and sub-national level Training of Trainers (ToT) have been conducted and the capacity of 365 facilitators and practitioners have been enhanced. Efforts are underway by MoH to institutionalize the training within MoH’s accredited training programme.

Safe school kits:

The multi-stakeholder engagement for HWWS has been furthered strengthened through the National Handwashing Coalition (Public-Private Partnership for HWWS) to support the safe reopening of 15,000 schools and madrasahs across ten provinces in October. As part of the initiative, key hygiene companies have pooled resources to distribute COVID-19 Safe School Kits with essential hygiene supplies such as soaps, hand sanitizers and disinfectants to schools for a minimum period of at least one month reaching about 1 million school children. UNICEF is coordinating with the local government and partners to support the distribution to the selected locations.

Assessment of handwashing (HWWS) facilities in Aceh and South Sulawesi provinces:

A sustainability study of HWWS facilities was conducted in public places in South Sulawesi and Aceh provinces to identify factors for improving sustainability. In Aceh, most facilities were functional; however, issues regarding drainage and maintenance were identified. The South Sulawesi study highlighted that school operational funds were used to install HWWS facilities and provide soap and paper napkins at the HWWS station. The findings are being used to strengthen inclusive HWWS stations design and proper operation and maintenance and advocacy efforts towards greater investments in sustainable HWWS.

Promoting innovations in the WASH sector:

UNICEF in partnership with the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, established INCUBITS to engage and collaborate with stakeholders in the Innovation Hub ecosystem. The INCUBITS platform will support: (1) Innovative products and services that are field tested to improve service delivery in emergencies, (2) Digital innovations to improve delivery and quality of programmes, and use data and evidence for acceleration, and (3) Innovative financing mechanism, including non-traditional mechanisms to support communities’ affordability and accessibility. INCUBITS was launched in the presence of the Minister of Public Works and Housing, Vice Ministry of Tourism and Economic Creative, and Vice Minister of National Agency of Research and Innovation, Institute of Sepuluh Nopember, other key line ministries, UN agencies, corporates, youth talents and partners.

Alternative finance for the poorest:

With UNICEF support, the Zakat fund (Islamic Alms) was recognized as one of alternative financing for water and sanitation for the poor. UNICEF supported Bappenas, BAZNAS (National Zakat Institution), and MUI (Indonesia Ulama Council) to launch the technical guideline on utilization of Zakat for WASH as part of capacity building efforts. The launching event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Bappenas, led by the Director of Housing and Settlement, Vice Chairman of BAZNAS, Chairman of MUI, and Chief WASH UNICEF; and attended by over 200 participants from subnational BAZNAS, Zakat Forum, and other partners.

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