



## Program Brief

### PROSPER: A partnership to improve child and community hygiene and health

**OVERVIEW** The Cargill – CARE partnership Promoting a Sustainable and Food Secure World (PROSPER) aims to reduce incidence of diarrhea and infectious diseases for elementary school students, by working with students, teachers, parents and communities.

#### HEALTH, HYGIENE AND NUTRITION IN INDONESIA

Indonesia has the **fifth-highest number of stunted children in the world**, with more than one out of every three children, or 37 per cent, stunted. Further, while from 2007 to 2011 the proportion of poor people in Indonesia declined from 16.6 to 12.5 per cent, malnutrition showed no significant reduction.

Drivers behind the high rate of stunting and malnutrition include **limited access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities, poor hygiene** resulting in bacterial infection, and **lack of awareness of healthy eating habits**, leading to low nutrition intake amongst children.

#### HYGIENE ISSUES IN SCHOOLS

CARE has identified specific problems in schools in the **district of Serang (Banten Province) and the city of Makassar (South Sulawesi Province)** that need to be urgently addressed, including:

- Disproportionate student to toilet ratio;
- Toilets and water systems in the schools are mostly broken and unclean; and
- Systems that promote hygienic behavior among students are poorly developed.

**Girls are most affected by the lack of sanitation facilities**, as they risk harassment and shaming if they are unable to use private facilities, and are thus more likely to miss school if such facilities are unavailable.

CARE's experience shows that programs targeting **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** in schools significantly decreases risks for infections and diarrhea in schools and surrounding communities.

**Data from the Ministry of Health indicates that less than half of all Indonesians wash their hands properly with soap, and only 11% of Indonesians consume fruit and vegetables each day (2013).**

As an additional benefit, these programs are also known to **reduce student absentee rates due to illness**, which improves a child's capacity to engage with their education.

To respond to these issues, CARE is working with the Serang district government and the Makassar city government to achieve four objectives:

- Support schools with the **construction/rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities**, and **promotion of healthy behavior as well as good nutrition practices**;
- Elementary students and teachers have **improved access** to clean water and sanitation facilities;
- Students and communities have **better hygiene habits**; and
- Students and communities have **better awareness** about the importance of eating healthy food habits.

At the end of the program students, teachers, parents and communities in 20 elementary schools will have access to clean and well-maintained water and sanitation facilities, **9,000 students and 25,600 community members** will have improved cleanliness and have good knowledge about nutrition and healthy eating habits.

### PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

The program has a multiplying effect by **facilitating sharing and learning within and between communities**. This includes adapting and sharing existing construction manuals and training materials on clean and healthy behavior and nutrition, and training district governments and local NGOs as **"master trainers"**, enabling them to replicate the program in other schools in their district.

In the implementation of PROSPER, **CARE engages district governments, NGOs and school principals in program activities**, enabling them to become more responsive to the WASH and nutrition needs of the target groups. CARE also empowers children, teachers and parents to engage effectively with government through the establishment of **school water and sanitation committees**. These committees provide an excellent platform to continue with the promotion of clean and healthy behavior including good nutrition beyond the life of the program.



Teachers and elementary school children participating in a study to gauge their understanding of WASH issues in Banten (above) and Makassar (below).



### CARE'S & CARGILL'S EXPERTISE

**CARE has long experience with the implementation of school-based WASH and nutrition programs in Indonesia.** Over the last 40 years CARE has developed approaches to empower schools and communities in design, construction, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, and the promotion of clean and healthy behaviour.

As part of **Cargill's commitment towards helping Indonesia reach the Sustainable Development Goals to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030**, Cargill is working with CARE to reduce child malnutrition and promote healthy and hygienic behaviour.

CARE International Indonesia HQ

T: +62 21 780 5547

A: Jl. Taman Marga Satwa No. 26 Blok D

Ragunan, Pasar Minggu, Jakarta Selatan

W: <http://careindonesia.or.id>

