Update on the context and situation of children

The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the biggest challenges for Indonesia since the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997–1998. In the second year of the pandemic, COVID-19 cases continued to grow. Through December 2021, nearly 4.26 million cases and 144,144 deaths were reported in Indonesia (GOI 2021). Children make up 14 per cent of confirmed cases and 1 per cent of deaths (GOI 2021). Three in four households in Indonesia experienced a reduction in income, with disproportionate impact on urban families. Up to 44 per cent of urban households and 34 per cent of rural households experienced income losses of more than 25 per cent due to job loss or reduced working hours. Approximately 45 per cent of households with children ate smaller portions and provided less nutritious food to their families. Learning difficulties were reported by nine-in-10 households with school-aged children. In addition, 60.5 per cent of households with a member with a disability found it difficult to access health services (UNICEF et al. 2021). According to Indonesia Basic Health Research conducted in 2021, children faced persistent undernutrition challenges such as stunting (24.4%), wasting (7.1%), and underweight (17%) (MoH, 2021).

Nearly two years into the pandemic, 80 million children and adolescents in Indonesia have faced widespread negative effects in their daily lives. Education for millions of children and adolescents has been disrupted, and access to health care, nutrition and protection services severely impacted. With respect to education, 9 in 10 respondents with school-aged children reported difficulties with learning (UNICEF et al. 2021). Access to the internet remained the most significant barrier to learning across different regions and wealth status. Evidence suggests the number of out-of-school children will continue to rise above the current estimate of 4.1 million children (SUSENAS, 2020). With postponement of the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) from 2021 to 2022, there are no current data available for Indonesia. However, a recent analysis conducted by the World Bank forecasts a likely 25-point decline in Indonesia’s PISA scores (most optimistic scenario), particularly for reading, due to the impact of the pandemic (World Bank, 2021). Findings from the study also imply associations between the prevalence of mental health problems and prolonged school closures.

In health, three in four households with children reported challenges in accessing health care services, one in four perceived problems in seeking treatment for sick children, and one in ten could not access immunizations.

Children and adolescents have disproportionately fallen into poverty because of the COVID-19 pandemic (UNICEF, 2021). Children under the age of 18 represent about 33 per cent of Indonesia’s population, but make up nearly 40 per cent of those who fell into poverty in 2020. They have been hit especially hard by stagnant or reduced household incomes. Existing inequalities have been exacerbated, particularly those related to gender, poverty and disability (OECD, 2021).

The Government of Indonesia’s interventions to protect the population from the pandemic and its economic costs have encompassed not only those in the health sector but also other social sectors, business and structural reforms, and spurred an economic recovery in 2021: GDP is expected to rebound by 3.2 per cent in 2021 after it fell by 2.1 per cent in 2020. The Government, under its Economic Recovery Programme, increased the health budget by 339 per cent to IDR 214.96 trillion (US$ 15.01 billion) in 2021. This budget includes the cost of free COVID-19 vaccinations to nearly 208 million people in Indonesia.

Recognizing the role of social protection in addressing the shocks due to the impact of COVID-19, the Government increased its social protection investment from US$ 6.8 billion in 2019 to US$ 10.9 billion in 2020–2021 (MoF, 2021). About 10 million new households were provided with cash, and 18.3 million with staple food vouchers, and 5.7 million with cash from village autonomy budgets.

For long-term economic growth and the post-pandemic recovery, President Joko Widodo has focused
on human capital and infrastructure development. Indonesia has reached the peak of its demographic dividend this year, with the working-age population at close to 71 per cent of the country’s total population (Jakarta Globe, 22.01.2021). Therefore, judicious investment in the development of human capital – particularly in quality services for health, birth registration, social protection, education and child protection – would contribute to driving long-term growth. This is especially critical in the COVID-19 era.

Indonesia also faces intensifying environmental challenges and disaster risks, exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation that negatively impact the economy and people – especially the poor and vulnerable. Indonesia ranked 46 out of 180 countries on the UNICEF children’s climate risk index with ‘high climate risk’ for children. By mid-December 2021, the country recorded close to 2,900 disaster events and over 8 million persons directly affected or displaced. Indonesia indicated that it would host the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2022.

More than three quarters of the population is exposed to air pollution (OECD, 2021), which is one of the top ten risk factors for death of children in Indonesia (IHME, 2019). According to the World Bank, air pollution costs the economy around US$ 400 million per year, and the total economic losses due to limited access to safe water and sanitation are estimated at about 2 per cent of GDP annually (World Bank, 2014). It is estimated that 10 per cent of children in Indonesia have blood lead levels that may be associated with learning problems and behavioural difficulties, notably due to unsound recycling of used batteries (UNICEF and Pure Earth, 2020).

In response, Indonesia launched in 2021 its Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050. The objective of the response is to balance emissions reduction, economic growth, justice and climate resilience development, and to signal that social and economic recovery will be central to Indonesia’s presidency of the G20.

**Major contributions and drivers of results**

In the first year of the Country Programme 2021–2025, UNICEF’s strong partnership with the Government of Indonesia, through the coordination of the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and the Ministry of Home Affairs for subnational programmes, United Nations (UN) sister agencies, diverse civil society organizations and private sector partners enabled the delivery of significant integrated development results and COVID-19 response for children. Per the joint review with the Government, all programme outcomes and 32 of 33 programme output areas were rated on track to reach the Country Programme planned targets. In line with UNICEF’s Comprehensive COVID-19 Response Plan and regional Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal, support to the national response to the pandemic was enabled by UNICEF staff embedded within the Government’s coordination teams at the national and provincial levels and by UNICEF’s lead on interagency cluster support, coordinated by UNOCHA, in four priority areas: Nutrition, Education, WASH and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).

Selected highlights among the key results achieved in 2021 include:

- In the COVID-19 response, over 77 million COVID-19 vaccine doses were delivered in 2021 via the UNICEF-supported COVAX Facility and over 200 million people were reached with key messages on how to protect themselves and their children from the virus. In addition, 232,000 people gained access to hygiene and sanitation services in schools and health centres.
- In Nutrition, the first e-learning training courses for health and non-health workers on infant and young child feeding counselling and nutrition in emergencies were accredited by Government and piloted in 7 provinces to prepare for nationwide roll-out from 2022.
- In WASH, a water quality survey covering 20,000 households established the first-ever SDG-6 baseline on safely managed water and costed roadmaps in support of the SDG-6 plan were drafted.
- In Education, 5.7 million students safely resumed limited face-to-face learning in over 37,000 schools, and 1 million students across 15,000 schools benefited from COVID-19 Safe School
Kits as part of a public–private partnership brokered by the UNICEF WASH programme.

- In Health, 3.7 million women and children received critical maternal and child health services across 9 UNICEF-supported provinces.
- In Child Protection, more than 32,000 children who lost their caregivers due to COVID-19 were identified by the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection using the RapidPro digital platform and referred for support to integrated child welfare and protection services.
- In Social Policy, dynamic microsimulation of COVID-19 impact on child poverty and revised technical guidelines on social assistance supported government decision-making and targeting of continued cash transfers to affected families.

Overall programme implementation was framed by the office-wide focus on seven Annual Management Plan priorities for programme and management:

1. **Safely managed sanitation high-level advocacy and WASH responses for COVID-19 risk reduction**

   UNICEF raised the profile of sanitation within the Government’s development agenda through high-level events and interventions, including engagement on the 2022 Sanitation and Water for All and Sector Minister’s Meeting (SMM) preparations. Following the high-level launch of the SDG-6 plan, multiple stakeholders engaged in the preparation of a costed roadmap for realizing safely managed sanitation and water targets. The SDG-6 plan integrates equity, gender equality, disability, emergency preparedness and climate resilience, while elaborating on associated job opportunities and contributions to the economy. A similar high-level launch of the WASH Innovation Hub (INCUBITS) garnered more than 90 proposals offering solutions to address WASH challenges.

   The portal for the Safely Managed Sanitation (SMS) campaign is ready for launch in 2022. Public awareness on SMS was raised through wide dissemination of septic tank desludging across 170 facilities in 10 cities/districts and fostered youth engagement on social media. UNICEF supported the development of a Guidebook on Sustaining Services during COVID-19, which informs service providers on precautions and safety measures to be taken at workplaces and showcases innovative practices (e.g., use of cashless transactions for sanitation services). UNICEF brokered a partnership between Bekasi City and Sumbawa Barat District to accelerate attainment of open defecation free status and SMS in these cities. UNICEF’s technical support to the development and roll-out of an onsite sanitation inspection tool is advancing monitoring of SMS in Indonesia.

   Towards making handwashing with soap (HWWS) a reality for all, UNICEF has supported the development of a handwashing roadmap for Indonesia, and a hand hygiene market assessment is underway. Thirteen government ministers have committed to the HWWS agenda. The 3M (handwashing with soap, use of mask and safe distancing) monitoring system recorded over 120,000 observations by volunteers across 20 provinces. By partnering with 18 universities, young people were engaged in behaviour change monitoring, and 3M monitoring is currently being adapted for safe school operation in two provinces. Towards long-term national capacities on behaviour change programming, UNICEF supported the development of a national training guideline informed by formative research, which awaits accreditation. More than 1,620 sector stakeholders have strengthened capacities as a result and subsequently reached over 381,000 people with hygiene promotion interventions (51% males, 49% females). The Public–Private Partnership for HWWS was creatively engaged to support the safe reopening of 15,000 schools, with COVID-19 Safe School Kits reaching 1 million children.

1. **COVID-19 vaccine**

   Working closely with Government and partners, UNICEF contributed towards the country’s COVID-19 vaccine deployment targets. Led by the Health team and involving all UNICEF Indonesia field offices and programmes, the office employed a series of strategies including evidence-based technical support for systems strengthening, communication and advocacy, data and analytics, programming at scale across all 34 provinces and engagement of key stakeholders, including youth. Support was provided in four main areas: i) coordination and strategy development; ii) procurement and health
sector strengthening; iii) registration, data, monitoring and analytics; and iv) RCCE. Furthermore, to address impact on other child health services, initiatives were also developed to ensure continuity of routine immunization. To address equity issues, UNICEF provided assistance to reach low-performing areas as well as high-risk groups such as older adults, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. UNICEF supported the arrival and deployment of more than 77 million vaccine doses and 17 ultra-cold chain units via COVAX, and led efforts aimed at 200 million people receiving messages on key life-saving behaviours and access to services, including vaccination. As a result of these efforts, UNICEF contributed to 138 million people receiving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (65 per cent of the target population of 208.2 million of those over 12 years) and 94 million people being fully vaccinated (45 per cent of the target), including 100 per cent of health workers (more than 1.4 million). Furthermore, UNICEF contributed to increased coverage of vital groups such as teachers, social workers and refugees: to date, 63 per cent of teachers and 100 per cent of social workers are fully vaccinated, and above 50 per cent of refugees have received their first dose. The ongoing success of the COVID-19 vaccination programme has facilitated socio-economic recovery and resumption of services impacting children, including safe reopening of schools.

1. Learning and skills development
Disruptions to learning continued during 2021, affecting over 60 million students across the country. Distance learning remained a critical tool in enabling children to continue to learn; however, learning losses continued, particularly among the most disadvantaged students with limited internet access. After the mid-year Delta variant surge subsided, the Government moved to reopen schools and introduced comprehensive regulations and guidelines on the safe reopening of schools, which were disseminated to schools and local authorities across the country. Importantly, systematic tracking of teacher vaccination and school reopening was realized between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MOECRT) and the Ministry of Health, with technical support from UNICEF. COVID-19-related rapid response monitoring of the situation of out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out of school was a priority for 2021, as these children are among the most vulnerable and least visible. Work was conducted with village and district authorities to identify the schooling status of children located in some 354 districts across 33 of the country’s 34 provinces, exceeding the target of 350 districts. Importantly, concrete actions to support out-of-school children to return to learning were realized, with 73 districts developing action plans to frame these interventions, against a target of 80 districts.

Good progress has been made in linking UNICEF’s work on mainstreaming 21st century skills through the Sekolah Penggerak (Pioneering School) programme, which, when fully implemented, is expected to reach some 2,500 schools. Work continued in developing digitized teaching and learning materials for foundation skills, including linking with the Sekolah Penggerak programme. This activity area is expected to be complete in mid-2022, according to MOECRT’s current timeline. In addition, UNICEF reached more than 6,500 teachers (67% female) on life skills/21st century skills building via an MOECRT digital teacher training platform.

1. Audit recommendations implementation
The Office of Internal Audit and Investigation (OIAI) conducted an audit of the Indonesia Country Office during the period October–December 2020. As a result, OIAI noted several areas which worked very well and met the audit objectives, confirming that the office’s governance, risk management and internal control processes over key activities were adequate and effective. However, the audit identified seven recommendations classified as medium priority for further action to better manage associated risks the areas of preparedness for emergency response, programme result formulation, management of civil society partnerships, cash-based assistance programme, HACT assurance activities, private sector fundraising, and information & security. To address these recommendations, the office developed and implemented relevant action plan which was closely monitored by office management through the monthly Country Management Team (CMT) Meeting. The office fully
implemented six out of the seven recommendations by early June 2021. After the lifting of restrictions imposed by the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the remaining recommendation to conduct an audit and beneficiary verification related to a cash-based assistance programme started to be implemented. The initial report will be shared with OIAI for review and closing of the recommendation.

1. Resource mobilization
2021 was the first year of implementation of UNICEF Indonesia’s new Resource Mobilization Strategy, and the office focused on the following five implementation strategies: i) renew existing partnerships; ii) create visibility, for programmes and for donors; iii) cultivate partnerships; iv) localize global opportunities; and iv) identify new opportunities and build capacity. Key results achieved in 2021 include the conclusion of a US$ 50 million umbrella agreement with USAID as well as the renewal/expansion of 15 existing partnerships; a joint op-ed with the Embassy of Japan on safe school reopening; numerous virtual donor meetings, including at senior management level; and the conclusion of the first country-level funding agreements with the Government of Japan and KOICA in over six years.

In 2021, UNICEF Indonesia continued its successful resource mobilization for COVID-19 response and COVID-19 vaccine roll-out. By early December 2021, the office had received close to US$ 44 million in contributions against its US$ 21.3 million Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) requests (EAPRO HAC and ACT-A HAC), including multi-year grants.

In terms of private sector fundraising, the restrictions on face-to-face fundraising activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decline in the amount raised from individuals. An increase in the funding raised from corporations and major donors within Indonesia resulted in an overall increase in funding raised in 2021 compared to 2020 (+2.5 per cent).

While the office has been successful in raising sufficient funding and maintaining diverse funding streams, the majority of funding received in 2021, however, was emergency funding with limited grant implementation periods.

1. Emergency preparedness for response
According to the 2021 Index for Risk Management (INFORM) assessment, Indonesia is classified as a medium-risk country. However, considering the capacity of Indonesia Country Office and its field offices, the Government’s capacity to respond to medium to large scale disasters, and the high number of disasters occurring annually, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) has ranked Indonesia as a high-risk country. This required that UNICEF Indonesia prioritize adequate emergency preparedness and response (EPR) planning, strengthen its emergency preparedness and response capacities, and coordinate internally and with Government and other partners to ensure timely and effective humanitarian action for children.

In March 2021, the Country Office updated the Emergency Preparedness Plan and was awarded a preparedness score of 88 per cent. Several preparedness actions were identified during the update, which are now being implemented by emergency focal points. To address internal EPR capacity strengthening, a Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) webinar series was conducted in June 2021 to ensure that all UNICEF Indonesia staff have knowledge on the CCCs, including new commitments and approaches to better serve children and protect their rights in humanitarian settings. In September 2021, the EPR training was delivered across six online sessions to field office staff. The sessions were instrumental in reviewing key humanitarian principles, EPR standards, commitments and tools; and reviewing and testing the Humanitarian Data for Decision-Making Platform and making recommendations for its improvement. During the EPR training, field office colleagues provided recommendations for improvement of the draft standard operating procedures (SOP) for initial response actions (24–72 hours) in cases of emergency at the national and/or subnational levels. The SOP were finalized and endorsed by the EMT and will facilitate coordinated initial actions at the Country Office and field office levels in the immediate aftermath of a sudden onset emergency.
1. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

In 2021 UNICEF Indonesia committed to enforce compliance with zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and child safeguarding policies. All 64 (100 per cent) UNICEF local implementing partners (IPs) completed their prevention of SEA (PSEA) risk assessments and developed action plans to lower risk ratings. Of the 30 high-risk rated IPs, 14 were reassessed as low and 16 were reassessed as moderate following intensive UNICEF support to the development of internal policies, guidelines, mechanisms and capacities to prevent and report SEA. In addition, PSEA-related awareness-raising materials were disseminated and all (100 per cent) UNICEF personnel completed the mandatory online training on PSEA.

UNICEF Indonesia worked with an institutional contractor, Yayasan Teman Baik, to provide technical assistance including capacity building of UNICEF and IP personnel. Investments in building capacity included a series of deep-dive sessions resulting in heightened knowledge, development of improved organizational policies and internal reporting and referral procedures. The sessions with IPs were supported by 20 UNICEF Indonesia PSEA focal points, nominated for a two-year period by their respective managers and endorsed by the Representative through the CMT, to provide additional follow-up support.

Going forward, PSEA focal points will actively promote UNICEF accountability on SEA (prevention, reporting and monitoring the response) throughout programmes and operations at the national and field office levels. The focal points will support the review and drafting of SOP for managing SEA reports, including enhancing community-based complaint mechanisms through inter-agency coordination, as well as contribute to developing the capacities of UNICEF and IP personnel on PSEA programming and the dissemination of PSEA communication materials. These activities are included in the two-year rolling workplan of UNICEF Indonesia as endorsed by the CMT in 2021.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

In 2021, UNICEF Indonesia renewed programme documents of cooperation with 10 line ministry partners and initiated new partnerships, including with the ministries of Environment and Forestry, Religious Affairs, Public Works, and Human Rights and Law, to tackle newer programming issues such as climate change and tap into the potential of faith-based partners in the growing scope and complexity of the current Country Programme.

Cooperation with civil society, including local non-governmental organizations, research institutes, media, and faith-based organizations, was central to programme delivery, including in the COVID-19 response and other interventions requiring trust and engagement of communities. In total 110 programme agreements were concluded, and all reached either moderate or low PSEA risk ratings within the year.

UNICEF led or co-led support to several humanitarian clusters and provided leadership as UN Country Team co-chair, with UNAIDS, of the Outcome on Equitable Access to Social Services and Social Protection in the Indonesia–UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025. Furthermore, UNICEF concluded major joint programmes on adaptive social protection (with UNDP, WFP, UNOCHA), inclusive social protection in response to COVID-19 (with WFP, UNDP, UNWOMEN), reproductive health and rights (with UNFPA), nutrition for primary school children (with WFP) and will continue support for the Government to achieve sustainability of strengthened mechanisms. A new SDG Fund programme with UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO focuses on creating innovative financing mechanisms for green and social investments. With UNHCR, UNICEF implemented the Blueprint for Joint Action for Refugee Children as one of 11 countries globally, with advocacy focusing on refugee children’s inclusion in regular education, child protection and WASH policies and services.

In addition to grant funding, JPOs and secondments received from government partners, UNICEF Indonesia collaborated closely with several governments to facilitate the delivery of vaccines and other health supplies through COVAX and the UNICEF Supply Financing Facility. UNICEF Indonesia continued to work with the private sector on many issues related to children, with an estimated reach...
of 13 million children. Key results included: more than 28,000 companies under the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (KADIN) supporting COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and harmonization of district-level development planning with public–private partnerships that benefited around 50,000 children.

UN system-wide humanitarian and socioeconomic response for COVID-19 was maintained throughout 2021. Different UN agencies supported the Government in tackling a spike in cases between June and August, including on procurement, logistic capacities, data capacities, and continued services to protect low-income groups, women and children. Jointly working with agencies such as WHO, UNICEF was able to support the Government with its ambitious COVID-19 vaccination campaign. UNICEF also collaborated with UNHCR and IOM to facilitate vaccination of refugees. The Ministry of Health decree that enabled one in two refugees to receive their first dose was hailed by UNICEF Executive Director and UNHCR High Commissioner in tweets on the joint Blueprint for Refugee Children. UNICEF is working with other UN agencies to tackle the ongoing socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups, including children, over the medium to long term.

**Lessons Learned and Innovations**

In 2021, UNICEF Indonesia gained lessons learned notably relating to evidence-based programmes at scale, subnational implementation through field offices, agile and risk-informed programmes, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on programmes.

**National and subnational programme implementation**

Considering strong decentralized governance and unequal fiscal and human capacity for planning and delivery of quality services among subnational governments in the vast Indonesian archipelago, UNICEF focuses on capacity development and programme convergence for results at scale within eight provinces. In 2021, technical assistance to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) led to adoption of a new set of performance indicators for programme coordination and monitoring by provincial governments and enhanced reporting to national intersectoral programming bodies. Towards a strategic, evidence-based use of MOHA’s function of emitting policy and budget allocation guidance to subnational governments, the development of a methodology to document good practices and proven programmatic approaches was supported. Furthermore, the resumption of joint field monitoring with representatives of key line ministries and directorates of the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) enabled direct feedback from districts supported by UNICEF. Joint field monitoring will henceforth be conducted twice a year to provide insights into results of cooperation. In parallel, close cooperation, advocacy and technical support between seven UNICEF field offices and supported provincial and district/city governments enabled progress towards at-scale implementation of key policies and programmes supported upstream. For instance, evidence-based nutrition services for adolescents were advanced through updated national School Health Programme guidance that was disseminated to all 34 provinces. This was followed by capacity development of programme managers and service providers to deliver adolescent-friendly nutrition services in 50 districts across seven provinces. Similarly, technical assistance was provided in defining service frameworks and SOPs for the protection of women and children from violence, and ongoing support is now provided to the roll-out in 62 districts across 10 provinces. In Aceh Province, an integrated stunting reduction programme piloted convergent approaches including community-based nutrition, immunization, water and sanitation, social protection and parenting education programmes. Based on comparative results between intervention and indirect learning districts from the ongoing evaluation, UNICEF will further develop models of integrated programming and broad-based capacity development within focus provinces in 2022 and beyond.

**Contextual adaptation, innovation and evidence-based advocacy**

Indonesia is a country with resources and opportunities for, as well as bottlenecks and barriers to, achievement of at-scale results for children. Adapting to the context and identifying and utilizing country-specific resources and capabilities have been essential to progress in key programme components. In Nutrition, the first-ever study on acceptability and efficacy of ready-to-use therapeutic
food (RUTF) using local ingredients instead of peanuts was completed with Government and local private companies. Findings will support issuance of national regulations on RUTF production in Indonesia. In immunization and COVID-19 response, work with faith-based community organizations contributed to overcoming vaccine hesitancy and addressing important community-held questions related to halal/haram. Engagement with religious and customary leaders also contributed to a shift of perceptions on disciplining children, promoting positive parenting and preventing bullying in school settings, as well as reducing the number of child marriage dispensations. A new collaboration with the Ministry of Religious Affairs expands reach to religious communities for prevention of violence against children in pesantren (Islamic boarding schools) and child marriage.

Evidence generation and synthesis, jointly implemented with government stakeholders, proved a good strategy for generating momentum on insufficiently addressed cross-sectoral issues, such as participation of children in decision-making and urbanization. A Situation Analysis on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement completed with BAPPENAS to strengthen adolescent participation in informing planning and budgetary priorities across the country, spurred the parallel incorporation of ‘adolescent circles’ into the subnational planning process in five provinces. The Situation Analysis highlights experiences of the urban poor and marginalized groups in accessing basic services, providing a roadmap of concrete actions for every child and youth in Indonesian cities for policymakers and development partners. Similarly, the ongoing Climate Landscape Analysis for Children, conducted with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 19 line ministries and subnational governments, will set a baseline and objectives for climate and environment action for and with children in Indonesia. UNICEF also supported a study on the impact of climate change on sanitation services successfully raised awareness at the national and subnational levels, where all key stakeholders agreed upon the need to mainstream climate change considerations into WASH planning processes.

Adolescent health, a newly formed portfolio under the 2021–2025 Country Programme, placed emphasis on generating evidence regarding issues affecting this group, namely non-communicable diseases, climate change, mental health and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescent health and well-being.

Innovations, both social and tech-based, were deployed across programmes and operations, including novel ways of working for results with partners, communities and supporters. Working during the pandemic enabled greater progress than originally envisioned in certain areas, such as digital education. Innovation was propelled by steady demand from government partners to rapidly increase the availability of inclusive digital learning programmes, and their quality, as well as interest from educators and students in engaging with new kinds of teaching and learning during lengthy school closures. Implementation of digital education work produced several key lessons, including the importance of engaging MOECRT right from the beginning to ensure the programme could be fully integrated into national digital learning platforms and budget allocation processes. Participatory consultations and testing with young people as end users were very important, especially in addressing sensitive issues, such as reproductive health, religious diversity and body image.

Innovation was key in resource mobilization. Not being able to perform face-to-face fundraising for a large part of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions significantly harmed donor acquisition. UNICEF sought to tap into a new audience of online donors with the development of e-Wallets for donors without credit cards. More than 75 per cent of new online donors now sign up for payment with their e-Wallet, which proves UNICEF Indonesia’s strategic decision two years ago right to invest in this payment channel rather than classic credit card donations.