

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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Triggering Awareness: A key point of constructing family latrine

Defecation is a normal human excretory function that happens daily in a healthy person. And it seems like an easy thing to do. However, if we read statistic on places for human defecation, only 60% of Indonesian use latrine. So, where do the rest of 40% Indonesian people defecate? Then, we realize, defecate is not an easy thing to do for all Indonesian people.



Pak Ridwan (blue Tshirt),
UNICEF staff and Village
Head (white shirt)

More than 22 years UNICEF has supported Indonesia to increase coverage rate of people using latrine through several approaches, then since 2007 UNICEF has run new approach that has already used by other donors, namely Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). This new approach does not provide stimulant to families to construct family latrine. The main effort of this approach is to stimulate awareness of the community to defecate using latrine.

Even the project did not yet reach a big achievement, however, it is a promoting result of UNICEF in supporting this approach in the district of Bima. VoC reporter visited Karampi village, one of 12 villages in Langgudu sub-district. It is about 50 km from Raba, the district capital of Bima. Why this village was selected by Bappeda and UNICEF? Bappeda staff informed that condition of this village is really the worst of all village in Lenggudu. Total population of this village is 2,974 people in 637 households. The water resources are 55 dugwells. The water condition from those dugwells is salty because the dugwells located in around 20 meters from the beach. The community defecate in open air at the beach or mountainous area that located in around 200 meters from houses.

The project supported by UNICEF was started with training for cadres who will run CLTS at village level. After training those cadres conducted a series of meeting to trigger awareness in the community, train several people to make closets, and establish a closet production center.

Pak Ridwan is one of the cadre who had been trained on making closet. When he was asked why he joined this project, he said: "This is an economic opportunity. And if we cannot help ourselves, who will change our life? I myself commit to eliminate open-air defecation in the community in Karampi. We should be ashamed of ourselves, why we cannot live like common other people". To support and motivate Pak Ridwan, District Health Office of Bima has given

him 4 units of closet mold and 6 sacks of cement.

The implementation of CLTS in Karampi was started in September 2007. VoC reporter asked on the target and achievement that this hamlet community would like to pursue and Pak Ridwan said: "Our target is 516 households are equipped with family latrine. Until January 2008 we have already produced and sold 114 units of closet. The price of each unit is Rp. 10,000. In the beginning I sold Rp. 15,000 per unit. While number of households that has already used latrine is 124 households. There are 61 households in the ongoing construction of latrine. So we will reach 36% of the target by end of February 2008 or within 6 months". What is the prospect of this business? Pak Ridwan calculated as follows: "The demand will increase, because people want to live more easier in a modern way. If they want to buy a closet, they should go to the market in Tente that is around 40 km from Karampi. So, if I can produce it nearby them, they will buy from me. However, I should improve the quality of products."



Mrs. Hadijah, UNICEF staff,
health staff and hamlet head

Before leaving Karampi, VoC reporter met Ibu Hadijah who has used latrine and observed her latrine. She expressed her benefit in using latrine: "I am happy now. I used to go to the beach or hill to defecate. Sometimes I felt afraid, especially if I defecated at night. After getting information from Pak Ridwan I was aware that we are a human being that should live in better way. Then I bought a closet from him and constructed my family latrine. Total budget was around Rp. 750,000. It is not yet completed. It is not only used by my family. My neighbours who do not have latrine also use it. I think they will construct their own latrine when they have enough money"

It seems that triggering awareness of the community to construct family latrine is not only through health approach. Economic, civilization, and religious approaches can be used as entry point for discussion with the community to have their own family latrine.*****



Mr. Anwar and his wife
who have constructed their latrine

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