

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August)

Why Isn't Development Working for Indigenous Peoples of Papua?



Photo: indonesiana.id

Since the introduction of Special Autonomy in 2001, Papua has received significant attention through development policies and investments. Yet major challenges in education, health, and well-being persist. A SMERU study finds that the issue is not simply a lack of development programs, but also a mismatch between existing approaches and the livelihoods, socio-cultural context, and aspirations of indigenous peoples of Papua (OAP). When development does not reflect local realities, investments may fall short of addressing people's needs and strengthening the capacity of OAPs. [Click the image](#) to read the blog or [research report](#) and the [series of policy briefs](#) on adaptive social protection for OAPs.

World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August)

Opinion Leader Research on Barriers to Optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in Indonesia



Photo: Canva

What makes it difficult for families to provide infants and young children with the nutrition they need? A SMERU study published a decade ago found that the answer goes beyond what parents know or choose to do. Health workers, workplaces, policymakers, and the wider environment all play a role in shaping children's feeding practices. While the study is ten years old, its insights into these systemic barriers remain strikingly relevant today, offering a useful lens for current policy discussions [Click the image](#) to read the report's executive summary.

International Youth Day (12 August)

Endline Study of the Wikithon Program Evaluation



BASAbali and BASAsulsel Wiki Marathon (Wikithon) create opportunities for young people to engage with public issues through local-language opinion writing competitions, workshops, and mechanisms for voting and commenting. The SMERU study explores participants' experiences and examines how the program shapes young people's capacities and civic participation, while also identifying opportunities and challenges for its future development. What happens when young people are given a space to make their voices heard? [Click the image](#) to read the report and find out.

Inside SMERU

Question

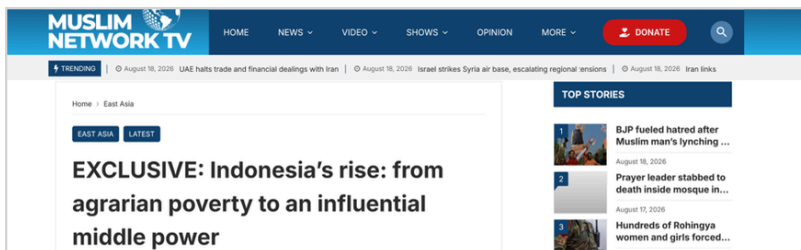
What is ethical clearance, and why is this process important in research?



Ulfah Alifia
Senior Researcher,
Head of Education Cluster

Ethical clearance is a review of a research plan to ensure that a study is conducted ethically and responsibly, particularly when it involves human participants. This is important because researchers and participants may not be in an equal position. At SMERU, ethical clearance is an important part of preparing for fieldwork and data collection. The process helps ensure that participants' rights and safety are protected.

SMERU in the Media



What has changed in Indonesia's development over 81 years of independence? An article by *Muslim Network TV*, a digital media outlet in North America, looks back at Indonesia's remarkable transformation—from an agrarian country grappling with widespread poverty to an increasingly influential upper-middle-income country. SMERU's Senior Research Fellow Asep Suryahadi reflects on the progress Indonesia has made, as well as the challenges that persist, including inequality, informal employment, and a shrinking middle class. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.

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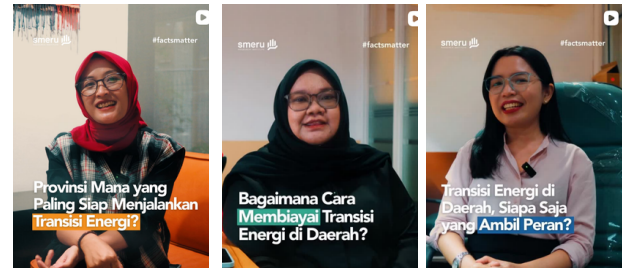


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Social Media



Energy transition is not just about shifting to clean energy. It also requires regions to put in place the right policies, financing, and collaboration to make it happen. Through an analysis of 27 Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) and the development of a financing and funding guide, SMERU explores how regions can strengthen their readiness for the energy transition. [Click the image](#) to watch three short videos on the energy transition in Indonesia's regions.

Activities



SMERU and [the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation \(3ie\)](#) have formalized a strategic partnership to strengthen evidence-informed decision-making in Indonesia and the surrounding region. The partnership was marked by the virtual signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11 August by 3ie's Program Director for Asia, Neelakshi Mann, and SMERU's Director Widjajanti Isdijoso. Through this partnership, the two institutions are committed to strengthening the evidence-based policy ecosystem across Asia. The collaboration will focus, among other things, on developing evidence relevant to policy needs, strengthening capacity in impact evaluation and various analytical approaches, and organizing learning forums that bring together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners.



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