



Media Release

Caring for the Future, SOS Children's Villages and HSBC Indonesia Support Vulnerable Children and Youth

Focusing on health, welfare and the development of vulnerable children, HSBC Indonesia provides a series of assistance to > 7000 children who have been and are at risk of losing parental care.

Jakarta, 25 February 2021 – It has almost been a year since Indonesia announced its first Covid-19 case, but the pandemic is not over yet. Socio-economic challenges are showing up in the society, including those who rarely get much attention, like the condition of children and adolescents who are vulnerable to being neglected.

With this in mind, PT Bank HSBC Indonesia (HSBC Indonesia) is teaming up with SOS Children's Villages to provide maximum assistance for children and youth who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care.

Children and youth are somewhat hidden victims of the pandemic, given the long impact on their health, welfare, development and future. One of the direct impacts was when the government temporarily stopped the face-to-face learning process since March 2020. According to the data from the Ministry of Education and Culture, as many as 60 million students cannot study at school. The decision is deemed appropriate to avoid spreading the virus at schools. Unfortunately, not all children have the resources for distance learning. There are many children who have limitations, especially those who lack parental care.

In this difficult condition, children and youth who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care experience even harder impacts, such as lack of access to health and the absence of distance learning facilities. Based on BPS data in 2018, there were around 4.1 million children who have lost the care of their biological parents and have to live with other relatives, with some being completely abandoned. Children and adolescents who do not receive parental care tend to be more severely affected when disasters occur, including the Covid-19 pandemic. They have limited access to meet their needs, thus deserving more attention.

SOS Children's Villages Indonesia, as a non-profit organization that focuses on alternative care and empowerment of vulnerable families, contributes through children's villages for 946 children who have lost parental care in 8 locations in Indonesia. In addition, SOS also provides empowerment program for vulnerable families in 10 locations. Of the thousands of assisted families, SOS is hoping that 6333 children who are at risk of losing parental care have had their rights fulfilled.

HSBC Indonesia as a partner and stakeholder from the private sector, pays special attention to the future of our children and adolescents who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care. Aiming to help children and adolescents rise from the impact of the pandemic, HSBC Indonesia is supporting the assistance of SOS Children's Villages through several channels, such as health programs, learning

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infrastructure support, and skills training for youth. The program will run for one year in 2021 and is expected to empower children and adolescents in facing challenges during the pandemic, for a better future for them and the nation.

President director of Bank HSBC Indonesia François De Maricourt said: "HSBC has a long history of supporting education around the world, especially by helping disadvantaged young people access primary, secondary and tertiary education. We are now focused on helping people develop the employability they need to thrive in the modern world. With technology developing at a rapid pace, a range of skills are now required to be successful in the workplace. That's why we're focusing a key part of our sustainability strategy on future skills in the communities we serve, opening up a world of opportunity."

Furthermore, Nuni Sutyo, Head of Corporate Sustainability at Bank HSBC Indonesia said, "Vulnerable children and youth are an integral part of our future. The pandemic is affecting their daily lives. We hope that this mentoring program will help strengthen the resilience of the Indonesian people."

"Thank you for all the supports from HSBC Indonesia. We have been benefiting from the assistance and contributions by HSBC in the past few years. What makes us strong during the pandemic is the passion of our colleagues for the future of children in Indonesia. Despite this difficult time, HSBC continues to support quality care for children through health programs, learning facility, and skills training. We believe that the opportunity offered by HSBC Indonesia will motivate children to pursue their future goals with enthusiasm despite all the difficulties and limitations. We are grateful that HSBC is helping us in this area of children's limitations," said Gregor Hadi Nitihardjo, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Indonesia.

The collaboration between SOS Children's Villages Indonesia and HSBC Indonesia is in line with the commitment to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) number 4, 10, and 17 for quality education and inequality reduction in society through partnerships.

About SOS Children's Villages

SOS Children's Villages is a non-profit social organization that provides alternative care for children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care. Founded in 1949 in Innsbruck, Austria, SOS Children's Villages is now present in 136 countries including Indonesia. Currently, SOS Children's Villages Indonesia provides parenting care and assistance for more than 5,500 children in 11 cities, namely Lembang, Jakarta, Bogor, Semarang, Yogyakarta, Tabanan, Maumere, Banda Aceh, Meulaboh, Medan and Palu. For more information, visit: www.sos.or.id | [@thefitnessgirlz](https://www.instagram.com/thefitnessgirlz)

Untuk informasi lebih lanjut, silakan hubungi:

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**Special note*

SOS Children's Villages promotes family-based care, and we establish substitute families for children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care. Mothers and Children establish family relationships as if they were biological families (family-like care), so that we strictly avoid using words such as orphanages, foster children, foster mothers, including the use of the word orphan / orphan which is replaced by child at risk of losing parental care. At SOS Children's Villages, we also pay attention to the best interests of children and protect their privacy, so that information related to child's backgrounds and personalities can only be shared with interested parties and cannot be disseminated to the public.