

“Help us from killing by Avian Influenza”



Avian Influenza (AI) has become a threat to kill people and chicken. In East Java, 5 people were confirmed infected by AI virus and 3 of them died. Thousands of chicken were infected and killed by AI. 70% of 34 suspect and confirmed AI cases in East Java are children.

Behaviour change is a key element of AI prevention. Regarding to this point, UNICEF Surabaya in collaboration with East Java Provincial Health Office and District Health Office in several districts /cities in East Java conducted poster competition. One of successful story on this activity was done in District of Kediri. To be noticed that one of AI cases was found in Kediri.

Mr. Djoko Soeharno, District Secretary of Kediri informed that the poster exhibition was started with a circular letter endorsed by him in November 2006. In that letter he informed to all school principals 4 issues as follows: (a) Information on AI including AI prevention that should be shared by teachers of Elementary Schools (SD) and Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) to their students; (b) Process of poster selection that is held from school, sub-district and district levels. Teachers should ask their students at Grade IV-VI to participate in this competition. Each school should send the best three of school level poster competition to Sub-district Education Office; (c) The District poster exhibition is conducted on 9 December 2006 in Simpang Lima Gumul, Kediri; and (d) All students whom posters received by the Committee will get certificate from Bupati of Kediri. The theme of the poster competition and exhibition was “Flu Burung - Bagaimana mencegah dan memberantasnya?” (Avian Influenza - How to prevent and control it?).

As reported by the Committee, this competition was participated by more than 8,660 students of 866 Elementary Schools. Among those 8,660 posters, 2,598 posters were displayed in the exhibition on 9 December 2006. Furthermore, the Committee selected 322 posters that were categorized as good and favorite posters. Finally, three posters selected as winners: (1) Poster painted by Tania Amartani, Grade VI of SDN-1 Kras I (Stop Flu Burung); (2) Onia Febry Ayu, Grade VI of SDN-1 Ngadiluwih (Awas Flu Burung); and (3) Dara, Grade VI of SDN-2 Tulungrejo, Pare (Flu Burung? Jangan ah)

The poster exhibition was opened by Head of District Health Office. Those 2,598 posters were stucked on a long banner that was placed surrounding Simpang Lima Gumul Monument. The exhibition was conducted from 08:00 until 13:30. The Committee assumed that this exhibition visited by more than 500,000 teachers, students, parents and community. Besides the exhibition, the Committee provided life music and quiz to attract people to come to the exhibition. AI Quiz was also conducted and 200 students participated in this quiz. Prizes that provided by the government were given to audience who can answer directly questions raised by master of ceremony.

“[translated] I know now that to prevent us from diseases like avian influenza we should live in healthy environment”, said a student after visited the exhibition.



“Stop Flu Burung”
Painted by Tania Amartani, Grade VI of SDN-1 Kras

Dr. Adi Laksono as Head of District Health Office was happy that this exhibition mobilized thousands of children as painters or visitors of the exhibition. He said: “[translated] Behaviour change should be conducted effectively if it is started from young generation. I am very happy that UNICEF supports us to promote healthy life behaviour through this competition and exhibition”

Again, we can see that children in their capacity can share good things with their colleagues and community. Besides as a part of education, this poster competition and exhibition provide a chance for children to participate in developing better life for their community.

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