

# IN INDONESIA CHILDREN ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE TO END BULLYING

Children advocating, mobilizing, raising awareness, informing and communicating.

Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia

ROOTS is a UNICEF Indonesia and Government supported school-based model for prevention of bullying in schools, that engages with adolescents aged from 13 to 17 as equal partners. Based on the conclusion that bullying can have harmful and lasting consequences, and that high rates of bullying have been observed in the country, according to a PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) Study, and U-Report data.

ROOTS aims to address bullying and to change negative social norms at school by using social networks' theory, with children's participation being at the center of a whole-school approach to support it. Furthermore, ROOTS aims to train teachers on applying positive discipline.

As part of the ROOTS programme, students start by engaging in a democratic voting process to choose 30 students as 'agents of change' in their schools. The selected agents of change receive capacity building support to prevent bullying and promote positive behaviors at schools, such as leadership, self-confidence, building healthy relationships, critical thinking, equality and preventing peer violence. They also promote messages of kindness amongst their peers. By the end of the training, these agents of change have developed a set of action plans to achieve zero bullying incidents at school. Each school has its own action plan to change the school ecosystem according to its own context. Many include creating school-wide commitments to end bullying, group discussions, and awareness raising activities starting with a 'ROOTS Day', which is implemented through creating content such as videos and posters to campaign against bullying.

ROOTS programme has been tested in selected provinces and schools in Indonesia since 2017. The results show that ROOTS can decrease bullying victimization to around 30%.

In 2021, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MOECRT) in scaling up ROOTS. While the endline to measure the impact and the changes for ROOTS scale-up by the Ministry in 2021 is still ongoing, to date ROOTS has reached a total of 55,680 students who were trained as agents of change while 3,712 teachers in 1,857 schools across Indonesia were trained in positive discipline to become ROOTS facilitators.

UNICEF also supported the digitization of ROOTS module by creating an e-learning course that can be accessed through MOECRT's Center of Character Strengthening website. As of December 2021, ROOTS e-learning course has been accessed by more than 35,000 users.

**UNICEF Indonesia**

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