

## Protecting the Most Vulnerable in Rural Indonesia: How Can We Develop More Adaptive Social Protection



Research indicates that social assistance plays a crucial role in poverty alleviation efforts in Indonesia. However, existing social protection policies have not considered the effect of natural disasters and climate change on poverty. SMERU examines how social protection can be used as a policy instrument to enhance people's adaptive capacity to deal with the new problems and issues caused by climate change. [Click the image](#) to learn more about this study.

### Latest Publications



#### Eight Studies Centered on Children's Perspectives

Child well-being is often evaluated from the perspective of adults. But, children have their own assessments and viewpoints on their well-being. SMERU conducted eight research focused on children's perspectives, aiming to amplify their voices and provide recommendations for refining programs and policies related to child welfare. [Click the image](#) to download the research findings and recommendations in digital posters and infographics.



#### Indonesia's Technology Startups: Voices from the Ecosystem

Indonesia is home to over ten tech unicorn (start-up companies with a valuation of more than US\$1 billion). This report analyzes Indonesia's ecosystem and assesses the support it gives to the growing number of startups. The report focuses on the country's startups in four areas: agritech, edtech, healthtech, and greentech (also known as cleantech). [Click the image](#) to read the report.



#### The Impact of Village Funds on Rural Welfare in Indonesia: A Regression Discontinuity in Time (RDit) and Difference-in-Difference (DiD) Approach

This study examines the impact of village fund transfers on rural welfare in Indonesia. The authors use the monthly night-time light dataset as a proxy for rural welfare for around 75,000 villages from 2014 to 2019. SMERU senior research fellow, Sudarno Sumarto, co-authored this paper published in the *Applied Economics Letters*. [Click the image](#) to read the complete article.

## SMERU Activities



SMERU welcomed a visit from faculty members and researchers of the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies, University of Malaya, Malaysia, on Tuesday, 8 August 2023. During the meeting, both parties engaged in discussions about multidimensional poverty in Indonesia and Malaysia and explored possibilities for future collaborations.



SMERU met with the Presidential Advisory Council on Wednesday, 16 August 2023, to discuss the problem of stunting in Indonesia. During the meeting, SMERU presented the challenges and policy recommendations for stunting prevention derived from [SMERU's studies](#) on stunting.



On Tuesday, 22 August 2023, SMERU hosted a discussion with delegates from the ADB Board and selected think tanks to address socioeconomic issues and energy transition in Indonesia. SMERU senior research fellow, Asep Suryahadi, provided insights into the latest developments regarding Indonesia's socioeconomic situation and poverty.

## Past Event



### High-Level Policy Dialogue: "Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2023: Promoting ASEAN Relevance in Global Market"

The high-level policy dialogue held on Friday, 4 August 2023, at the St. Regis Hotel in Jakarta aimed to provide insights into the significance of embracing technological advancements to drive growth and progress in Indonesia and the ASEAN region. The forum had four major themes: the role of digital technology in trade, recovery and rebuilding, digital transformation, and energy transition.



### Launch of Study Results on Child Protection in West Java

The Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, the Government of West Java Province, SMERU, and UNICEF Indonesia jointly launched study results focusing on children on Thursday, 10 August 2023, in Bandung. During this event, the Government of West Java Province also expressed its commitment to improving the comprehensive well-being of children within the region. [Click the image](#) to access the event recording.



### Seminar "Religion, Education, and the State"

SMERU held a public seminar featuring Samuel Bazzi, Professor of Economics at the University of California San Diego, on Friday, 25 August 2023. Samuel discussed his recent paper, co-authored with Masyhur Hilmy (Boston University) and Benjamin Marx (Boston University, CEPR), that analyzes how Islamic schools responded to the SD INPRES policy in the 1970s. [Click the image](#) to watch the seminar recording.

## Future Event



### Forum Pembangunan Daerah 2023

This year, SMERU collaborates with the Provincial Government of East Nusa Tenggara to host the Regional Development Forum (FPD). Where will it take place, and what will be the topic of the FPD dialogue? Stay tuned for more updates!



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