

Annual Report 2023

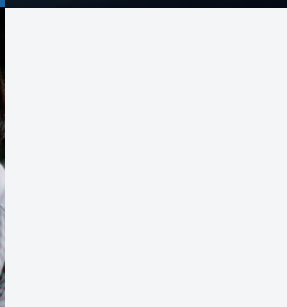
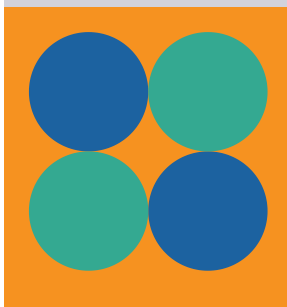
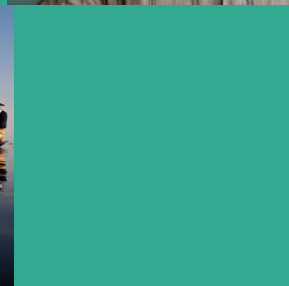
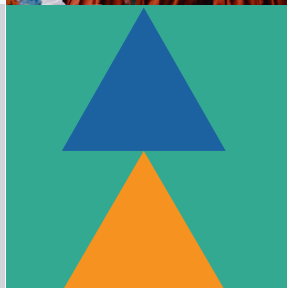


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Annual Report 2023

The SMERU Research Institute

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   The SMERU Research Institute

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About SMERU



The SMERU Research Institute (SMERU) is an independent institution for research and policy studies. Our scope of work covers a wide range of socioeconomic issues, primarily from the perspective of poverty and inequality.

We have 20+ years of experience in research focusing on poverty and inequality, social protection, and human development in Indonesia. We actively work to promote pro-poor policies at the national and regional levels through research-based evidence. We implement Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) approach in all of our work.

Vision

An Indonesian society and a world free of all forms of poverty and inequality through the support of research for evidence-based policymaking

Mission

- Produce evidence through quality research to support the formulation of gender equality and social inclusion-responsive government and nongovernment policies, including those of the private sector, on poverty and inequality, social protection, and human development at the national and international levels
- Support measures to increase the capacity of the central and regional governments, civil society, academics, development partners, and the private sector to promote the formulation of research-based policies
- Create and support research-based government and nongovernment policy discourses, including those of the private sector
- Enrich the body of knowledge about poverty and inequality, social protection, and human development



Photo: Mukti Mulyana



The Board's Welcome Message

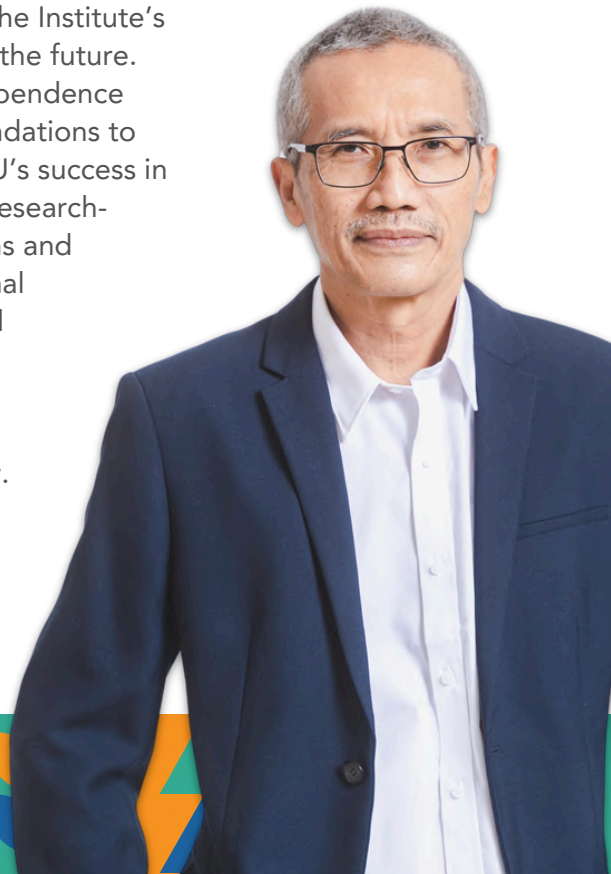
In recent years, Indonesia's research landscape has undergone significant transformation in both funding mechanisms and research focus areas. Despite evolving funding schemes, SMERU has continuously adapted its research direction to remain relevant to post-pandemic needs, particularly by conducting studies that offer concrete solutions to challenges in health, education, and social protection. Furthermore, the growing urgency of environmental and climate change issues has prompted SMERU to expand its research scope into these critical areas, enabling the Institute to contribute meaningfully to evidence-based policy formulation on this issue.

SMERU remains committed to fostering collaborative partnerships across diverse stakeholders, recognizing that the complexity of poverty and inequality requires engagement and support from multiple parties, including government, the private sector, civil society organizations, and the broader community. In 2023, SMERU strengthened research cooperation with international institutions to share resources and expertise, notably by joining the ASEAN+3 Finance Think-tank Network. SMERU also expanded capacity-building training activities for both government and non-government personnel through the SMERU Learning Centre. The development of the SMERU Learning Centre, which reinforces one of SMERU's core missions, was formalized through amendments to the SMERU Foundation's Articles of Association, approved by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights.

The SMERU Foundation's Board of Trustees greatly appreciates the efforts and commitment demonstrated by SMERU's management team and staff in adapting to ensure the Institute's sustainability and continued relevance today and in the future. SMERU must remain steadfast in upholding its independence while consistently delivering constructive recommendations to the government and other key stakeholders. SMERU's success in continuously promoting pro-poor policies through research-based evidence is inseparable from the contributions and support of donor institutions, the central and regional governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations that continue to work alongside us. I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to SMERU's journey in promoting evidence-based policymaking to this day.

SUDARNO SUMARTO

Chairperson



The Management's Welcome Message

After more than two years of conducting activities online, SMERU adopted a more flexible work arrangement that no longer requires all staff to work from the office. This arrangement includes adjustments to accommodate partner needs and to enhance collaborative initiatives.

Throughout 2023, SMERU carried out 36 studies in areas such as education, health, youth development, child welfare, the economic impacts of the pandemic, social protection, digitalization, and livelihood and community development. We also made a strategic move to expand into environmental and climate change research, with studies on air pollution impacts and marine conservation management. These studies aim to bridge research gaps by integrating the welfare of poor and vulnerable communities into these discussions.

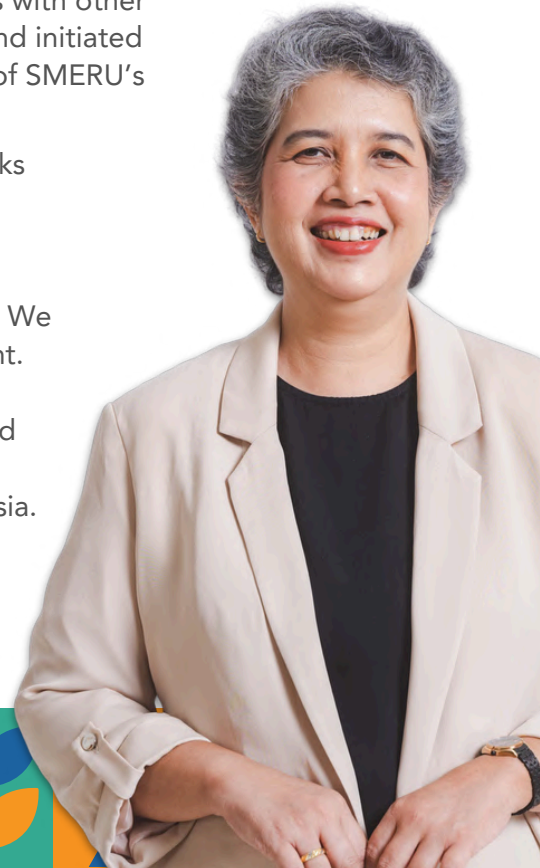
We continued to engage partners from the private sector, civil society, and other development actors in producing and disseminating research findings. Our public seminars received support from bilateral and multilateral agencies, private companies, national and international philanthropic organizations, as well as central and local governments. We look forward to sustaining these partnerships so that our research can bring greater benefits to society, particularly in advancing poverty reduction and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

The year 2023 was also financially challenging due to shifts in funding patterns from SMERU's traditional sources. In response, SMERU implemented efficiency, expanded collaborations with other institutions, explored innovative funding opportunities, and initiated paid training programs to share more than two decades of SMERU's knowledge and expertise with stakeholders.

SMERU has been able to overcome these challenges thanks to the trust in the quality of our research and work, the support we have received, and the commitment and dedication of all staff, as well as the Board of Trustees, Supervisors, and Management of the SMERU Foundation. We are deeply grateful for this trust, support, and commitment. We remain committed to adapting to future changes, strengthening collaboration, and contributing research and knowledge to improve policies that enhance community welfare, reduce poverty, and address inequality in Indonesia.

WIDJAJANTI ISDIJOSO

Director



The SMERU Foundation

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Key Moments 2023



JANUARY

- SMERU published the first edition of *Nawala SMERU*, an electronic newsletter providing concise information on research, expert analysis, and recent updates on the Institute's work. The newsletter comes out monthly and is distributed to SMERU's diverse stakeholders.
- SMERU's senior research fellows, Sudarno Sumarto dan Asep Suryahadi, ranked first and fifth, respectively, among the top 25% of authors in Indonesia according to IDEAS/RePEc. Meanwhile, The SMERU Research Institute came in third among the top 25% of Institutions and Economists in Indonesia.

FEBRUARY

- To celebrate its 22nd anniversary on 1 January, SMERU released a video spotlighting its research that has informed policy and stimulated public discussion. The video features a SMERU researcher sharing the stories behind their studies, from the initial research design to the analytical process.
- RISE Programme in Indonesia and Tanoto Foundation collaborated with Papan Tulis Education Podcast to produce "Learn and Unlearn," an educational podcast series that highlights compelling stories from various elements of education.

MARCH

- SMERU, in collaboration with *Magdalene*, a media outlet focusing on women's issues, held an Instagram Live discussion centered on the theme '#TheyAreWorkersToo: Why Talking About Care Work Matters'. SMERU researcher Nila Warda presented findings from a study on unpaid care work in Indonesia alongside *Magdalene's* Editor-in-Chief, Devi Asmarani.



DECEMBER

- Tanoto Foundation, in collaboration with SMERU and under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, organized the Discussion Forum on Enhancing the Quality of Primary Education (FOKUS), which identified various government efforts and other initiatives to enhance student learning outcomes.
- SMERU launched #ApaKataSMERU (SMERU Says), a series of reviews by SMERU researchers on trending public issues, analyzed through the lens of relevant research findings. The first edition of #ApaKataSMERU examined the visions and missions of the three presidential and vice-presidential candidate pairs participating in Indonesia's 2024 elections.
- Yuriko Kawakubo, First Secretary for Information and Culture at the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, visited SMERU. She engaged in discussions with SMERU researchers about the current issues surrounding child labor in Indonesia, including concerns about the children's education.

NOVEMBER

- Article 33 Indonesia, in collaboration with SMERU and under the Science Technology Innovation Policy Lecture (STIPL) forum, organized the fourth session of the STI Policy Lecture Series III - 2023, titled "Transforming Education: The Role of Digital Platforms in Enhancing the Quality of the Education Ecosystem".
- In collaboration with SMERU, the Deputy for Government Policy Support and National Insights at the Office of the Vice President hosted a policy dialogue on adaptive social protection (ASP) for Indigenous Papuans. The session explored SMERU's research on current social protection practices in Papua and offered recommendations for improving ASP in the future.

OCTOBER

- SMERU's Director, Widjajanti Isdijoso, virtually signed the Memorandum of Understanding of the ASEAN+3 Finance Think-tank Network (AFTN). As one of 21 ASEAN think tanks in the network, SMERU engages in knowledge exchange to support regional macroeconomic and financial stability through joint research initiatives.

APRIL

- An article by SMERU junior researcher Hening Wikan was recognized as one of the "Most Read Policy Forum Pieces of 2022" by the *Asia & The Pacific Policy Society Policy Forum*. Wikan emphasized the importance of the Indonesian government recommitting to addressing climate change challenges in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Heni Kurniasih, Institute Secretary of The SMERU Research Institute, engaged in discussions with academics and students from the ASTA Research Center and the University of Antananarivo in Madagascar. She provided an overview of micro, small, and medium enterprises as well as entrepreneurship in Indonesia, drawing on SMERU's research findings.

MAY

- Asep Suryahadi, a senior research fellow at SMERU, participated as a panelist at the World Bank's launch of the Indonesia Poverty Assessment report. The event was also attended by Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati and the World Bank Country Director for Indonesia and Timor-Leste, Satu Kahkonen.

JUNE

- SMERU held four seminars for the Forum of Development Studies (FKP) focusing on the themes of gig economy workers; youth issues; education; and micro, small, and medium enterprises. These seminars serve as a platform for research dissemination and discussions aimed at promoting evidence-based policymaking in Indonesia.
- The Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), a policy research institution from Cambodia, visited SMERU to extend an invitation for partnership and collaborative networking as part of the Thnal Odom Chomnes research program supported by DFAT. SMERU is one of three research institutions in Indonesia invited by CDRI to join this partnership.

SEPTEMBER

- In a discussion organized by the Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, SMERU senior researcher Ulfah Alifia shared study findings related to pandemic and child protection. The discussion sought to inform the development of the 2025–2029 RPJMN Technocratic Design for Child Protection.
- SMERU welcomed the Central Java Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA) at its Jakarta office to explore potential collaborations on knowledge products aimed at addressing poverty alleviation and regional economic challenges.

AUGUST

- SMERU hosted a public seminar featuring Samuel Bazzi, Professor of Economics at the University of California San Diego. Samuel discussed his latest paper co-authored with Masyhur Hilmy (Boston University) and Benjamin Marx (Boston University, CEPR), which analyzes how Islamic schools responded to the INPRES primary school policy in the 1970s.
- SMERU met with the Presidential Advisory Council to discuss the country's stunting situation. During the meeting, SMERU presented challenges and policy recommendations for stunting prevention, based on findings from its stunting-related studies.
- SMERU hosted a discussion between the ADB Board of Directors delegation and selected think tanks on socio-economic issues and energy transition in Indonesia. During the meeting, Asep Suryahadi provided an overview of the latest developments in Indonesia's socio-economic conditions and poverty rates.

JULY

- SMERU and the NGO Network for the Elimination of Child Labor (JARAK) organized a dissemination and discussion on their policy brief, "Accelerating Child Labor Prevention in the Agricultural Sector." The discussion sought feedback from key policymakers involved in child labor issues to strengthen the policy brief.
- The Trade Policy Agency of Indonesia's Ministry of Trade, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the International Trade Analysis and Policy Studies (ITAPS) at the Faculty of Economics and Management of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) University, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and SMERU held a high-level policy dialogue themed "Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2023: Promoting ASEAN Relevance in the Global Market."
- SMERU and UNICEF Indonesia reported eight research studies on specific child-related issues in Indonesia to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.

SMERU in Figures

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RESEARCH

This year, SMERU's research predominantly covered three areas: education; children, adolescence, and youth; and environment and climate change.

10

EVENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

SMERU held events in collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, including ministries, regional governments, private corporations, philanthropic organizations, and fellow research institutions.

38

PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

SMERU released 14 publications this year. Additionally, SMERU researchers authored 15 articles in mass media and 9 articles in academic journals.

242

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED

SMERU LEARNING CENTRE

164 participants enrolled in Regular Training and 78 people completed Customized Training.

13

VIDEOS PRODUCED

Videos lasting 2–10 minutes attracted the largest audience, with a total of 19,600 views.

6.490

NEW FOLLOWERS

GAINED ACROSS SMERU'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

SMERU's Instagram account achieved the highest follower growth across all social media channels, with 3,198 new followers.





RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

SMERU undertook 36 research projects this year, addressing a wide range of development topics. It was also the first year we explored environmental and climate change research, while maintaining our focus on societal welfare.

Photo: Muhammad Aazzam (Unsplash)

Research Highlights

Fostering Collective Awareness to Combat Air Pollution and Sustain Marine Protected Areas

Jakarta is one of the cities with the highest air pollution levels in the world. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

As part of its commitment to contributing to environmental policy discussions—particularly from the perspective of poverty reduction and inequality—SMERU conducted two environmental studies in 2023. The first study focused on air pollution, and the second on marine protected areas (MPAs). Despite addressing different areas, both studies highlight the limited awareness among various stakeholders regarding the need to integrate environmental issues with public health and community welfare.

The study on air pollution was conducted in Jakarta, where the residents face a potential reduction of 2.4 years in life

expectancy due to prolonged exposure to air pollution. This study, conducted by SMERU and the University of Chicago, examined the effectiveness of an information-based campaign through the experience of 83 selected parents.

The findings revealed that the campaign successfully encouraged protective measures against air pollution. Compared to baseline data from June 2023, more than half of the surveyed households reduced outdoor activities and restricted their children from going outside by September 2023. Some households also began wearing masks while riding motorcycles. Additionally, the percentage of households



monitoring air pollution levels increased from 9% to 39%. However, knowledge gaps remain among respondents regarding air pollution, as indoor air quality measurements showed that pollution levels inside homes were often comparable to those outside. This indicates that wearing masks while riding motorcycles alone is not enough for protection.

Meanwhile, the study on MPAs—supported by Agence Française De Développement (AFD)—examined MPA management in relation to efforts to reduce socioeconomic inequality in coastal communities. In addition to analyzing and comparing secondary data on various dimensions of poverty and inequality between conservation and nonconservation areas, the study included case studies in three Indonesian MPAs: Nusa Penida, Sabu Raijua, and Minahasa Utara.

The findings revealed that communities living near MPAs tend to have limited access to basic services, higher poverty rates, and greater socioeconomic disparities. Three key factors contribute to this situation:

- a) the highly centralized MPA management approach, which prioritizes more on expansion;
- b) the lack of mainstreaming of community welfare considerations in every stage of government-led MPA management; and
- c) the low level of meaningful community participation in MPA management.



Indonesia has enormous marine potential, but ironically, many coastal communities still live in poverty. | Photo: SMERU

These findings suggest that MPA managers still have limited understanding, awareness, and capabilities to address community welfare issues.

Both studies emphasize the importance of raising awareness among stakeholders about the need to align environmental concerns with public health and community welfare. To foster public awareness, the government must provide comprehensive and systematic information on the dangers and impacts of air pollution, enabling all societal groups to take stricter preventive measures. Regarding MPA management, the government must integrate poverty reduction and inequality mitigation efforts into all stages of MPA governance. Furthermore, it is imperative to foster MPA managers' awareness and strengthen their capacity to improve community welfare, particularly for poor people. ■





Research Highlights

Strengthening Adaptive Social Protection to Build the Resilience of the Indigenous People of Papua

Development disparities in Papua have left Indigenous Papuans further behind and heightened their vulnerability to shocks, including armed conflict. | Photo: Jefri

The Special Autonomy Law for Papua (Law No. 21/2001) mandates affirmative policies for the indigenous people of Papua (OAP). Despite this legal framework, disparities between OAP and non-OAP communities remain evident across multiple dimensions. Papua remains Indonesia's province with the highest poverty incidence and lowest human development outcomes. The situation worsened due to covariate shocks (large-scale disruptions affecting multiple people simultaneously) from the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflict, leaving the OAP highly vulnerable. Given these complexities,

social protection should serve as both a safety net and strengthening mechanism for the OAP to build resilience and avoid falling deeper into poverty and vulnerability traps.

In late 2022, SMERU conducted a study with support from the Kurawal Foundation to identify gaps in social protection for the OAP. The study found that existing social protection systems have not been able to foster sustainable resilience among the OAP communities. Social protection in Papua predominantly consists of protective social assistance and preventive social insurance schemes,



with coverage levels markedly below Indonesia's inter-provincial average.

Meanwhile, the Central Government's enhancement schemes have proven insufficient in establishing sustainable income streams for the OAP. Their vulnerability is further exacerbated during armed conflicts that force them to flee to other areas. These combined factors have led to the marginalization of the OAP across multiple aspects of life.

Long-term Transformation Strategies for the Resilience and Welfare of the OAP

Building resilience among OAP requires implementing a comprehensive approach incorporating all dimensions of adaptive social protection (ASP). The ASP framework prioritizes capacity development for poor and vulnerable populations across two critical domains: shock response and future threat preparedness. This aims to prevent their descent into more severe poverty conditions.

The development of OAP livelihoods extends beyond economic empowerment interventions. It demands a transformative approach that addresses root causes and creates lasting change. This study identifies key principles for implementation:

- a) Incremental achievement: focusing on gradual progress aligned with community development stages, rather than mere acceleration.

- b) Building on communal foundations and kinship relationships.
- c) Managing local potential using appropriate technologies.

Given Papua's unique context, customized development strategies are essential. The provision of basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and clean water must be accelerated down to the village level. However, livelihood development should proceed gradually, aligned with the capacity and needs of OAP within individual communes.

Addressing the needs of conflict-displaced populations requires the government to modify current protection schemes through three key modifications:

- a) Ensuring displaced persons can continue accessing National Health Insurance (JKN) regardless of location, removing domicile-based restrictions.
- b) Increasing non-cash food assistance amounts and improving distribution mechanisms to guarantee food security for displaced persons.
- c) Ensuring households receiving the Family Hope Program and other social assistance continue to receive their entitlements while in displacement.

Furthermore, recognizing that displaced persons can most viably restore their livelihoods in their home regions, the government must establish security conditions conducive to voluntary return. ■



Research Highlights

Exploring the Potential of Active and Innovative Learning and Technology Use in Education



The implementation of the MENGEJAR program (short for “fun, grade-appropriate, interactive mathematics”) was made possible through strong collaboration among government bodies, research organizations, and private-sector partners. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

SMERU is committed to supporting evidence-based education policies through collaboration with the central government, local governments, and nongovernmental organizations. As part of its efforts to promote systemic transformation in Indonesia’s education sector, SMERU has engaged in two key collaborations to: (i) evaluate the impact of the Innovation Development for Learning Quality (Pengembangan Inovasi untuk Kualitas Pembelajaran/PINTAR) Program and (ii) design and implement the Fun, Grade-Appropriate, and Interactive Mathematics (Matematika Menyenangkan, Sesuai Jenjang, dan Interaktif/MENGEJAR) pilot program.

Initiated by the Tanoto Foundation, the PINTAR Program in Kabupaten (District of) Paser, East Kalimantan, provides training and mentoring for school principals and teachers. The program covers pedagogical practices, leadership, and school management, and aims to strengthen the capacity of local governments, particularly their education agencies. After three years of intervention, our study found that students’ learning outcomes in partner schools were significantly higher than their peers in nonpartner schools—by 38.8% in primary schools and 10% in junior high schools.



Several factors contribute to students' learning outcomes, including active and innovative learning, school management, literacy programs and library optimization, teacher training, availability of learning supporting facilities, and parental involvement. Budget allocation for information and communication technology was also found to significantly impact student outcomes, especially at the primary level. Therefore, one of the study's key recommendations is to enhance the integration of technology in classroom instruction.

Between 2022 and 2023, SMERU also participated in designing and implementing the MENGEJAR pilot program, which aimed to examine the impact of technology use as well as active and innovative learning on students' learning outcomes. MENGEJAR is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB I), with support from the Tanoto Foundation, Surala Suluh Karsa, Mentari Teachers Academy, and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Southeast Asia (J-PAL SEA)-the Institute for Economic and Social Research, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia (LPEM FEB UI).

In its implementation, SMERU worked with the Jakarta Provincial Education Agency to conduct a rapid cycle evaluation (RCE), which involved piloting the high touch and high tech modules and training in several schools.

The RCE process included module refinement, followed by further trials in other schools prior to finalization. Next, in collaboration with local education agencies, SMERU led the full implementation of MENGEJAR, involving 200 mathematics teachers from 100 public junior high schools in Jakarta, Kota (City of) Semarang City, Kabupaten Tegal, and Kabupaten Kendal. At this stage, SMERU was responsible for ensuring smooth delivery of the training program, monitoring progress through school and education agency visits, observing the high touch interventions, providing mentoring, and conducting refresher training sessions. To assess the program's impact, SMERU also participated in the baseline and endline data collection, while ADB I was responsible for the impact analysis. ■



Technology can help improve students' foundational skills. | Photo: Mukti Mulyana



Research Highlights

Exploring Indonesia's Digital Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities

Government initiatives promoting youth entrepreneurship and digitalization have helped fuel the growth of Indonesia's agritech startup ecosystem. | Photo: Mukti Mulyana

In 2023, we conducted two studies on digital ecosystem. Our first study examined the interplay between factors and actors that contribute to youth agricultural technology (agritech) entrepreneurship. We found that, over the last decade, various grants and other types of support from government programs have become the key drivers of the agritech startup ecosystem. Other stakeholders—university incubators, the private sector, technology media outlets, and grassroots communities—play a significant role in shaping the agritech landscape.

However, challenges remain, which include

- a) geographic concentration of youth-led agritech startups in Java, particularly Jakarta;

- b) negative stigma toward agriculture as a low-income sector;
- c) low digital adaptability among farmers;
- d) complex business processes involving permits and licenses that burden startups during their initial operations, especially during the tech winter with limited investor funding; and
- e) male domination of the agritech sector.

Thus, there should be a close collaboration involving ministries, local governments and university incubators to further promote youth entrepreneurship. The key issues to be addressed include

- a) fixing the infrastructure gap in rural areas and areas outside Java;



- b) rebranding the image of agriculture by promoting successful youth agricultural entrepreneurs through social media platforms and other channels;
- c) optimizing the role of extension workers in facilitating and introducing technology to farmers;
- d) streamlining relevant regulations, business permits, and patents that will foster innovations by agritech startups; and
- e) mainstreaming gender, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) in all related programs, including efforts to overcome the stigma of agriculture as a male-exclusive sector.

Our second study examined the impact of Indonesia's internet and press laws, including the Personal Data Protection (PDP) law. The research revealed three key findings:

- a) Restrictive regulations that threaten press freedom in digital media
- b) A research gap on how media professionals understand and navigate privacy issues under the PDP Law
- c) Gender inequality in the media sector, including gender-insensitive reporting and gender-based violence

The study also explored the National Digital Literacy Program led by the Ministry of Communications and Informatics, which was designed to enhance digital literacy across four pillars: skill, safety, culture, and ethics. Despite the program's extensive funding and



Media workers' perspectives on privacy issues remain understudied. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

collaboration with Siberkreasi, a national digital literacy movement, it lacks clear tools to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, and has not yet incorporated gender-sensitive approaches.

Based on these findings, we propose four key recommendations:

- a) Conduct a comprehensive review of media laws, notably the Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) and PDP Laws, to better balance journalistic freedom with contemporary challenges such as privacy protection and online harassment.
- b) Expand research initiatives to develop a deeper understanding of how the PDP Law affects media operations.
- c) Enforce gender-sensitive policies across the media sector.
- d) Refine the impact metrics and gender sensitivity components of the National Digital Literacy Program. ■





Research Highlights

Improving Child Welfare and Fulfilling Their Rights through Research

Multidimensional deprivation affects children across all economic backgrounds, not only those living in poverty. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

Indonesia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 but still confronts significant obstacles in fulfilling children's rights. To address these challenges, SMERU, supported by UNICEF Indonesia, conducted eight studies on children in 2022–2023 and generated actionable policy recommendations for government and stakeholders. The research focused on three critical areas: child welfare, the situation of children with disabilities, and progress toward child-related Sustainable Development Goals—all examined within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, the study reveals that economic and health pressures during the COVID-19 pandemic caused setbacks in SDG indicators related to child poverty and child labor. However, the effects varied by region and among children based on their individual and household circumstances. While child poverty rates showed consistent annual declines before the pandemic, they rose again in 2020 and 2021. Despite this overall downward trend in child poverty rates, the decline occurred at a slower rate than for adult and elderly populations.

Multidimensional analysis of child welfare also demonstrates that children



across all household spending categories—not just those from impoverished families—face multidimensional deprivation. The incidence is notably higher among children from the poorest households and in rural versus urban settings. When expressing their aspirations, children emphasize the importance of psychological well-being, including safe schools without bullying, quality time with parents and peers, and access to child-friendly public spaces.

Children with disabilities also experience higher levels of deprivation than children without disabilities. These children face multiple burdens due to insufficient support to improve their quality of life. Although regulations and legal frameworks exist to protect their rights, implementation remains hindered by weak coordination and uneven understanding among government officials.

Listening to children’s perspectives is crucial for developing targeted child protection and rights fulfillment strategies, especially during times of crisis. Governments must strengthen mechanisms to gather input from children—especially those from marginalized communities—to inform policies that truly respond to children’s needs.

Improving the effectiveness of child welfare programs requires a comprehensive approach encompassing three strategic steps:

- a) building a high-quality research database;
- b) enhancing coordination mechanisms to increase attention to child issues; and
- c) developing more specific and inclusive program targeting and services, particularly for children with special needs such as children with disabilities.

8 SMERU Research Topics with Child-Centered Framework

These eight research engaged children directly as active participants:

1. Analysis of Child Monetary Poverty and Multidimensional Child Rights Deprivation
2. Regional-Based Analysis of Child Life Disparities from Children’s Perspectives
3. Holistic Child Well-being Index
4. Policy Dialogue on Child Subjective Well-being in West Java
5. Children’s Perspectives and Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic
6. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Child-Related Sustainable Development Goals Progress
7. Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Households and Vulnerable Groups in Indonesia
8. Landscape Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Indonesia ■



Research Highlights

Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: The Key to Sustainable Health System



A widespread health crisis calls for a joint response across sectors. Through collaboration, its effects can be mitigated and recovery can proceed more quickly. | Photo: Mukti Mulyana

Crisis-related challenges, despite their adverse impacts, can drive improvements in governance. Two SMERU studies on health governance reveal the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in strengthening Indonesia's health system.

The first study draws lessons from responses to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a crisis that not only claimed thousands of lives among millions infected but also necessitated movement restrictions that triggered an economic crisis. Supported by the World Bank, this study found

that pentahelix collaboration was instrumental in Indonesia's pandemic response.

The government-coordinated collaboration through the COVID-19 Task Force successfully united various stakeholders, including government agencies, communities, media, academics, the private sector, and international partners. This multi-level collaboration, spanning national to local levels, significantly enhanced the effectiveness of health risk communication interventions and broadened access to COVID-19 vaccination and testing.



The collaboration include the following activities:

- a) Dissemination of health messages by community and religious leaders through various government and private media channels, as well as community activities based on materials provided by the COVID-19 Task Force
- b) The provision of vaccines and COVID-19 testing equipment by various parties, distributed through healthcare workers, and supported by public information campaigns and vaccination activities organized by the government, the private sector, and community stakeholders
- c) Contact tracing to identify COVID-19 testing targets, carried out by joint teams of healthcare and non-healthcare workers

Stakeholders with diverse resources worked in synergy to create a positive, collaborative response in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these efforts, collaboration faced substantial challenges, including jurisdictional ambiguities, communication gaps, and inter-institutional coordination issues across government levels. Unclear jurisdictional boundaries particularly weakened central-regional government coordination, leading to inconsistent COVID-19 case reporting and divergent government positions on social restriction policies.

The second study, undertaken in 2023 in collaboration with the World Health Organization, investigated the political economy dynamics behind health financing reform, specifically the establishment of the National Health Insurance (JKN) in 2014. The study found that multi-stakeholder engagement served as a crucial lever for successful reform following the 1997–1998 Asian financial crisis. The crisis indirectly reduced public access to healthcare services due to declining incomes and the lack of a comprehensive social security system. This prompted the government to recognize the importance of providing social security systems, particularly universal health insurance coverage, for all citizens.

Various stakeholders—including government entities, the House of Representatives, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations—collaborated strategically to form a coalition for change, aiming to reform the health social security system. Despite significant obstacles, including political pressures, economic downturns, and sectoral interests, this collaborative network's persistent advocacy ultimately achieved a historic milestone: the launch of the JKN in 2014. ■



SMERU's Work



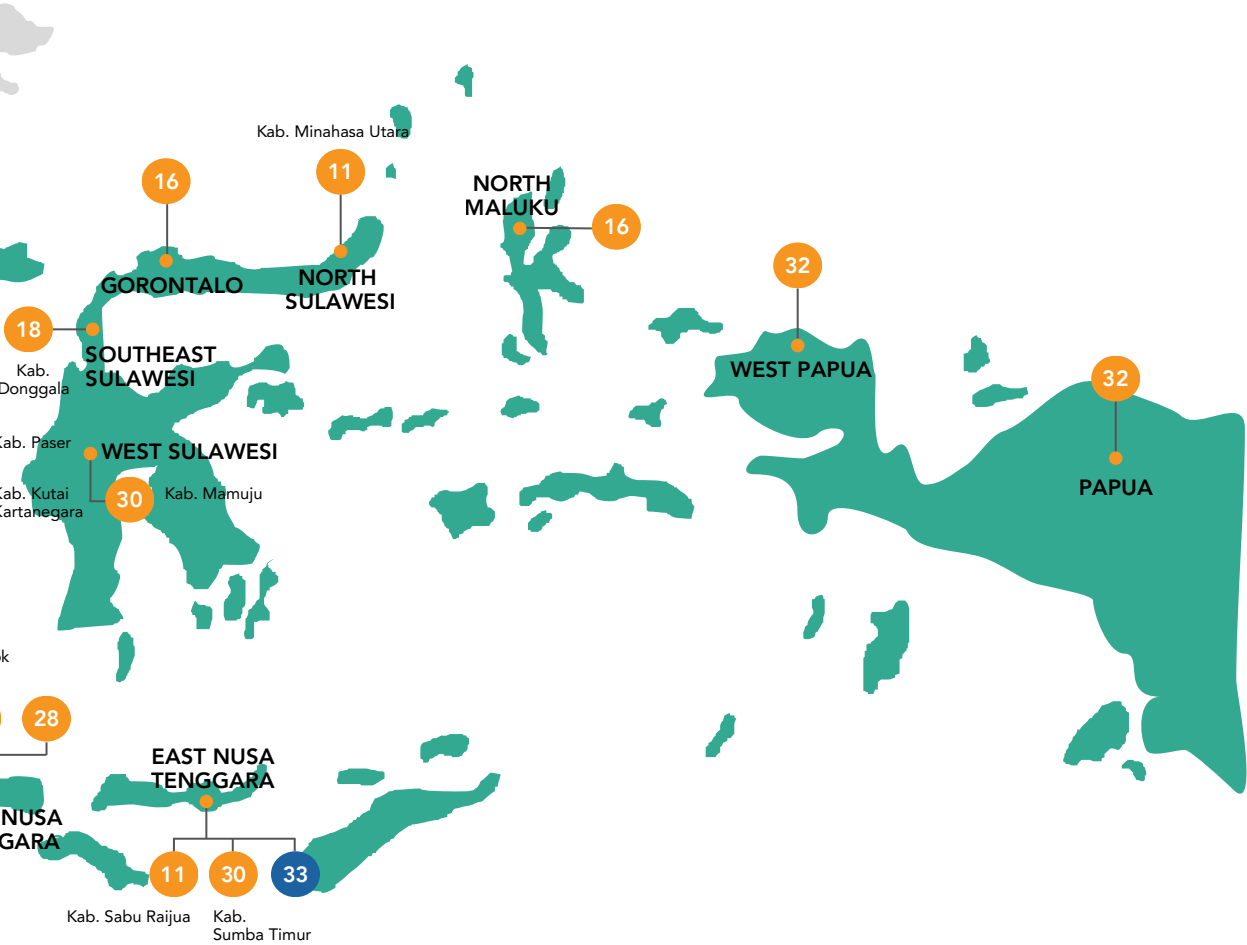
Research with National Coverage

-  Research Activities
-  Regional-Level Activities
-  Nonresearch Activities
-  National-Level Activities

1	2	3	4	5
8	9	12	13	14
15	21	22	23	24
25	31			



Areas



Nonresearch activity with national coverage

34



Legend: SMERU's Work Areas

Research Activities

Children, Adolescence, and Youth

- 1 Development of the Background Study on Youth Development for the 2025–2029 RPJMN and 2025–2045 RPJPN
- 2 *Penulisan Laporan Indeks Pembangunan Pemuda (IPP) 2022* (Writing the 2022 Youth Development Index (YDI) Report)
- 3 Revisiting Youth Development Index
- 4 *Penyusunan Policy Brief Penanggulangan Pekerja Anak di Sektor Pertanian* (Writing a Policy Brief on Combating Child Labor in the Agricultural Sector)
- 5 Technical Assistance in the Implementation of Research Agenda for Children
- 6 Evaluation of Youth Civic Engagement Initiative-BASAbali

Environment and Climate Change

- 7 Air Quality Index Indonesia
- 8 Collaborative Research - Environment Climate Change Grant Pilot Round
- 9 *Meningkatkan Partisipasi Pemerintah Daerah dalam Transisi Energi yang Berkeadilan di Indonesia* (Strengthening the Involvement of Local Government in Indonesia's Just Energy Transition)

- 10 Protecting Children against Air Pollution: Educating at Home and School

Poverty and Inequality

- 11 Harnessing Inequalities Reductions Benefits in Marine Protected Areas

Economic Policy

- 12 *Evaluasi Pelaksanaan Program Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional di Kementerian Ketenagakerjaan* (Evaluation of the Implementation of the National Economic Recovery Program under the Ministry of Labor)
- 13 Study on Structural Reform and an Enabling Environment for Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Businesses under the APEC Cooperation Framework
- 14 Scarring Effect on Firms

Health

- 15 Health Financing Governance and Reforms in Indonesia: Analysis of Political Economy Dynamics
- 16 Documenting Lessons from Indonesia's Public Health Response to COVID-19

Livelihood and Community Development

- 17 Baseline Assessment: The Socioeconomic Condition of the Communities around the Mining Area in Kabupaten Sumbawa Barat



18 *Studi Pemetaan Kebutuhan Pendamping Pembangunan pada Tim Koordinasi Sistem Penguatan Pendampingan Pembangunan (TKSP3)* (Mapping the Needs for Development Facilitators in the Strategic Coordination Team for Development Facilitation Reinforcement (TKSP3))

19 *Pengembangan Model Kuantitatif Pemetaan Kebutuhan Pendamping Pembangunan* (Quantitative Model Development for Mapping the Needs for Development Facilitators)

20 *Pengukuran Dampak Program CSR BCA 2022* (Measuring the Impact of Bank Central Asia's (BCA's) 2022 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program)

Governance, Institutions, and Decentralization

21 Accelerating Digital Skills in Indonesia

Education

22 *Optimizing Learning Assessment: Research on Challenges and Opportunities for Education Quality Improvement in Religious, Nonreligious, Formal and Nonformal Education Institutions in Indonesia*

23 *To Support an Impact Evaluation Design and Conduct a Baseline School Survey for the High-Touch-High-Tech Pilot in Junior Secondary Schools in Indonesia (the "Project")*

24 *Research Consultancy for Implementing the High-Touch High Tech Interventions in Junior Secondary Schools in Indonesia*

25 *Pengukuran Dampak Program Tanoto Foundation Indonesia* (Measurement of the Impact of Tanoto Foundation Indonesia's Program)

26 *Pengukuran Dampak Program PINTAR di Wilayah Dampangan Tanoto Foundation Indonesia* (Impact Evaluation of the PINTAR Program in Tanoto Foundation Indonesia's Supported Areas)

Social Protection

27 *Pengembangan Data Terpadu Kesejahteraan Sosial Provinsi DKI Jakarta Tahap III* (Development of Integrated Social Welfare Data for DKI Jakarta Province Phase III)

28 *HEAL: Promote Human Rights and Equality to Achieve Sustainability in West Nusa Tenggara and East Java, Indonesia*

29 *Study on Elderly Grant Programs Part 3*

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

31 *Studi Evaluasi Penerima Kartu Prakerja Tahun 2022* (Evaluation of Kartu Prakerja Program Beneficiaries in 2022)

32 *Strengthening Social Protection Infrastructure for Communities at Risk in Indonesia after COVID-19: A Systematic Review on Papua*

Nonresearch Activities

Poverty and Inequality

33 *Forum Pembangunan Daerah 2023* (The 2023 Regional Development Forum)

Education

34 *Capacity Building for Mitra Pendidikan Indonesia*



ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

SMERU promotes evidence-based policymaking through high-quality research and stakeholder dialogue forums. Close collaboration is key to expanding reach and strengthening the impact of policy improvements.



Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

Activity Highlights

2023 Regional Development Forum

Fostering Inclusive and Sustainable Economy to Alleviate Poverty and Inequality in East Nusa Tenggara

Strong collaboration among stakeholders is key to accelerating poverty reduction in East Nusa Tenggara. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

This year, SMERU partnered with the East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Provincial Government in hosting the Regional Development Forum (FPD) themed “Fostering Inclusive and Sustainable Economy to Alleviate Poverty and Inequality in East Nusa Tenggara”. The event, held at the Governor’s Office Auditorium on 27 September 2023, was attended by the Secretary of the NTT Provincial Government, Kosmas Damianus Lana, S.H., M.Si., and brought together government officials from kabupaten/cities in NTT, academics, and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The FPD in NTT centered around three key areas: human resource quality improvement, inclusive economic development, and inclusive and sustainable tourism development. In terms of human resources development, SMERU emphasized the need to prioritize children and youth. The discussion further underscored the need for addressing high customary costs, boosting community spirit, improving sanitation and education quality, and

increasing local budget for health and education.

Furthermore, to realize inclusive economic development in NTT, it is necessary to improve governance, infrastructure, market access, downstream industries, natural resource management, and climate change adaptation. Moreover, the development of inclusive and sustainable tourism requires optimizing tourism potential, community empowerment, environmental conservation training, as well as regulation and stakeholder collaboration. The forum agreed that development and the alleviation of poverty and inequality in NTT necessitate collaboration of multiple stakeholders through resource mobilization, networking, coordination, and role mapping.

Besides the main FPD event, SMERU and Rumah Bangsa organized a youth forum in NTT to discuss youth-related issues, government programs, and the contribution of youth to inclusive and sustainable economic development aimed at reducing inequality. ■





Peluncuran Hasil Studi terkait Perlindungan Anak dengan tema:

"Atribusi Pemerintah Pusat serta Komitmen
Pemerintah Jawa Barat dalam Meningkatkan
Tingkat



Eight studies on child well-being, carried out by SMERU, UNICEF, and Unisba, place children's voices at the center of the analysis. The findings can guide the government in designing programs that are more responsive to children's needs. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

Activity Highlights

Listening to Children's Aspirations for Better Child Well-Being Policies

Between 2022 and 2023, SMERU, UNICEF, and Bandung Islamic University (Unisba) conducted eight studies on child well-being from children's perspectives in West Java Province. The findings of these studies were launched at a hybrid event titled "Central Government's Attention and West Java Government's Commitment to Enhancing Child Well-Being Holistically", which was held by the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Kementerian

PPN/Bappenas) in collaboration with the West Java Provincial Government, SMERU, and UNICEF from Bandung on 10 August 2023.

On this occasion, Ulfah Alifia, Senior Researcher at SMERU and team leader of these studies, presented the research results, which focused on children and were based on their perspectives. UNICEF appreciated this research because children were directly involved, ensuring that the recommendations genuinely reflect their needs and



aspirations. Deputy for Human, Community, and Cultural Development at Bappenas, Amich Alhumami, stated that the results of this research could serve as a basis and reference for both the central and regional governments in planning activities that better consider children's perspectives in the future.

The event was also attended by the Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian PPPA), Pribudiarta Nur Sitepu, who proposed the establishment of children's forums by regional governments to encourage child participation in planning and monitoring development. Meanwhile, the Governor of West Java, Ridwan Kamil, delivered his speech via video, reaffirming West Java Province's commitment to holistically ensuring children's growth and developmental needs through various programs. This dissemination event successfully introduced the concept of subjective well-being, which involves children's voices in planning and monitoring development outcomes.



Children with disabilities are rarely invited to speak about issues that affect their lives. This collaborative study aims to provide a more complete understanding of their situation. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

Understanding Children's Version of Well-Being

Among the findings of this study is that children's voices, particularly those from vulnerable groups, are often overlooked in government policies. To ensure that the study results on child well-being reach a broader audience and to promote the concept of children's subjective well-being, SMERU published the findings in various formats: videos, posters, and digital infographics. ■

Read posters and infographics:
<https://smeru.or.id/studianak-jabar/webstories/>

Watch the video "Have We Ever Listened to Children's Voices in Decision-Making?":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrCuDztDsyc>.



Activity Highlights

Building Stakeholder Capacity through Training

In 2022, we established the SMERU Learning Centre as a platform to fulfill one of SMERU's missions: supporting stakeholder capacity building in formulating evidence-based policies. In addition to launching two e-learning modules (accessible at www.slclab.id) earlier this year, we also conducted structured regular training (online) and customized training sessions tailored to the needs and requests of various institutions. The training contents were developed based on SMERU's accumulated knowledge and experience in policy research and assisting stakeholders in utilizing research findings for policymaking.

Throughout 2023, the SMERU Learning Centre organized eight regular training sessions: two on poverty reduction policy analysis, two on writing policy briefs, and four on introduction to impact evaluation. The latter, initially planned to be held twice, garnered significant interest, hence its expansion to four sessions. A total of 164 participants attended these regular training sessions, with participants representing central and regional government institutions, educational institutions, associations, nonprofit organizations, state-owned enterprises, and private companies. Since the training was conducted online,



The group discussions encouraged participants to share their perspectives on the challenges and potential solutions for poverty alleviation. | Photo: Mukti Mulyana





Training participants delved into poverty issues using interactive materials facilitated by SMERU's senior research fellow. | Photo: Mukti Mulyana

participants were from various regions, including DKI Jakarta, Central Java, East Java, South Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, and North Sumatra.

This year, the SMERU Learning Centre also delivered customized training for the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Kementerian PPN/Bappenas), Statistics Indonesia (BPS), and the Indonesian State College of Statistics (STIS), with a total of 78 participants. The customized training for BPS and STIS focused on qualitative data processing and analysis, aimed at equipping the participants to implement these skills in the 2023 Study on the Condition of Children in Extreme

Poverty Households. Meanwhile, the customized training for staff at Kementerian PPN/Bappenas was tailored to the needs of the Deputy for Development Monitoring, Evaluation, and Control at the ministry.

Participant feedback for SMERU Learning Centre's training sessions was highly positive. Participants expressed satisfaction with the training contents, particularly appreciating the group assignments and experience-sharing discussions among participants.

The SMERU Learning Centre welcomes collaboration with institutions seeking capacity building through training on topics related to research and policy communication. For more detailed and updated information about the SMERU Learning Centre's training activities, visit www.slclab.id and Instagram [@smerulearningcentre](https://www.instagram.com/smerulearningcentre). ■

Get in touch with SMERU Learning Centre

 <https://slclab.id/>

 [smerulearningcentre](https://www.instagram.com/smerulearningcentre)

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Publication Highlights

38

Publications and articles
from SMERU's research

This year, SMERU generated 38 publications and articles that enriched discourse on research and public policy. The six featured here present significant findings and insights relevant to today's key development issues.

Policy Brief

[Seri Catatan Kebijakan Perlindungan Sosial Adaptif untuk Orang Asli Papua \[Policy Brief Series on Adaptive Social Protection for the Indigenous People of Papua\]](#)

Nila Warda, Asep Kurniawan, Dyan Widyaningsih, Sylvia Andriani, Dimitri Swasthika Nurshadrina

Efforts to address the vulnerabilities of Indigenous Papuans (OAP) have been less than effective. OAP remain highly vulnerable, particularly with regard to livelihoods and social risks. This series of five policy briefs highlights the importance of: (i) interagency collaboration and multisectoral synergy in implementing comprehensive social protection programs, (ii) enhancing the role of local governments in supporting OAP livelihoods, and (iii) adapting social assistance and social security programs to effectively address the vulnerabilities of refugees.

[Mendorong Penyusunan Kebijakan Berbasis Perspektif Anak untuk Meningkatkan Perlindungan dan Pemenuhan Hak Anak di Jawa Barat \[Encouraging the Formulation of Child's Perspective-Based Policies to Improve the Protection and Fulfillment of Child Rights in West Java\]](#)

Ulfah Alifia, Made Anthony Iswara, R. Ricky Firmansyah

This policy brief emphasizes the importance of incorporating children's viewpoints in evaluating their well-being and happiness to inform policymaking. While the Regional Children's Forums have been established to facilitate children to voice their aspirations regarding child rights policies, SMERU research indicates that these aspirations have not been adequately addressed. This policy brief recommends four strategies for developing child-centered policies.

Position Paper

[Accelerating Inclusive and Fair Digital Transformation to Anticipate Challenges Facing the Future of Work](#)

Palmira Permata Bachtiar, Jimmy Berlianto, Lia Amelia

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly improved access to stable and high-quality internet, although disparities persist outside Java and Bali. However, successful digital transformation requires addressing affordability, digital literacy, and the availability of user-friendly applications for underserved communities. This study emphasizes the importance of equitable governance in digital transformation, which has yet to effectively serve all groups and protect vulnerable populations, such as gig economy workers.



Research Note**[Estimating the Effect of a Fuel Price Increase on Poverty and Inequality: Evidence from a Fuel Subsidy Reduction in Indonesia](#)****Ridho Al Izzati, Asri Yusrina, Asep Suryahadi**

The fuel price increase in the third quarter of 2022 likely drove up annual inflation in the transportation sector and increased the prices of goods and services. This research note finds that the fuel price hike has exacerbated poverty but only slightly reduced expenditure inequality. Therefore, the government's decision to increase the allocation of social assistance plays a crucial role in mitigating the impact of rising fuel prices on poverty and inequality.

Academic Journal Article**[Heterogeneous Impact of Internet Availability on Female Labour Market Outcomes in an Emerging Economy: Evidence from Indonesia](#)****Niken Kusumawardhani, Rezanti Pramana, Nurmala Selly Saputri, Daniel Suryadarma**

This paper examines the impact of internet availability on the labor market outcomes for women in Indonesia. The findings indicate that internet availability has a small positive impact on the labor force participation and full-time employment rates of young women and those with lower educational attainment. However, internet availability has a negative, albeit small, impact on the chances of this group securing higher-skilled jobs and transitioning to formal employment.

Book Chapter**[Progress and Stagnation in the Livelihood of Informal Workers in an Emerging Economy: Long-term Evidence from Indonesia](#)****Mayang Rizky, Daniel Suryadarma, Asep Suryahadi**

In the book *The Job Ladder: Transforming Informal Work and Livelihoods in Developing Countries*, this chapter highlights that workers who begin their careers in lower-tier informal jobs often remain trapped in those roles. Transitioning to formal employment, however, can significantly improve their income. Therefore, effective policies should prioritize supporting the shift from informal to formal employment, even at lower levels. ■



Engagement in Policymaking

Delivering Evidence-Based Information to Policymakers



During the Road to Indonesia Development Forum 2023 in Kabupaten Biak Numfor, we presented three recommendations for achieving a sustainable blue economy: (i) involving women and minority groups in the development process, (ii) formulating inclusive policies that reach all stakeholders, and (iii) preserving coastal ecosystems that serve as a source of livelihood for local communities.



In a closed meeting with a member of the Presidential Advisory Council, we presented the findings of our study on stunting. Our findings provided input for the formulation of advice and consideration regarding community empowerment models for stunting prevention at the national level, which were later submitted to the President of Indonesia.



During a high-level policy dialogue with the Ministry of Finance and the Asian Development Bank, we presented initial evidence on the long-term effects of COVID-19 on businesses. We highlighted three policy implications: the government must provide support to prevent firms from collapsing at the onset of a crisis, assist bankrupt firms in restarting operations, and facilitate investments in machinery and technology to accelerate recovery.



We presented the findings of our study on teacher professionalism to the Jakarta Provincial Education Agency. The study recommended the importance of implementing a differentiated training system tailored to school culture, leadership practices, as well as teachers' abilities and motivation.



To address the socio-economic challenges faced by coastal communities, we provided recommendations to the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. We emphasized that conservation area management strategies should integrate

social and economic aspects to reduce potential governance gaps. These recommendations were based on a study examining how marine conservation management can improve the welfare of coastal communities.

Providing Input for Policymaking



In contributing to the draft Presidential Regulation on development facilitation, we provided two recommendations to the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) to strengthen development facilitation: (i) focusing facilitators' work on capacity building to improve the human resource quality of beneficiaries and (ii) revisiting effective workload calculations by standardizing scope of activity in line with facilitators' main duties and functions across regions.



We provided recommendations to two government institutions to help strengthen social protection policies for Indigenous Papuans (OAP).

- a) **To the Steering Committee for the Acceleration of Papua's Special Autonomy Development:** We proposed guidelines for managing conflict-induced displacement, adjustments to social assistance programs to address refugee vulnerabilities, and optimizing of the roles of the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), Regional Disaster Management Agencies (BPBD), and multi-actor collaboration.
- b) **To the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs:** We recommended aligning local government programs to close preventive and protective social protection gaps left by the central government, while also promoting the transformational development of OAP livelihoods through an incremental approach responsive to conflict-induced displacement.





During the drafting of the Technocratic Draft of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025–2029 on child protection, we provided inputs to the Directorate of Family, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas. These inputs emphasized the importance of policies that holistically support children’s development and well-being—spanning the individual, family, community, and government levels.



During the evaluation of Village Fund implementation for the development of 2024 Government Work Plan, we shared our study findings with the Directorate of Regional Development, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas. We recommended providing guidance and facilitation for village officials to help them address challenges, harness potential, and use data effectively in development planning



During a discussion on formulating indicators for the 2025–2029 RPJMN in the area of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives, organized by the Directorate of MSMEs and Cooperatives, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, we recommended four additional indicators: (i) financial literacy and inclusion index, (ii) utilization of the electronic catalog and MSME digital marketplace, (iii) distribution and quality of incubators and accelerators, and (iv) social security coverage for MSMEs and gig workers.

Building Consensus among Stakeholders



We shared findings from eight studies on Indonesian children with the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (KPPPA). Following the presentation, the Ministry agreed to collaborate with SMERU, the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, the West Java Provincial Government, and UNICEF to launch the study results in Bandung in August 2023.



During a meeting on the development of a proxy means test model for the initial data collection of the Social and Economic Registry (Regsosek), we provided input to Statistics Indonesia (BPS) on poverty indicators. We presented the distinct characteristics of urban and rural poverty based on SMERU’s qualitative and quantitative studies. This input will be used by BPS to strengthen the Regsosek data ranking model and improve the accuracy of welfare ranking.

Influencing Policies/Regulations



Two villages adopted parts of SMERU’s targeting guidelines for cash assistance from village fund: one in East Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, and another in Kabupaten Gresik, East Java. In the village in Gresik, the guidelines were formally institutionalized through a Village Head Regulation. ■



Networking and Collaboration

Donor Institutions

Throughout 2023, SMERU conducted 36 research projects with the support of donor organizations across various sectors. These collaborations generated valuable knowledge and evidence to inform evidence-based policymaking.

PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara

ABC International Development

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Asian Development Bank

PT Bank BCA

BASAbali Foundation

Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

The Provincial Government of Jakarta's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Population Control Agency

ECLT Foundation

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Knowledge Partnership Platform Australia-Indonesia (KONEKSI)

Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs

Ministry of Youth and Sport

Kurawal Foundation

Program Management Office Prakerja Card

Towards a Strong and Prosperous Indonesian Society (MAHKOTA) - The Australian Government's DFAT

PT Gojek Indonesia

PT Tokopedia

Tanoto Foundation

Strategic Coordination Team for Development Facilitation Reinforcement (TKSP3) - Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)

UNICEF

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Bank

World Health Organization (WHO)

Save the Children Indonesia Foundation

Visi Indonesia Raya Emisi Nol Bersih Foundation (ViriyaENB)

Training and Capacity Building

SMERU works with a range of partner institutions to deliver internship programs through *Kampus Merdeka* and capacity-building activities via the SMERU Learning Centre. These collaborations help extend the reach and societal benefits of SMERU's research.

Australian Consortium for 'In-Country' Indonesian Studies (ACICIS)

Deputy for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Control of Development, Bappenas

Statistics Indonesia - School of Statistics

Mitra Pendidikan Indonesia (MPI)

Universitas Airlangga

Universitas Gadjah Mada

Universitas Padjajaran



Nonresearch Project Collaboration

In addition to conducting research projects, SMERU also engages in nonresearch project collaborations—partnerships that focus on knowledge dissemination through seminars, discussions, and other public engagement activities. These collaborations support the wider sharing of research findings and help strengthen evidence-based policy advocacy.

ANU Indonesia Project

Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) of East Nusa Tenggara Province

Rumah Kebangsaan

PT Tokopedia

Networks

By participating in networks, SMERU strengthens collaboration with multiple stakeholders while extending the reach and impact of its research and evidence-based advocacy.

ASEAN+3 Finance Think-tank Network

Partnership for Action Against Child Labour in Agriculture (PAACLA) Indonesia

The Indonesian Philanthropy Association

Working Group 5, Community of Practice of Independent Research Institutions



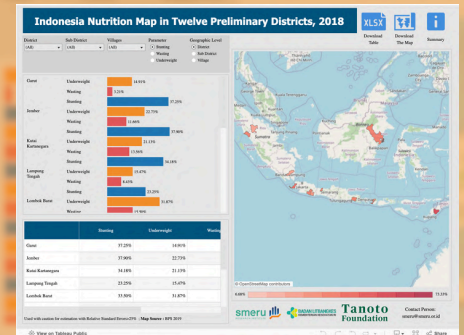
In collaboration with Tokopedia, SMERU hosted the fourth Forum Kajian Pembangunan seminar, “Rising and Resilient: Portraits of Small and Medium Enterprises in Indonesia.” | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin



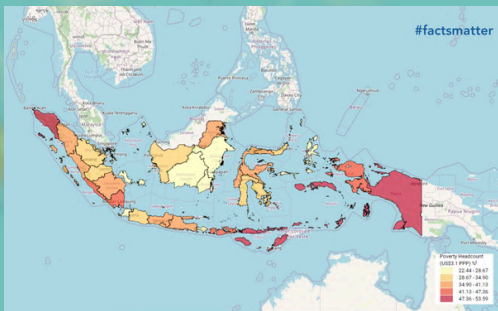
Data & Information

The Nutrition Map of Indonesia

The Nutrition Map of Indonesia presents estimates of the nutritional status of children under five at the village and kecamatan (subdistrict) levels in six kabupaten (districts) which are included in the stunting prevention priority list. Created using the small area estimation (SAE) method, the map can help determine the priority villages in the stunting prevention program.



smeru.or.id/en/nutritionmap



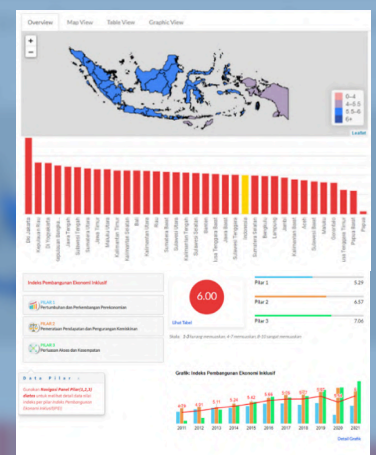
povertymap.smeru.or.id

The Poverty and Livelihood Map of Indonesia

The 2015 Poverty and Livelihood Map of Indonesia provides poverty estimates and various livelihood indicators in **6,599 kecamatan** and **75,267 villages/kelurahan (urban villages)** based on the 2010 administrative boundaries. The map can be used as a basis for determining priority villages/kelurahan in poverty reduction efforts and for research related to poverty in various dimensions.

The Inclusive Economic Development Index

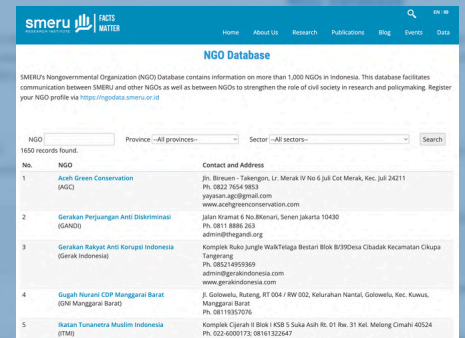
The Inclusive Economic Development Index (IEDI) presents the inclusivity level of regional economic development based on indicators of economic growth, inequality, and poverty, and access and opportunities. The index was prepared by Kementerian PPN/Bappenas in collaboration with SMERU and it can help measure and monitor the inclusivity level of Indonesia's development at the national, provincial, and kabupaten/kota levels.



Data & Information

The NGO Database

The Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Database contains the most complete data on NGOs at the national and regional levels in Indonesia. The database is not only used by SMERU to disseminate publications and information on its activities and research findings, but it is also utilized by SMERU and other institutions to identify the existence of NGOs across various fields and locations. As per the end of 2022, the database has stored data of **1,649 NGOs**.



No.	NGO	Contact and Address
1	Aceh Green Conservation (AGC)	Jln. Binuwah - Takengon, Lr. Merak IV No 6 Juli Cot Merak, Kec. Juli 24211 Ph. 0822 7654 9833 ayyayan-ago@gmail.com www.acehgreencconservation.com
2	Gerakan Perjuangan Anti Diskriminasi (GPAKD)	Jalan Kramat 6 No. Bikanur, Senen Jakarta 10430 Ph. 0811 8888 213 admin@thegandi.org
3	Gerakan Rakyat Anti Korupsi Indonesia (Gerak Indonesia)	Komplek Ruko Jungle Waik'Waha Bestari Blok B/330Desa Cibadak Kecamatan Cikupa Tangerang Ph. 0832 4959933 admin@gerakindonesia.com www.gerakindonesia.com
4	Gugah Nurani COP Manggala Barat (GN Manggala Barat)	Jl. Godelek, Rubeng RT 004 / RW 002, Kelurahan Harau, Godelek, Kec. Kluas, Manggala Barat Ph. 08119920276
5	Ikatan Tunasentra Muslim Indonesia (ITMI)	Konaweke Cijerah 8 Blok 1 K58 5 Suka Asih Rt. 01 Rw. 31 Kat. Meling Cimahi 40524 Ph. 022-6000173, 08181322647

smeru.or.id/en/ngo-database

RISE

RESEARCH ON IMPROVING
SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION

rise.smeru.or.id

RISE Programme in Indonesia

Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme in Indonesia is managed and led by SMERU. The program is part of the global RISE Programme, aimed at supporting the improvement of student learning across the world. RISE Programme is currently running in seven countries: Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam. RISE Programme in Indonesia conducts longitudinal research, which examines teacher reform at the national level and education policy innovations at the regional level.



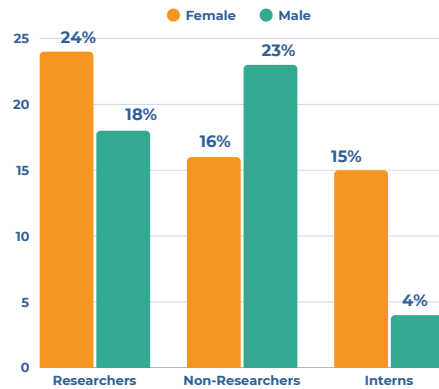
Qualitative data collection captures voices, nuances, and perspectives that go beyond statistical data. | Photo: M. Harits Kamaaluddin

Staff Profile

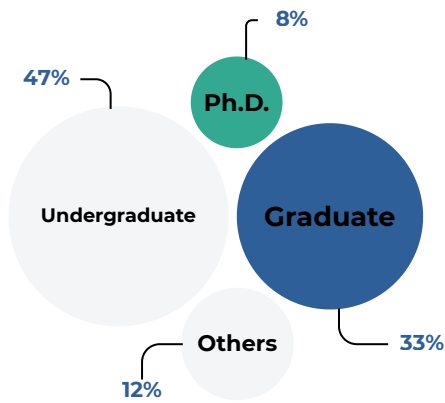
Composition of Staff by Gender



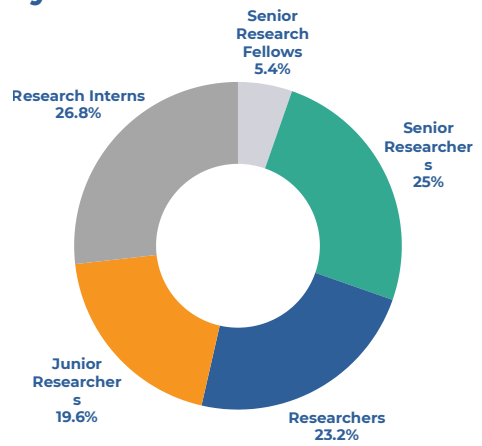
Composition of Researchers, Non-Researchers, and Interns by Gender



Composition of Staff by Education



Composition of Researchers by Position



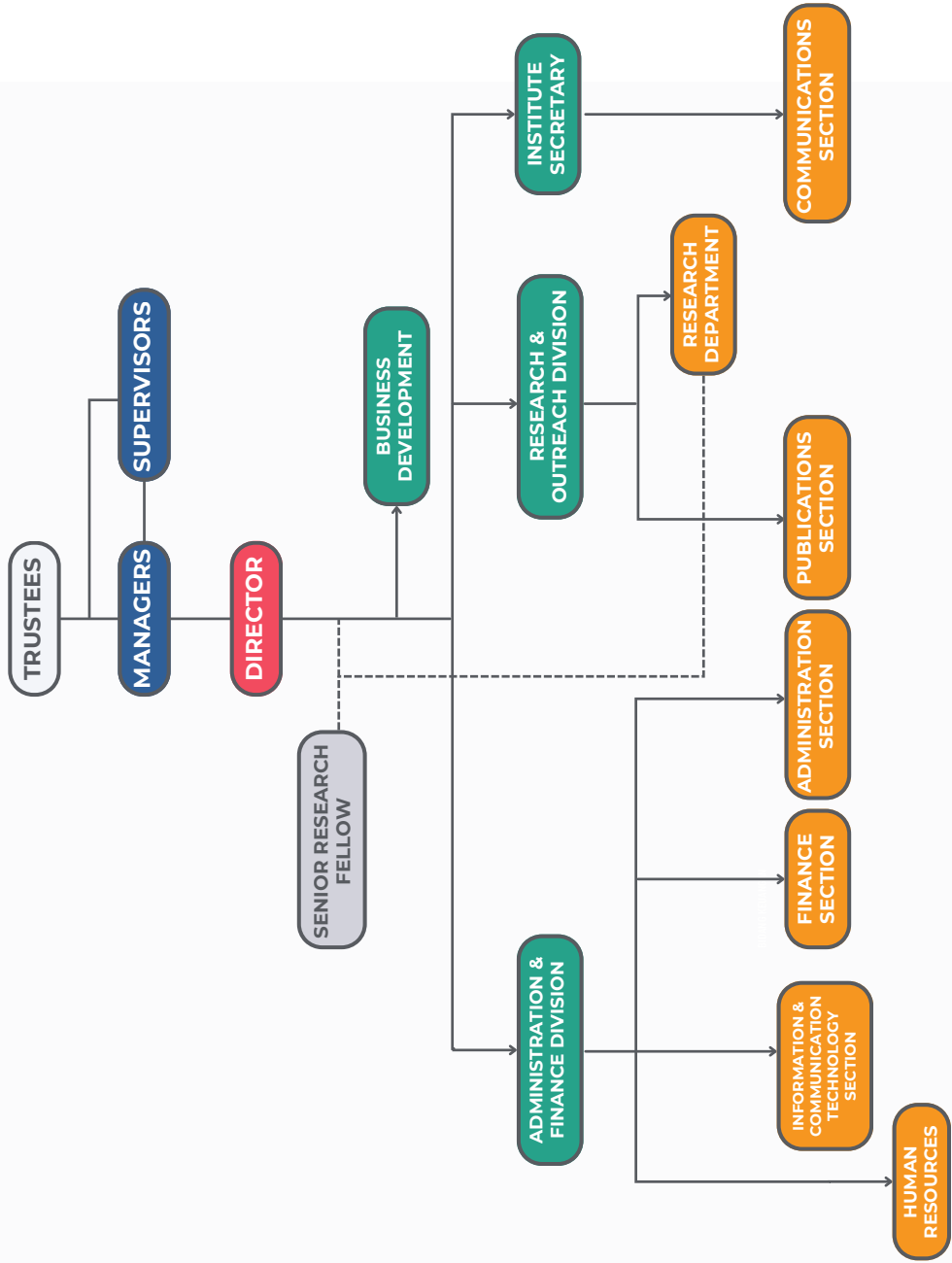
Distribution of Regional Researchers and Enumerators by Domicile



The SMERU Research Institute Staff



Organizational Structure



THE SMERU FOUNDATION

Statements of Activities & Changes in Net Assets per 31 December 2023 and 2022

	2023 (Unaudited)			2022 (Unaudited) Total
	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Permanently Restricted	
Receipts				
Receipts from donors	17,051,597,142	-	-	31,109,816,956
Receipts from others	-	-	-	1,371,886,173
Total receipts	17,051,597,142	-	-	32,481,703,129
Expenditures				
Program expenses	26,968,712,991	-	-	38,867,948,270
Operating expenses	-	1,152,690,012	-	1,714,005,610
Depreciation expenses	-	237,112,019	-	360,556,326
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	26,968,712,991	1,389,802,031	-	40,942,510,206
Increase (decrease) in				
Net assets	(9,917,115,849)	(1,389,802,031)	-	(8,460,807,077)
Net assets at beginning of year	47,179,503,970	(33,239,222,465)	118,585,503	22,519,674,086
Corrections				
Net assets at end of year	37,262,388,121	(34,629,024,496)	118,585,503	14,058,867,009



Statements of Cash Flows

per 31 December 2023 and 2022

	2023 (Unaudited)	2022 (Unaudited)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Changes in net assets	(11,306,917,880)	(8,460,807,077)
Correction of net assets from last year		(87,513,764)
Adjustments to reconcile excess of revenues over expenditures to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	237,112,019	360,556,326
Unrealized gain/loss from investment	-	-
Decrease (increase) in:		
Advance	1,088,380,907	(366,080,786)
Receivables	156,870,000	1,627,393,114
Prepaid expenses	473,394,475	(348,579,475)
Tax payable	16,596,978	(445,567,750)
Accrued expenses		-
Donor payables	-	-
Other payables	-	-
Post-employment benefits obligation	(714,306,700)	243,250,000
Net cash flows provided from operating activities	(10,048,870,201)	(7,477,349,412)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Sale on investment	5,089,031,347	5,490,905,622
Payment on investment	-	-
Acquisition of equipment	(129,165,832)	(176,280,300)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	4,959,865,515	5,314,625,322
Increase/(decrease) in cash	(5,089,004,686)	(2,162,724,090)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning	6,219,309,329	8,382,033,419
Correction	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents, ending	1,130,304,643	6,219,309,329



Statements of Financial Position

per 31 December 2023 and 2022

	2023 (Unaudited)	2022 (Unaudited)
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,130,304,643	5,061,001,904
Short-term investments	-	5,089,031,347
Advances	250,370,000	1,338,750,907
Other receivables	23,130,000	180,000,000
Prepaid expenses	-	473,294,475
Total current assets	1,403,804,643	12,142,178,633
Non-current assets		
Fixed assets - net	8,129,265,285	8,000,099,453
Total non-current assets	8,129,265,285	8,000,099,453
Total assets	9,533,069,928	20,142,278,086

	2023 (Unaudited)	2022 (Unaudited)
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Taxes payable	154,814,100	171,411,078
Post-employment benefits obligation	6,626,306,700	5,912,000,000
Total liabilities	6,781,120,800	6,083,411,078
Net assets		
Unrestricted	(34,629,024,496)	(33,239,222,465)
Temporarily restricted	37,380,973,624	47,179,503,970
Total net assets	2,751,949,128	14,058,867,008
Total liabilities and net assets	9,533,069,928	20,142,278,086





This year, SMERU initiated research on climate change to shed light on its impacts on the well-being of poor and vulnerable communities that have long been overlooked. | Photo: Novita Eka Syaputri

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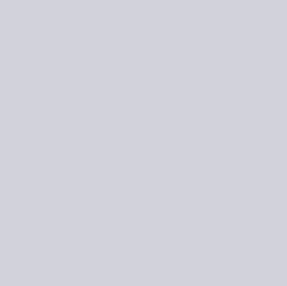
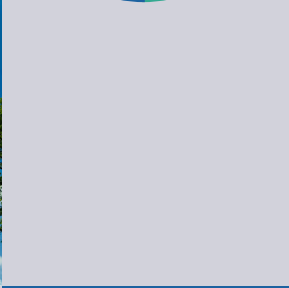
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