Fatimah Huurin promotes International Youth Day 2016:
“I am a youth. I’m actively campaigning on climate justice issues.”
Indonesia is a diverse country home to more than 237 million people. Because almost a third of its inhabitants are under age 18, having children and youth engaged in shaping Indonesia’s future is critical for maintaining Indonesia’s proud traditions, cultural history and rich biodiversity.

Nowhere is youth engagement more important for Indonesia’s future than in its response to climate change, disasters and environmental degradation. Children are impacted most from hunger and malnourishment during floods and droughts. They breathe at twice the rate of adults, so they are most at risk of respiratory disease as air pollution worsens. Children already often suffer from poor mental and physical developments that can occur from increased instances of malaria, dengue fever, diarrhoea and pneumonia. As climate change exacerbates harmful conditions for children, it is imperative to understand and respond to their experiences for a healthy, safe and vibrant future in Indonesia.

Youth know this. Across the country, they are standing up and saying they want to be part of urgent and innovative solutions. They have stories to tell and want them to be heard—by their peers, parents, community leaders and government decision-makers. Young people are ready to raise their voices on climate change, disaster risk and related issues of child rights, health and wellbeing. Are you ready to listen?
UNICEF Indonesia knows the value of youth voice, capacity, engagement and action. It started “Youth Voices from the Frontline” as an initiative to strengthen youth engagement through the Children in a Changing Climate Coalition.

To launch the initiative, in August 2016, members of ten organisations learned how to conduct a photo-based, participatory development process called Community Digital Storytelling (CDST). Taking on the role as either a Master Facilitator or Visual Storyteller, the workshop participants learned techniques for helping youth tell their own stories to spark conversations on topics they care about. The Master Facilitators are now facilitating youth groups in creating the stories they collectively want to tell, while the Visual Storytellers are developing stories in their own communities. Through the “Youth Voices” initiative, young people will gain knowledge about climate change and disasters, build their confidence, and share their concerns with those who can address them and work with them to design solutions and take action.

Plan International Indonesia will share stories from youth participating in its “Child-Centred Climate Change Adaptation” project. CDST Master Facilitators will work with youth groups at the village and school levels in North Timor Tengah District, and Lembata District, in East Nusa Tenggara. The youth will share experiences and solutions for adapting to a changing climate.

Two Pramuka (the scouts) National Commissioners were trained as Master Facilitators, and support the CDST approach. As scouts for change, they are currently developing a youth-based activity that will promote the power of story for social change.
Visual storytellers from FAN will focus on telling two stories. One story will focus on the traffic pollution in Bogor and its effects on children. The storyteller’s aim is to show decision-makers that this is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. The other FAN youth will share a story on environmental issues in North Jakarta that adversely affect young people. These include impacts from rising sea water, health issues of diarrhoea and skin disease, and a trash dump.

A visual storyteller from Climate Warriors, with the support of Green Voice Foundation members, will focus her story on a polluted river in Bandung, and its impacts local children and herself. The storyteller wants people in her school and community to understand—and have conversations about—how their actions affect the pollution and local children. She also aims for local government action to change the harmful situation.

Visual storytellers from YFCC (Youth for Climate Change Indonesia) will focus their story on the impacts of a landfill area of Bantar Gebang, Bekasi, on youth. They hope to share the situation and find solutions for their worries. They are concerned that the accumulation of garbage negatively impacts youth and children in the area in terms of having a decent quality of life. They are also concerned that the human-related activities of production and consumption add to problems associated with a changing climate.

The CDST storytelling process builds on the full potential of people often unheard; strengthening voices of the wider society in the process. Through CDST, young people in the “Youth Voices” initiative will be collectively creating and sharing stories in their own language using photos, narration and music. These stories will be driven by the young community members themselves. They will develop the content and decide what photos best represent the narratives they want to tell. Through story, CDST prioritises strengthening youth understanding, self-confidence and ownership on concerning issues and solutions through processes of research, reflection, dialogue, engagement and mobilisation.

The “Youth Voices from the Frontline” CDST training was aimed at two different groups: Master Facilitators and Visual Storytellers.

The Master Facilitators (ChildFund, Plan International Indonesia, Yayasan Sayangi Tunas Cilik, Wahana Visi Indonesia and Pramuka) will conduct visual storytelling initiatives with community youth from their on-going development programmes. The Master Facilitators will use the CDST process to enable young people they engage with to raise their voice on climate change, disaster risk and related issues of child rights, health and wellbeing.

Visual storytellers from the Network on Violence against Children will focus on sharing experiences of school bullying, and how to stop the practice. Although their topic deviates from a climate change or disasters focus, their chosen focus demonstrates solidarity in advocating for child rights-related issues. It also demonstrates that CDST methods are transferrable for this end.

The Visual Storytellers (Climate Warriors, FAN, YFCC and YNVAC) will tell their own stories in connection to the communities they engage with. The young people trained as Visual Storytellers will work with their peers and/or community groups to create stories on issues they care about most. Their stories will aim to educate, illuminate and spark changes the youth want to see through dialogue and youth-engaged decision-making. The groups are focusing on topics related to pollution, climate activism, disaster risk reduction and stopping bullying in schools.
youth voices on the frontlines support

CDST values

Community-driven: Young people are valued for their involvement as equal partners with the supporting organisation.

Flexible and embedded: CDST is adaptable for the local context. It supports on-going, experiential learning valuable for building community youth awareness, confidence, ownership and leadership.

Respectful: CDST is respectful towards cultural and social difference and customs.

Dialogue and listening: CDST prioritises stimulating meaningful dialogue through the visual storytelling process. This enables youth to more actively engage in issues that impact their lives.

Smart technology choices: CDST uses photography, narration and free, easy-to-use editing software. This allows youth with various technical skill-levels to participate.

Informed consent: In CDST, all people involved in the stories must provide informed consent.

workshop participants

“Youth Voices from the Frontline” participants, facilitators and coordinators. Participants learned the Community Digital Storytelling approach at workshops in Jakarta in August 2016. Photos: Yoppy Pieter and Ng Swan Ti.

UNICEF

UNICEF works closely with the Government of Indonesia, local organisations, the private sector and communities to protect children’s most basic rights—with a special focus on those who are the most vulnerable. For the “Youth Voices from the Frontline” initiative, the UNICEF DRR/CC Social Policy Unit designed the initiative, supported the workshop, and is guiding ongoing coordination.

Pannafoto Institute

The Pannafoto Institute has a mission to develop photojournalism and documentary photography through educational initiatives for professional photographers, community and public in Indonesia. For the “Youth Voices from the Frontline” initiative, its role was to co-coordinate and co-facilitate the Jakarta workshops, and to support the on-going learning of the Master Facilitators and Visual Storytellers in the CDST methodology. This will include areas of story development, photography, multimedia production, youth engagement, child protection and media ethics.

Sinergi Muda

Sinergi Muda Indonesian Foundation is a social organisation that catalyses the pursuit of empowering and optimising the potential of Indonesian youths to grow and make a positive contribution in Indonesia. For the “Youth Voices from the Frontline” initiative, Sinergi Muda is providing social media support in partnership with UNICEF.

“Youth Voices from the Frontline” participants, facilitators and coordinators. Participants learned the Community Digital Storytelling approach at workshops in Jakarta in August 2016. Photos: Yoppy Pieter and Ng Swan Ti.
“Youth Voices” coordination, facilitation and participation

“Youth Voices” CDST initiative lead: Richard Wecker, UNICEF DRR/CC Social Policy Unit; Kate Rose, UNICEF Communication for Development

Coordination and lead facilitator: Dr. Tamara Plush, http://tamaraplush.wikispaces.com

Coordination and facilitation: PannaFoto Institute, www.pannafoto.org. Ng Swan Ti, Edy Purnomo, Ramadian Bachtiar, Yoppy Pieter, Fitra Aidiella Dachlan and Ari Harisman

Participants: Wahana Visi Indonesia (Rini Setyowati, Fenny Samosir, Esty Yovanti and Liviyanti); ChildFund (Suradi Wijaya, Ahmad Azhari, Aditia Novanda Putra and Johan Alfandi); Plan International Indonesia (Sani, Angel Christy Patricia, Benedictus Kia Assan and Robert Desilla Sounaah); Pramuka (Ahmad Fikri and Ranggawisnu); Yayasan Sayangi Tunas Cilik - Save the Children (Ria Camelina, Maulina Utamaningsih, Ahmad Fauzi, Ika Fiyon Maulana and Tommy Rado. P. Sinaga); Climate Warriors (Nurul Lastriana and Fatimah Huurin); Forum Anak Nasional (FAN) (Ahmad Rifai and Dhea Megalita); Youth for Climate Change Indonesia (YFCC) (Mayang Krisnawardhani and Septian Eko Suciyan); Youth Network on Violence against Children (YNVAC) (Derry Fahriad Ulum and Dewi Risty Utami) and Sinergi Muda (Sabila Anata)

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