

Baseline Assessment of Socioeconomic Condition of the Communities around the Mining Area in Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat



Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat (KSB) boasts a very large share of the mining and quarrying sector. Statistics Indonesia (BPS) recorded that in 2021, the sector contributed at least 81.89% to the regional gross domestic product (GDP). However, despite the significant contribution of the mining and quarrying sector, the poverty and inequality rates in KSB remained above the national average. This study mapped the socioeconomic conditions of the communities living around the mining area in KSB. This study is expected to provide input necessary for the community development programs in the region based on the assessment of the region's socioeconomic condition. [Click the image](#) to read the full report.

Latest Research



Strengthening Indonesian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): A Baseline Study of CSOs in Western, Central, and Eastern Indonesia

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Indonesia play a critical role in protecting human rights and advocating for the rights of minorities, women, children, and other vulnerable groups. However, many local CSOs face challenges that can hinder their sustainability, including weak organizational management capacity. SMERU, with the support of Yayasan KEHATI (the manager of the Ananta Fund), undertakes a study to understand the current capacity and challenges of CSOs. This study also analyzes the need for capacity building of CSOs in Indonesia. Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire (before 1 May 2024) at surveioms.smeru.or.id, which will contribute to strengthening the capacity of local CSOs.

Latest Publications



Balancing Conservation and Community Welfare: Enhancing the Management of Marine Protected Areas in Indonesia

Indonesia has expanded its marine protected areas (MPAs), covering 411 locations with more than 28 million hectares (about 9% of its territorial waters). However, despite the wealth of marine resources, coastal areas still grapple with high poverty rates. Extreme poverty in these areas in 2021 was 4.19%, slightly higher than the national average of 4%. This paper explores the dynamic of the MPAs management in Indonesia, focusing on how they have addressed not only issues related to the biodiversity conservation but also the welfare of the community who live near MPAs. [Click the image](#) to read the analysis.

SMERU Activities



SMERU's Institute Secretary, Heni Kurniasih, was one of the speakers at the 2024 Forum Kajian Pembangunan (FKP) Roadshow, themed "Driving Progress: Innovations in Public Health and NGO Roles in Eastern Indonesia's Development." The event took place over two days, on 26 February at Kairun University in Ternate and 28 February at Pattimura University in Ambon. Heni spoke about multistakeholder collaboration for inclusive human development in Indonesia.



Athia Yumna, SMERU's Deputy Director of Research and Outreach, was a discussant at the 2024 National Talent Management Grand Design Public Seminar in the Research and Innovation Field in Padang on 7 March. During the event hosted by the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, Athia engaged with the presentations by the National Research and Innovation Agency; the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education Agency of the Ministry of Finance; the West Sumatera Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin); and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. The seminar endeavors to sharpen the policy and program strategy for the 2023–2045 National Talent Management Grand Design in research and innovation.



SMERU's Head of Research Department, Ulfah Alifia, and a researcher, Wandira Senja Larasati, attended the Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) Indonesia Workshop on 27–28 February at the Faculty of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta. Ulfah presented SMERU's research findings, especially those related to gender issues. The workshop, attended by the CEVAW team from Australia, the Legal Gender Studies team from UGM, and SMERU, discussed collaboration opportunities to leverage CEVAW's research agenda in building evidence-based approaches to promote prevention and enhance responses to all forms of violence against women.

SMERU in the Media

This article in *Kompas* newspaper discusses the slim chances of achieving the 7.5% poverty reduction target by the end of President Joko Widodo's term, attributing it to inadequate policy interventions. SMERU's senior research fellow, Asep Suryahadi, suggests that poverty alleviation interventions should adopt a more productive and long-term approach, considering Indonesia's ascent to an upper-middle-income status. Relying solely on social assistance is no longer viable in reducing poverty. [Click the image](#) to read the article.



SMERU Learning Centre



Learning to Evaluate and Assess Program Success

SMERU Learning Centre held another training on impact evaluation on 20–21 March 2024. A total of 27 participants whose work is related to program implementation participated in the online training. They were enthusiastic in asking questions, including the right time to evaluate the impact of a program or policy, the methods used in impact evaluation, and the challenges in practicing impact evaluation. Most of the participants said that the discussion on the comparison group in the impact evaluation process was a new and interesting thing to learn.



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