

Country Handbook: Indonesia



Introduction

Travelling to see the work of Compassion and our local church partners firsthand is an unforgettable experience. On this trip, you'll see for yourself how children are known, loved and protected by their church communities and are being released from poverty in Jesus' name.

This Country Handbook is designed to start preparing you for your trip to Indonesia. Please read it before you depart, and we'd also recommend that you keep it handy for easy reference.

We pray that God will bless your time in Indonesia!



Country Information



Indonesia is made up of 17,508 islands and has 129 active volcanoes. It is home to many diverse cultures, but Indonesians as a whole value family, community, celebration and prayer.

Main languages:

Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian), English, Javanese

Climate:

Tropical (hot temperatures, high humidity and heavy rainfall)

Main religions:

Muslim (87.2%), Protestant (7%), Roman Catholic (2.9%), Hindu (1.7%)

Currency:

Indonesian Rupiah



Compassion in Indonesia

Compassion has been working to release children from poverty in Jesus' name in Indonesia since 1968. Nearly 10 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program is tailored to be age-appropriate for each child.

Children **AGED 1 TO 3** receive home-based care.

Children **AGED 3 AND OLDER** attend their local Compassion centre on weekends.



For more information on Indonesia, scan the QR code or visit: compassion.com.au/where-we-work/indonesia

Compassion assisted children in Indonesia typically attend program activities at their local child development centres. Here is an example of what a typical program day looks like:

8:00am - A time of prayer and devotion.

9:00am - Spiritual lessons where children sing songs and learn Bible stories. They are given complete Bibles once they enter middle school.

10:30am - Break time where children can play in a safe environment and develop friendships.

11:00am - Social-emotional lessons that range from conflict resolution to developing healthy self-esteem. Children often come from challenging home environments and are taught social and personal skills.

12:00pm - Lunch time, where the meal usually consists of rice, meat, vegetables and fruit. Milk is provided for young children. Typical Indonesian foods that are rich with protein such as tempe and tofu are often provided. Children are given meals once or twice a week.

1:00pm - Health lessons where children are taught practical health and hygiene tips.

2:00pm - Letter writing and career planning. Older children work with local staff to identify their strengths and interests and set goals for their future.

Children also often have opportunities to join in extracurricular activities such as sporting activities, painting, singing, computer training and English courses. Older students receive practical skills training in areas like car repair and sewing. Every year parents are offered parenting classes.

Cultural Considerations



Clothing

- **Women:** Please cover your shoulders and dress modestly as an indication of respect. Long or short sleeve tops are appropriate, along with pants or skirts that cover the knees.
- **Men:** For most days of your trip, shirts along with pants or jeans are acceptable. Shorts are acceptable in some places, but please do not wear them when visiting family homes or local church partners. Button up shirts and formal trousers or pants are suggested for Sunday church services.
- Please wear closed-in shoes when you visit local churches.
- Piercings (other than ears) and tattoos are not widely accepted in churches. Please cover tattoos if possible.

Greetings

- Indonesians smile a great deal and expect the same when greeting others.
- Introductions are formal and deliberate. A handshake and slight nod are proper gestures for both men and women, but please do not extend a handshake to someone of the opposite gender when greeting Muslims.
- Please refrain from hugging or kissing someone of the opposite gender. You may hug someone of the same gender after asking permission.
- Indonesians often bow and go so far as to bow their heads or drop their shoulders when passing a superior or older person to demonstrate their respect.

Toilets

- Most hotels have Western toilets, but squat toilets are common in Indonesia. Toilet paper is available if you don't want to use water to clean yourself, but it is recommended you carry some toilet paper or tissues when you are out for the day in case you need to use a public toilet.

Emergency contact information:

Local emergency number: 112
Compassion Indonesia office: 022-21032012
Australian Embassy: +62 21 2550 5555

Body language

- Among Indonesians, the left hand is considered unclean and, whenever possible, should not be used in public. The right hand should be used exclusively to eat, accept and give items, and hold cash.
- When sitting, it is best not to show the soles of your feet or the soles of your shoes. It is considered impolite to cross your legs in front of an elder.
- Standing tall with your hands on your hips is perceived as an aggressive stance.
- In some areas, it is considered rude to use your index finger to point. If you are unsure, you may point with an open hand.
- When entering a family home, please take off your shoes.

Language

- Useful Indonesian phrases:
Good morning: Selamat pagi
Good afternoon: Selamat siang
Good night: Selamat malam
My name is: Nama saya
How are you? Apa kabar?
Thank you: Terima kasih
Please: Tolong
Sorry: Maaf
Yes: Ya
No: Tidak
- **Language/phrases to avoid:** swear words, 'stupid', 'no offense, but...', comments on someone's size or poverty level

Eating and drinking

- In most settings, it is polite to allow elders, oldest family members or honoured guests to be served first. However, it is polite for you to allow children and women to serve themselves or be served first. Follow the lead of your host.
- Indonesians may offer food as a sign of respect. Accepting their offer is a demonstration of mutual respect.
- Remember to accept and eat food with your right hand.
- It is uncommon for Christians to drink alcohol.



Key Challenges and Prayer Points

Many parts of Indonesia are at high risk of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Hundreds of thousands of families have been displaced and severely affected by natural disasters in recent years. Please pray for protection over local staff and families amid disasters and for the safety of children who are left vulnerable to abuse and trafficking as a result.

Poverty and pronounced inequality persist throughout Indonesia, particularly in rural areas. Many rural communities lack basic infrastructure such as internet access, roads and safe water. Please pray over our local church partners as they implement initiatives to address inequality such as providing improved sanitation facilities and computer access.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant many children missed out on essential learning. Our local church partners are committed to ensuring children catch up on their education and youth have opportunities to learn income-generation skills. Please pray that these programs will continue to positively impact academic performance and employment rates in the community.



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