

National Children's Day

Growing Up in Remote Areas: The Experiences and Aspirations of Children Living in Rural Tasikmalaya District



Indonesia has made significant progress in reducing poverty. However, inequalities continue to limit many children's opportunities to grow and thrive. The Monitoring and Analyzing Child Poverty Across Space study, conducted by the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, UNICEF Indonesia, and SMERU, places the perspectives of children and adolescents at the center of its analysis to better understand their lives in marginalized areas and the challenges that often go unnoticed by adults. The study highlights the importance of ensuring that children's voices are reflected in policymaking so that policies are more inclusive and responsive to their needs. In commemoration of National Children's Day, we invite you to see the world through children's eyes. [Click the image](#) to read the full report.

World Rural Development Day



Participatory Environmental Governance in Indonesia: Assessing the Limitations

How has Indonesia's village development agenda shaped local natural resource governance? This article examines how participatory governance policies under the Joko Widodo administration were used to accelerate infrastructure development and economic growth, and what this has meant for village democracy and environmental governance. Drawing on qualitative data and a longitudinal monitoring study, it offers a critical perspective on the challenges of preserving villages' autonomy in managing their natural resources. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.

SMERU Video



Indonesia's textile and textile products industry is one of the country's largest employers. Yet behind its significant contribution to the economy lie growing environmental challenges. As demand for more sustainable textile products continues to rise, so do opportunities to create more green jobs. [Click the image](#) to watch a video that provides an overview of SMERU's ongoing study on green job opportunities in Indonesia's textile sector.

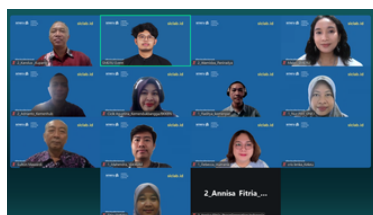
Latest Publications



Cash Assistance of Rp5.4 Million per Person: Can AI Accurately Identify the Right Beneficiaries?

How can social assistance reach the people who need it most? In an article published by *The Conversation Indonesia*, SMERU Researcher Jonathan Farez Satyadharma examines the opportunities and challenges of using artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the targeting of social assistance. The article argues that AI can enhance targeting accuracy only when supported by reliable, up-to-date, and integrated data. It also emphasizes that strong data governance and privacy protection are essential to ensure that the use of AI does not create new risks for beneficiaries. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.

Activities



As part of its commitment to strengthening the capacity of development practitioners, the SMERU Learning Centre held an online training on Introduction to Policy Advocacy on

15–16 July. The two-day training brought together 12 participants from government ministries, civil society organizations, and universities. Participants explored the fundamentals of policy advocacy, methods for mapping policy issues and stakeholders, and exchanged experiences on advocacy practices across sectors. SMERU also shared lessons from its own policy advocacy efforts, highlighting key challenges and practical strategies for navigating them.



On 9 July, the Australia–Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society (INKLUSI) held a brown bag lunch at the INKLUSI Secretariat Office in Jakarta. This learning forum discussed the findings of a baseline study on multi-stakeholder collaboration for mainstreaming gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) in Indonesia. The study was commissioned by the Directorate of Family, Caregiving, Women, and Children at the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) and conducted by SMERU with support from the SKALA Program. SMERU Senior Researcher Palmira Permata Bachtiar presented the study, which found that gender equality, disability, and social inclusion mainstreaming at the subnational level continues to face challenges in government coordination and civil society engagement. The findings underscore the importance of using evidence to strengthen civil society organizations, enhance collaboration with government, and refine INKLUSI's program strategies.

SMERU in the Media



This *Kompas.com* article examines Indonesia's high rate of educated unemployment, attributing it to a persistent mismatch between graduates' skills and the rapidly evolving demands of the labor market. In the article, SMERU Senior Research Fellow Asep Suryahadi explains that technological advancement, digitalization, automation, and the transition to a green economy have outpaced updates to educational curricula. He also notes that many education and training providers continue to design programs based on institutional capacity rather than labor market demand, allowing the skills mismatch to persist. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.



Qualitative Methods in Policy Research

Digital Certificate
20 Learning Hours

Wednesday–Thursday
5–6 August 2026
Online

Registration:



slclab.id

Registration deadline: **Saturday, 1 August 2026**



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