

Estimating the Cost of Caring for Children with Disabilities to Reform the Existing Coverage and Benefit Levels of Key Social Protection Programs



Photo: ANTARA

Children with disabilities require adequate caregiving support, yet the costs borne by families are insufficiently reflected in policy design. Southern African Social Policy Research Insights (SASPRI) and The SMERU Research Institute, with the support from UNICEF Indonesia, the Ministry of Finance, and Bappenas, is conducting a study to estimate the cost of caring for children with disabilities.

The research aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the economic burden faced by families and highlights gaps between actual caregiving needs and the coverage of existing social protection programs. The findings are expected to support reforms to social protection coverage and benefit levels, making programs more inclusive and responsive to the needs of children with disabilities and their families. [Click the image](#) to learn more.

From the Past



Photo: Kompas.com

What Is to Be Done with Disasters? A Literature Survey on Disaster Study and Response

This working paper, published in 2007, reflects on the 2004 Aceh tsunami, which renewed fundamental questions about how disasters are understood and managed. Based on a literature review, the study provides a systematic overview of key debates and issues in disaster studies. It examines theoretical aspects such as definitions, classifications, risk, and vulnerability, as well as disaster management practices across different contexts and countries. [Click the image](#) to read the full paper.

SMERU Video

**Badai Iklim yang Menguat:
Siapa yang Menanggung Dampak Paling Berat?**



slclab.id

The climate crisis goes beyond extreme weather—it is also a crisis of inequality. This video highlights how tidal floods, extreme waves, and prolonged droughts are occurring more often, undermining the livelihoods of coastal residents and smallholder farmers. Inadequate policy responses have pushed poor and vulnerable communities further to the margins. We may be facing the same storm, but we are navigating it in very different boats. [Click the image](#) to watch the video.

Question

In your view, what behind-the-scenes role do editors play that is essential to the quality of research publications?



Mohammad Gabriell Firdausy Erfan (Gabe)
Editor and Translator

In my view, even the highest-quality research loses its value if it cannot be understood. An editor's core role is to bridge the gap between researchers and readers by ensuring that arguments are presented clearly and logically, data are easy to follow, and the language remains precise without changing the substance. By doing so, editors help translate complex ideas for audiences with varying levels of understanding. High-quality editing also strengthens an institution's credibility, shaping whether research findings are understood, trusted, and ultimately used to inform evidence-based policy advocacy.

SMERU in the Media

DKI diminta perhatikan kesejahteraan pemulung di TPST Bantargebang

Serini, 15 Desember 2025 20:51 WIB • waktu baca 3 menit



Despite their significant contribution to reducing waste, many waste pickers still lack adequate social protection and occupational safety. This article

published by ANTARA highlights the need for the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government to place greater emphasis on improving the welfare of waste pickers, particularly in relation to social security and workplace protection. The recommendations draw on findings from a joint study by Greenpeace Indonesia and SMERU on community-based solutions to the climate crisis. [Click the image](#) to read the full article.



Photo: Adji Purro



The National Education System Bill and the Future of Teachers in Indonesia: Reframing Teacher Governance for Quality Education

The Consortium of Community for Education Advocacy in Indonesia (KMPPi) convened a Policy Forum on Education in Jakarta on 12 December 2025. The forum brought together key education stakeholders, including the Chair of Commission X of the House of Representatives, Dr. Ir. Hetifah Sjaifudian, M.P.P., to discuss opportunities and challenges in reforming teacher governance under the National Education System Bill. KMPPi also formally presented its policy recommendations to Commission X during the event.

KMPPi Chair, Santoso (Article 33), noted that throughout 2025, KMPPi's advocacy focused on the National Education System Bill, particularly on improving teacher governance to be fairer, more transparent, and sustainable. The discussion featured perspectives from Irsyad Zamjani, Ph.D. (Head of the Center for Education Standards and Policy, Kemdikdasmen), Dr. Meiliasari, S.Pd., M.Sc. (Lecturer of the Master of Mathematics Education Study Program, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Jakarta State University), and Sumardiansyah Perdana Kusuma, M.Pd. (Teacher of SMAN 13 Jakarta and representative of PGRI). The speakers shared their insights on reforming teacher governance from both policy and classroom practice.

Training at Forum Indonesia Muda: Public Policy



Photo: FIM

Asri Yusrina, Head of SMERU's Governance, Poverty & Inequality Cluster, together with Palmira Permata Bachtiar, Head of SMERU's Economy Cluster, spoke at a training organized by Forum Indonesia Muda in Jakarta on 12-14 December. Asri shared her experience in poverty research and emphasized the importance of critically and contextually interpreting data, while Palmira delivered a session on effective policy brief writing. FIM is an independent organization focused on leadership and character education for young leaders from diverse backgrounds across Indonesia.



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