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About PROSPER

The CARE-Cargill Promoting a Sustainable and Food Secure World (PROSPER) program, implemented between 2016 and 2019, aimed to increase food and nutrition security and resilience to climate change in nine different countries. In Indonesia, the program's aim was to contribute to the international PROSPER program goal by reducing diarrhea and infectious diseases among elementary school students, teachers, parents and communities.

Objectives

- Increase capacity for government and NGOs to support schools with the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities and the promotion of clean and health behavior and good nutrition practices.
- Increase access to clean water and sanitation for elementary school students and teachers.
- Improve hygiene practices among students and communities.
- Increase healthy eating habits among students and communities.

Strategies

Over 33 months of implementation, PROSPER worked in 28 schools in two provinces of Indonesia, focusing on teachers, students and parents, as research indicates that WASH programs at schools significantly decrease risks for bacterial infections and diarrhea in those schools and surrounding communities. These programs, as an added benefit, are known to reduce student absentee rates due to illness.

Project Activities:

- Construction of WASH facilities
- Promotion of healthy-clean behavior (i.e., hand-washing, menstrual health hygiene)
- Nutrition trainings and related events during project implementation

PROSPER

Program Name:

Promoting a Sustainable and Food Secure World (PROSPER) Project

Program Country: Indonesia

Timeframe:

October 2016 – August 2019

Budget: US \$920,961

Donors: Cargill

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries: 14,221 people (7,755 female, 6,466 male)

Indirect beneficiaries: 61,201 people (37,936 female, 23,265 male)

Total beneficiaries: 75,422 people (45,691 female, 29,731 male)



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CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender and Equity

Gender is a crosscutting issue for all CARE projects and programs. The PROSPER project involved and provided equal opportunities for women and men in training programs for teachers, students, doctors, and parents. In Makassar, 80.6% of the WASH committee members are women. This demonstrates the active role of women in supporting their children's education and health. The separation of men's and women's sanitation facilities was also considered in the project design.

Sustainability

Serang district government is committed to replicate the existing project. In 2018, \$214,500 was budgeted for construction of up to 29 school WASH facilities. A similar commitment was made for another 29 schools in 2019. The Makassar government developed a smart toilet program and established school committees to raise match funding to complement investments from PROSPER. Both governments are committed to ongoing provision of training for local doctors. Moreover, local school committees in Makassar have started raising their own funds to complement the PROSPER investment and continue improving their school facilities.

Impacts

- **Increased access to good sanitation facilities in schools.** The ratio of students to functional school latrines decreased from 125:1 to 83:1.
- **Increased awareness and practice of better hygiene habits.** Students reporting handwashing at school increased by 16%. Parents awareness of the most critical handwashing times increased by over 40%.
- **Students feel more comfortable using sanitation facilities in schools.** The rate of students reporting comfort always or sometimes using school facilities for defecation increased from a baseline of 10.6% to 42.6%.
- **Decreased percentage of students absent from school due to diarrhea.** Improved sanitation facilities and hygiene practices has led to a decrease in the percentage of children affected by diarrhea and the percentage absent from school due to diarrhea. The percentage of students reporting having diarrhea in the last two weeks decreased by nearly half, from 25.9% at baseline to 14.1% at endline. The percentage of children reporting school absenteeism due to diarrhea decreased by 19%, from 68.8% at baseline to 49.6% at endline.
- **Students have access to healthier food choices at school.** The number of school canteens that meet the hygiene and food safety criteria of the healthy school program increased from 5 to 11.
- **Increased government and NGO capacity in school WASH.** 102 officials were trained in understanding the WASH needs of schools, and 20 WASH and nutrition committees were established.
- **Increased government and community awareness about school WASH.** Serang district has started allocating a budget for replication in 29 schools per fiscal year, and government officers said that this decision was inspired by PROSPER projects. Local school committees in Makasar have started raising matching funds to complement PROSPER's investment to improve school facilities. These commitments will extend the project's impact beyond its completion date.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are given to improve similar projects in the future:

- Since the 35 master trainers are primarily government officers and NGO staff, there is a risk that they will change locations or leave their respective agencies. Training local teachers as master trainers instead of government and NGO staff is likely to increase project sustainability and the possibility of replication in other schools because the risk of mutations of teaching staff to other agencies is relatively small.
- Future projects can include a low-cost activity that has a wider outreach to increase the awareness of targeted schools and have a wider impact.
- Reconstruction/rehabilitation of school canteens could be added to reduce the incidence of diarrhea due to risk factors related to unhealthy and unsafe food.
- Data could be collected on control groups (schools without interventions) to see how much the impact is due to project interventions rather than external factors.

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