

PRESS RELEASE

Workshop to Create Child-Friendly Juvenile Justice Proceedings in Aceh.

Band a Aceh, 17 April, 2007 – UNICEF is supporting a 2-day workshop and roundtable discussion on Diversion and Restorative Justice in collaboration with POLDA NAD and the Restorative Justice Working Group from 17-18 April. This workshop is aimed at increasing the protection of children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking (AET) by identifying and promoting alternative procedures for children that are in conflict with the law.

Opened today by the Head of POLDA NAD, **PAK xxxx**, this workshop is just one component of the restorative justice initiative across the province, and involves religious, custom and formal leaders; government authorities at sub-district and district level; DINSOS and Biro PP; NGOs; AET focal points from Child Centres; police officers who deal with children in conflict with the law; judges; prosecutors and probation officers.

The aims of this workshop are:

- (1) To raise awareness and build commitment among community leaders, NGOs and local authorities on the issues of children in conflict with the law.
- (2) To identify the existing practices, opportunities and challenges of the implementation of diversion and restorative justice for the protection of children in conflict with the law at community level.

Nationwide, over 5,000 children are institutionalized in detention centres and prisons throughout the country (**WHAT IS THE SOURCE FOR THIS FIGURE?**). Imprisoned together with adult offenders, the children have little access to education and health, no leisure, and are at high risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and trauma. The criminal age of responsibility - 8 years old - is very low in Indonesia, and children as young as 12 can be imprisoned.

UNICEF is currently promoting a diversion and restorative justice system where sending a child to court and possibly jail is the last option. In 2006 UNICEF conducted two batches of training on the juvenile justice system for 70 judges, prosecutors and probation officers from all districts in NAD, and just recently in March 2007, UNICEF conducted a training of trainers (TOT) on Diversion and Restorative Justice for 28 Judges, Prosecutors and Probation Officers in Banda Aceh.

About UNICEF

UNICEF is on the ground in 155 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition; good water and sanitation; quality basic education for all boys and girls; and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

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