The number of children with stunted growth remains high and therefore continuous efforts must be made to educate pregnant women and women with young children regarding with nutrition requirements.

A. Heru Nugroho, head of the Nutrition Division at Provincial Health Office of East Java, said that the number of children under five suffering from malnutrition is 19.6 percent or 8.4 million, or about 37.2 percent of Indonesian children under the age of five.

The 20 districts are expected to launch the Integrated Program of Nutrition under which “pregnant women will be given zinc and iron tablets that contain 60 mg of iron and 6 mg of zinc. The tablets will be distributed as a way of giving a new generation of future mothers and individuals." Heru added.

The expected three-year initiative will be launched in the two provinces,“ said Doddy.

The government is determined to continue nutrition programs to ensure the first 1,000 days of a child’s life — from the third trimester of pregnancy to the second birthday. (JN/aa)

The Jakarta Post

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