

YUM'S OUTREACH TO THE CIPANAS COMMUNITIES

Cipanas, West Java

Attended by over 20 representatives of the Cianjur-Cipanas communities, the YUM Children's Village Strategic Planning Workshop was held on the 24th & 25th of November this year at the Children's Village. The meetings were filled with friendly and humorous –yet sometimes fiery- chats of the young and old attendees, who had all come together to discuss and identify the current needs of their communities.

Introduced to the Children's Village's strategic plan to convert the current home for destitute children into a more-encompassing Community Center which will be able to provide assistance to families rather than to only children, most of the representatives attending, including the Department of Social Affairs, Save the Children and local orphanages and Human Rights associations, have expressed full support to the many possible services this Community Center may provide.

One of many significant benefits YUM envisages for this center is that it will act as an Information Centre to the many services and programs provided and run by the government. This centre will become a bridge between the government and communities, directing communities to the relevant existing government programs that are inline with their needs. As expressed by YUM's Chairperson, Olvia Reksodipoetro; *"Most of the communities are not aware of the many programs provided by the government, and so the communities are often without help."*



"The reason why assistance provided by the government is not reaching the communities is because there is no longer any 'hanura' [conscience] and care for the environment and the people in it, and the excessive practice of 'aji mumpung' [jumping on the band wagon] among the local government officials. Bureaucracy has made assistance too complicated to get!"

*Let's all to work together and help YUM identify what our community needs, because what they are doing is what we **need!***

Services of an orphanage are not necessarily what our wider communities need. It's too specific in that it often focuses on only one part of the community –the children. And yet we come from a much wider community."

Hajah Ida Saidah, Head of the Yayasan Chafururrahim

YUM was also very fortunate in welcoming the appearance of Tata Sudrajat, representative of Save the Children Indonesia, who was kindly willing to deliver a presentation on Child Protection and Care – presenting results of the many surveys conducted by Save the Children on the welfare of children living in orphanages, relating them to the importance of family and the rights of a child to receive help within their family environment.

"So far the government has not made this change possible as most of the aid provided for children in need are directed to orphanages, which is the reason for the large number of orphanages and the many children being placed in orphanages.

However, things have started to change. The Department of Social Affairs has started to grasp the importance of families and is now, as we see with YUM, starting to support family-based Community Centers."

Tata Sudrajat, Save the Children Indonesia



Tata's presentation encouraged passionate debate among representatives from local orphanages, who were all brought to a standing halt when Lidya, representative from P2TP2A – a government program focused on the empowerment of women and children, forthrightly expressed her concurrence with Tata.



"I agree with everything that was advised by Bapak Tata! This is exactly what needs to be done. We as institutions must develop in line with the changes of the world, new studies and findings.

This workshop is very good because it opens our eyes to the developments of the world and provides the chance for all of us to talk, share and discuss what we think and how we can together move forward!

This is not a threat or an attempt to point fingers of blame, but this is progress for the better!"

Lidya, P2TP2A



The Strategic Planning Workshop ended with everyone coming together with the agreement that this newly-formed relationship and close cooperation of the local institutions, community representatives, and local government must continue if this plan proposed by YUM Children's Village is to reach its full potential.



*"There needs to be continued cooperation among everyone present in this workshop. There is no point in getting all of us together for this, when we later leave as strangers. We have learned many things together these past few days. What can we do **together** for the next few years to address them?"*

Adit, Yayasan Abdi Jaya



YUM Children's Village's ultimate goal is that, by coordinating this workshop, subsequent programs and activities for the new Community Center can be developed that are in line with the actual needs of the greater community and will therefore fulfill the aspirations of the people.