

## Indonesia

### Update on the context and situation of children

As the fourth most populated country in the world, the fifteenth biggest economy, the largest Muslim majority country and an influential member of the G20, Indonesia is an increasingly important regional and global power. Notwithstanding, in 2022, Indonesia continued to face challenges in responding to and recovering from the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 3 December 2022, Indonesia's confirmed COVID-19 cases totalled 6.67 million, of which 13.8 per cent (886,767) were among children under 18 years of age (UNICEF, 2022).

In addition to the direct impact of COVID-19 on children, the indirect impact of the pandemic on Indonesia's 80 million children has been severe and widespread. The disrupted education of around 60 million children and adolescents created widespread learning loss. Children's access to basic health and social services has also been severely impacted, and many families struggled financially. Overall, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been significantly curtailed since the onset of the pandemic.

Global events, such as the war in Ukraine, affected food systems in Indonesia along with disruptions of supply chain systems which negatively impacted a robust COVID-19 recovery. In addition, Indonesia experienced a wide range of disaster risks with increasing threats to children, including from climate change and environmental degradation. In 2022, the national disaster management agency recorded around 3,500 disaster events, including the deadly earthquake in Cianjur district that displaced close to 5.5 million people (BNPB, 2022). Accordingly, the interplay between conflicts, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges, making the humanitarian needs in Indonesia less predictable. The combined crises resulted in food insecurity, an energy crisis and a rise in global commodity prices which subsequently triggered increased inflation and responsive government subsidies; public debt ballooned from 30.6 per cent of GDP in 2019 to 38.8 per cent in 2022 (World Bank, 2022).

The child poverty rate has been at its highest level in recent years, despite a slight decline from 12.6 per cent in 2021 to 11.8 per cent in 2022 (BPS SUSENAS 2019, 2021, 2022). Notably, the socioeconomic situation of some of the most vulnerable children is not adequately reflected in government figures due to the gaps and challenges in birth registration, with only 81 per cent of children aged under 5 years registered, implying that an estimated five million children under 5 years of age were unregistered (BPS SUSNEAS, 2022). The most recent data from the survey on the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on households showed the economic gap between the richest and poorest groups widened during the pandemic recovery and amid subsequent increased inflation (UNICEF, December 2022). This is consistent with the GINI index, an indication of income inequality, having slightly deteriorated from 37.6 in 2019 before the pandemic to 38.4 in March 2022 (BPS, 2022).

Likewise, the Global Gender Gap Index, which benchmarks the current state of gender parity, ranked Indonesia ninety-second out of 146 countries, with extremely limited female political empowerment and limited economic participation (World Economic Forum, 2022). The national rate of children with disabilities is also substantially underestimated, leaving their needs unmet by governmental policies. Nevertheless, in 2022, Indonesia began the process of transitioning from COVID-19 response to recovery. For the first time since the onset of pandemic, Indonesia's macroeconomic situation is projected to improve with GDP growth rate forecasted to increase from 3.7 per cent in 2021 to 5.1 per cent in 2022 (World Bank, 2022). The economic recovery lowered the unemployment rate from 6.5 per cent in August 2021 to 5.9 per cent in August 2022 (BPS, 2022).

The state budget and economic policies supported people's purchasing power during the pandemic and provided a buffer against inflationary pressures. Indonesia also introduced economic policy initiatives including simplification of business licensing, ease of doing business measures and legal reforms, such as the Job Creation Regulation in December 2022. A new law on financial relations between central

and regional governments was developed to equalize people's welfare with an effective and efficient allocation of national resources through transparent and accountable financial relations between the national and sub-national governments. Although these reforms are expected to accelerate the economic recovery, the full impact remains to be determined.

The government attempted to address negative socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic on households by launching several emergency social assistance schemes (i.e., wage subsidies for workers and cash assistance to compensate fuel and cooking oil prices) and by maintaining and expanding the coverage of existing social protection programmes (i.e., food assistance, village cash transfers, unemployment benefits and training assistance). These social protection schemes have a high potential for effectively reducing poverty and high levels of inequity with further optimization of coverage, targeting and effectiveness (UNICEF 2022).

From April 2022, all schools resumed full face-to-face classes after almost two years of school closures during which learning outcomes were affected and inequalities were magnified. For instance, while the Indonesia National Socioeconomic Survey 2021 reported a significant rise in access to the internet among children aged 5-17 years from 49.6 per cent in 2020 to 68.9 per cent in 2021 (UNICEF 2022), this implied that nearly one third of children in this age group still had limited access to online learning.

Strenuous efforts were made to ensure safe resumption of essential health services through strengthened primary health care. The most recent outbreak of polio in Pidie district of Aceh province, declared by the Government of Indonesia on 19 November 2022, called for an immediate response and highlighted the urgency of addressing the backslide in childhood vaccination. Maternal and child malnutrition, especially child stunting prevention, remained a key priority for the Indonesian government, prompting accelerated efforts by the government to revitalize essential nutrition services across the life cycle.

In 2022, Indonesia passed two landmark laws including the Sexual Violence Crime Act, which reinforces Indonesia's commitment to eliminating all forms of sexual violence including child online protection, and a revised Criminal Code, which will undergo a three-year process of developing implementing regulations aligned with international child rights norms and standards.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

UNICEF worked with the Government of Indonesia and other partners to design, implement and monitor an integrated work plan aligned with the Country Programme planned results which also considered the evolving COVID-19 situation and other crises.

Key results achieved across different programmes:

- Over 26 million children from 9 months to 15 years of age were vaccinated against measles, thanks in part to successful campaigning during the National Child Immunization Month.
- UNICEF and WHO supported the Ministry of Health to mount a polio outbreak response immunization in record time in Aceh. As of December, the ongoing immunization campaign had reached 77% of 1.2 million children targeted in sixteen districts.
- UNICEF supported the Government of Indonesia's response to the devastating earthquake in Cianjur across multiple sectors, including the deployment of prepositioned temporary learning solutions for 9,330 children and hygiene kits for 3,500 families.
- The ability of local government to integrate children's needs and perspectives in emergency preparedness was boosted by the Guidelines on Child-Centered Contingency Planning developed by BNPB and line ministries for roll-out in 2023.
- Almost 160,000 young people (66% girls) were engaged in bullying prevention, building innovation skills and advocacy on issues such as mental health and climate action.
- The Aksi Bergizi adolescent nutrition programme was declared a national movement to be scaled up by joint ministerial decree with funding by the ministries of Education, Health, Home Affairs and Religious Affairs.

- Communication and behaviour change campaigns reached 55 million people about safely managed sanitation and 47 million people about safe return to school.
  - Climate Landscape Analysis for Children outlined the impacts of climate change on children and underscored the need for child-sensitive climate policies and climate-resilient social services for children to realize their potential.
  - Based on good practices promoted by UNICEF, local government resources were used to assist around 10,300 out-of-school children and 65,700 children at-risk of dropping out of school to continue their education across 31 districts.
  - Disrupting Harm, a landmark study about online child protection, was produced along with training modules for integrated child protection services and a web-based awareness raising platform Jogo Konco (Protect a Friend).
- UNICEF identified five annual priority areas to strengthen programme implementation and relevance, achieving key highlights as follows:

### **1. COVID-19 response and recovery**

UNICEF continued to strengthen the government's COVID-19 response, while also extending recovery efforts to build greater resilience and more robust systems to enable the reimagining of a better future for all children, including the most disadvantaged and marginalized. The unprecedented challenge of responding to COVID-19 and making the COVID-19 vaccine available to over 200 million people not only strengthened UNICEF's partnership with the government and other partners, but also required trying new and innovative approaches to jointly tackle the pandemic. Thus, UNICEF Indonesia prioritized ensuring the successful implementation and monitoring of comprehensive post-pandemic multisectoral recovery actions. The overall strategy was cross-sectoral, leveraging existing approaches and interventions to support COVID-19 response efforts while increasingly emphasizing the implementation of actions for sustainable post-pandemic recovery and climate resilient development.

The multisectoral actions and interventions resulted in the following:

- Nutrition: 30,614,801 people received messages on healthy diets
- Health: 26,286,907 children from 9 months old to 15 years of age were vaccinated against measles and 1,586,505 children and women accessed primary health care
- WASH: 163,962 people were provided with access to appropriately designed hygiene facilities and 188,059 people were reached by handwashing behaviour change programmes
- Child Protection: 158,157 children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support and 8,098 women, girls and boys benefited from gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- Education: 227,140 schools are implementing safe school protocols to ensure safe return to learning for around 43.3 million students
- Social protection: 21,600,000 households received cash transfers through existing government social protection systems
- Risk communication and community engagement: 97,261,626 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to essential health, nutrition, water, sanitation and protection services
- Adolescent development and participation: 36,381 adolescents (20,224 girls; 16,157 boys) participated in or led civic engagement in programmes for emergency preparedness, response and building back better
- Technology for development: UNICEF has supported the government in strengthening innovation to provide real-time data monitoring of COVID-19, including a publicly accessible vaccine dashboard displaying vaccine coverage, distribution, stock and risk assessments at the national, provincial and district levels.

To ensure adequate supplies for the COVID-19 response, UNICEF, with support from various donors, facilitated the procurement of 9,743 diagnostic test kits, 436,678 sets of personal protective equipment, 42 ventilators and nearly 200,000 tablets of therapeutics. Additionally, UNICEF supported the procurement of 1,600 units of haemoglobin meters and 14,800 microcuvettes to screen for and address critical health issues.

Notably, on COVID-19 vaccination, UNICEF facilitated the arrival of more than 109 million doses via

the COVAX Facility. In collaboration with key partners, UNICEF also supported the procurement of cold chain equipment including 85 Walk-in Cold Rooms (WICR), 300 vaccine refrigerators, 30 sets of spare parts, 1,585 temperature monitoring devices, 70 Remote Temperature Monitoring Systems, and 85 voltage stabilizers for WICR to strengthen COVID-19 vaccination rollout and routine immunization. With technical assistance on risk communication, community engagement and strengthened data systems, UNICEF contributed towards a first dose coverage of 87 per cent, reaching 205.2 million people over 6 years of age, 73 per cent second dose coverage reaching 72.1 million over 6 years of age, and a 36 per cent booster coverage reaching 65.7 million people over 18 years of age.

## **2. Strengthened climate and environment action for and with children**

In 2022, UNICEF accelerated efforts to strengthen cross-sectoral, integrated programming on climate change and environment action to build more climate and disaster resilient child-critical social services and ensure climate policies that are inclusive of all children and young people, as stakeholders and drivers of change.

Building a strong evidence base on the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation was a key change strategy for the advancement of this priority. In particular, with UNICEF support, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) led a participatory process for the development of the first ever Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in Indonesia with over thirty stakeholders including government, civil society organizations, development partners and youth representatives. While the report provided an overarching direction for climate and environment action for children, additional thematic analyses were conducted with various partners on climate factors affecting diseases, climate change impact on key social services for children, SDG co-benefits of climate action, innovative climate finance, and the linkage between climate change and nutrition.

Subsequently, in collaboration with local and international partners, including the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF supported in amplifying recommendations and key findings of the different reports at the national and international levels through major platforms and events. This included supporting Indonesia's G20 presidency on climate sustainability and participation of young activists at the 27th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27).

Substantial progress was also made in the design of relevant multisectoral programme response. In partnership with MoEF and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, pilot models were designed and implemented, including community-based action plans to reduce lead poisoning of children and testing of tools for climate-resilient WASH planning in selected areas, with ongoing planning of expansion to other provinces. In addition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Villages in developing guidelines for facilitating climate action at community level.

A wide array of communication and knowledge management approaches were employed to raise public awareness of risks faced by children in Indonesia due to environmental degradation and climate change. These tools include a climate and environment education chatbot for children and young people and climate comics which reached over 1.2 million people through digital and offline platforms, technical seminars for medical students and health officials and the development of targeted modules on climate action for pilot engagement with 40 private companies.

## **3. Enhancing UNICEF support to children in urban settings**

In recognition of the specific challenges faced by children in urban settlements in Indonesia, in 2022, UNICEF identified integrated, multisectoral urban programming as a priority across various programming areas and cross-sectoral work streams. As part of this initiative, UNICEF embarked on the development of a strategy paper and roadmap to inform its current and future work focused on urban areas by identifying effective, multisectoral interventions that can improve the lives of children residing in urban settings.

A technical working group involving all six programme sections and several cross-sectoral areas, including climate change and environment, disaster risk reduction and disability inclusion was established. Consultations with UNICEF's government and non-government partners, both at the national and sub-national level, are also underway. These consultations will serve to collect insights on

how to best improve delivery of urban-focused programmes throughout the country and address the different challenges faced by different urban settings and different regions. In 2023, a strategy paper and roadmap will be finalised, and two relevant concept notes and funding proposals will be developed and submitted to relevant donors.

#### **4. Strengthening knowledge management coordination systems**

UNICEF places great importance on building and strengthening an evidence base to inform policy dialogue and advocacy, to achieve better results for children in Indonesia. In 2022, UNICEF, in collaboration with national and sub-national government partners, made efforts to establish a systematic approach to identify, document and share best practices and innovative approaches in programme design and implementation to protect and promote child rights. Draft guidance on the documentation of good practices was presented at the national and sub-national government coordination meetings to seek feedback and the final guidance is expected to be endorsed by the government in 2023.

UNICEF facilitated information sharing and peer-learning on a wide range of topics through the dissemination of case studies, good practices and lessons learned. More than 20 publications and learning materials comprising reports, policy briefs, infographics and working papers were disseminated and shared with various stakeholders through offline and online platforms. For example, a community-based Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study on the risks of lead poisoning in children is being used to inform the design of a government-led, multi-channel communication campaign on the reduction of childhood lead poisoning in two districts in West Java and Central Java. Similarly, UNICEF's seminal landscape analysis of overweight and obesity in Indonesia was instrumental to bring together a wide range of stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively develop policy recommendations that are now being implemented to scale up overweight and non-communicable diseases prevention efforts in the country. In addition, a total of 12 brown bag learning (BBL) sessions were held to disseminate and share knowledge and lessons learned from our programmatic work, as well as the work of external experts, in thematic areas relevant to Country Programme priorities.

#### **5. UNICEF inputs for 2022 major events**

**G20:** In 2022, the Government of Indonesia requested UNICEF to provide technical support around key priorities within the scope of the G20 working streams and engagement groups. Accordingly, UNICEF was actively involved in four working groups (WG) including Health, Education, Development and Energy Transition, and Climate Sustainability, as well as the Sherpa Track, Y20, Urban20, Think20 and the Finance Track. UNICEF Indonesia and the UNICEF Headquarters actively engaged in WG meetings during the G20 and hosted several side events and webinars.

UNICEF led and contributed to several studies, reports, policy briefs and ministerial meeting notes to place child rights at the forefront. This included the i) Health Ministers' Action to Strengthen Global Health Architecture; ii) an education report and compendium of best practices shared at the UN General Assembly Transforming Education Summit; iii) studies on promoting climate action co-benefits to SDGs and on innovative finance frameworks; iv) a discussion paper on children and young people living in cities; and v) two policy briefs on bridging the digital literacy gender gap in developing countries and eliminating child labour.

UNICEF advocacy efforts were reflected in the G20 Bali Declaration which addressed various issues such as global health architecture, recognition of the role of partners in tackling the pandemic, a recommendation to use evaluations to strengthen global health governance and equitable and universal access to safe and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTDs). On digital skills and literacy, UNICEF's advocacy focussed on the role of digital transformation, including development and recovery strategies for skill building and literacy as key empowerment tools to support vulnerable populations, including women and girls. On social policy and shock-responsive social protection, UNICEF advocated for support to all vulnerable countries to recover stronger and, on education, UNICEF's advocacy focused on building more resilient, tech-enabled and accessible education systems.

**SWA-SMM:** The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) held in May 2022 in Jakarta, with record participation of 54 ministers and two vice presidents from 57 countries, was a resounding success and an acknowledgement of UNICEF's co-coordinating role in the sector. For the first time, the ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate, environment, health and economy/finance deliberated together on strategies to transform the triple crisis of COVID-19, economy and climate into a triple win underpinned by WASH.

As a co-chair, UNICEF Indonesia played a vital role in the preparatory process. UNICEF galvanized wider stakeholder engagement, mobilized resources for the event, helped shape the Country Status Overview, and facilitated a review of past SWA commitments and the drafting of new ones. UNICEF also supported the development of a compendium of best practices across Indonesia and a draft SDG plan document, engaging with relevant ministries (Bappenas, public works, health, environment and finance) to support ministerial-level dialogues and the SMM outcome statements.

Indonesia's commitments at the SMM resonated around the central SDG-6 theme of "Leave no one behind" and highlighted the importance of enhanced political will and investment, equity driven monitoring and community engagement, a climate resilient WASH sector, and expanded partnerships and alternative financing. Indonesia's strong representation ensured multisectoral engagement to achieve SDG-6 and established WASH as a key long-term development priority to advance child rights in the country.

**GPDRR:** The Government of Indonesia hosted the seventh Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), co-chaired with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), in Bali in May 2022. UNICEF supported six young people from Indonesia to participate and share their experience in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action. Communications and advocacy were undertaken to promote Child-Centred DRR and the meaningful engagement of children in disaster and climate risk reduction efforts. UNICEF co-organized a thematic session on "Leave no one behind" that highlighted inclusive Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) systems. On request of Bappenas, UNICEF Indonesia co-organized a side event 'Resilience is everyone's business' on private sector engagement in disaster management jointly with UNOCHA, UNDP, the Connecting Business Initiative and ARISE. It highlighted good practices across countries and regions, including in Indonesia, and advocated for the principle-based engagement between businesses, national authorities and other humanitarian actors for disaster resilience for communities.

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF continued ongoing efforts to intensify strategic engagement with government partners. Six additional government partnerships were forged in 2022, including new agreements with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights to support high-level advocacy on child rights and business principles and with the Indonesian National Police to strengthen UNICEF's work on mental health and psychosocial services in emergencies. In addition, discussions are underway to formalise partnership with the National Disaster Management Agency.

Cooperation with a wide range of civil society organizations (CSO) including local non-governmental organizations, research institutes, the media, youth and faith-based organizations remained central to programme delivery. A total of 77 agreements were signed with CSO partners, of which three quarters focused on providing technical assistance to provincial and district governments in child-critical services delivery, whereas one quarter strengthened evidence generation, policy advocacy and technical assistance at the national level. The U-Report youth platform continued to see a steady growth, from 680,000 to 900,000 members, who participated in 25 surveys. An engagement strategy with faith-based stakeholders and religious experts was developed, leading to the creation of a Handbook on child rights and Islam that will serve in religious and academic institutions. Efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of CSO partners on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of children (64 CSO partners risk-assessed) and for the provision of services for children in emergencies. UNICEF also advanced collaborations with United Nations partners, in particular for the system-wide humanitarian and socioeconomic response to COVID-19. UNICEF led or co-led support to several humanitarian response clusters and sub-clusters. Together with WHO, UNICEF supported the government in mounting a polio outbreak immunization response in Aceh Province which was acknowledged as record breaking by reaching, within a short timeframe, 77 per cent of the 1.2 million children targeted. To support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-25, UNICEF, alongside UNAIDS, provided leadership as United Nations Country Team co-chair for the outcome on equitable access to social services.

Through the ASSIST programme with UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO, UNICEF supported the government in increasing public and private capital mobilization for the acceleration of the SDGs. UNICEF and WHO jointly supported Indonesia's national adoption and piloting of the global Guidelines on Clinical Management of Lead Exposure. UNICEF and UNHCR concluded the implementation of the Blueprint for Joint Action for Refugee Children, providing important lessons for the agencies' global Strategic Collaboration Framework in middle-income contexts. UNICEF also engaged with private sector partners on critical child rights issues, with the Ethical Tea Partnership committing to interventions to address child marriage and childhood development issues as a result of UNICEF's Family Friendly Policy guidance. Sixty farmers, Government officials, CSO representatives, company representatives and business associations were trained on child safeguarding standards training with a new module on Family Friendly Farming in the palm oil industry. It will now be handed over to the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil and the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries to disseminate among their member businesses and network.

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

In 2022, the ROOTS bullying prevention and the Early Grade Literacy (EGL) programmes showcased noteworthy innovations and highlighted the important role UNICEF plays in middle-income country contexts. In both initiatives, UNICEF's contributions, including generating evidence-based models and policies and early engagement and alignment to the Government of Indonesia's agenda, helped catalyse national commitment, ownership and public investment for sustainable programmes. In addition, the use of social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and the engagement of children as agents of change were also critical to enhancing programme effectiveness.

### **1. From evidence-based models to sustainable government-led programmes**

The ROOTS bullying prevention programme was originally developed by UNICEF to support the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (MOWECP) in the implementation of the National Strategy on Elimination of Violence against Children 2016-2020. ROOTS was adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MOECRT) as one of the most effective interventions to address one of the 'three sins' affecting children's learning outcomes in schools, namely, bullying, intolerance and sexual violence.

Since then, the MOECRT has embarked on a nationwide rollout of ROOTS using the Ministry's own budget. With UNICEF's technical support, ROOTS is now firmly cemented as an integral component of the Ministry's education reform agenda which aims to improve learning outcomes, eradicate child poverty, cultivate 'freedom to learn' and, ultimately, lead to a more open and tolerant society. This uptake created a domino effect, with the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) engaging in ROOTS programming, with UNICEF support, in Islamic schools. Moreover, within UNICEF Child Protection, ROOTS, Life Skills Education (LSE) and positive discipline interventions are now embedded across various child protection, education and adolescent engagement programmes at the sub-national level as effective strategies to address violence against children and prevent child marriage. In less than two years, more than 200,000 children and adolescents have been trained as agents of change in formal and Islamic schools.

Several lessons can be drawn from the success of ROOTS: (i) investing limited resources to design evidence-based models can yield great dividends and are effective for government-led scale up; (ii) adopting a whole-school approach and complementing ROOTS with LSE for children and positive discipline skills for teachers and other school staff fosters ownership and, importantly; (iii) impactful models can have a cascading effect as demonstrated by the rapid expansion of UNICEF-government partnerships from MOWECP to MOECRT and, as of 2022, also with MoRA.

## **2. Evidence-based policy development and advocacy**

UNICEF continued to innovate through its Early Grade Literacy (EGL) programme which seeks to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of disadvantaged children in Papua provinces. Several key strategies were pursued in 2022, including the provision of professional training of pre-service and in-service teachers to improve their ability to provide tailored instruction to their students consistent with the government's emancipated learning reform agenda. This includes contextualised learning materials to promote a culture of reading within classrooms, schools and communities and advocacy to promote programme replication and scale-up through the development of a 'scalability roadmap' for local governments to follow.

Leveraging UNICEF's partnerships with local governments yielded good results in 2022. Commitment was reached with 14 district governments to use their own budget in 2023 (a total commitment of IDR30.5 billion or around US\$1.9 million) to support implementation of EGL activities in schools within their districts. These commitments were driven by using an evidence-based advocacy approach, including drawing upon student learning assessments to demonstrate the positive impact on children and their communities by prioritizing investment in this area.

Key lessons learned include the importance of early engagement with government counterparts on the implementation of the EGL programme scalability roadmap, thus ensuring buy-in and alignment with government priorities. Furthermore, use of early grade student assessment data helped government counterparts focus on learning recovery and catch-up, especially for the most vulnerable students.

Equipping teachers with gender inclusive approaches, including positive discipline, was also important for the active learning of all students.

## **3. SBCC and public communications for enhanced programme effectiveness**

UNICEF's SBCC, advocacy and community engagement efforts focused on reversing the long-term socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 that threatens to reverse decades of progress achieved for children in Indonesia. Efforts focused on creating access to life-saving information through traditional and digital community engagement by increasing awareness on child vulnerabilities, promoting positive parenting behaviours, and advocating with key opinion leaders, decision makers and communities, all while empowering youth as agents of change for children.

These initiatives contributed to strengthening routine immunization, supporting a safe return to school, creating awareness and advocating for the protection from online child sexual exploitation and abuse,

reducing bullying in schools, preventing child marriage, promoting positive parenting behaviours to prevent stunting, and addressing climate change.

Integrated campaigns were used effectively, including on safely managed sanitation in urban settings which reached around 55 million people on digital platforms with practical information on household sanitation. The back-to-school campaign, complemented with life-saving information, news and multimedia content advocating for urgent action to address the backslide in children's learning reached 28.6 million people via television and 19 million digital users.

Strategic SBCC was also leveraged to support the ongoing polio outbreak response in Aceh province, reaching targeted children in an outbreak setting dominated by mistrust and anti-vaccination sentiments. Social listening became core to understanding perspectives towards child rights and to detect and debunk hoaxes and misinformation across child rights priorities, while empowering communities to understand the importance of digital literacy.