



INDONESIA



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EMPOWER YOUTH FOR WORK

Enabling young people to drive positive change in their community

CONTEXT

With around 260 million people, Indonesia is the fourth-largest country in terms of population. The population is extremely youthful, implying a potentially large workforce. However, despite this potential strength in relation to its economy, 30% of the country's 43 million young people aged 15-24 are unemployed.

The objective of the Empower Youth for Work (EYW) program in Indonesia is to reduce poverty in rural coastal areas that are prone to the impacts of climate change, by empowering youth (especially young women) to secure viable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. We focus on youth who have limited scope to develop their life skills or the skills required to take up formal employment or develop microenterprises.

VISION

Our dream is for young people to be able to improve their lives by gaining better employment opportunities, while social norms will be transformed such that young people – and young women in particular – can shape their own future and drive positive change in their community. The EYW program is working with our partners Alliance for Prosperity Village and Indonesia Business Link to create an enabling environment in which young people can participate in decent and secure economic activities, using their agency and market-led soft and technical skills.

STRATEGIES

EYW is working towards this vision by: creating sustainable youth groups; linking and matching young talent to the labor market; establishing and improving small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that have 'People, Planet, Profit' principles; reducing discrimination against young people, particularly young women, in the public sphere; and working to change social norms which prevent young people from participating fully in economic activities. EYW benefits from partners' extensive experience on influencing, community development, youth capacity building and ICT for development.



Collaborations built between EYW and youth, government, private sector actors, local leaders and village authorities



TIRMAN'S STORY: "JUST BE YOURSELF"

Tirman, a student in Indramayu, used to be insecure and had difficulty interacting with other people. He was often bullied – at home, at school and on the street. As a result, he lacked confidence and felt reluctant to try anything new.

However, while taking part in the soft skills training offered by the EYW program, Tirman's self-confidence began to grow. He started to share his thoughts and ideas with others, rather than just listening to everybody else. Just like the saying that he quotes, "Just be yourself", Tirman became better able to express himself.

As a result of his newfound self-esteem, Tirman received high marks during an internship at a fish and bread processing company, where he received positive feedback from the HR Department. One of the highest scores he received was for his professional behavior. Tirman hopes that more soft skills training will be carried out in Indramayu, so that more young people, especially those with similar problems, can gain the skills and confidence that will give them the chance of a brighter future.



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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS - YEAR 3

EYW in Indonesia is empowering young people in three provinces through a series of interventions which build their agency and skills and help them find employment. By the end of year 3, we had reached 1,185 young people through soft skills training.

Because the ICT literacy rate in rural coastal areas is lower than it is in the cities, we have tailor-made the ICT module to better match employer demands and we are working with ICT volunteer networks to run pop-up ICT classes. So far, we have supported 669 youth with ICT literacy training, giving them a basic understanding of ICT for business.

EYW is collaborating with the respective district governments, young people, community leaders and private sector actors in targeted provinces. As of year 3 it is also getting support from Karang Taruna, a youth organization created by the Ministry of Social Affairs, which is collaborating in EYW activities in all three provinces.

INNOVATION AND PILOTS

During the third quarter of year 3, Oxfam in Indonesia started a community-based tourism pilot to help develop tourism which benefits wider communities rather than a few select companies. This followed

on from the E-Motive exchange that took place at the start of the year, in which a group from the EYW program in Indonesia visited their counterparts in the Philippines to share knowledge and good practice in community-based tourism. Strong engagement with and influencing of local government to support this pilot resulted in successful agreement, whereby Oxfam and local partners have the local government's full support to develop community-based tourism with the involvement of young people. An assessment and 'visioning' plan on community-based tourism resources was carried out in two targeted areas (Baru and Pangkep, South Sulawesi) to focus on the sites to be developed. The initiative will be managed by youth and local communities to develop tourism which will increase economic activities and opportunities in the area.

EYW in Indonesia also used the Human-Centered Design (HCD) approach to enable young people to identify, develop and solve problems in their community through the Youth Hub. Using HCD, the program applies a holistic approach to tackle gender-based discrimination, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), and lack of quality education – all of which impact young people, and young women in particular,

when it comes to making choices about employment.

CHALLENGES AND RISKS

Due to government suspension of Oxfam work, EYW was halted for the first half of the year. The work in one program region had to be handed over to one of our partners, due to government regulations. This delayed progress in implementation that we only started to catch up on during the last two quarters. There is still limited space for visibility for EYW in Indonesia that impacts on the effectiveness of advocacy and influencing work.

We also experienced increased government scrutiny of gender-related activities. As a result we had to postpone GALS (Gender Action Learning System), SRHR and other activities under the 'enabling environment' component of EYW. However, it is hoped that the new collaboration with Karang Taruna, as described above, will help to overcome the challenges working with government while increasing the reach of the EYW program.

For more information, please visit: www.empoweryouthforwork.org

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