

# Voices of Community

What's happening in East Java and NTB?

UNICEF Surabaya Newsletter  
is prepared monthly in order to share views / concerns of  
beneficiaries with partners and to develop common  
understanding of how UNICEF-assisted projects bring about  
positive changes in day to day life of community.

UNICEF Surabaya Newsletter 8.07 (July 2008)

## Can Government and Child Version Indicators on Child Friendly City meet each other?

State Ministry of Women Empowerment has appointed Padang, Solo, Malang, Sidoarjo, Kupang, Pontianak, Kutai Kartanegara, Gorontalo and Manado as "Child Friendly City". Government developed a set of indicators that can be used to determine whether a city implement child friendly environment, in which government provides easy access for children to public facilities, health services, education, transportation and also protect children from physical and psychological abuse. Development in those cities should be designed to give children optimum opportunity to learn and expand their capacity.



Are those indicators meet with children version indicators on child friendly city? A "test" has been done through Malang Children Meeting that was held on 29 June until 1 July 2008. It was facilitated jointly by Children Board, City Planning Board, City Education Office, City Health Office, City Planning Office, and several NGOs. The recommendations raised during the meeting were mainly associated with child protection at school, family, community and public facilities. Those will be shared with government to be used as indicators to measure friendliness of Malang City to children.

About 275 children participated in this meeting. They came from various backgrounds such as students, child workers, street children, disabled children, children from poor family and children from orphanage. There were also 25 children from other districts namely Bondowoso, Probolinggo, Sumenep, Lamongan and Tulungagung.

On the first day, participants had a chance to discuss with senior government officials. They met Mr. Bachtiar Ismail, Head of City Planning Board and Ms. Sutiarsi, Assistant for Development. They were accompanied by their staff. Among comments and requests from children. A blind child named Tridharma, who has talent in playing musical instrument asked them: "Please Malang City provide more play ground and public facilities which are disabled friendly. I do not have enough choice to enjoy Malang since this city was not designed to provide public facilities that are child friendly". All comments and requests were noted by Mr. Ismail, Ms. Sutiarsi and their staff.

After dialogue, children then carried out situation analysis of issues related with child protection in school, public facilities and family and community. The analysis was carried out using drawing technique. Participants were divided into 9 groups. A topic was discussed by 3 different groups. A group that covered by VoC reporter was a group that discussed child protection in public facilities. Participants drew a map of Malang City. They marked on the map, locations of city parks, squares, railway station, etc. Then, they put comments on those places. Why they like or dislike them. There were a lot of comments came out from public facilities drawing. One of them was

about city square. Children like this place, because it is quite spacious for them to play. But, what they do not like is that there are a lot of adults which sometimes make them feel not safe. Children were afraid to be abducted or abused by the adult. They also complained that the city square is too dirty.

A group discussing issue on child protection at home, proposed to "stop babies trafficking and every family should keep children with them". The picture showed two women that exchange a baby for money.

A positive comment was expressed by a group that discussed child protection at school. Children drew a teacher who helps students with smile. They put a comment "We love teachers who help us with care when we need help, we do not want teachers give corporal punishment to student because it is not relevant".

At the end of the first day, all drawings and comments were collected. The Malang City Children Board develop "Children Recommendations" based



on those drawings and comments. Finally the board concluded 26 recommendations. Among other recommendations were: We hope that Malang City Government does not discriminate disabled children, street children, orphans and "normal" children to have access to public facilities. We hope that the government can stop child abuse by parents. We hope government can support poor families so their children can continue their study.

Besides giving the recommendations to government, Children Board would like to have a regular meeting with Malang City Government and stakeholders to discuss situation of children in Malang.

The second day, children planted trees and clean-up the city park. They also learnt how to make compost from leaves and to construct "bio-pori". Bio-pori is a technique to make compost in a small hole directly in the soil.

Children were satisfied with the whole process. Their recommendation can be used practically to measure indicators of Child Friendly City that has already been developed by the State Ministry of Women Empowerment. Children were also glad that government wanted to listen to their voices and promise to pay more attention to children.

So, indicators developed by government can be detailed practically by children.\*\*\*\*\*



UNICEF Surabaya  
Jl. Kalibokor Selatan 160  
Surabaya 60284  
(031)-5048270  
E-Mail :  
surabaya@unicef.or.id