

Next Generation

Indonesia

Executive Summary
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Foreword

Indonesia's population Census in 2020 shows that the Millennial (25,87%) and Generation Z (27,94%) generations make up the largest part of Indonesia's population. The large number of youth is a great potential for the nation as youth development becomes a national priorities. In order to support the improvement of high quality and competitive human resources in Indonesia, we focus on the strengthening the capacity and building the character of Indonesia's youth. We want young Indonesians to actively participate in the development process not only as beneficiaries of program but also as government's equal partner – collaborators and innovators.

To measure youth development efficacy at both the national and sub national level, the Government of Indonesia has established the Youth Development Index (YDI). This index consists of 15 indicators that describe the improvement of youth quality across 5 domains: Education, Health and well-being, Opportunity and employment, Leadership and participation, and Gender and discrimination. As a multi-sectors issue, youth development requires strong collaboration from various stakeholders, including the non-government parties.

Data is crucial for an evidence-based policy approach. Data is used either as a baseline or a result description of youth policy implementation. We express our great appreciation for the British Council who has released the study report of Next Generation in Indonesia that gives an updated depiction of the lives of young people in Indonesia today. The findings from the research will provide a prominent input for us, particularly during the process of analysing Youth Strategic Issues for the next National Med-term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025-2029 and National Long-term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2025-2045.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the British Council Indonesia, youth communities, and all parties who contribute in this study. This report will be an initial step to strengthening our commitment, coordination, and collaboration in order to escalate the youth quality of life as well as their participation in all development sector.

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Jakarta, October 2022.

Foreword

Indonesia is on a path of sustained inclusive growth with an ambition to improve quality and inclusion in education and skills for its population of 270 million, 52% of whom are young people. The British Council works directly with young people to help them gain the skills, confidence and connections to transform their lives and shape a better world in partnership with the UK.

To gauge the pulse of young people in Indonesia, the British Council has conducted the Next Generation programme at a time when the country hosts the world through its presidency of G20. The Next Generation programme helps us better understand attitudes and aspirations and support better youth policy making and future programming.

The survey began during a very difficult time for Indonesia. A third wave of COVID had significantly impacted families across the country so not surprisingly this was the number one issue identified. As we emerged from the pandemic in 2022 with the G20 Indonesia presidency proudly promoting 'recover together, recover stronger', it's hard to believe quite how fast life has returned to normal. The Indonesian economy rebounded from the downturn and ended 2021 with output higher than pre-pandemic 2019, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2022).

Despite the COVID challenge, young people are optimistic about their futures. With a sense of pride and belief in their country contributes to this, strong economic forecasts back up this optimism with Indonesia expected to be the seventh largest economy by 2030 and an aspiration to be the fourth largest by 2045.

Yet, optimism is tempered by very real concerns over future opportunities for employment in an increasingly competitive environment. Are secondary and tertiary education pathways helping young people acquire the skills for the workplace? Is there enough help and guidance for people to set up and run their own business? The 'side hustle' culture of young people setting up microbusiness to make ends meet shows enterprise and initiative, but can this translate into a bigger opportunity?

With Indonesia being fully engaged in digital transformation and prioritising inclusion for all in the digital economy, digital access and safety is a strong theme through the report. Many young people whilst digitally literate are concerned about fake news and having the ability to fact check and challenge. Mental health, for so long a taboo subject, has also become a key issue for many because of the disconnect felt through the pandemic.

Indonesia as the current G20 president has hosted many working groups and summits across education, digital, and culture. The Next Generation research has worked alongside Y20, the Youth group which aims to influence policies and strategies of governments. A regular theme of Y20 and reflected in our findings and in the overall mission of Next Generation is how to strengthen on the impact of youth voice in policy development. As we see in this report, there is a clear demand for inclusive access and opportunities for youth groups to join discussions at the local and national level. Young people are calling for more mechanisms that ensure young people are at the table and are empowered to raise their concerns and ideas.

Throughout the topics discussed, we see that young women and men share broadly similar views across the spectrum of subjects discussed. Whilst Young people are not disinterested in politics, more work is needed to engage them. Additionally, although Climate change is an issue, concerns regarding education and employment take precedence.

At the British Council, we will use the insights shared in Next Generation to inform our own future programming. We will flag education and employment issues in policy dialogues and explore how to further develop a new 'young leaders' programme to help youth voice and policy impact policy. Conducting Next Generation Indonesia has allowed us a moment to stop, think and most importantly, listen and work with young people to explore how can we work together to create more a more sustainable future for the youth of Indonesia, through building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK, Indonesia and countries worldwide.

Hugh Moffatt,
Director, British Council Indonesia

Executive summary

Background to the research

This report presents findings from mixed-method research exploring the socio-cultural contexts, attitudes, and aspirations of young Indonesians, as part of the British Council's global Next Generation research programme. The findings are a synthesis of a literature and cultural review; secondary analysis of the World Values Survey; a nationally representative quantitative Next Generation survey and multi-stage qualitative methods (online and face-to-face) with young people aged 16-35 across Indonesia - an audience which represents approximately 32 per cent of the population in Indonesia. This research series explores young people's daily lives and outlooks in countries with large youth populations undergoing significant change, with the aim of ensuring young people's voices are amplified and placed at the forefront of youth policy.

At the time of this research, educational quality, learning inequalities, concerns about political corruption, unemployment (exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic), and accelerated access to digital and media were all powerful influences on young people's attitudes and perceptions of their future. This research aimed to understand young people's views as they navigate this landscape and to shed light on the issues that matter to them most.

Research was commissioned by the British Council and conducted by independent youth research agency 2CV, with the help of a network of local partners¹ and with the input of the British Council Team and the Youth Task Force².

Summary of findings

Pride and optimism despite a lack of forward momentum

Young Indonesians are proud of their country. *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (unity in diversity) is more than a national motto, it is woven into the fabric of every-day life. When asked to describe their country in five words, young Indonesians largely use positive language: 'diverse' (20 per cent), 'beautiful' (29 per cent) and 'developed' (17 per cent). Indonesian youth spoke fondly of Indonesian culture, the central role of faith and tolerance in Indonesian life, and the importance of family and

community, above all else. Young Indonesians also feel optimistic about both their personal futures (65 per cent) and the future of their country (64 per cent think Indonesia will improve in the next five years). When asked to write letters to their current selves from an imagined future as a qualitative exercise, the overarching sentiment was that life would have improved.

However, despite this general optimism, young Indonesians are experiencing a lack of momentum, with half of young people expressing that life in Indonesia has not improved since their parents were the same age. This perceived lack of momentum is in part due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, but also young people's increased exposure to a global world and a perception of how their country fares compared to its ASEAN neighbours. Young people are experiencing a range of issues, with COVID-19 (50 per cent), employment/finance (55 per cent), health (48 per cent) and education (42 per cent) chief among them. When asked which issues should be prioritised and improved in the future, education, employment opportunities, health and political corruption emerged as top priorities. Whilst young people also expressed concern about climate change (natural disaster was ranked as the sixth biggest concern affecting young people personally (21 per cent), this is overshadowed by more pressing every-day concerns around education and employment.

Young people are vocal about the structural support that they feel is needed in these areas to carve out a better future for the next generation. Young people see greater investment in infrastructure (physical and digital), education, better governance (free of corruption) and greater representation of youth voice as key to improving these issues.

Youth are balancing collectivist and individualist value systems

Young Indonesians are exposed to a range of influences that pave the way for them to hold collectivist and individualist value systems simultaneously. Influences that tend to pull young people more towards collectivist values include strong family relationships (which are central to youth identity); the Indonesian education system (which fosters a sense of pride in national

identity); and religion, which young people see as central to their daily lives. However, like young people in other Asian nations, young Indonesians are also exposed to an increasingly global world, a competitive employment landscape, high levels of migration and different worldviews (via digital and social media) that can push them more towards individualist value systems.

Young people's top values are 'Respect' (61 per cent) and 'Tolerance' (60 per cent). However, they acknowledge that the demands of every-day life can encourage individualism. 'Freedom' emerged as an important value to 41 per cent of young Indonesians, and we also saw more individualist values emerge when young people were asked to consider which values are most important to pass onto future generations. These top values are consistent among both young women and men within Indonesia with women placing even more value on respect and tolerance, alongside a higher emphasis on safety, open-mindedness, gender equality and religion.

Navigating this duality between collectivism and individualism is something young people navigate in many areas of their lives. Young people want to please their parents and make their communities proud, but also want freedom to pursue their own dreams. This plays out particularly strongly in young people's competing employment motivations. On the one hand, young people want to please and take care of their parents, but on the other hand, they are excited by entrepreneurial prospects and new opportunities that have presented themselves in the wake of accelerated access to digital services and technology.

Personal, social and environmental factors can both facilitate and inhibit youth voice

Young Indonesians define 'voice' as 1) having the agency to make decisions about important matters in life and 2) being able to exert influence on and be listened to by others. Whilst findings from the World Values Survey indicate that young Indonesians have a great deal of choice and a strong sense of autonomy³, this does not extend to all demographic groups and there are several social and environmental influences that curb young people's ability to exert influence and be listened to by those around them. The conditions that facilitate or inhibit youth voice comprise 'personal', 'social' and 'environmental' factors.

Personal factors: Certain demographic groups in Indonesia have limited ability to use their voice. These include members of the LGBTQ+ community, young people with disabilities, young women and young people from religious minority backgrounds. Whilst these groups experience different levels of stigma and discrimination, they all share a more limited ability to use their agency and exert influence.

Social factors: Influences in young people's social and cultural environments (parents, local communities, educational and work cultures) can act as both inhibitors and enablers of youth voice. In educational and work settings, hierarchical cultures and strong cultural norms that value respect and age hierarchies dominate, and young people sometimes feel silenced by teachers and employers. Similarly, respect for parents and elders can make young people hesitant to go against the status quo.

Within this challenging social environment, young Indonesians look to youth communities and social media to strengthen a sense of youth identity and amplify their voices. Forming communities of like-minded young people is common in Indonesia. Our Next Generation survey revealed that more than half of young people have engaged in at least one political or community activity in the past 12 months (66 per cent), with volunteering being particularly common (30 per cent). Similarly, social media platforms allow young people a space to experiment with different identities, show off group membership and promote their individuality.

¹ Qualitative partners include Illuminate, a strategic insights consultancy who supported us with the literature review, cultural analysis and online communities; and the Indonesia Youth Foundation, who supported on the face-to-face research by deploying their network of youth volunteers as peer researchers across the country. Quantitative partners include Myriad, a Social Research agency in Indonesia who undertook the face-to-face fieldwork and CINT, a global research panel who managed the online fieldwork

² A mixed panel of stakeholders from outside the British Council spanning government, education, arts, climate, digital skills, education and youth leadership.

³ 36 per cent of young Indonesians agreed that they have a great deal of choice, rating this 9 or 10 on a 10-point scale (compared to 28 per cent across the seven ASEAN markets included in the study). This was the joint highest rating given (equal to that given by Vietnamese youth).

Environmental factors: Young people's physical environments can limit and facilitate their opportunities to have a voice. Inequalities in access to and quality of education, uneven access to the internet and differences in opportunity in urban versus rural locations and Eastern versus Western parts of the country all impact young people's ability to develop their voice and have a say in what matters to them. Currently, young people in rural areas and Eastern parts of the country face more obstacles in access to and quality of education and digital infrastructure, which can limit their opportunities to make their voices heard.

Increased access to digital and media has amplified youth voice, but low digital literacy comes with some risks

The past decade has seen rapid digital growth in Indonesia, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing the country up to levels more in line with ASEAN neighbours. This means that almost all Indonesian youth in our Next Generation survey said that they have access to some form of digital device (99 per cent).

This has opened unique opportunities to Indonesian youth. The prevalence of the internet and social media usage has created significant changes for young people, allowing them to:

- Express their voice and identity;
- Pursue entrepreneurial endeavours;
- Engage in activism around social and political issues;
- Obtain news and information in a new way.

Whilst older age groups (those over 25 years old) tend to use social media alongside other information sources (television, newspapers, etc.) younger age groups (those under 25 years old) rely on social media almost exclusively and trust it more than any other source of news or information. The difference across age groups in the Next Generation survey highlights the increasingly central role of social media in shaping how young Indonesians access and engage with news and media.

Whilst young people are highly engaged, they do not necessarily have the digital literacy to navigate this new space and are vulnerable to influence and 'fake news'. Indonesian youth often do not feel equipped to interrogate 'fake news' properly. Almost three quarters (70 per cent) of young people in our Next Generation survey (who have access to the internet) express concern around 'fake news' when using the internet.

Greater digital access has also been accompanied by a rise in cyber bullying, with 40 per cent of young people expressing concerns about this.

Young women and men in Indonesia have equal access to digital devices, however women are more likely to have concerns when it comes to using the internet and often feel more sceptical when it comes to the Indonesian media.

Young people had several suggestions for changes they would like to see:

- More support from educational institutions to understand and identify 'fake news' as young people lack the skills and tools to help them navigate online information;
- A push from government for greater equity in technological infrastructure, digital literacy and device access across the country;
- A government call for institutions to keep pace with the times – educational institutions and the formal employment sector are perceived to be behind the times in terms of technology uptake and innovation.

Education: the number one issue young people want to see improved

At the time of this research, significant changes to the educational curriculum were afoot in Indonesia with the *Merdeka Belajar – Kampus Merdeka* policy that aims to address long-standing issues with educational quality in the country. Whilst young people in this research had not felt the impact of these changes, they were optimistic about the future of education in their country, citing this as a top three issue that would improve in the next five years.

Young people place high value on receiving a formal education: it is seen as an essential component to strengthen character, imbue strong morals, and develop a uniquely Indonesian identity. However, less than half of our youth sample in our Next Generation survey agreed that their education has been valuable on a more practical level, whether it be to help them prepare well for general life (40 per cent) or for work (36 per cent), whilst just 39 per cent agree their education has helped their chances to get a job.

This points to a disconnect between the value young people place on education in the abstract – i.e. on education as a symbol of status and an institution that deserves respect – and the concrete benefits they are receiving from their education in reality.

The curriculum, practical skills development, teaching, teaching methods and facilities emerged as priority areas for improvement. Youth across Indonesia complained of detached or violent teachers, passive and theory-led teaching methods, large class sizes and a lack of resources and adequate facilities. Young people also noted the lack of uptake of technology in schools, both in terms of teaching methods and tools available to students. This can significantly impact how engaged youth are with their education. Lack of quality can lead young people to question the practical benefits of their education and can contribute to disengagement and in some cases, drop out.

Whilst policies are in place to minimise the costs of education across the country, financial constraints were still the main contributor to school drop out (34 per cent), particularly for women and young people in rural locations (43 per cent and 39 per cent respectively). Costs are also a key barrier to young people studying abroad.

Parental influence and pressure also play a large role in youth drop out. Given that Indonesian parents are typically the main decision makers in their children's lives, young people often drop out due to familial pressure to start earning and support their family. In our qualitative sessions, young people often expressed regret about their decision and welcomed opportunities to rejoin formal schooling.

Young people called for significant changes to their education system:

- Equal investment in education across Indonesia (particularly in rural areas and Eastern regions) to address quality and infrastructural issues;
- Improvements in teacher training and quality, particularly at lower levels of education;
- A better match between the skills taught in schools and those required by employers, particularly practical skills such as IT skills, financial and business literacy, and English language;
- Clearer links between educational institutions and employers to help young people with the transition between the two;
- Improvements in, and expansion of financial support programmes that help youth stay in (and re-enter) education;
- More scholarship opportunities for youth from lower socio-economic backgrounds to study abroad;
- More emphasis on nurturing creative talent and innovation in the classroom – for example,

encouraging skills like writing, music, graphic design;

- Greater adoption of technology in teaching methods – and a move away from overreliance on antiquated textbook and paper and pen methods.

Employment: lack of opportunities fosters an appetite for entrepreneurialism

A lack of employment opportunities emerged as the second biggest concern for young Indonesians (after COVID-19). High competition for jobs and a lack of opportunities (particularly in the formal sector) are key sources of stress and anxiety for young people and something they want to see addressed in the future. Our Next Generation survey revealed youth unemployment rates of 16 per cent (similar to official national statistics on youth unemployment in the country). Unemployment is worse for young people in rural areas, young people with disabilities and young women.

An uncertain employment landscape means young people experience competing motivations to find employment. Young people are propelled by a desire to make their parents proud and find 'stable' and 'secure' work in the formal sector (e.g. office jobs, civil service) that will come with a certain level of esteem and respect. However, at the same time, challenges such as nepotism, high competition, and a mismatch between skills taught in education and those required by the labour market make these ambitions difficult to fulfil. This challenge exists across educational levels, with young people who have completed higher education struggling to find formal employment. We found that 19 per cent of young people with a higher education degree who are working part-time or are unemployed state that this is due to a lack of job opportunities where they live.

A challenging employment landscape and high competition has also paved way for a highly pressurised work culture ('hustle culture') that encourages working long hours and multiple jobs. One in three young people stated that they need to work more than one job to earn enough to support themselves (32 per cent), with rural youth feeling this more acutely (35 per cent versus 29 per cent for urban youth), and almost one in five young people reported believing that 'hustle culture' is an effective way to progress in a career (17 per cent), with men and older age groups (25-29 and 30-35 year-old's) more likely to agree with this.

The above-mentioned challenges have inspired an interest in entrepreneurialism, with 57 per cent of our Next Generation survey participants expressing an interest in setting up their own business. Yet there is a nervousness about doing this, not only because of the pressure to make their families proud, but also the risk associated with starting a business. Less than half (44 per cent) of young people surveyed felt that setting up their own business was achievable, primarily due to lack of funds (29 per cent felt that there is a lack of funding for entrepreneurs) and over half (65 per cent) of young people felt that their education had not taught them the skills they need to be an entrepreneur.

Despite multiple challenges and barriers to employment, young people maintain a characteristically optimistic outlook for the future. As the next generation of workers, they want to be part of helping Indonesia to thrive – either through formal employment or as an entrepreneur – while also being afforded the opportunity to thrive themselves. Young people are aware that their hard work and faith can only get them so far and called for the following changes:

- Continued efforts from the government towards job creation, particularly in the formal sector;
- More support for entrepreneurialism from authorities and government at all levels, both in terms of training and financial support;
- A renewed focus on equal opportunities when it comes to employment, both in terms of regional development (by creating equal infrastructure and access to opportunities across all regions of the country) and cultural access, with young people calling for a cultural shift away from nepotism, sexism, ageism and ableism that still dominate many work environments.

Politics: political frustration, not apathy, dominates youth views

Young Indonesians' perceptions of the government are mixed; while a third believe the Indonesian government is effective, a third feel it is not. Corruption, collusion, and nepotism are issues young people feel are ingrained in the fabric of the Indonesian political system at national and local levels, and something young people urgently want to see addressed.

At first glance, young people appear apathetic towards politics, with little desire to increase their engagement, particularly those in rural areas and younger age groups. However, when exploring youth views in more

detail it became clear that young people feel frustration towards politics, not apathy. Four key themes emerged in our research:

Young people in Indonesia use social media to stay politically informed: Young people use social media in a range of ways, from sharing political news with friends, to using it as a platform for action and an outlet for their frustrations. In our Next Generation survey, those without access to the internet showed considerably lower political engagement (48 per cent were disengaged compared to 29 per cent of those with access). Over one in four young people mentioned that making political information easier to understand would increase their engagement (mentioned by 28 per cent of young people), particularly through social media (ranked as the top way to increase political engagement).

Young Indonesians admire political figures more than political parties: Despite low faith in the government among Indonesian youth, political figures emerged as key role models. Our Next Generation survey found that 17 per cent of young people felt they would be more politically engaged if there were more political figures to look up to (ranked fourth). Politicians who align with youth values are an effective way to increase engagement and trust; however, there is a risk that young people pay more attention to their character, rather than policy agenda.

Young people do not feel they have a legitimate voice to actively engage with politics: The political arena is a key area where limitations on youth voice are seen. As a result, many young people are left feeling that politics 'isn't for them', with some groups more affected than others; youth in rural areas, those with disabilities, and young women are particularly impacted.

Young people do not feel that political priorities align with their views: There was low awareness of government policies among our qualitative sample, with young people not feeling the tangible impact on their lives. Many young people felt not enough was done to address the impact of COVID-19 on young people, and that important areas, such as climate change and mental health, are not prioritised. Greater alignment with Indonesian youth is another powerful way to increase engagement; 23 per cent of our Next Generation survey stated they would increase their engagement if Indonesian politics reflected more of their personal views.

Despite scepticism around the current political system, young people are optimistic; our Next Generation survey found that a third feel the government is more effective than it was in the past. Young people believe that the next generation can disrupt the political status quo, ensure their views are better represented and bring about positive changes to the country. 59 per cent of young people are open to engaging with politics more and have ideas and suggestions on how it can be made easier for young people to get involved. However, to do this, young people must have greater clarity on how to enter the political sphere as a young person and called for the following changes:

- Greater enforcement of anti-corruption regulations and more severe consequences for those who get caught engaging in corruption, bribery and/or extortion;
- Increasing education and critical thinking skills around the policy agendas of political parties;
- Continuing use of social media as a tool to drive political engagement among young people;
- More efforts to increase the representation of young people, particularly marginalised groups, at local and national levels.

Health: positivity about health, but cultural and physical barriers to accessing services

Despite young people being generally positive about their current health (74 per cent according to WVS data), they do have concerns about the state of health in the country more broadly. 48 per cent of young people stated they have at least one or more concerns about health in Indonesia, making health the second biggest concern for young people after concerns about employment (55 per cent). Key health concerns include mental health (25 per cent), substance abuse (18 per cent with 21 per cent in rural areas), issues relating to smoking (13 per cent), early pregnancy (13 per cent, with 15 per cent in rural areas) and sexual health and disease (10 per cent).

There are both physical and cultural barriers to accessing healthcare services. Physical access to healthcare services is very uneven across Indonesia, and whilst our Next Generation participants felt that had good access to primary health care, access to more costly specialist care and medication presents an issue, especially for rural youth. Cultural barriers can hinder young people accessing health care, with conservative social, cultural, and religious norms around the topic of

sex meaning that youth across both urban and rural settings struggle to obtain accurate information regarding sexual reproductive health. Education around sex and sexual health is lacking in schools and young people can feel ill-equipped to talk about what they consider to be a 'taboo' subject.

Mental health emerged as the top health concern for youth (25 per cent). Mental health is a relatively new conversation, but a growing one, especially in urban areas. Changes in the mental health conversation can be attributed to three key influences:

- Increased education and exposure to mental health conversations via social media;
- An increasingly challenging social environment causing increased stress and pressure for young people;
- The on-set of COVID-19 making young people feel more isolated and aware of their own mental health.

Whilst awareness and conversations are growing among young people, stigma persists, and support is limited. This means many young people turn to the internet (and social media) for information and support, which can exacerbate the spread of misinformation and exacerbate symptoms for some (e.g. opening up about mental health but getting teased as a result). Mental health issues can also be accompanied by more maladaptive coping strategies, such as increased drug and alcohol use – an issue young people fear will get worse in the next five years.

Young people called for the following changes:

- Increased awareness of free/insured healthcare services for all young people;
- Increased education on sex and sexual health, specifically in schools (rather than relying on unregulated information and advice online);
- Increased education around the harms of substance abuse, alcohol and smoking and support to overcome these issues;
- Better mental health literacy and support, specifically in schools; and greater recognition from government authorities on mental health as a concern that needs addressing (and in turn addressing stigma).

Climate change: concerns about climate change are overshadowed by day-to-day worries like employment and education

Young people are concerned about climate change, with almost three in four choosing to protect the environment over economic growth when asked to choose⁴. However, on a day-to-day level, other issues (such as employment and education) feel more pressing. Climate change is currently of more concern to those with a higher level of education and those from higher socio-economic backgrounds, pointing to the role of education in raising awareness of and encouraging action on the issue, and suggesting that *scarcity* mindsets may play a role for young people in lower socio-economic groups who may have less headspace to worry about climate.

Findings from our Next Generation survey show that 21 per cent of young people feel they have been personally impacted by natural disasters, and they recognise the link between the climate and other areas of their lives, such as their financial security, access to food, water, and housing. Whilst young people understand that climate change is a global issue, the way they talked about its impact and solutions in our qualitative sessions suggests they conceive it to be (and experience it) more of a local issue with local solutions. This is likely because the varied geography and topography of Indonesia creates very different localised manifestations of climate change, which young people feel need to be tackled locally.

As a result, young people are looking to action from local governments as a priority. They called for:

- More coordination between local and national government - and between different local governments, to arrive at coordinated, but locally relevant solutions and regulations;
- Stricter regulations for businesses who are responsible for the devastating impacts on the environment, such as logging and pollution of rivers;
- Provision of better facilities to support the community with climate and conservation efforts;
- More support (financial aid, temporary housing, educational support, etc.) for communities that are currently most impacted by the impact of climate change;

- Educating the public through communication campaigns (including social media) on the gravity of the issue, and the specific actions they can take to help;
- Definitive action from education institutions on the issue. For example, making climate change part of the curriculum and encouraging opportunities for youth activism on climate within the school environment.

Audience and regional differences: similar views despite diversity and geographic spread

Despite its diversity and vast geography, young Indonesians were united on the top issues in the country and which areas should be prioritised. However, some consistent differences emerged:

Young women: Women tended to be more positive about the issues discussed in this report, despite experiencing a great number of challenges. The specific challenges that affect women more than men include mental health, gender inequality, sexual abuse/violence, and marriage and pregnancy at a young age. Women also face more barriers to employment due to established views of women's roles and capabilities. Women made up almost three quarters of unemployed youth in our Next Generation survey (73 per cent). Aside from these differences, it has been noted that for most of the topics discussed in this report, there were no substantial differences in opinions shared by young women and men.

Rural youth: Young people living in rural areas tend to experience more challenges in their lives, with greater concerns surrounding employment opportunities (almost one in four rural youth in our Next Generation survey were unemployed, compared to ten per cent in urban areas) with 23 per cent feeling that there are not enough job opportunities in their area. Other challenges felt more by those in rural areas include access to education, lack of financial security, natural disasters, and substance abuse, among others. In urban areas, the COVID-19 pandemic and work-life balance (either working long hours or having to work multiple jobs) are the biggest challenges. Those in rural areas are generally more optimistic about a range of these issues improving in the future.

East versus West: Similar top priorities come through for all regions (employment, health and education, etc.), however, young people in the East are less optimistic about these concerns 'getting better' in the future compared to their counterparts in the West. Uneven infrastructure development across the country means young people in Eastern areas of the country are less likely to have access to the internet compared to those in the West. Our Next Generation survey showed that young people in Eastern regions were less likely to feel that it is important to finish education (one in three compared to almost half in the West) and young people in the East were also more likely to feel that the education system is insufficiently equipping them for life and work - just 30 per cent felt that their education has prepared them well for working life (versus 38 per cent in the West) and only 32 per cent said that their education has helped them get a job (versus 40 per cent in the West).

Age: Younger age groups (16-19 year-olds) are significantly more positive about the future, whilst those in older age groups (25-35 year-olds) are disproportionately concerned about employment opportunities and financial security. When thinking about priorities for the future, older age groups prioritise economic improvements, whereas younger age groups are more concerned about social and political issues (e.g. ending political corruption, gender equality, sexual harassment), likely a combination of a generational shift in views on these issues but also the increased pressure older age groups are feeling to support themselves and others financially.

Disability status: Youth with disabilities are generally more concerned about health, including access to healthcare and mental health issues. There is also greater concern around employment and finances among young people who have physical disabilities than those with other disabilities or no disabilities. However, generally, youth with disabilities and those with no disabilities have the same top concerns, namely COVID-19, employment, education, and health.

About the Authors



2CV is a research agency that gives people a voice so they can influence the world around them. 2CV designs research to help change happen, using innovative, immersive methodologies, and sensitivity for people and cultures, to uncover inspiring truths. 2CV works with NGOs and public and private organisations to explore opportunities for change. For more information, please visit www.2cv.com



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