

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Urun Rembug Desa:

Towards Peaceful, Inclusive, and Participative Villages

Jakarta, 26 August 2019 – The European Union (EU) in partnership with Search for Common Ground, IDEA and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Forum, supported by Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration organised **Urun Rembug Desa**, on Monday, 26 August 2019, in Jakarta. Carrying the theme “Towards Peaceful, Inclusive, and Participative Villages,” **Urun Rembug Desa** is a gathering to share best practices from **Gender-Sensitive Village Planning and Budgeting Programme** implementation in Tabanan District (Bali) and Bogor District (West Java). The event also brought together representatives from the Government, Civil Society Organisations, and Community Organisers from across Indonesia to share their experiences in advocating for inclusive development in villages.

Over the years, the EU and Indonesia have successfully worked together to foster inclusive economic development, support civil society, promote good governance, protect the environment, counter the effects of climate change, promote primary education, and prevent diseases. An important element of this bilateral effort is the EU's close cooperation with civil society for promoting human rights, democracy, gender equality, economic development, and other development issues.

As one of its initiatives, the EU established the **Gender-Sensitive Village Planning and Budgeting**, a programme supporting inclusive development in Indonesia and the implementation of Village Law Number 6 of 2014.

In his address, **Mr. Charles-Michel Geurts, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the European Union Delegation to Indonesia** emphasized the importance for government and civil society partners to work together to ensure that the village funds actually reach all people that they are designed to serve – ensuring that no one is left behind. This is a central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By collaborating with Search for Common Ground, CSO Forum and IDEA, the EU's successful programme created 54 Community Organisers (COs) from 18 villages in Bogor District and Tabanan District. CSO Forum consists of 9 Civil Society Organisations that have implemented the programme and encouraged citizens to engage constructively in gender-responsive budgeting process.

"From the legal and formal aspect, participation is part of the country's development process, even though its implementation is still far from expectations. Therefore, community participation is essential to ensure that development achieves equitable and sustainable results, and contributes to social change and empowering the community. Through support from the European Union to several CSOs in Bogor and Bali, the level of community participation continues to improve in village planning and development. This general level of involvement has eroded the practice of discrimination which is believed to be the basis for the formation of the inclusive village and community characteristics", explained **Syamsul Alam Agus, Secretary of the Yayasan Satu Keadilan and a member of the CSO Forum.**

Furthermore, the three-year programme also reached out Indonesian citizens living in 300 villages by disseminating information of social audit results and citizens' rights through radio programmes, village information boards, and other media.

“The Village Fund opens space for villages to respond and prevent conflicts in the village, including those caused by the lack of transparency from the government and social injustice. The purpose of the Village Planning and Gender-Sensitive Village Budgeting from the European Union to create a peaceful, inclusive and participatory village is very applicable to support the implementation of the Village Law and Funds”, said **Director of Post-Conflict Regional Services of the Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, Mr. Hasrul Edyar.**

The insights and valuable findings from the programme implementation were delivered through radio talk shows that discussed other relevant topics such as Conflict Prevention on Village Fund Implementation; Women Leadership in Village Development: a best practice from villages; and Budget Transparency: Effort to Prevent Conflict with Violence.

Urun Rembug Desa also featured art performances and an exhibition by CSO Forum and the event organizer, Campaign ID. Campaign's full support for village empowerment is not only carried out through cooperation in actualizing the event. As another concrete step, the Campaign also facilitates the community to provide support through the Campaign app. Within the app, there are nine challenges in a variety of issues, such as the environment, women's empowerment, health, economy, and communication. Those who have completed the community action challenge can exchange the points into funds for the development and empowerment of the target villages for each CSO. Videos displaying the innovative activities developed and influenced by the **Gender-Sensitive Village Planning and Budgeting** were also shown to invitees.

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About European Union

The European Union (EU) is a unique economic and political union between 28 Member States. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The EU is the largest trade block in the world; and the world's largest source and destination of foreign direct investment. Collectively, the EU and its Member States are the largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA), providing more than half of ODA globally.

About CSO Forum

CSO Forum consists of nine implementing Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) of the **Gender-Sensitive Village Planning and Budgeting**, a program that was funded by the European Union.

The **Gender-Sensitive Village Planning and Budgeting** program aims to increase the capacity of local community organisers (COs) in Bogor (West Java) and Tabanan (Bali) in public budget processes such that they are gender-sensitive and minority-sensitive. It also aims to improve the capacity of citizens, including women and minority groups and local village leaders to engage constructively in a gender and minority-sensitive, public budget process.

URUN REMBUG DESA

MENUJU DESA YANG DAMAI, INKLUSIF, DAN PARTISIPATIF

The implementation of this programme has brought together civil society organisations, local government, and village communities in 18 villages and reached more than a thousand beneficiaries.

Members of CSO Forum:

<u>Bali</u>	<u>Bogor</u>
Fitra Jawa Timur Jaringan Radio Komunitas (JRK) Indonesia Kunti Bhakti	Aliansi Bhinneka Tunggal Ika Jaringan Radio Komunitas (JRK) Jawa Barat Metamorfosis Peka Indonesia Relawan Kesehatan Masyarakat Yayasan Satu Keadilan

For more information, please contact:

Representative of CSO Forum

Syamsul Alam Agus - Yayasan Satu Keadilan

Phone : +08118889083

Email: duael@satukeadilan.org

