

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.

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"We commit to prevent HIV-AIDS in Kaliwungu village"

Prevention Mother To Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) is a priority HIV-AIDS programme in Tulungagung District since the number of HIV cases among mothers has increased. Tulungagung District is one of 12 high risk HIV-AIDS districts/cities in East Java Province. On the other hand, misopportunity concerning PMTCT service during Ante Natal Care (ANC) has happened in most of health facilities.



Potential agent/outreach workers for PMTCT Kaliwungu village and Ms. Anne Vincent

Since 2006 UNICEF has supported several districts and cities in East Java to develop, implement and monitor the HIV-AIDS programme. There are 3 approaches of HIV-AIDS programme supported by UNICEF: (a) integration of PMTCT into ANC; (b) community based of HIV prevention and care; and (c) peer education through Islamic schools.

One of area models supported by UNICEF is Kaliwungu village in Kaliwungu Sub-district and has been covered by Ngunut Health Center. It was selected because there are a lot of migrant workers. This is one of 2 prostitution places in Tulungagung. Community participation in HIV-AIDS prevention has been increased significantly in this village.

There are around 170 sex workers in the prostitution place in Kaliwungu. According to Mr. Yudi, chairperson of the prostitution place, all of them are aware of safe sex by using condom. However, only 70% of customer are aware of safe sex. That is why Mr. Yudi has supported Village Head of Kaliwungu, Mr. Bambang and local NGO named "Bina Sehat" Foundation supported by CESMID (Centre for Studying and Millieu Development) to motivate male groups on HIV prevention, encourage all sex workers to do monthly STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) laboratory check-up, and visit VCT (Voluntary Counseling & Testing) clinic quarterly.

Mr. Bambang said that his efforts to prevent his community from HIV-AIDS have been supported by all stakeholders in this village. Among others are PKK, posyandu cadres, religious organization such as Fatayat and Muslimat and also community association named "Paguyuban Kartini". They have played as outreach workers to encourage and motivate WORAs (Women of Reproductive Age) and pregnant women in the village to visit community midwife for counseling and getting ANC service. Ms. Nursofi, community midwife said that women who have been motivated by the outreach workers are easier to do the blood test.

On 13 May 2009, the PMTCT Team from Sorong, Papua Barat Province visited Kaliwungu village. This traveling seminar was an exchange to share experiences between Sorong and Tulungagung on clinical PMTCT and community based PMTCT. There

were 26 participants from Sorong who came from 5 health centers in Sorong city and accompanied by staff from District Health Office of Sorong and Provincial Health Office of Papua Barat. The team was led by Dr. Arnoldus. The following are comments from participants:

Ms. Farida Siagian from Kalsaman Health Center said: "I really appreciate Kaliwungu Village Head's support in integrating PMTCT services to Posyandu, and his daily activity supporting posyandu, Desa Siaga and community organizations". While Mr. Arifin from District Health Office of Sorong concerned on services provided to women especially sex worker. He said: "This is amazing that Chairperson of PKK is willing to participate in VCT promotion to pregnant mothers who get ANC services and she even join the supervision team which regularly visit prostitution place". Dr. Kartini from Remu Health Center commented on the role of religious leaders: "I would like to say that Paguyuban Kartini that has been established and consisting of local community and religion groups in Kaliwungu village is really appropriate model of local motivators that have proper capacity to encourage WORAs and pregnant mothers to go to VCT Clinic". Finally Ms. Adriana from Tanjung Kasuari Health Center said to VoC reporter, Ms. Agnes Savitri Agni: "I really appreciate to Paguyuban Bina Sehat that has encouraged sexual workers to do STD laboratory check-up on monthly basis and also to promote safe sex through 100% condom use to the male groups".



PMTCT Team from Sorong discussed with Paguyuban Kartini

Ms. Nursofi informed that number of WORAs in Kaliwungu village is around 1,100 persons. Among them 700 persons have been encouraged to get pre-test counseling and 125 persons have been tested. Number of pregnant women in this village is 44 women and 100% of them have been tested. Fortunately no one of them detected as HIV positive.

Perhaps what community at Kaliwungu village has been doing so far is still far from an ideal effort form. However, its actions have shown that community awareness concerning HIV-AIDS prevention at this village have promising effect, even though the village is close to the prostitution place and has a lot of migrant workers.**



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