

# 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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## EMPOWERING THE YOUTH FOR BETTER FUTURE

Andi Ferdian - one of  
three 2009 Indonesian  
Youth Leaders



July 2009 was a month full of pride for Andi Ferdian and LPA-Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB). Andi Ferdian, born on 24 June 1993 in Dompus, NTB was awarded as one of 3 Indonesian Youth Leaders 2009. The other two come from Bali and Yogyakarta. This event was organized by Ministry of Women Empowerment and UNICEF to recognize children who had significantly contributed to the dissemination of Child Rights and its implementation in Indonesia. While LPA-NTB was also awarded by Minister of Social Affairs as one of the Best Performing LPA in Indonesia along with LPA Jawa Timur and LPA Lampung. Both events were conducted in Jakarta to celebrate National Children Day 2009.

Voices of Community reporter had a chance to interview Andi who is now on his first semester at Faculty of English Literature of Mataram University. He actually finished his Senior High School in 2 years.

VoC: "Hi Andi, what was your feeling when you were awarded as one of Indonesian Youth Leaders?"

Andi: "I was surprised, because I knew that maybe hundreds of children from all around Indonesia submitted their profile to compete as Indonesian Youth Leaders".

VoC: "Do you feel that after you had awarded as one of Indonesian Youth Leaders 2009 it helps you to promote children's rights?"

Andi: "Yes, it really help me a lot to carry out dissemination of Child Rights to other children and adults. The award made me feel more confident and I think the adults should pay more attention to us. Now they do not just see me and other children members of Child Forum as ordinary children who know nothing. It has made us have a better access in advocating Child Rights in NTB. The award also inspires children in NTB to be active in child rights promotion activities because they feel may be next year they can become the next Indonesia Youth Leader".

VoC: "Do you remember when you started promoting child rights?"

Andi: "I started it in 2004 when I was active in Scout and became member of Student Association Board (OSIS). Later I joined District Children Forum of Dompus and together with other members I disseminated child rights in schools. In March 2008, the Child Forum had a chance to organize District

Children Meeting and Bupati paid a big attention to us. During the dialogue with children, Bupati committed to support children to conduct their activities. Soon after the meeting, District Education Office gave us a small grant to disseminate child rights and HIV-AIDS prevention. I also actively worked together with Children Forum from Mataram City, Lombok Barat, Lombok Tengah and Lombok Timur to carry out advocacy activities at provincial level".

VoC: "What do you hope for child participation in NTB"

Andi: "I hope that government and adult will involve children in decision making process. Adult must recognize children opinion. They should not see children as someone who cannot do or contribute anything"

VoC: "OK, Andi good luck for your study"

Andi: "Thank you..."

As a fundamental right of the child, the right to participate stands on its own. It requires a clear commitment and effective actions to become a living reality. Respecting children's view means that such views should not be ignored, however it does not mean that children's

opinions should be automatically endorsed. A process of dialogue and need of exchange should be encouraged in which children will increase their responsibility and become more active, tolerant and democratic. Child Forum is one example of putting Child Rights to participate in reality. Today in NTB there are active Child Forum in Mataram City, Lombok Barat, Lombok Tengah, Lombok Timur and Dompus. Members of the forum have enormously carried out various activities.

We should support young people like Andi and the Child Forum, so they could participate and influence the development process in their community. They can learn earlier to be responsible, tolerant and democratic as a future leader.\*\*\*\*\*



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August on Children  
Forum



Provincial Children Meeting of NTB 13-15 July 2009

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