WASH Acts
November – December 2021

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

Indonesia has made good progress since 2000 in enabling access to basic sanitation to over 150 million people. Despite this, 17 million people practice open defecation and less than 10% have access to safely managed sanitation services endangering public health and the environment. The WASHActs-5 highlights UNICEF efforts to accelerate provision of safely managed sanitation services and includes elimination of open defecation in challenging areas, WASH investment analysis support for healthcare facilities and private sector engagement to accelerate WASH access in Indonesia.

Summary support:

UNICEF supported World Toilet Day (WTD) Celebration raise awareness on safely managed sanitation through symbolic septic tank desludging in 173 locations across 11 cities including West Sumbawa’s Mayor’s sanitation facilities and social media campaign (over 30,000 views), and youth engagement. See the short WTD2021 Commemoration video here.

In collaboration with Ministry of Manpower, UNICEF supported a pilot intervention in DKI Jakarta to collect data on the WASH situation in 45 companies. Their institutional capacity for WASH4Work was strengthened via training the Regional Occupational Safety and Health team of the Ministry on a WASH Survey tool and overall WASH issues.

In collaboration with Ministry of Health, UNICEF supported analysis of WASH investment needs in Primary healthcare facilities (HCFs) investment needs, estimating over 350 million USD investment needs to achieve basic WASH access in all primary HCFs.

In collaboration with partners, UNICEF completed a 3-year multi-sectoral programme (2019-2021) to accelerate reduction of stunting in Aceh. Implementation of WASH components resulted in attainment of 273 new open defecation free (ODF) villages and estimated over 160,000 people newly living in ODF villages in Aceh.

An onsite sanitation inspection tool was developed and piloted in two provinces for strengthening SDG safely managed sanitation monitoring and improving widely used poor onsite sanitation facilities.

Over 10,000 youth responded on safe sanitation issues through U-report polls, shedding light on critical sanitation challenges and potential climate impacts from youth perspective. (see key results in Bahasa and in English)

Over 7 million stunted children in Indonesia (Riskesdas 2018)

Stunting risk more than 3 TIMES HIGHER when households drank untreated water and used an unimproved latrine

Over 7.6% of households have access to safely managed sanitation services

Over 350 million USD capital investment is needed to achieve basic WASH access for all primary health centers

Just 16% of youth respondents reported regular desludging of their septic tanks, while 32% don’t have access to desludging services

Over 350 million USD capital investment is needed to achieve basic WASH access in all primary HCFs

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Raising public awareness on safely managed sanitation

World Toilet Day (WTD) Celebration (November 10 – 19, 2021):

UNICEF, in collaboration with Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and FORKALIM (association of sanitation service providers), carried out a series of activities with following objectives; (a) to raise awareness of the huge need for safely managed sanitation among ordinary public and young people; (b) to guide households what actions can be taken to achieve safely manage sanitation, and (c) to intensify the desludging activities.

Social Media Campaign:
UNICEF developed infographics to draw attention to key water and sanitation facts, and disseminated them through UNICEF's and WASH Working Group's social media platforms, while creating a quiz on the current toilet and WASH status in Indonesia. The activity was posted on UNICEF's TikTok account, reaching more than 30,000 viewers.

Youth engagement:
For greater youth engagement on WTD, a campaign and recruitment of u-reporters was held. Each person registered as a new u-reporter multiplied the number of septic tanks desludged during the simultaneous desludging event. In addition, towards fostering greater youth engagement and understanding WASH among youth, data collections through U-report poll were carried out with a specific theme of sanitation (a total of over 10,000 responses). The poll highlighted poor regular desludging of their septic tank (18%) and low access to regular desludging services (32%), underscoring the need for both demand creation and expansion of desludging service coverage. See more details(link 1 and link 2).

Desludging demonstration:
Symbolic simultaneous desludging was carried out in 173 locations including households and public places across 11 cities (i.e., DKI Jakarta, Bekasi, Surakarta, Salatiga, Pinrang, Makassar, West Sumbawa, Gresik, and Sidoarjo). In addition, the Mayor of West Sumbawa participated in desludging his septic tank located in his premise. This desludging demonstration provides a good example to the public, highlighting desludging efforts that must be carried out regularly to ensure that sanitation facilities can function properly and prevent pollution of the surrounding environment and water sources.

To watch the short video of the WTD2021 Commemoration visit our Youtube channel here.

Accelerating universal WASH access through high-level technical support

Onsite sanitation inspection tool piloting for safely managed sanitation monitoring:

Despite progress in reducing open defecation in Indonesia, poor quality of sanitation facilities widely accepted by communities remains a challenge, posing a substantial risk of exposure to fecal contamination. In collaboration with Ministry of Health and Public Works and Housing and University of Indonesia, UNICEF developed an onsite sanitation inspection tool to help sanitarians monitor onsite sanitation facilities and support households for actions. The tool was piloted with over 500 households in NTB and NTT, revealing that almost all septic tanks do not meet the government standard. For nation-wide implementation, UNICEF is developing training materials with MoH. The tool together with training materials will contribute to enhancing safely managed onsite sanitation monitoring/tracking.

Acceleration of elimination of open defecation and reduction of stunting in Aceh:

Aceh is suffering from high prevalence of open defecation and open defecation (37% (MoH 2018) and 21% (Susenas 2017) respectively) at the initiation of the programme, seriously affecting child health and growth. UNICEF adopted a multi-sectoral approach to address child malnutrition, with a focus on reducing maternal and child anaemia in Aceh in 8 districts (Sabang, Aceh Jaya, Aceh Singki, Simeulue, Pidie, Nagam Raya, Gayo Luks, Aceh Selatan). In collaboration with partners, UNICEF completed the 3-year multi-sectoral programme (2018 – 2021) and implementation of the WASH-Stunting integrated programme resulted in attainment of 273 new open defecation free (ODF) villages and over 160,000 people newly living in ODF villages in Aceh. In December, key lessons learned were shared with Aceh provincial and district government, resulting in strategy development and government commitment for sustaining and scaling up programme. See the event news on youtube, and article 1, article 2 and article 3.

Investment needs analysis to achieve basic WASH access in primary health centers:

The COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the vulnerability of health systems and importance of adequate WASH facilities in healthcare facilities (HCFs) as an integral part of infection prevention and control measures, yet often overlooked. Building on Government-UNICEF joint data analysis publication on WASH in primary health centers or Puskesmas, the investment needs to achieve universal basic WASH services in HCFs were estimated in collaboration with National Institute of Health Research and Development (NIHRD), MoH and SNV (See the report). The investment analysis for WASH infrastructures will help local government develop both short- and long-term costed plans. Importantly, estimated investment needs for capital costs were over 350 million USD, while those for recurrent costs per year were almost 200 million USD, underscoring the need for leveraging various financial resources to fill the gaps.

In December 2021, with UNICEF support, NIHRD launched the investment analysis for WASH in Puskesmas, bringing high-level representation together including the Vice Health Minister, Head of NIHRD, the relevant Directors from MoH, local government representatives from 34 provinces, Mayor of Kolaka and Sumbawa district, universities, and the environmental professional association. The event resulted in reinforcing government commitment to achieve universal basic WASH services in Puskesmas. See MoH News and video.

WASH4WORK piloting in Jakarta:

UNICEF has collaborated with the Ministry of Manpower (MoM) for the WASH4Work initiative, to mobilise businesses to improve WASH conditions in workplaces and their extended supply chains towards achieving the SDG 6 national objective. As part of this, UNICEF and the MoM initiated a landscape study to better understand WASH conditions in workplaces, document best practices and assess capacity gaps for future engagement with businesses on WASH. The study will focus on key sectors such as consumer goods, textiles, mining, palm oil and the pharmaceutical sector. UNICEF supported a pilot intervention in DKI Jakarta to collect data from 45 companies, as part of which the Regional Occupational Safety and Health team of the MoM were trained on a WASH Survey tool and overall WASH issues to strengthen their institutional capacity. See Call to Action for Business to Invest in WASH.

New UNICEF WASH knowledge products:

- UNICEF WASH Field Note: WASH in Schools (WinS) Programme in Indonesia: Better Data is helping Build a Stronger Programme authored by Reza Hendrawan
- Key event highlights: Global Handwashing day 2021 Commemoration highlights in Indonesia
- Technical report: A Systematic Assessment of WASH in Emergencies Sector in Indonesia

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