

Fostering Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development and Alleviating Poverty and Inequality in East Nusa Tenggara



This year, SMERU organized the *Forum Pembangunan Daerah* (FPD), or Regional Development Forum, in collaboration with the Provincial Government of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) on 27 September 2023. The Forum brought together multiple stakeholders, including local government officials, academics, and other relevant actors, to address poverty and inequality. During this forum, SMERU underscored the significance of focusing on the children and youth in NTT's development efforts, considering that child poverty rates in NTT consistently exceed the overall poverty rate. Three main topics were discussed: inclusive economic development, human resource quality improvement, and inclusive and sustainable tourism development. Stakeholders from diverse backgrounds in NTT should come together to enable the pooling of resources, build networks, coordinate efforts, and establish a solid role mapping to realize development that can reduce poverty and inequality. [Click the image](#) to re-watch the dialogue on this forum and download materials from the speakers.

FPD Side Event



Youth Gathering Forum: “Building Indonesia from the East”

SMERU and Rumah Kebangsaan organized a forum for the youth of NTT to pool insights, ideas, and enthusiasm for inclusive development in NTT. Several key topics addressed included the challenges confronting youth in NTT, an assessment of government programs (both their impact and the need for further evaluation), and the pivotal role of youth in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic practices to reduce inequalities in the region.

Selected Publications

SMERU has undertaken numerous studies in NTT covering a wide range of subjects, including poverty and inequality, social protection, livelihood and community development, economic policy, food and nutrition, and education. [Click on the titles](#) below to access the research results and gain insights from our research.

- [Thematic Study on Village Law: Designing Strategies and Scenarios for Facilitation in Villages](#)
- [Promoting Continuous and Systematic Updates of Integrated Social Welfare Data](#)
- [Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Indonesia 2019-2020 Update](#)
- [EINRIP Roads Postimprovement Monitoring and Evaluation: The 2018 Qualitative Social Research Report](#)
- [A Study on Readiness for School Reopening during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study in Ten Kabupaten](#)

Kegiatan SMERU



SMERU's Institute Secretary, Heni Kurniasih, was a featured speaker at the LVII Batch of the National Leadership Training Level I, hosted by the National Institute of Public Administration on 29 August 2023. Heni offered insights and feedback on policy briefs crafted by 35 central and regional government officials. These policy briefs are anticipated to serve as strategic input in national policy-making.



On 1 September 2023, SMERU welcomed a visit from a delegation representing the Center for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM) at UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. The delegation was led by the Executive Director, Didin Syafruddin, M.A., Ph.D., the Director of Research, Iim Halimatussa'diyah, M.A., Ph.D., along with several staff members and researchers. SMERU and PPIM UIN Jakarta engaged in a productive exchange of information, including the scope of research conducted by both institutions, current research ecosystem opportunities and challenges, as well as future institutional developments.



On 6–7 September 2023, SMERU Learning Centre hosted an online training, "Introduction to Impact Evaluation," attended by 29 participants. The training covered concepts and methods for assessing the impact of programs, policies, or interventions. Participants included professionals working as researchers, private sector employees, and civil servants from various provinces in Indonesia, such as Nangroe Aceh Darussalam, Bangka Belitung Islands, East Java, and West Kalimantan.



SMERU attended the Think Tank-Resource Networking Forum organized by the Bank Indonesia Institute on 12 September 2023 in Jakarta. On this occasion, SMERU's Director, Widjajanti Isdijoso, and Institute Secretary, Heni Kurniasih, presented SMERU's expertise, areas of work, and potential for future cooperation.



SMERU engaged in two discussions hosted by the Ministry of National Development Planning (PPN)/BAPPENAS in Jakarta on 11 September 2023. The initial discussion centered on the indicators pertinent to the 2025–2029 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), specifically on the micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and cooperative sectors. Meanwhile, the second discussion addressed the technical enhancements related to the Village Development Index.



On 13 September 2023, SMERU attended a discussion held by the Ministry of National Development Planning (PPN)/BAPPENAS to contribute insights to the 2025–2029 Technocratic Draft of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) in the field of Child Protection. SMERU's senior researcher, Ulfah Alifia, presented findings from studies related to the the pandemic and child protection.



SMERU interviewed the Director of BPJS Kesehatan, Prof. Dr. Ali Ghufron Mukti, M.Sc, Ph.D., on 19 September 2023. This interview was a crucial component of data collection for research focused on governance and healthcare financing reform in Indonesia. This research employs a political economic analysis approach conducted by SMERU in collaboration with the World Health Organization.



SMERU hosted a visit from the Regional Research and Innovation Agency (BRIDA) of Central Java on 15 September 2023 in Jakarta. During the meeting, the BRIDA team outlined its core mission, which revolves around nurturing a robust research environment at the regional level. Additionally, both organizations engaged in fruitful discussions regarding potential collaborations on knowledge products concerning poverty alleviation policies and regional economic matters.



SMERU met with the Muhammadiyah Council for Primary, Secondary, and Non-Formal Education to discuss efforts to establish research collaboration in education. Both entities are members of Education Partners Indonesia, also known as the Local Education Group.

Latest Publication



Improving Data Availability and Comprehensiveness to Support Digital Transformation

In the context of digital transformation, the government holds a substantial amount of data. But, the government's data remains underutilized due to its unavailability, incompleteness, or lack of harmony within the digitalized data. This research note draws from SMERU's study on inclusive and just digital transformation undertaken by SMERU in late 2022. [Click on the image](#) to read SMERU's recommendations for tackling data-related challenges in Indonesia's digital transformation journey.

Articles by SMERU Researchers Included in a Book Published by The Conversation Indonesia

The Conversation Indonesia has published a book titled *Membangun Perdebatan yang Inklusif dan Progresif: 32 Artikel Pilihan Jelang Pemilu 2024* (Building an Inclusive and Progressive Debate: 32 Handpicked Articles Ahead of the 2024 Election) to mark its 6th anniversary. Two articles by SMERU researchers previously published in this media outlet represent key issues to be addressed and advocated in the lead-up to the 2024 elections. These two pieces are "Miskin menurut siapa? Solusi menaikkan garis kemiskinan Indonesia" (Who defines poverty? Solutions for raising Indonesia's poverty line) by Made Anthony Iswara, Veto Tyas Indrio, and Ridho Al Izzati and "Dukungan pengembangan karier bagi guru sangat lemah dan membuat status ASN hanya jadi 'zona nyaman'" (Teacher career advancement support is highly insufficient, turning civil servant status into a 'comfort zone') by Ulfah Alifia and Rezanti Putri Pramana. [Click the image](#) to download the book.



SMERU Learning Centre



Training on Poverty Alleviation Policy Analysis

What do we understand about poverty in today's context? How are we measuring poverty using the most recent methods? What policy approaches can make a significant impact on poverty alleviation? The landscape of poverty reduction is continuously advancing, fueled by novel research, innovative approaches, and insights drawn from real-world experiences. This training is essential for those engaged in poverty alleviation endeavors.

 **3-4 October 2023 (2 days)** |  **Online via Zoom** | **Register: form.smeru.or.id/akpk2-regis**

SMERU Video

SMERU's research has indicated that children's voices and opinions are rarely heard by adults and are not yet considered in policy formulation. The Children Happiness Survey in West Java (2017) revealed that children have unique perspectives and self-assessments regarding their well-being. Why is it imperative for the government to recognize children's voices in policymaking? [Click the image](#) to learn how children view their life, happiness, and well-being.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. SMERU's content may be copied or distributed for noncommercial use provided that it is appropriately attributed to The SMERU Research Institute.

Visit us:



smeru
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

© 2023 The SMERU Research Institute, All rights reserved.

In the absence of institutional arrangements, PDF formats of SMERU's publications may not be uploaded online and online content may only be published via a link to SMERU's website.