



## What we do in Indonesia

- We're helping more than 50,000 children get a better education
- We've helped improve the situation for 500,000 children living in institutions
- We're part of an emergency response team on permanent standby in case of natural disaster



Indonesia is home to at least 76 million children, the fourth largest population of children in the world. Each year 163,000 children die before their fifth birthday.

The country is an archipelago made up of 17,500 islands, of which 6,000 are inhabited. Out of a total population of 232.4 million, just over half live in towns. Most people – 90% – can read and write, with only slightly fewer women than men. But there are big differences between the regions and life is a struggle for many. More than 50% of the population live on less than \$2 a day and 13 million children don't have enough good food to eat.

Indonesia's location on the 'ring of fire' – three highly active tectonic plates punctuated by a string of active volcanoes – makes it prone to natural disasters. Political stability has improved since the late 1990s and the government has had some success in resolving longstanding separatist and inter-faith conflicts.

### Save the Children in Indonesia

Save the Children UK set up an office in Jakarta in October 1999 to respond to the crisis in Timor Leste, whose people were fighting for independence. We provided food, shelter, medicines and education to children affected by the conflict in Timor Leste and other regions. Although we're now working to improve children's lives over the longer term, we still respond to emergencies, most recently in South Sumatra. Since December 2004, a large proportion

of our work has focused on helping communities in Aceh recover from the Indian Ocean tsunami.

In December 2008, Save the Children UK and USA joined together to create a unified programme. Together, we're focusing on developing models of good practice to ensure that children can get a good quality education and are protected from harm – especially those in institutional care.

## **Key areas of work**

### **We're helping children get a better education**

More than 90% of children enrol in primary school overall, with little difference in the numbers of girls and boys or between towns and the countryside. But rates of enrolment vary greatly between provinces, and many children drop out. They blame the poor quality of the education, bullying and the severe punishments they receive.

We've worked with teacher trainers from local education departments in the provinces of North Maluku, Maluku and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). We've trained them in teaching methods that get their pupils really involved in learning, and we've promoted alternative forms of classroom discipline so they don't resort to harsh punishment.

We've worked with teacher educators from local education departments in the provinces of North Maluku, Maluku and NTT. These educators have in turn trained more than 3,000 primary school teachers, responsible for educating half a million pupils. Our mid-term review of the effect of the training showed that pupils are now more involved in their learning and teachers are less likely to use corporal punishment.

We're also carrying out more research into the link between violence and children not going to school, and documenting examples of teachers maintaining discipline without using corporal punishment. We're encouraging the schools we support to write and display codes of conduct, publicly stating their commitment to non-violence.

The children who are least likely to go to school are: children from poor families who depend on the money they earn or the work they do within the household; those living in remote rural areas where there is no school nearby; and children with disabilities.

### **We're taking care of children in emergencies**

Since the December 2004 tsunami, Indonesia has endured earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, another smaller tsunami and floods. Our 50-strong emergency response team is on permanent standby and we have emergency supplies stored in warehouses in disaster-prone areas ready to be put to use. We've also trained teachers and our own education project workers how to ensure that education is an integral part of the help children get in the aftermath of a disaster. Until the end of 2009, around 650 staff will continue to help children

and their families re-establish their livelihoods and basic services in tsunami-affected areas of Aceh in the east of the country.

In January 2009, the government adopted our teaching materials on how to reduce the risk and impact of disasters as part of the national curriculum.

### **We're helping children whose families can't care for them**

Up to half a million children in Indonesia spend their entire childhoods in institutions. We've been working with the Ministry of Social Affairs to improve the standard of residential care and to get children safely back with their families and communities.

Last year we trained children to carry out their own research into the situation for children in institutions, including the harsh punishments they're subjected to. Some of the child researchers presented their recommendations to the Minister of Social Affairs.

We're helping the government to ensure that institutions follow national standards of care. All childcare institutions now have to register on a national database – which we helped develop. Muhammadiyah, an Islamic network that runs the highest number of childcare institutions in Indonesia, has asked us to help them pilot the database in their institutions.

The government has also adopted a policy making care within a family setting the first option for children, whether with their own immediate or extended family, or a substitute. Institutional care should be a last resort. We're continuing to work together to make the changes necessary to implement this policy, in particular to ensure that funds are directed to support children in their families and communities.



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Registered charity England and Wales (213890) Scotland (SC039570)