WASHActs
September – October 2021

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

Summary support:

UNICEF supported Global Handwashing Day (GHD) further reinforcing 13 ministries’, sub-national governments’, and private sector’s commitment to the hand hygiene agenda, while reaching over 46,000 people through social media engagements (see video commitments from Ministers here & key highlights from the GHD events here).

UNICEF brokered partnership between Bekasi city and Sumbawa Barat district is helping accelerate safely managed sanitation in these cities through mutual learnings (news 1, news 2 in Bahasa).

Partnership with 18 universities is accelerating the real-time 3M hygiene behaviour monitoring at scale with over 20,000 observations (in Nov) informing key decisions for school reopening (3M monitoring, dashboard & partnership launching event recording).

Up to a 15 times the costs saving in health expenditure by improving hand hygiene policies

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

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Global Handwashing Day (GHD) Celebration: Towards making handwashing with soap (HWWS) a reality for All, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to coordinate a high-level Ministerial webinar on the occasion of Global Handwashing Day, bringing together high-level representation from 13 ministries engaged in the Hand Hygiene for All initiative.

The event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Health, followed by video commitments from 13 Ministers, including the Ministers of Education and Culture, Religious Affairs, Tourism and Creative Economy, Home Affairs, Trade, Transportation, Village and Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, Public Works & Housing, National Development Planning Agency, Manpower and Labour, Head of National Disaster Management Agency, the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture and the Head of Indonesian Army. In their commitment speeches, the Ministers reinforced their resolve to advance the Hand Hygiene For All agenda through increased investments in sustainable infrastructure and handwashing behaviour change interventions within their jurisdiction. The Ministerial webinar was followed by a talk show with participation from several provinces including local government, NGO and civil society organisations as well as private sector partners to highlight the work done on improving access to HWWS across the country by several actors (find all video commitments here).

On the occasion of GHD, Indonesia set a new national record for the number of people washing hands with soap in more than 10,000 locations across 34 provinces. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Indonesian Environmental Health Experts Association (HAKLI), organized events across the country to mobilize people at healthcare facilities, markets, tourist places, offices, schools and other public areas to wash their hands to commemorate this event. Video footage from across the country can be found here.

UNICEF also supported a range of activities at sub-national offices including promotion of handwashing with fun to school children, teachers and community members coupled with COVID-19 safe school kit handover in 5 provinces (Aceh, East Java, South Sulawesi, NTB and NTT), and a series of posts and social media engagement reaching 46,746 people/youth and generating 3,609 engagements in UNICEF and U-Report (see an animation video here).

Scaling-up elimination of open defecation and safely managed sanitation by fostering cross-learning

Acceleration of Open Defecation Free (ODF) efforts in lagging districts/cities through cross-learning:

Building on UNICEF supported STBM (Sanitasi Total Berbasis Masyarakat or national community-based total sanitation programme) Benchmarking assessment results from 463 districts/cities, UNICEF in collaboration with AKKOPSI (the alliance of district and city for sanitation) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) organized a learning and advocacy session, resulting in 82 districts/cities committing to develop concrete action plans and strategies to accelerate the ODF attainment potentially benefiting over 38 million Indonesians. See further details from news press release and factsheet in Bahasa and summary note in English.

Twinning program to accelerate safely managed sanitation in two cities:

Twinning program, as a systematic and intensive cross-learning is cost-effective and scalable strategy to accelerate WASH agenda. UNICEF facilitated twinning program between Sumbawa Barat district and Bekasi city to foster cross-learning between the two cities on achieving and sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing safely managed sanitation services, resulting in strong commitments and resources from both local governments to implement concrete plans. Areas of learning include domestic resource mobilization, effective operation and maintenance of faecal sludge treatment plants, regular desludging mechanisms and institutional capacity building to ensure sustainable safely manged sanitation services.

Leveraging youth to advance the WASH agenda

Partnership with learning institutions- engaging youth to scale-up key hygiene behaviour monitoring:

UNICEF established partnerships with 18 Indonesian universities across 13 provinces to support scaling-up of the real-time hygiene monitoring in public places, aiming to engage youth in nation building. Through the partnership the capacities of the young to promote hygiene behaviour change and monitoring will also be built. The students have taken approximately over 20,000 observations since online trainings were held in October 2021, while presently the 3M monitoring is being adapted for safe school operation in Central Java and NT province. The partnership with Universities on 3M monitoring is a beginning with potential for wider engagement leveraging universities’ technical expertise and research capacities to address broader WASH challenges in Indonesia. At the same time the Universities will benefit from current thinking and practices in the WASH sector that UNICEF brings into the partnership.

Greater youth engagement to better understand and contribute to WASH challenges through U-report polls:

Towards fostering greater youth engagement and understanding WASH among youth, data collections through U-report poll were carried out with two specific themes of safe drinking water and handwashing access for people with disability (a total of over 3,500 responses), shedding light on critical WASH challenges from youth perspective. The water quality U-report poll highlighted low awareness around water quality testing (48% don’t know the testing was carried out or not in their drinking water source), low trust (26%) to drinking water quality in schools and high levels of willingness (49%) to support water quality awareness raising among youth. The handwashing poll reported handheld washing at markets to be the most difficult to access by the people with disability, 95% of reporters agreeing on the need to consider appropriate designs of HW facilities in public places and 42% were willing to be involved in the development of suitable designs. These findings were shared with key government partners and will be used to inform youth engagement strategies in WASH programmes going forward. See key results in Bahasa: water, handwashing, and in English: water, handwashing.