

# Street children in Jakarta

## Survey to identify social medical problems and support needs

Noor Tromp<sup>1</sup>, Fita Rizki Utami<sup>2</sup>, Jessica Hutting<sup>3</sup>, Beny Lumy<sup>3</sup>, Igor van Laere<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Doctors for Homeless Foundation (DHF), <sup>2</sup>Universitas Indonesia (UI), <sup>3</sup>Kampus Diakonia Modern (KDM)



## Background

- **Kampus Diakonia Modern (KDM)** has been supporting street children in Jakarta since 1972; [www.kdm.or.id](http://www.kdm.or.id)
- KDM provides an outreach team in Greater Jakarta streets and a program for shelter, education, sports and life skills training.
- To improve their outreach program, KDM expressed a need for better understanding of social medical problems in street children.
- In April 2014 a **joint project** was started between **KDM** and the **Doctors for Homeless Foundation (DHF)**; an organization to promote and share international street medicine lessons.

## Objectives

- To identify family background and social medical problems in street children in Jakarta
- To build capacity among KDM outreach staff and university students for data collection
- To give recommendations for the Indonesian government to better respond to identified problems of street children

## Methods

- A data collection instrument was developed and a training was held for 4 outreach staff and 10 students from **Universitas Indonesia (UI)** by a local Indonesian research assistant and a DHF representative.
- 207 street children were interviewed in 17 hotspot locations in Greater Jakarta (Jakarta, Bogor, Depok, Bekasi, Tangerang), between May-October 2014.



Participants DHF data collection training, 14 June 2014 at KDM Indonesia

## Preliminary results (February 2015)

### Family background

- 207 children, age 6-18 years
- 140 boys (82 age 6-12 years), 67 girls (47 age 6-12 years)
- 100% was from a poor family; average 5 children (range 1-13)
- 100% parents were low educated and had low paid jobs
- 27% was born outside Greater Jakarta
- 74% had actual contact with mother and 52% with father
- 18% father or mother had died

### Street life

- 25% was forced into street life by family
- 33% slept outside at a station, market or under a bridge
- 100% playing music, begging or selling goods during 4-12 hours per day
- 67% spent money on internet games (boys 80% and girls 41%)
- 27% of 67 rough sleepers ever had contact with NGO/shelter

### Education

- 17% never went to school (boys 18% and girls 14%)
- 25% could not read or write (boys 28% and girls 19%)
- 59% did not currently go to school (boys 64% and girls 49%)
- 11% of school drop-outs ever had contact with NGO/street teaching

### Health

- 66% was ever physically abused
- 60% felt sad and scared (boys 54% and girls 71%)
- 58% respiratory problems, 49% dental, 47% skin, 27% diarrhea
- 34% did not wear shoes (boys 40% and girls 20%)
- 28% did not wear clean clothes (boys 36% and girls 11%)
- 16% smoking in boys 6-12 years, alcohol 11%, glue 7%, drugs 6%
- 31% smoking in girls 13-15 years, alcohol 8% and drugs 8%
- 30% never went to a doctor and 70% never saw a dentist
- 39% ever had contact with health services; 2% for vaccination

### Dreams

- 1 in 3 girls dreamed to become a doctor
- 1 in 3 boys dreamed to join the army or police

## Conclusions

- Street children in Jakarta came from poor and low educated families
- One third slept rough and made money during many hours per day
- One quarter was illiterate, and more boys than girls did not go to school
- Many had psychological, addiction and/or physical health problems
- General support and access to services was very limited
- A high need for a loving home, education and healthcare was identified
- Increased street outreach and social-medical support are recommended