

# 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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## Oil company-UNICEF-Government: Working together to improve quality of education in Bojonegoro

Mr. Rasmaji, Section Chief of Curriculum District Education Office of Bojonegoro said: "Exxon Mobile provides funds, UNICEF supports with concept, experience, technical assistance and networking, and the District Government of Bojonegoro implements piloting School Based Management (SBM) at district, cluster and school levels. All these efforts are supporting each other to reach one goal that is to improve quality of education".



Condition of a school before SBM introduced

This comment stated after several activities of SBM conducted in Bojonegoro. In the beginning of preparatory discussion, he was rather skeptical to this initiative.

Bojonegoro is one out of 38 districts/cities in East Java has become the 8th district supported by UNICEF to conduct piloting SBM since 2007. This district is located in the border of East and Central Java. Before oil was found, Bojonegoro was well-known as a dry area with teakwood plantation and yearly flood caused by overflowed of Bengawan Solo river. Several villages are categorized as poor villages. Level of education is also low. How people in Bojonegoro can improve their social and economic situation?

Thank to God. Geological survey had found that Bojonegoro has unexploited deposits of 600 million to 1.4 billion barrels of oil and 1.7-2 trillion feet cubics of gas. The government and people of Bojonegoro have mounted their hopes that the oil and gas will bring their life better. Is it true? It depends on the quality of people in Bojonegoro. Do they have access to oil production or economic activities related with oil production?

Based on the situation in Bojonegoro and how to give better impact of oil to people in Bojonegoro, Exxon Mobile run a corporate social responsibility (CSR). One of several CSR activities is to support government through UNICEF in improving basic education. Yet, even the first barrel of oil has not been produced, education sector in Bojonegoro has started in receiving benefit of having oil and gas.

The cooperation between Exxon Mobile-UNICEF-Government of Indonesia will be actualized in 3-year term started in 2007. In the first year, the project has covered 37 Elementary Schools (Public School and Madrasah) at Kalitidu and Ngasem sub-districts. In 2008, the project will expand to 30 other schools.

Decision in selecting those 2 sub-districts is not merely because those places are geographically in the location of the Cepu Block as part of an agreement with Exxon Mobile, but also the fact that education in those 2 sub-districts is considered less developed as resulted in the data collection of those 37 schools.

Since March 2007 some activities such as preparatory workshops, trainings, study visit and

teacher group discussions have been conducted. On 11th July 2007, Bupati of Bojonegoro launched this project.

The study visit was conducted to Probolinggo and Mojokerto. It was participated by district government, school principals, teachers, village heads, Camats, community leaders. This was the first visit of education practitioners of Bojonegoro to SBM schools. Mr. Rasmaji said: "After visiting schools in Probolinggo and Mojokerto, we realized that learning process in SBM piloting schools supported by UNICEF are much better than us. We have to take this project as a momentum to make better progress of our education".

SBM training which cover school management, AJEL (Active, Joyful and Effective Learning) and community participation had been conducted in November 2007 took place at 5 clusters and participated by 330 persons. A teacher from SDN-1 Kalitidu expressed his eager to implement results of the training: "I want to go back to my school and practice AJEL in my class". Another response got from Mr. Lasiman, School Principal of SDN Begeg when VoC reporter met him in his school in December 2007: "Now we could see some changes in learning process such as sitting arrangement, more interactive situation in delivering subjects, display of students' works".

Responses did not only come from education practitioners. Mr. Nanang from District Planning Board (Bappeda) said: "We will plan to allocate fund in local budget - APBD - for supporting and replication of this project including intensive monitoring for better achievements".

This is just a beginning of preparing people of Bojonegoro to have a good impact of having oil and gas. Education and health sectors should be focused in government programme. Introduction of SBM by UNICEF could convince Government of Bojonegoro that SBM can improve quality of education.\*\*\*\*\*



Mr. Rasmaji (center) and his colleagues when they visited a SBM piloting school in Probolinggo



Situation before SBM introduced: one way communication and teacher dictated learning materials to students

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