Responding to COVID-19 in Indonesia

Since March 2020, over 1,500 children in Indonesia have died and many more lost one or both parents due to COVID-19. In addition to the direct impact of COVID-19 on children, the indirect impact of the pandemic on Indonesia’s 80 million children and their daily lives has been severe and widespread. The education of around 60 million children and adolescents has been disrupted; access to health, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation as well as protection services has also been severely impacted.

UNICEF Indonesia has been working closely with the Government of Indonesia and partners to address the immediate and longer-term effects of COVID-19 on children. Here are nine ways we protected the lives and rights of children and their families (March 2020-September 2022):

- **35,986,092** women and children remained connected to critical basic health services including pre- and postnatal care, medical care for childhood illnesses and life-saving vaccination
- **62,808,923** people were reached with critical nutrition messages on the importance of breastfeeding, healthy diets, food safety, hygiene and essential nutrition services during COVID-19
- **3,974,149** people were provided with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities and with critical WASH supplies to help stop the spread of the infection
- **289,255** schools were supported to implement health safety protocols to ensure safe return to learning for around 43.3 million students in disadvantaged areas
- **3,946,581** children, adolescents and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support to address and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including 48,543 through direct service provision
- **21,600,000** households were supported with new or additional social transfers to help them stay afloat through an expansion of government social protection programmes
- **200 million** people were reached with key messages through media outreach, digital platforms and community engagement to help them understand how to protect themselves and their children from the virus and to increase demand for COVID-19 vaccination
- **49,475** adolescent girls and boys participated in or led civic engagement to ensure their voices were heard and that they could help shape preparedness and response measures
- **12** digital innovations were developed to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on children and their families and to target and monitor populations eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine
UNICEF globally is the key agency responsible for COVID-19 vaccine procurement through the COVAX mechanism. UNICEF Indonesia has been supporting government efforts to ensure effective procurement and equitable distribution so that vaccines get where they are needed most. By October 2022, Indonesia had received over 104 million vaccines through COVAX and more than 440 million COVID-19 vaccines had been administered.

UNICEF Indonesia stands ready to continue its support to the Government of Indonesia to extend recovery efforts into building greater resilience and more robust systems to enable the reimagining of a better future for all children, including the most disadvantaged and marginalised. More information can be found in the document “Putting children first: Child-focused COVID-19 recovery and resilience building, 2023-2025”