



# Impact Brief

## PROSPER II: Enhancing School WASH in Indonesia (2019-2022)

**OVERVIEW** PROSPER II worked in ten schools across two districts of Indonesia, reaching **17,306 people (8,881 women and girls) directly and indirectly**. The project improved the sanitation and food safety for school kitchens, brought toilet and handwashing facilities at the schools above government standards, and expanded the knowledge of program participants to make healthier food choices and improve their hygiene habits to reduce vulnerability to diarrhea and other infectious diseases.

**99.6%**

students at endline reported regular handwashing, up from 91.8% at baseline

Proportion of students reporting absenteeism due to diarrhea decreased

**three-fold**

**100%**

of targeted school latrines are functional, compared to 80% at baseline

### Background

The PROSPER II project was implemented in Serang (Banten Province) and Bone (South Sulawesi) between September 2019 and August 2022 in partnership with Cargill. The project focused on three main areas spanning nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH):

- 1) Building capacity of local government and NGOs
- 2) Improving WASH infrastructure in schools
- 3) Enhancing WASH, nutrition knowledge and practices among students, teachers and parents

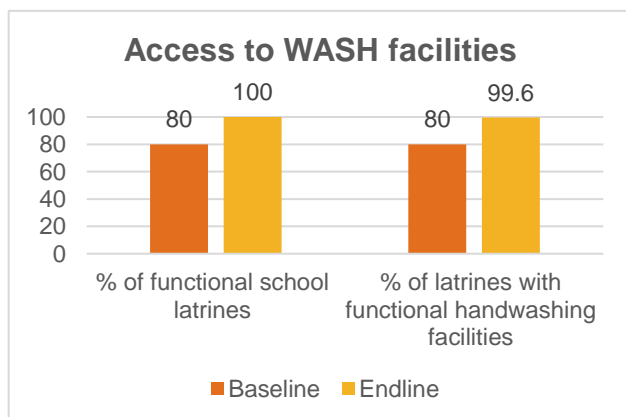
By the end of the project, PROSPER II reached **3,528 people (1,776 women and girls)** directly, including elementary students, teachers, parents,

and canteen (cafeteria) workers, in ten schools (four in Serang and six Bone), and **13,778 people (7,105 women and girls)** indirectly in the two provinces. Key project impacts are detailed below.



## Key Accomplishments & Impact

- **Increased access to WASH facilities:** The project built new, safe, girl-friendly, private and clean toilet facilities at 10 schools with over 50 people trained on how to maintain facilities. This led to an increase in access to functional latrines among students. Targeted schools now have 100% functioning latrines, compared to 80% at baseline. Nearly all latrines (99.6%) have nearby and functional handwashing facilities, a 19.6% increase from baseline (80%).
- **Improved hygiene practices:** PROSPER II developed its “Little Doctor” manual for virtual instruction due to COVID-19 limitations and led trainings for over 150 elementary school students who were ambassadors of nutrition and WASH in their schools. This approach, combined with other handwashing promotion activities, led to increased knowledge of critical times for handwashing and ultimately a 7.8% increase in students reporting handwashing at school, from 91.8% at baseline to 99.6% at endline. This behavior change contributed to a three-fold reduction in student absenteeism due to diarrhea.



- **Students and communities are making healthier food choices:** The project established four school gardens that are successfully growing healthy foods. New hygienic canteens were also built at 10 schools with over 400 people trained on improved nutrition and cooking practices.

These activities resulted in a 23.1% increase in daily fruit and vegetable consumption among students, from 45.8% at baseline to 68.9% at endline.

- **Strengthened capacities of government and NGOs:** PROSPER II developed manuals for construction and maintenance of WASH facilities in coordination with school authorities and engaged in joint monitoring visits with local government and Cargill to PROSPER I schools to ensure sustainability. As a result of the project’s advocacy efforts, the Serang government has replicated the PROSPER approach in 80 schools in the district since 2018 (during and after PROSPER I), contributing \$650,000 to impact multiplication. The Bone government also committed to using little doctor modules in 38 community health centers and 200 schools.

## Conclusion

The project positively impacted the students, teachers, parents and communities of Serang and Bone in numerous ways. At endline, absenteeism due to diarrhea reduced, handwashing increased, consumption of healthy fruits and vegetables increased, and parents became more involved in the health of their children through participation in trainings and leadership committees. In 2020, PROSPER II played a significant role in supporting schools to meet the requirements to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the availability of sanitation and hygiene facilities. PROSPER II has been so successful that district governments are committing resources to replicating its proven approaches to enhance WASH and health more broadly in 280 schools and 38 health centers across Serang and Bone.