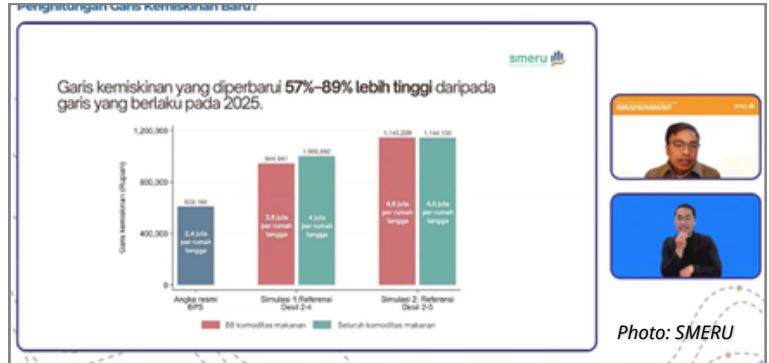


International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October)

Does Indonesia Need a New Approach to Measuring Poverty?



Over the past three decades, the living standards of Indonesians have changed significantly. Yet, the national poverty line is still calculated using a methodology established in 1998. As a key reference for poverty reduction policies, the poverty line helps define the minimum standard of living used to identify people living in poverty. To discuss the need to update this methodology, SMERU held a seminar titled “Does Indonesia Need a New Approach to Poverty Line Measurement?” on 15 October 2026.

The seminar brought together speakers from various stakeholders to enrich the discussion. SMERU Senior Researcher, Dr. Ridho Al Izzati, proposed shifting the benchmark from mere subsistence to a minimum decent standard of living. Dr. M. Nashrul Wajdi, SST., M.Si., Deputy for Social Statistics at Statistics Indonesia (BPS), presented simulations of potential changes to the poverty line methodology currently being explored by BPS. SMERU Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Sudarno Sumarto, highlighted the importance of building a shared understanding among stakeholders of poverty and the poverty line. Meanwhile, Tirta Sutedjo, S.T., M.W.R.M., Director of Poverty Reduction and Social Welfare at the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, discussed how updating the poverty line could shape the planning and strengthening of poverty reduction policies. [Click the image](#) to watch the seminar recording and download Dr. Ridho’s presentation (available in Indonesian only).

Latest Publications



Strengthening Adaptive Social Protection to Enhance Rural Communities’ Resilience to Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly threatening the livelihoods of dryland farmers, capture fishers, and seaweed farmers. Yet, social protection systems are not fully equipped to respond to evolving climate-related vulnerabilities. Drawing on studies in East Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara, and Mamuju, West Sulawesi, SMERU identifies three gaps in adaptive social protection. [Click the image](#) to explore the full set of recommendations (available in Indonesian only).



Indonesia’s Next Development Challenge: Turning Economic Growth into Plentiful Good Jobs

Sustained economic growth does not necessarily translate into shared prosperity. With wages rising slowly, the middle class shrinking, and structural inequalities persisting, Indonesia faces the challenge of creating more productive, quality jobs. In its latest blog post, SMERU explores why development success should be measured not only by economic growth, but also by people’s ability to improve their living standards and build a more secure and prosperous future. [Click the image](#) to read the full blog post (available in Indonesian only).

From the Past



The Implications of Poverty Dynamics for Targeting the Poor: Simulations Using Indonesian Data

This study examines how poverty dynamics affect the targeting accuracy of social assistance programs in Indonesia. The findings show that changes in household economic circumstances can lead to targeting errors: households in need may miss out on assistance, while households not classified as poor at the time of data collection may still receive it. Although published in 2014, the findings remain relevant, highlighting the importance of regularly updating beneficiary data to ensure social protection programs reach those who need them most. [Click the image](#) to read the full report.

Activities



The Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS) and the Consortium of Community for Education Advocacy in (KMPPI) held a

discussion in Jakarta on 13 October 2026, to explore governance frameworks for educational equivalency and student transitions toward a more open and sustainable education system. SMERU Senior Researcher, Asri Yusrina, served as a discussion starter. The event was also attended by Dr. Agung Widiantoro, Chair of Commission X of Indonesia's House of Representatives. The discussion's key insights were synthesized into joint recommendations for the draft of the National Education System Bill, which KMPPI will advocate for with relevant stakeholders.



SMERU Executive Director, Widjajanti Isdijoso, delivered opening remarks at the online dissemination event for the 2024 and 2025 Inclusive

Economic Development Index (IPEI) results, organized by the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) on 21 October 2026. She traced the index's development, from its initial conceptualization and calculation at the national and provincial levels in 2017, through its official launch in 2018, to its use as a tool for evaluating regional development performance in 2023. The IPEI data have been regularly updated since 2022 to support the monitoring of inclusive economic development.

International Day of Care and Support (29 October)



Films portray domestic workers in various ways, often through stories that evoke laughter or sympathy. But what do these portrayals tell us about their actual working conditions, rights, and access to protection? [Click the image](#) to discover how representations of domestic workers in films compare with findings from SMERU's research.

SMERU Learning Centre

Batch 2 - 2026

Writing Workshop Academic Journal Article

 Saturday,
21 November 2026  Online

signup:



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20-Hour Digital Certificate

Sign up before
Wednesday, 18 November 2026



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