

A YEAR IN INDONESIA

SUMMARY REPORT 2011

Plan is working to boost nursery education



About Indonesia

Indonesia is an archipelago of 17,000 islands, containing many different indigenous groups. Despite its population and abundant natural resources, poverty remains a big problem.

Compounding this, natural disasters frequently strike the country. Plan started work in Indonesia in 1969 and is currently present in six provinces.

Problems affecting the children of Indonesia

- Communities lack access to clean water and decent sanitation
- Poor communities lack opportunities to better themselves economically
- Children living in the most difficult circumstances are often subject to abuse



Mother, involved in Plan's Community Managed Nutrition Project, cooks a healthy meal for her son.

PLAN'S PRIORITIES IN INDONESIA

1 A healthy environment

- Improving basic community health centres and supporting health training in schools
- Training teenagers on sexual and reproductive health issues

2 Nursery and primary education

- Working to boost nursery education and running a primary school improvement programme

3 Household economic security

- Helping poor families improve their incomes and manage their resources more effectively

4 Children's participation and protection

- Working to protect children who have been sexually exploited or are living on the streets
- Helping children take part in decision-making in their communities

5 Disaster response

- Working to help communities rebuild their lives in areas affected by the tsunami of 2004 and the Yogyakarta earthquake of 2006.
- Helping local people be better prepared for future disasters

By being a child sponsor, you have directly supported projects like the ones below. Your ongoing support sustains our long-term development work which impacts the lives of children, their families and communities for generations to come.

Together we are making an invaluable difference to the lives of people in Indonesia.

To learn more about Plan's work in Indonesia visit:

www.plan.org.au/ourwork/asia/indonesia



Children's Rights Group talking about the issues they face.

CASE STUDY: ACTIVE CHILD CITIZENS

Children's rights are at the centre of Plan's work. The right to education, decent healthcare, clean water and physical safety define what we do.

Plan works to raise awareness of children's rights among politicians, parents, teachers, the police and others in positions of authority. But we also think it's really important that children themselves are aware of their rights, so they know when mistreatment is taking place. And once they grow up they will be more likely to treat their own children better.

In Kebumen, southern Java, Plan works with youth forums and clubs to make children aware of their rights and the possibility of participation in community decision-making. Antonius, now 16, is one of the most enthusiastic members of Kompak, a Plan-supported children's club. He talks excitedly about Plan's approach:

"Plan targeted many people and various institutions so that all children can be literate," he says. "It creates a ripple effect, down to my neighbourhood."

"Now I know my rights, I know what I have to do and I know how to help other children."

Awareness works

Antonius has seen tangible changes since Plan began work in his community. "In my village, early marriages declined after Plan came. Why? Because parents started to realise that young kids should not be married. Now if anyone tries to force their daughter to marry at a young age, they will be criticised by the community until they change their minds."

That's not all. Kompak and Plan have also organised many meetings that involved regional administration officials from various agencies, including the police. What was the result? Kebumen district produced a bylaw protecting children and discouraging early marriage.

"So if we know of people who want to force their children to get married, we can report the case to the police and they will act according to the bylaw."

The same approach works with bullying, says Antonius: "After a series of events to raise awareness of the problem, kids stopped bullying other children. Not only do they now know that it's the wrong thing to do, they also know that the adults can report bullying to the police."

This is a really important change for Antonius. "I don't like to see my friends get bullied and I hate it when other children get beaten by their parents," he says.

Channelling enthusiasm

By harnessing the passion of children and young people like Antonius, Plan can create radical and lasting change.

"When I was 14, I joined a children's community called Kompak. I wanted to fix things, change things for the better, and channel my talents."

Being active matters to Antonius. "The thing I hate the most is when my friends, who also come to many meetings, representing their villages, do not speak up. They are too passive. For me, they fail to carry out the duty they have been entrusted with."

"My life has been transformed because of Plan. I have attended many meetings and learned many new things. I have many new friends, from all over Indonesia. I have friends from different ethnic groups, provinces, religions and cultural backgrounds."

"Plan and Kompak have played a very significant role in transforming my life. Now I know my rights, I know what I have to do and I know how to help other children."

Across Indonesia, Plan-backed children's clubs are enabling young people like Antonius to realise their rights and change their communities. And little by little, their efforts are building into an impressive cumulative effect.

Some names have been changed for child protection and privacy reasons.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2010

- Established 136 community water supply systems providing over 800,000 people with clean, safe water
- Supported the building of 16,000 family toilets to help eradicate the diseases caused by open defecation
- Ran disaster risk reduction training in more than 50 communities, training children and communities on how to prepare for and survive natural disasters
- Set up 10 temporary school buildings and provided school kits for 2,500 children hit by the Padang earthquake



Mother feeding daughter a nutritious meal.