The Invisible Toll of COVID-19 on Learning

Pathways to Learning Recovery and a more Productive Future for Indonesia's School Children

World Bank June 26, 2023





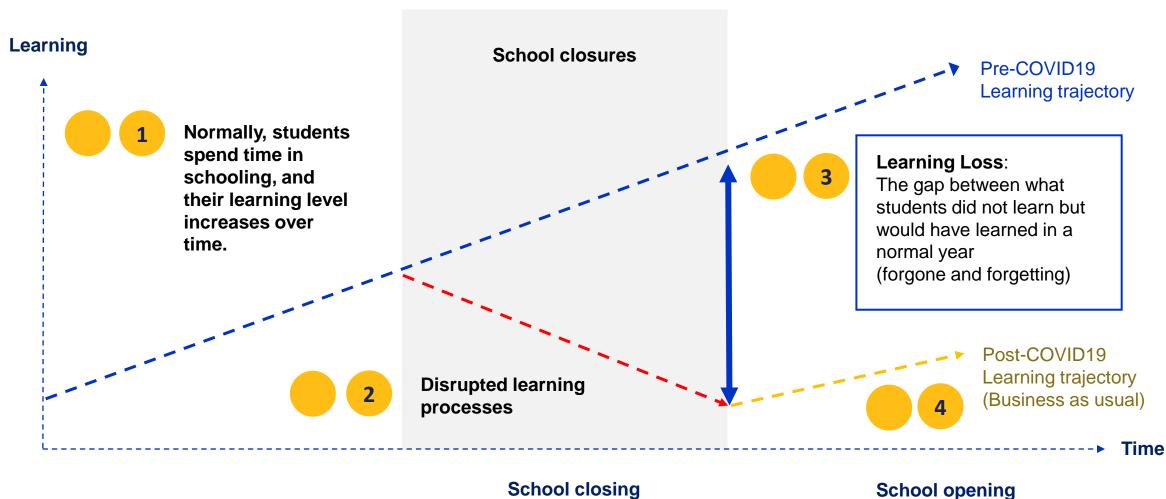
Contents

- Context of Learning Loss
- Study Findings: How much learning losses occurred, for whom?
- Economic Implications
- Conclusions and Recommendations



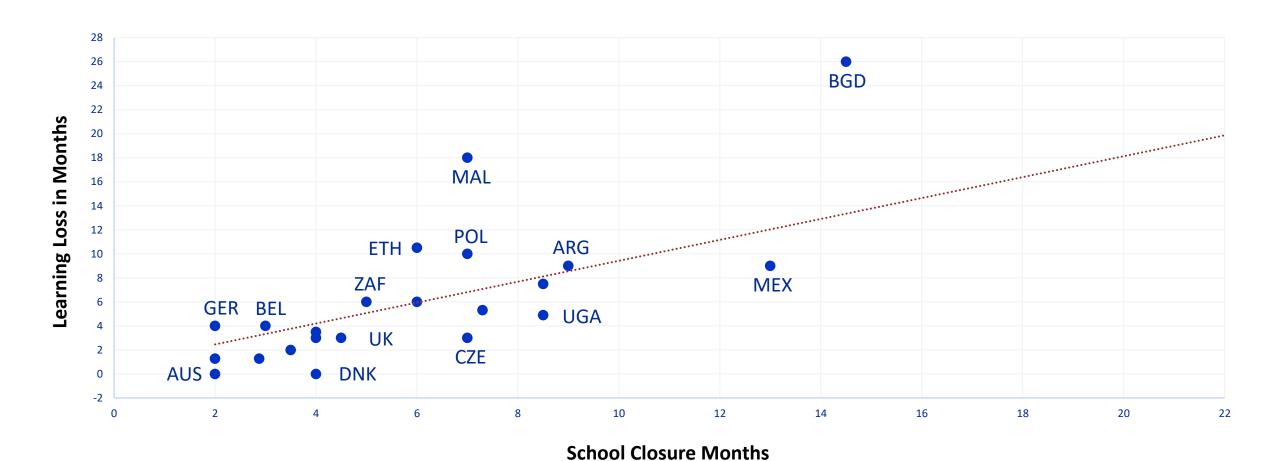


How students missed out on learning due to COVID-19



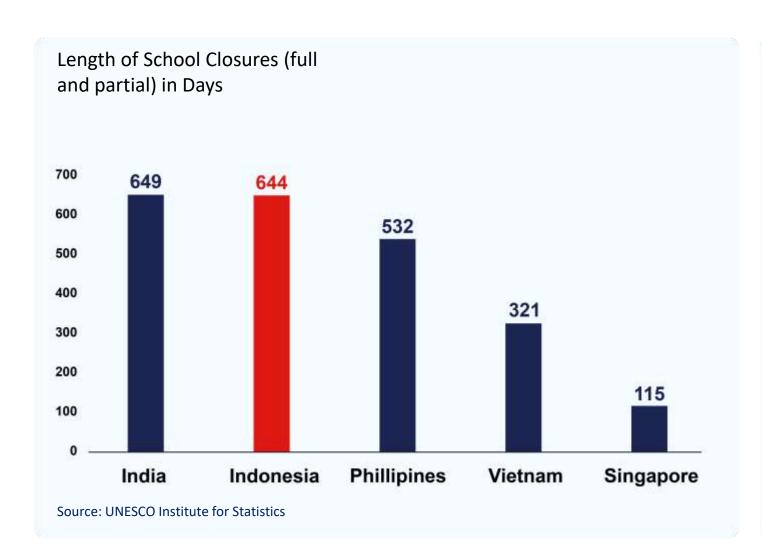


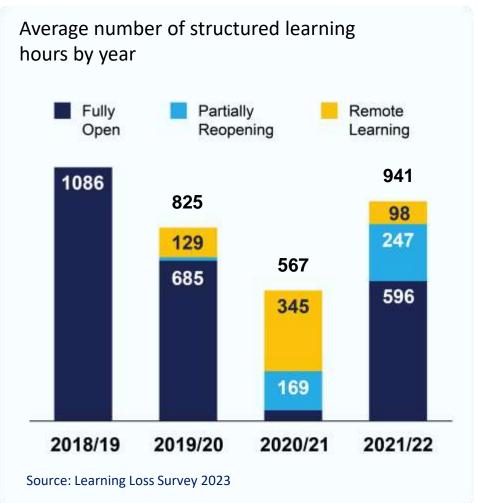
The longer the schools remained closed, the larger were the learning losses, globally





Indonesia has one of the longest school closures in the world







Government of Indonesia has made efforts to mitigate learning losses

Immediate Responses

Broadcasted learning contents through TV and Radio

Supported students and teachers through targeted education financing schemes, including a BOS (School Operational Funds) allocation reform.

The Gol introduced distance learning guidance and a series of online-based initiatives with free internet quota during the distance learning period.

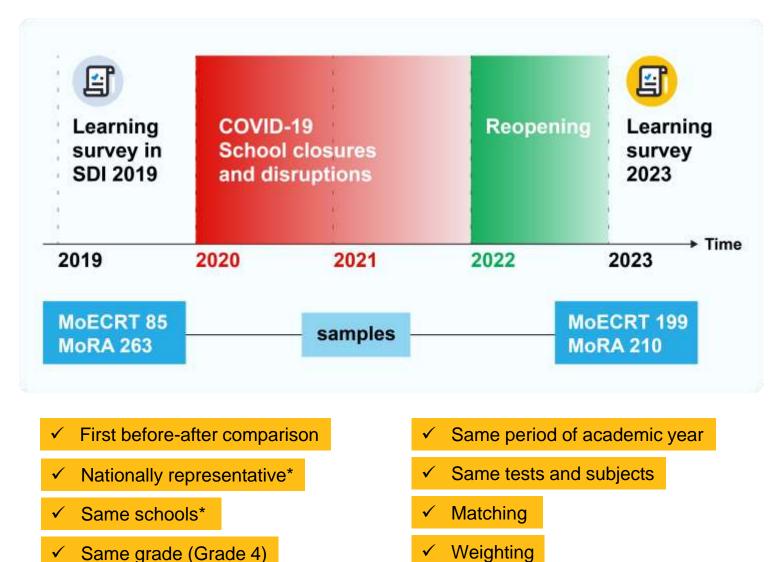
Study Findings:

How much learning losses occurred, for whom?



Providing new nationwide evidence of learning losses after COVID-19 induced school closures in Indonesia

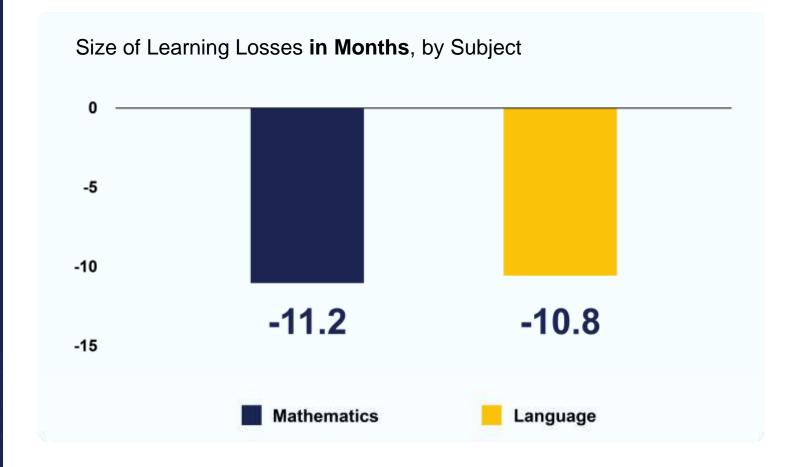




Note: Additional schools under MoECRT were included in the 2023 survey to make the sample nationally representative

Approximately 11 months of learning losses in math and language at a national level in Indonesia



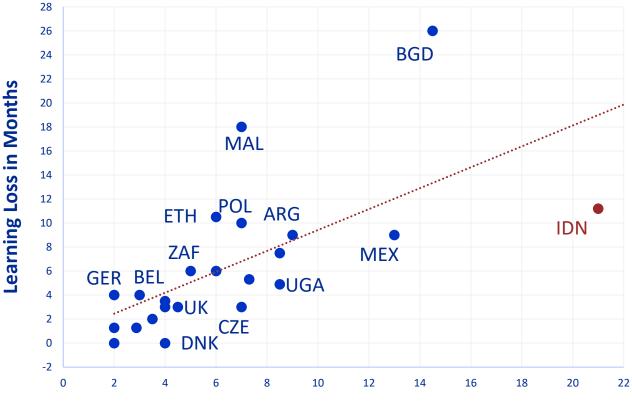


Source: Authors' analysis using SDI Survey 2019 and Learning Loss Survey 2023





Relationship between Months of School Closures and Learning Loss



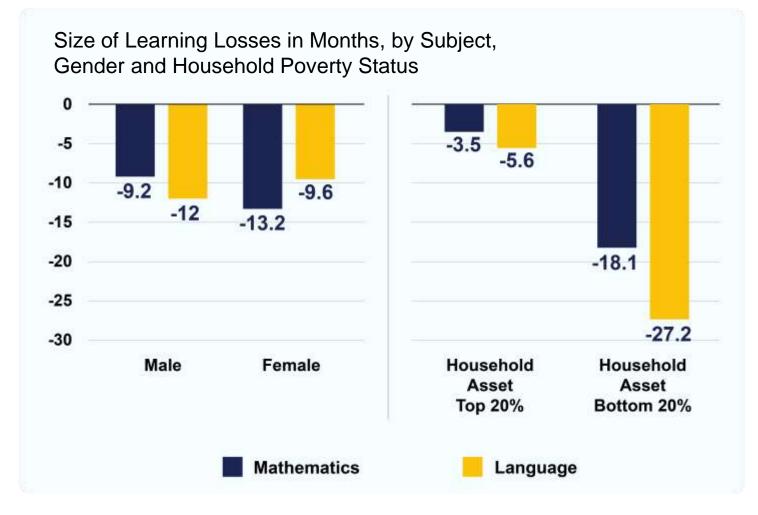
School Closure Months

Source: Authors' analysis using SDI Survey 2019 and Learning Loss Survey 2023

Widened inequality:

Students from poor households lost 18 and 27 months in math and language

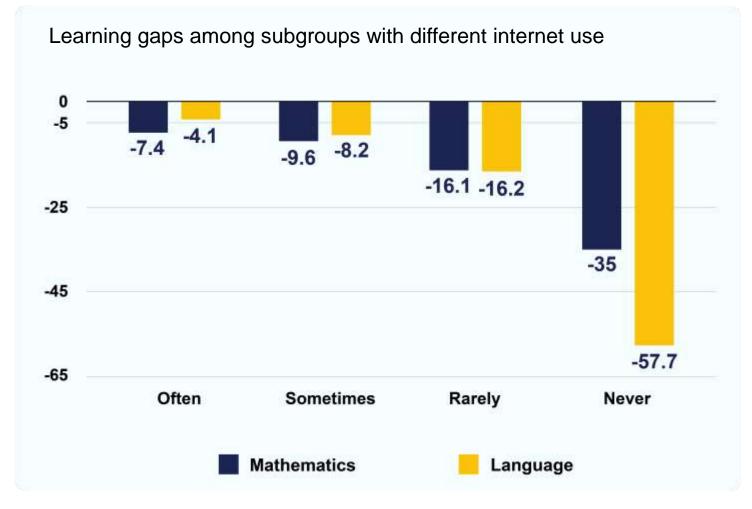




Source: Authors' analysis using SDI Survey 2019 and Learning Loss Survey 2023

Students who had no internet use during school closures had particularly low performance

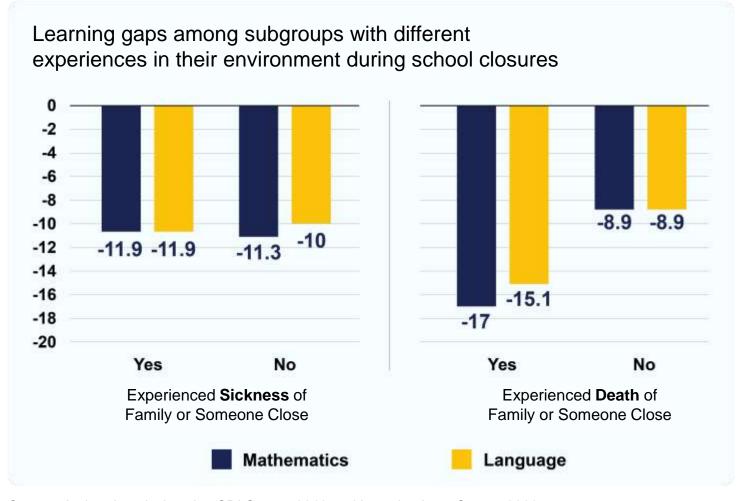




Source: Authors' analysis using SDI Survey 2019 and Learning Loss Survey 2023

Students who had experienced death or sickness of a family member or someone close were also affected





Source: Authors' analysis using SDI Survey 2019 and Learning Loss Survey 2023





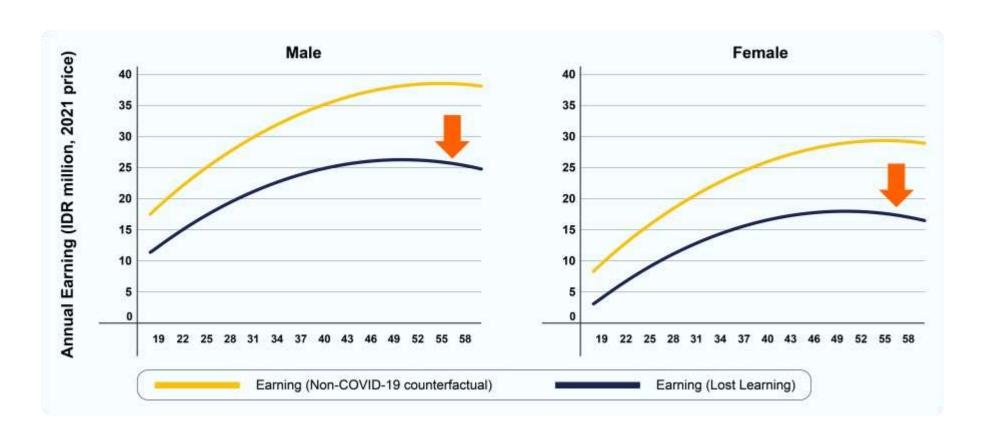
Losses of future earnings and productivity can be high in Indonesia

The estimated *individual loss* of lifetime earnings will be:

• M: 31 %

• F: 39 %

If learning loss is not remediated.



Simulated age-earning profiles of workers with and without learning loss, by gender

Source: Authors' analysis using SDI Survey 2019 and Learning Loss Survey 2023

Note: Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS) 2014 was used to calculate correlations of math competency on earnings. Conclusions and Recommendations





3 Takeaways of Findings

- Approximately 11 months of learning losses in both math and language experienced among Grade 4 students
- Widened inequality: Students from poor families lost 18 and 27 months in math and language.
- Economic impact of learning losses can be large: Losses of lifetime future earnings and productivity

However, the majority of teachers do NOT recognize learning losses.

"Invisible Toll"



Current Responses from the Government





Merdeka Belajar: a comprehensive set of instruments that enable teachers and principals to shape their teaching practices

 Relies on independent judgment by the relevant actors, some schools and regions, particularly those who are deeply affected by the pandemic, may need further guidance on how to use the instruments for learning recovery



Kurikulum Merdeka: allow for schools to adapt the curriculum to fit their context and environment

2

 Implementation is limited to the use of curriculum without significant adaptation to local context. Can be a powerful tool to introduce progression of curriculum for learning recovery



Pendidikan Guru Penggerak: leadership and training program for teachers

 Curriculum specifically designed to address learning recovery can be introduced to accelerate dissemination of information required to accelerate learning recovery



Policy Recommendation 1

Initiate deliberate actions for learning recovery now,

by

- creating political commitment for learning recovery,
- allocating resources, and
- engaging stakeholders

- Allocate budgets for immediate learning recovery actions and prompt political commitment through the *Merdeka Belajar* program for learning recovery
- Raise the awareness of teachers, principals, officials of subnational governments, and other education stakeholders about student learning loss and their role in addressing them
- Raise awareness of parents to engage them in continued supplementary home-based learning



Policy Recommendation 2



Catch-up on lost learning time,



Teach at the right level for students, and



Track student performance improvement

- Catch-up on lost learning hours by temporarily increasing class hours, offering remedial lessons, or leveraging private learning support outside regular class hours through initiatives like Kampus Mengajar initiative
- Emphasize the implementation of Merdeka Belajar to Teach at the Right Level and actively adapting learning for learning recovery
- Continuously assess student competency and monitor improvements through promoting the use of the assessment instrument available in the Merdeka Belajar platform



Policy Recommendation 3

Address inequality in learning

by

 allocating additional resources to support disadvantaged or underperforming students

- Allocate additional resources to subnational governments and educational institutions for learning recovery activities where learning performance is particularly low or learning loss is particularly large
- Provide implementation and capacity building support for subnational education officers to ensure effective use of resource and implementation of targeted interventions
- Provide support to students with disabilities, out-of-school children, and those who may need psychological help





Terima Kasih

