

# 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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## Students learn Avian Influenza in Math, Social studies, Science and Bahasa Indonesia Subjects

Knowledge is for life. We can well understand on Archimedes theory or Newton Law, however the most important is how those concepts can benefit our life? If we can not use them and get benefits from them, why should we learn it?

Those questions has become the basis for the Provincial School Based Management (SBM) Development Team of East Java in developing learning materials for Elementary School. As the result, there are several issues on health, nutrition, HIV&AIDS, child rights and avian influenza have been packaged and integrated in learning subjects produced by this team.

Last year the team assisted by staff from Provincial Health Office and Provincial Animal Husbandry Office, developed Avian Influenza learning materials. Presentations from those staff have stimulated members of the team to develop that learning materials. Mr. Iswanto, one of the team member said: *"It is surprising to know that 40% of Avian Influenza victims were children. One of them was in Tulungagung, my beloved district. My colleagues and I should stop new cases of Avian Influenza"*. To realize this spirit, the team developed learning materials on Avian Influenza to improve children's knowledge and awareness and in addition to those, it will develop children life skill as well. Now, children live in the environment where backyard farming is a part of their life and poultry keeping as one of income generating activity for their family life.

After the package of Avian Influenza learning materials has completed by the team, District Workshops in 5 selected districts/city in East Java were conducted. Those districts/city were categorized as Avian Influenza high risk areas. Then Sub-district trainings for teachers were conducted in 66 sub-districts in those 5 districts/city. These trainings were participated by several School Supervisors, School Principals and 1,360 teachers. The Avian Influenza messages integrated in learning materials were implemented in more than 500 schools.

Ms. Siti Aminah, a teacher of SD Jabalsari, Jabalsari village, Sumbergempol sub-district, Tulungagung just like other teachers confused when their School Principal asked them to participate in the Sub-district training on dissemination of Avian Influenza learning materials. She did not have any idea why she should participate in such training. Her knowledge on this disease was also poor. She said: *"I thought Avian Influenza does not have relation with my daily task as a teacher. But, after participating in the workshop I realized that children should know the danger of this disease. Also, children should discuss with their parents to protect their family from this disease. I know that almost all households nearby school environment have backyard poultry farm. At least each household has 4 to 5 chickens or other poultry such as ducks. Commonly, children play with their*

*pets such as chicken at home. I am aware that children must be aware of the danger and I should do something to keep children safe from Avian Influenza disease by using the issues on Avian Influenza which was integrated in the learning materials"*.

The Sub-district training on integration of Avian Influenza in the learning materials for Elementary School in Tulungagung was facilitated by the District SBM Facilitator. As usual in every SBM training, the method used in this training was also participatory, role play, discussion, pratising at classroom and action plan development. Participants were divided into 4 groups based on 4 major learning subjects, namely Math, Social Studies, Natural Science and Bahasa Indonesia. The training was aimed to improve life skill of students in preventing Avian Influenza infection through learning from trained teachers who have skill to integrate Avian Influenza prevention and control messages in those 4 major lessons.

Mr. Banuharjo, one of School Supervisor from Sumbergempol sub-district said: *"The training materials are very beneficial to be shared with teachers in my respective area. I will urge teachers to implement these learning materials , because our district, Tulungagung, had bad experience when one victim of this disease occured in Tulungagung."*

How about the real implementation? It has been done at school level. Teachers explained 5-10 minutes on Avian Influenza. Then they asked students to conduct group discussion and create something to express their knowledge on Avian Influenza. Students has created many products such as poetries, songs, games, announcements, graphs, drawings of cases and other creative matters. In a school gathering attended by community, parents, teachers and students, all those products were displayed and explained. Children could talk with adults on what Avian Influenza is and how to prevent from this disease. This process for example could be seen in SDN-1 Beji, Tulungagung. School Principal invited parents and community leaders in a school gathering. Then students by using different kinds of forms, presented Avian Influenza and asked audience to stop new cases of Avian Influenza in Tulungagung. Questions and answers session was opened and children were confident to answer. Isn't it a child participation?



A student was presenting Avian Influenza prevention to the parents in a school gathering



The Provincial SBM Team in 2007 developing learning materials



Sub-district training process in Tulungagung

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