Engaging Citizens, Improving Quality of Lives

How Our Open Contracting Works
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What is Open Contracting?¹

Governments worldwide spend an estimated US$ 9.5 trillion on public contracting. Contracting is an essential step in delivering goods and services that people care about: good public education, quality health care, safe roads and clean drinking water.

However, public contracting processes are complex and vulnerable to bad planning, mismanagement, fraud and corruption. According to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, corruption and fraud may amount to 20-25% of procurement budgets. This is wasted taxpayer money.

Open contracting is about making data and documents from the entire contracting process available to access for public use: from the planning phase, to the tender and award of the contract, to the monitoring and evaluation of implementation. Making public contracting more transparent, fair and efficient has multiple benefits for everyone.

By opening the public contracting process and data, governments can save tax money, make better use of public resources, deliver better public goods and services, boost integrity, and prevent fraud and corruption.

This creates a level playing field for business through fair competition, stimulates innovation, and improves the overall business and investment climate.

Citizens gain a clearer insight into how their taxes are being spent on the goods and services they need and use, they can engage in those processes, and they can access better quality goods and services that result from more transparent, competitive contracting processes.

¹ Source: https://openupcontracting.org/about-open-up-contracting/

Reformers in governments around the world have started to engage in implementing open contracting. While there is a considerable push at the international and inter-state levels to support governments in open contracting initiatives, local civil society organizations (CSOs) are often unrecognized and unsupported in their work. Yet, CSOs are, an essential part of the change process and play a key role in both the planning as well as in monitoring of implementation phases.

Infomediaries, actors that monitor, analyze and contextualize complex contracting data so it can be understood and used by wider segments of society, also play a very special role in opening up contracting.

Therefore, Hivos and Article 19 have launched the program, Open Up Public Contracting, to support CSOs, journalists, entrepreneurs, start-ups and other frontline organizations in selected focus countries to develop the capacities they need to engage in the open contracting agenda and to translate contracting data and documents into actionable information for evidence-based advocacy with governments.

Hivos and Article 19 also work together with its partners, CoST – the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative and Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) have launched the Clean Contracting Manifesto. We believe that public procurement must be implemented to the highest possible standards of transparency, accountability and efficiency and in the public interest. Therefore, we encourage governments to adopt the manifesto.
Open Contracting in Indonesia – a view

The Indonesian government allocates around 30 percent of the State Budget every year for public procurement. However, the procurement planning and management in the Country has not been fully transparent, accountable, and efficient resulting in state budget loss.

Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) Deputy Commissioner, Alexander Marwata, said that 80 percent of corruption cases they handled were related to public procurement. Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) also revealed that Indonesia lost around Rp1.5 trillion to corruption in public procurement in 2017.

The Indonesian government has made various effort to eradicate corruption in public procurement. The government has issued Presidential Decree Number 16 of 2018 regulating public procurement implementation process. The National Public Procurement Agency (NPPA) have also issued several policies related to public procurement such as NPPA Regulation Number 11 of 2018 on Electronic Catalogs, NPPA Regulation Number 9 of 2018 on Guidelines for Procurement of Goods/Services through Providers, and NPPA Regulation Number 2 of 2018 concerning Amendment to NPPA Regulation Number 6 of 2016 on Electronic Catalogs and ePurchasing.

The government has even created several innovations to accelerate the realization of transparent and accountable public procurement. They have some digital platforms like INAPROC, SiRUP, and LPSE containing data and information related to the government’s procurement projects.

Yet, the government still needs to issue a policy that regulates public procurement process comprehensively and can guarantee public participation.

Hivos plays a significant role to help and empower the citizens to get the best quality of public services through their engagement in development, especially in public procurement process.

On the other side, civil society organizations and journalists in Indonesia have a responsibility to empower citizens and help them understand how to utilize existing innovations so they can participate in monitoring the government’s procurement projects. The CSOs and journalists also act as mediators between the government and citizens by transforming public procurement data to be used by the citizens.

Collaborating with Article 19 and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Hivos implements Open Up Contracting program in Indonesia. Through this program, we work to improve public participation in planning, procurement process, contract management, and creating accountability mechanism within the government for receiving and responding to feedback and complaints from the citizens. We also develop civil society capacity to translate procurement and contracting data into actionable information for evidence-based advocacy with governments.

To carry out this program in Indonesia, Hivos South East Asia works together with Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia, Transparency International (TI) Indonesia, Bojonegoro Institute, PATTIRO Semarang, and Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Jakarta.

What have our partners done to support Open Up Contracting program in Indonesia? How far have they progressed? Read more to find out!

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2 Read more about the Country Assessment, Readiness, and Opportunity: https://openupcontracting.org/countries/indonesia/
Where we work?

Hivos South East Asia and its partners in Indonesia implement the Open Up Contracting program in six cities/regencies namely: Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Bojonegoro, Mataram, and Makassar.

Facts about Indonesia

It will take approximately 11 hours and 15 minutes to travel from Indonesia’s easternmost (Sabang) to its westernmost (Merauke)

- 2 HOURS BOAT TRIP from Sabang to Banda Aceh
- 2 HOURS 50 MINUTES FLIGHT from Banda Aceh to Jakarta
- 5 HOURS 15 MINUTES FLIGHT from Jakarta to Jayapura
- 1 HOURS 10 MINUTES FLIGHT from Jayapura to Merauke

How big is the Country?

- AREA: 1,919,443 square kilometers
- TOTAL ISLAND: 18,307 islands
- COASTLINE: 54,720 kilometers
- POPULATION: 269 millions people
Indonesia Corruption
Watch

Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) is a watchdog organization whose mission is to increase the people’s voice in the public decision-making process. Scientific research is the backbone of ICW’s campaigning and advocacy activities. ICW trains civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor development implementations. ICW works with 52 local organizations in 33 provinces. Public procurement is involved in the highest number of corruption cases. Therefore, ICW is building Potential Fraud Analysis (PTA) tools to make people’s participation in monitoring public procurement easier. Furthermore, ICW also engages with local government to build integrity systems in the public procurement business process.

ICW supported by Hivos South East Asia is working to promote transparency and public engagement in procurement sector by empowering the citizens to participate in monitoring government’s procurement projects and encourage legal certainty. ICW has also developed a digital instrument namely OpenTender.net to ease the citizens to oversee the procurement projects.

ICW believes, beside utilizing the technology, to realize a transparent and accountable procurement, it is important for everyone, including the government, civil society, and the citizens, to take part and support the Open Contracting initiative.

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The Indonesian government realizes that open contracting can have a very significant impact to prevent corruption, collusion, and nepotism. We continue to encourage the realization of a transparent government by strengthening the synergy of Open Government Action Plan and National Strategy on Anti Corruption.

Minister Bambang Brojonegoro of National Development Planning Agency
Examining the Open Contracting Practices in Public Procurement in Indonesia

Open contracting can provide space for the public to oversee public service delivery. At the same time, it would also allow citizens to hold the government accountable in using state budget. However, despite the government’s adoption of Public Information Disclosure Law Number 14 of 2008, in reality it is very difficult for the public to access government’s contract documents. The Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM) in East Kalimantan has experienced this difficulty.

In 2015, JATAM filed an information request for land-cultivation permits of the company Perkebunan Kaltim Utama (PKU) to the provincial National Land Agency in East Kalimantan. The request was submitted after PKU took over some agricultural land in three sub-districts by force: Kutai Kertanegara-Muara Jawa, Loa Jalan, and Sanga-Sanga, as well as some parts of Sungai Nangka and Teluk Dalam village.

The request was firmly rejected by the National Land Agency. The Agency argued that contract documents are exempt from public information. The dismissal prompted JATAM to file for an information dispute to the East Kalimantan Information Commission. After a full year dispute processes, the provincial Commission Information decided that the land-cultivation permit is in fact public information.

Is that true? ICW has conducted an analysis that can refute the arguments. Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) with the support of Hivos South East Asia conducted a study of “Implementation of Open Contracting in Indonesia”. By carrying out this study, ICW wants to clarify the status of information related to procurement, especially contract document, either it is open or exempt information, and encourage open contracting implementation with more explicit regulation.

In their study, ICW analyzed a number of essential elements such as regulations related to open contracting in public procurement and their implementation, as well as decisions made by the Central Information Commission regarding requests for public procurement information and the Commission’s arguments used in decision-making process.

Public Information Disclosure Law article 11 mandates every Public Body to provide information about their agreements with third parties. This provision is reinforced by the Central Information Commission Regulation Number 1 of 2010 concerning Public Information Service Standards (SLIP), article 11 paragraph 1 point (i) which states that “every Public Body must periodically announces public information that at least consists of information about procurement announcements in accordance with relevant laws and regulations”.

Open contracting initiative is also in line with the Indonesian Open Government Action Plan 2018-2022, which targets the publication of all procurement document in open data form.

“There should be no excuses for not publishing or refusing to disclose information about government procurement contracts,” stated ICW in the study.

Unfortunately, despite the existing regulations, there are still many public bodies assuming that information about public procurement process, especially contract document, is exempted from public information, or cannot be accessed by the public. The Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency is one of them.

If the information and documents are available and accessible to the public, the citizens can take part in providing inputs and monitoring the implementation of government projects. Not only can Open Contracting increase the efficiency and quality of the procurement, it can also improve citizens’ participation, which leads to reducing irregularities and corruption in the government’s procurement.
In 2010-2017, the Information Commission made 44 adjudication decisions regarding information requests related to public procurement process and contract documents.

Number of adjudication decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Granted</th>
<th>Partially Granted</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
<th>Interlocutory Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

44 of 256 adjudication decisions are related to procurement information and contract document requests.

In order to understand the disputes regarding the status of procurement contract document, ICW also reviewed the decisions of the Central Information Commission regarding information requests in the period 2010 to 2017. ICW focused its analysis on adjudication decisions related to request for procurement information, especially contract document.

From this process, ICW found that there were 259 adjudicative decisions from 2010 until 2017. Of that number, 44 of them were decisions related to information requests for the procurement process and contract document. After classifying them according to the type of the decisions, ICW stated that among the 44 decisions, only 16 information requests were granted.

Furthermore, ICW also reviewed the arguments that were often used as excuses by the Central Information Commission to not publish the requested procurement contract document. There are four excuses that are usually used to reject requests for information, one of which is there are concerns that it can create unfair business competition and violate the protection of intellectual property rights.

To overcome the issue of the contract document status, ICW encourages the Central Information Commission to include provisions regarding the information disclosure in public procurement sector the Public Information Service Standard (SLIP). ICW also recommends the Central Information Commission to adopt the Open Contracting Data Standard, a global standard of public procurement. Ministries, regional governments, and government institutions at national and sub-national level must also include the procurement information into their Lists of Public Information.

ICW’s efforts to create an effective, transparent, and accountable public procurement process does not stop there. ICW has been working with the National Public Procurement Agency (NPPA) to increase the capacity of local civil society and journalists so they can participate in monitoring government’s procurement projects in their regions.

In 2019, ICW and the NPPA are planning to give a series of trainings and CSOs and journalists in Semarang, Bojonegoro, and Yogyakarta to read and process public procurement information. Through the training, ICW and NPPA strive to ensure that local CSOs and journalists in those regions are able to transform the existing data into actionable information for the citizens. To create a bigger impact, they suggest the CSOs and journalists to collaborate in investigating government’s procurement projects.

In the series of training, ICW also encourage CSOs and journalists in the three regions to analyze the impact of government’s procurement projects on marginalized citizens such as women, children, people with disability, and other minority groups.

In addition, ICW and the NPPA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in monitoring the procurement projects implementation. This collaboration allows the NPPA to share all of its data related to government’s procurement projects listed in the SiRUP platform, a digital-based government public procurement plan information system, with ICW. The watchdog organization will then re-process the data, give score to each project, and upload the information on the OpenTender.net platform. With that platform, civil society and journalists can easily identify and monitor procurement projects that are prone to corruption and irregularities.

The partnership between ICW and the NPPA is a form of concrete collaboration between CSOs and the government in implementing the Indonesian Open Government Action Plan, especially in public procurement sector.

ICW and Hivos believe that open contracting can help the government alleviate poverty. Open contracting also contributes to realizing inclusive development, which can create equal opportunities, provide the widest possible space for participation in decision making, all based on respect for the values and principles of human rights, participatory, non-discriminatory, and accountable.
Publish What You Pay Indonesia

Founded in 2007, Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia is part of a global movement and coalition that promotes transparency and accountability of extractive resources sectors such as oil, gas, mining, and other natural resources which are closely related. PWYP Indonesia focuses its work on advancing transparency and accountability of extractive resource governance in Indonesia, as well as in the global level, advocating public interest from a civil society point of view, and strengthening civil society’s capacity to play a significant role and active engagement in extractive resource governance reform for justice and sustainable development.

PWYP Indonesia’s “From Contract Transparency to Meaningful Public Monitoring in Mining Sector” project generally aims to promote mining contract and license transparency in West Nusa Tenggara Province, one of the places where most copper in Indonesia is mined. It is rooted in the fact that licensing, particularly in the mining sector, is the most corruption-prone area. Licensing system also doesn’t give much room (or not at all) for public participation. This condition coupled with lack of accessible contract and licensing information has hindered the public to monitor mining operation and hold the government accountable.

Therefore, PWYP Indonesia is aiming to encourage mining contract and license disclosure and improve public participation, especially women and youth, in monitoring mining operation at the province. To do so, PWYP Indonesia will assist local government to disclose the mining contract and license. In another hand, PWYP Indonesia will also facilitate capacity building for the community to understand the mining governance in general and the role of mining contract and license document for community monitoring.

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Most-used arguments to decline contract document request:

- Exempt information based on institution internal regulation
- Contains personal data
- Create unfair business competition and might violate intellectual property rights
- Not 100 percent state/local budget = not public agency
- Other arguments:
  - Information management and documentation officer not available
  - Document not found due to changes of officer
  - Citizens would not understand and might misinterpret the information in the document

Source: ICW’s analysis of Information Commissions Decisions, 2019
Measuring the Opportunities and Challenges of Mining License Openness

West Nusa Tenggara Province has abundant mineral resources, both metal and nonmetal. It spreads throughout the Province. Based on the West Nusa Tenggara Statistics Agency data in 2018, the largest metal resources is located in West Sumbawa Regency while the non-metal minerals is mostly located in Bima Regency.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Department of West Nusa Tenggara Province states that there are at least 261 Mining Permits in the province and one gold Contract of Work. In total, the mining area in West Nusa Tenggara Provinces are more than 190,000 hectares, equivalent to 10 percent of its land area.

Referring to the facts above, no wonder the mining industry has an important role in the economy of West Nusa Tenggara Province. It serves as the one of the biggest contributors to the Province income, through the non-tax state revenue which will then be distributed to the provincial and district governments using revenue sharing fund scheme. West Nusa Tenggara Province and its regencies/cities had received approximately Rp.1 trillion in 2016, the highest throughout 2013 to 2017.

Ironically, the high amount of income generated from the mining sector is not worth the environmental damage it causes. Some mining activities damage a great amount of land; at least 200 to 250 hectares of land have been damaged by rock mining. Excessive sand mining activities have also caused coastal erosion and disrupt the activities of local fishers.

Environmental pollution has significantly increased due to the rise of illegal gold minings (PETI) in West Nusa Tenggara Province, especially in West Lombok and Central Lombok regencies. Moreover, chemicals such as mercury and cyanide used in illegal gold mining activities have polluted the watershed and affected the health of the people living near to it. The waste carried to the sea would also damage the coral reef ecosystem.

Information Disclosure Practice in West Nusa Tenggara Province

Information Disclosure practices in West Nusa Tenggara Province has not been good as expected, still lagging behind East Kalimantan, a province that also has abundant mineral resources.
As the most affected community, people of West Nusa Tenggara Province certainly have the right to know all of the information related to mining industry, particularly in their area. They have rights to know the mining company owner and obtain mining permit documents along with its supporting documents such as environmental impact assessment, environmental management measure, and environmental monitoring measure, as well as information about royalties paid by mining companies.

Unfortunately, extractive industries in Indonesia are infamous for its lack of transparency. Though the data on income from this sector has been disclosed to public, information related to mining licensing is still difficult to obtain. In addition to that, there are still many public bodies that consider contract and licensing documents as confidential information and can only be accessed by the institution and/ or company who signed the contracts. Some of them even argues that opening the license document would create unfair business competition. These arguments are in fact violate the Law Number 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure which states explicitly that contracts and licensing documents are public information.

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia, supported by Hivos South East Asia, conducted a study to find out the opportunities and challenges of mining license openness in West Nusa Tenggara Province. PWYP Indonesia will then use the study as their basis to encourage the disclosure of mining license, including to support policy-making related to enable mining license openness in this area.

In their ‘Rapid Assessment Report: Opportunities of Mining License Openness in West Nusa Tenggara Province’, PWYP Indonesia stated that Indonesia already has a legal basis to realize information disclosure including mining licenses. Indonesia has issued Law Number 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure and Information Commission Regulation Number 1 of 2010 on Public Information Service Standards. Both of the regulations have mandated public bodies to disclose the agreement documents with third parties.

The West Nusa Tenggara Province has also issued a derivative regulation from Public Information Disclosure Law namely Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2015 on Public Information Services at the local government level.

Furthermore, the local government organizations responsible with mining business licensing in the Province have established basic infrastructures to implement public information disclosure. PWYP Indonesia stated that the Energy and Mineral Resources Department and the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Services Department at provincial level already have information management and documentation officers, Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) on Information Service Delivery, and list of public information.

However, the existence of the regulations and infrastructure has not been able to improve public information disclosure implementation in West Nusa Tenggara Province, especially in the extractive sector.

PWYP Indonesia found that information related to mining license available in the lists of public information at the West Nusa Tenggara Energy and Mineral Resources Department, and the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Services Department are still minimum. The only available and accessible information on the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Services Department website is the recapitulation of issued mining permits. Meanwhile, the provincial Energy and Mineral Resources Department has not updated its list of public information since 2017, which contains data on metal mining business licenses, rock mining business licenses, people’s mining license, and contract of work. What makes it worse, the information and documents in the department only available in physical documents.

Furthermore, PWYP Indonesia also revealed that provincial Energy and Mineral Resources Department and the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Service Department have not implemented information disclosure practices consistently. Their inconsistence can be seen from the results of West Nusa Tenggara Information Commission assessment. In 2018, the provincial Energy and Mineral Resource Department received a score of 29.20 for information disclosure, which dropped dramatically from the 2017’s which successfully reached 83.12. Meanwhile, the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Service Department was not included in the provincial Information Commission assessment because they did not return the assessment questionnaires on time. The lack of information and poor information disclosure system, especially mining licensing, have resulted in the low level of citizen participation in monitoring mining activities in the area. In fact, until now, West Nusa Tenggara Information Commission said that there were no citizens who have submitted information requests related to mining licenses.

Moreover, PWYP Indonesia argues, the low level of public participation shows that the citizens are still not aware of the importance of information disclosure and do not understand about the information request procedures.

From the report findings, PWYP Indonesia will then conduct an advocacy to encourage related agencies in West Nusa Tenggara government to disclose mining license documents to the public. PWYP Indonesia will also identify key actors who are committed to support the open mining business licensing and assist local governments in ensuring the readiness of information disclosure structure.

PWYP Indonesia believes, citizen participation and engagement are important and necessary to realize good governance and create a more transparent and accountable government.

For this reason, PWYP Indonesia is working with local partner, SOMASI NTB, to organize a series of trainings for the citizens, especially women and youth groups, to help them understand the importance and the general procedures of mining business contracting and licensing. PWYP Indonesia and SOMASI NTB also assist the citizens to submit requests for information regarding mining licensing to the respective agencies. Thus, the community is expected to be able to monitor mining activities and government accountability independently.
# Accessing mining information: an early attempt to restore environmental sustainability

**West Lombok Regency ranks third as the region with the highest number of mining business permits (IUP) in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) Province. Based on data from the West Nusa Tenggara Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) regional office, there are 33 IUPs in the area with the total mining area of 4,743 hectares in 2018.**

Illegal gold minings (PETI) also has been mushrooming across West Lombok Regency, mainly in Sekotong Sub-District caused by its citizens’ economic difficulties. At first, the illegal gold mining was only found in Kayu Putih, a sub-village area of Pelangan Village.

However, as time goes by, it has spread to sub-villages nearby, namely Lendak Bare, Mahoni, and Batu Montor. A large number of people who died while mining did not stop PETI from doing the practices.

The mining business has harmed the environment of the West Lombok. Excessive sand mining in the area has caused coastal erosion. It has also disrupted the activities of local fishers. Moreover, the chemicals such as mercury and cyanide used in illegal gold mining (PETI) activities have polluted the watershed and affected the health of the people living near to it.

The West Lombok citizens are aware of these damages and how the industry threatens their health. Yet, they have no idea how to stop it.

A Sekotong citizen shows PWYP Indonesia how to mining gold traditionally. Photo: PWYP Indonesia, 2014

"We don’t have any information about it (mining business). In fact, we don’t even know whether the mine near our house is legal or not. If we ask the government or the company, they always say that that is none of our business. Information related to legal mining permits is rare here," complained Jamhur, a Sekotong citizen who participated in the training on “Understanding the Community Participation in Mining Supervision” organized by PWYP Indonesia and SOMASI NTB with the support from Hivos South East Asia in March, 2019.

To help Jamhur and other West Lombok citizens, especially in Sekotong, in the training, PWYP Indonesia and SOMASI NTB provide information and increase citizens’ understanding about their rights to access public information, including mining business permit documents, as guaranteed by the Public Information Disclosure Law Number 14 of 2008. With the law, citizens should not have to be afraid of intimidation from certain people anymore.

After knowing and understanding his rights, Jamhur, representing Sekotong citizens, submitted requests related to mining permits documents in West Lombok Regency to One-Stop Integrated Investment and Services Office and to the provincial Energy and Mineral Agency Regional Office.

Jamhur requested three information to the two agencies such as: documents and list of...
mining business permits operating in the West Lombok Regency; environmental impact assessment documents or Environmental Management Measure and Environmental Monitoring Measure documents; and information about royalties paid by mining companies.

“At least, after sending the request, we will get the information and documents needed to help us monitoring mining activities in our area. We now know the procedures the mining company should follow, and we can see the activities are in line with the procedures.” Jamhur explained further.

Before there were massive mining activities, West Lombok Regency was famous for its beautiful hills and mountains. Now, the hills and mountain are porous and full of mining pits. The land that was once green, is now wasted due to mining expansion. The river that was once clear, is now polluted by mining waste.

“We want to take part in monitoring the mining activities and industries because we don’t want to see further environmental damages. We hope, with our involvement, we can restore our environment like before. The mountain will be green again, the river will be no longer polluted. We can produce more crops like we did 10-15 years ago. And most importantly, we can be a more prosperous society”, said Jamhur.

Transparency International Indonesia

Transparency International (TI) Indonesia was established in Jakarta in 2000 by a number of anti-corruption activists and professionals committed to the creation of a transparent and accountable government in Indonesia. TI Indonesia is unique among Indonesian NGOs in Indonesia because it combines the work of a think-tank and a social movement organization. As a think-tank, TI Indonesia conducts policy reviews and policy or legal drafting, and promotes policy reforms within government and law enforcement agencies. One of their biggest achievements is to operationalize anti-corruption approaches and tools into various policy areas such as procurement. As a social movement organization, TI Indonesia mobilizes resources to fight against corruption through advocacy and campaign works.

Supported by Hivos South East Asia and European Union, TI Indonesia collaborates with PATTIRO Semarang dan Bojonegoro Institute to implement SPEAK project (Strengthening Public services through the Empowerment of women-led Advocacy and social audit networks) that aims to empower local CSO and women groups to advocate for gender-responsive and inclusive budgets. Through this program, PATTIRO Semarang dan Bojonegoro Institute will take part in strengthening women groups in the planning and budgeting process, by developing sectoral networks and empowering women groups to facilitate access to information and participation in public forums and planning processes. This program will also contribute to the improvement of public procurement and public services accountability in Semarang and Bojonegoro through community-based monitoring.

Furthermore, TI Indonesia will then bring the project learning outcomes to the national level to increase regional efforts and findings to the national anti-corruption platform. TI-I can also showcase its work with PATTIRO Semarang and Bojonegoro Institute to the international level by utilizing its network in Transparency International.

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Gender-Responsive Budget and Corruption Risk in Public Procurement in Education and Health Sector in Bojonegoro Regency and Semarang City

Every citizen has a right to education and health. There are laws that mandate the government to allocate special funds for education and health care to ensure the protection and fulfillment of those rights. Law Number 20 of 2003 on National Education System requires the government to allocate at least 20 percent of the national and local budget for education funds, excluding the teachers' salary. Moreover, Law Number 36 of 2009 concerning Health states that the government is obliged to provide health funds of at least 5 percent of the national budget and at least 10 percent of local budget, excluding the health workers' salary.

Not only that, in order to avoid inequality of opportunities, access, and benefits of health and education services between women and men, the government also needs to ensure the budget allocation in the two sectors is gender-responsive. The government must also use available funds effectively, efficiently, transparently, and accountably for the fulfillment of people's rights to obtain quality education and health.

However, the questions remain; has the government implemented gender mainstreaming in education and health budgets? Moreover, has the government allocated the budget in a transparent, accountable, efficient, and effective way?

To answer those questions, with the support from Hivos South East Asia and the European Union, Transparency International (TI) Indonesia collaborates with PATTIRO Semarang and Bojonegoro Institute to conduct a baseline study on “The Implementation of Gender Responsive Budget and Corruption Risk in Public Procurements in the Education and Health Sectors in Bojonegoro Regency and Semarang City”. Through this study, TI Indonesia, PATTIRO Semarang, and Bojonegoro Institute seek to provide an overview of the Semarang city and Bojonegoro regency local budget allocation along with gender responsive budget analysis and corruption risk in public procurement in health and education sectors during 2011 – 2018 fiscal year.

This study can be used as a reference in developing a joint action plan on gender responsive budget policy strategies and corruption prevention in public procurement in the education and health sectors. The study result aims to improve public participation in monitoring budget planning and procurement process.

In general, this study shows that gender responsive budgets allocated by Bojonegoro Regency and Semarang City governments for education and health sectors are still low in numbers. In addition, the planning direction of gender mainstreaming in these two regions has not referred to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 5, gender equality.

To create a broader advocacy impact, TI will then bring the results of these studies and recommendations to the national level as an effort to increase their advocacy at the sub-national level and its findings to the anti-corruption platform at the national level.

In addition, related to the public procurement process, this study shows that Semarang and Bojonegoro already have a good electronic procurement system. However, there are still a few loopholes that can be used by irresponsible individuals to commit corruption.

Furthermore, to create a broader advocacy impact, TI I will then bring the results of these studies and recommendations to the national level as an effort to increase their advocacy at the sub-national level and its findings to the anti-corruption platform at the national level.

What SPEAK Project does?

- Strengthening 2 local CSOs and 5 women-led groups

- Empowering 240 women to represent 550,000 poor people in Semarang and Bojonegoro

TI Indonesia also works together with PATTIRO Semarang dan Bojonegoro Institute to implement SPEAK project that aims to empower local CSO and women groups to advocate for gender-responsive and inclusive budgets.

SPEAK objectives are:

- CSOs and women groups able to advocate for gender-responsive budgets
- CSOs and women groups able to facilitate complaint handling and social audit related to public procurement in the health and education sectors.
- Local Authorities institutionalize complaint handling and access to information/open procurement related to budget and public procurement.
Do you want to know deeper about the portrait of gender responsive budget implementation and corruption risk in public procurement in education and health sectors in the two cities/regencies? Read more to find out in the special section of PATTIRO Semarang and Bojonegoro Institute works on the following pages!

PATTIRO Semarang was established in 12 March 2004, by a number of student activists, paralegals, researchers, and labor activists in Central Java, Indonesia. PATTIRO Semarang seeks to realize a good governance and improve public participation at local level. PATTIRO Semarang focuses on improving public service delivery, developing planning and budgeting system, building the capacity of government officials and members of parliament, and empowering citizens. PATTIRO Semarang aims to institutionalize public participation in the development process; enhance transparency and accountability of the local government and encourage them to work more effectively to create a more qualified, useful, unbiased, and inclusive policies.

PATTIRO Semarang has been actively networking with other civil society groups that work in the issues of public services, information disclosure, and anti-corruption. This organization has long been involved in various coalitions, including in coalitions at the national level, such as the Coalition of People that Pro Good Quality of Public Services (MP3), Freedom of Information Network Indonesia (FOINI).

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The Synergy between Civil Society and the Local Government of Semarang in Establishing Quality Public Services

Semarang is one of the regions in Indonesia that has shown its commitment in providing good quality public services for its citizens. It is evident from its ability to win an award as the best public service provider in the country from the Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform for three consecutive times.

In addition to providing good quality public services, Semarang also strives for a bureaucratic reform. To achieve that reform, the local government has implemented open government initiatives and has developed some innovations to support their initiatives and commitments.

One of the innovations that became the pillar of Semarang local government was LAPOR Hendi. Semarang citizens can use LAPOR Hendi as a complaint handling portal to file complaints, give suggestions, and report findings of irregularities to the government. This portal has been integrated and synchronized with the national complaint handling system, LAPOR, so that a sustainable monitoring for citizen complaints can be carried out more comprehensively. The innovation of LAPOR Hendi was also part of government’s commitment for openness in the Indonesian Open Government National Action Plan (OGI Action Plan) for 2016-2017.

In addition, Semarang local government also created other innovations such as an electronic-based government systems and E-Legislation, a portal that provides space for the community to participate in the process of drafting local regulations. Semarang’s E-Legislation is also designed to be replicated in a number of other regions, as stated in the OGI Action Plan 2018-2020.

Semarang City’s ability in gaining those achievements is not only due to its progressive and innovative government, but also because of the citizens’ active participation in the development of the city.

Unfortunately, vulnerable groups, especially women, have very limited space to participate in the city development. PATTIRO Semarang’s research showed that women’s participation in the development of that Capital of Central Java Province only reached 24 percent. The local civil society organization believes that the lack of women’s participation can have an impact on the fulfillment of women’s basic rights, including the rights to obtain quality public services, especially in the health and education sectors.

In relation to that, “The Study Report on the Implementation of Gender Responsive Budget Policy and the Potential of Corruption in Public Procurement in the Education and Health Sectors in Semarang City” shows that the average budget allocated by the local government for education and health sectors since 2010 until 2018 were still low. The study also revealed that the number of gender responsive budgets prepared by Semarang local government was also very limited.

As an organization that works to establish good local governance for the creation of inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, PATTIRO Semarang is determined and confident of their ability to improve the situation. This Semarang chapter organization of a nationwide network has ensured that it was not a recklessness. The determination and confidence are there because they already possess adequate social capital. This organization’s work has also gained recognition and appreciation by the local government and public officials.

PATTIRO Semarang has also been actively networking with other civil society groups that work in the issues of public services, information disclosure, and anti-corruption. This organization has long been involved in various coalitions, including in coalitions at the national level, such as the Coalition of People that Pro-Good Quality of Public Services (MP3), Freedom of Information Network Indonesia (FOINI), and the East Java, Central Java and Yogyakarta Civil Society Network (JATIJAYA). PATTIRO Semarang also maintains good relationship with i am a Woman Against Corruption (SPAK) network.

The experiences and the network made PATTIRO Semarang a reliable organization which understands that they cannot work alone. They have to collaborate with the government to create quality public services, especially for women’s groups, through the SPEAK project (Strengthening Public Services through the Empowerment of women-led Advocacy and social audit networks), supported by Hivos South East Asia and the European Union, PATTIRO Semarang seeks to empower women to participate in the city development, starting from the planning stage to monitoring the process of gender responsive budgeting, so the budget covers women’s needs, especially in the health and education sectors.

To actively participate in the development stages, women’s groups in Semarang need capacity building. PATTIRO Semarang assists that capacity building by helping the women’s groups to identify problems in health and education sectors that have the most impacts on their lives. It is a collaborative effort to find solutions to these problems.

Health and Education Budget in Semarang

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Budget</th>
<th>Education Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local revenue budget in 2017:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Income per capita in 2017:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDR 3.9 trillion (±270 million USD)</td>
<td>IDR 2.2 million (±152 USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDR 127 billion (±8.8 million USD) = 4 percent of Semarang Local Budget</td>
<td>IDR 208 billion (±14.4 million USD) = 5 percent of Semarang Local Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semarang minimum wage in 2017:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Average gender responsive budget in 2010-2018:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDR 2.1 million (±147 USD)</td>
<td>Less than the mandatory 10 percent health budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average gender responsive budget is 2.1 percent</strong></td>
<td>Less than the mandatory 20 percent education budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average gender responsive budget is 0.4 percent</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
out the structural causes of the problems, and
to articulate several recommendations for
improvements for policy makers. Founded in
2004, the organization also seeks to ensure
that the women’s groups understand the
development planning and budgeting processes
so that they are able to carry out advocacy
independently.

After they acquire the ability to conduct
advocacy, PATTIRO Semarang will empower
the women’s groups to monitor the local
government’s use of the public procurement
budget in the health and education sectors.
They will also encourage the women’s groups
to file some complaints and report their findings
through the complaint handling mechanism
that is already in place: LAPOR Hendi.

Along with these efforts, PATTIRO Semarang
advocates for the government to optimize the
performance of LAPOR Hendi platform and
to develop complaint handling regulations so
that these women’s and other community’s
participation do not go to waste. PATTIRO
Semarang has also been actively involved in
various dialogues related to complaint handling.

Together with SPAK, PATTIRO Semarang had
successfully trained the wives of the State Civil
Apparatus (ASN) who are members of Dharma
Wanita (Group of Indonesian Civil Servants’
Spouse). This includes the wife of Semarang
Mayor, Krisseptiana, who declare herself
together with other members of Dharma Wanita
as SPAK members. PATTIRO Semarang also
invited this group to participate in improving
the quality of public services and eradicating
corruption, including the corruption that
happens in public procurement. Krisseptiana,
who is also the Chairperson of the Semarang’s
Family Welfare Guidance Program (PKK), even
emphasized her commitment to encourage
the SPAK movement to reach the smallest
units of society: RT and RW (Neighborhood
Associations).

With the commitment and support from the
government, PATTIRO Semarang believes
that this achievement can also accelerate the
process of increasing women’s capacity in
safeguarding the provision of public services and
monitoring public procurement projects.

“The citizens, including women, are often afraid
and worried because they feel like there is no
support from the government, especially in
monitoring big public procurement projects.
However, with SPAK, the community-based
monitoring for public procurement is going
to be well implemented because it has been
organized,” explained the Director of PATTIRO
Semarang, Widi Nugroho.

In Collaboration with journalists

Furthermore, in relation to public procurement,
Semarang local government has also
implemented an open auction system. A local
e-catalog has also been in place as a result of
the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding
with the National Public Procurement Agency
(NPPA) in 2016.

Even though the open auction system has
shown great impacts, PATTIRO Semarang and
TII study report shows that irregularities are still
prevalent in Semarang government’s public
procurement processes. The study revealed that
a lot of the procurement were made through
direct appointment which posits a potential for
conflict of interests. The division of procurement
packages into smaller units to avoid the auctions
is also common. Other findings include the
tendency of some goods and service providers
to win government projects repeatedly.

In response to the findings, PATTIRO Semarang
took the initiative to be more involved in
monitoring government’s public procurement.
After participating in the training on public
procurement held by NPPA and the Indonesia
Corruption Watch (ICW), PATTIRO Semarang
collaborates with local journalists to investigate
government’s public procurement projects.
Together with a group of journalists, they will
also analyze the impact of the projects on
marginalized people, such as women, children,
people with disabilities, and other minority
groups, to accommodate the element of
inclusiveness in their works.

Bojonegoro Institute

Bojonegoro Institute is a civil society organisation (CSO) that plans to become a
civil society representative in guarding the regulation/policy and local governance
innovation in a better way, in fostering sustainability based on the needs and
society partisanship, and in realising a strong democratisation and decentralisation
framework, that is meaningful and also participative, in partnership with state
and civil society. Bojonegoro Institute currently focuses on and engages in five
priority agendas: governance of extractive policies (oil and gas), transparency and
public information openness, acceleration of poverty reduction and community
empowerment, bureaucracy reform and data governance (Data Revolution).

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Empowering Women to Alleviate Poverty and Achieve Equality

Bojonegoro Regency is one of the areas in East Java Province with the highest per capita income. For two consecutive years, this regency ranked as the fifth region with the highest income in the province, Rp.3.03 trillion in 2017 (approximately 210 million USD) and Rp.3.38 trillion in 2018 (approximately 234 million USD). In fact, the regency was previously well-known as an oil and gas producer area with the second highest income in East Java Province in 2016.

In contrast to those records, that high amount of income of Bojonegoro Regency has not been directly proportional to the people’s welfare level. In 2017, Bojonegoro Regency was ranked 11th as the poorest region out of 38 regencies / cities in East Java. The number of poor people in this region has reached around 178 thousand people or 14.34 percent of the total population. The Bojonegoro Human Development Index (HDI) only scored 67.28 and ranked 26th among other regencies/cities in the province.

Not only having low score on the Human Development Index, Bojonegoro also faces critical challenges in gender inequality, especially in the education and health sectors. Based on a study’s results of Bojonegoro Institute and Transparency International (TI) Indonesia, girls’ school enrollment rates have been lower than boys. Meanwhile, in the health sector, the maternal mortality rate in this area is relatively high, at the 14th highest in East Java Province.

According to a series of in-depth analysis, the high rate of poverty and gender inequality, and the low level of welfare of the people occurred because the high amount of regional budget have not been fully allocated to fulfill citizen’s needs. For example, the average number of allocations for the Regional Budget (APBD) in 2010-2018 for public services, especially in education and health sectors, is still low and has not met the standards of statutory provisions. Bojonegoro Institute’s study also revealed that during that period, the gender responsive budgets allocation for education and health sectors only reached an average of 0.4 and 0.6 percent of the total APBD.

This situation has been worsened by the low quality of community involvement, especially women as the most affected group, in development planning forums. The baseline study of Bojonegoro Institute indicates that despite high level of women’s presence in these forums, it has low effect in influencing some transformations in government policies related to gender equality in the two sectors.

As a civil society organization that aspires to establish sustainable open local government and cooperating with society, Bojonegoro Institute has collaborated with Transparency International Indonesia to promote changes in its area. The local civil society organization is committed to resolve these challenges from the fundamental issues; to develop and to improve the quality of women’s participation in regional development.

Similar to PATTIRO Semarang, through the SPEAK project supported by Hivos South East Asia and the European Union, Bojonegoro Institute provides capacity building to women’s groups in order to improve their ability to be involved in the planning and supervision process of development. Their involvement is crucial to ensure the fulfillment of their needs, especially in the health and education sectors.

To achieve this objective, Bojonegoro Institute provides training for women’s groups in the region to identify problems in the health and education sectors with the greatest impacts on their lives. This organization that was established in 2005, would also help women’s groups to understand the planning and budgeting process of development, in order to allow them to be able to deliver recommendations for improvements to local governments. That newly gained ability will support them to conduct advocacy independently in the future.

Besides providing training, this local civil society organisation also empowers women’s groups to monitor the budget used for public procurement in health and education sectors through social audit training.

“This social auditing in the government’s public procurement is expected to raise the public awareness and capacity of civil society in monitoring the openness, accountability, and the quality of public procurement at the local government level,” said Director of the Bojonegoro Institute AW Syaiful Huda.

Given the fact that the expenditure for public procurement in Bojonegoro is considerably high, Syaiful Huda added, these trainings is important raise public awareness on their rights, especially for women. The activity can also encourage citizens to participate in monitoring development activities in the region.

“With this series of training, public service deliveries would be in better quality, more accountable, efficient and effective. Corrupt practices such as fraud can be minimized,” he concluded.
The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Jakarta was established in 1994 by 58 journalists and columnists after the New Order regime banned Tempo, Detik, and Editor magazines. AJI Jakarta aims to (1) defend freedom of the press, freedom of expressions, and freedom of information, (2) improve professionalism in journalism and maintain the highest standards of journalistic ethics, and (3) increase the journalists’ bargaining positions in regard of welfare fulfillment by establishing a union of journalists. AJI Jakarta is one of the first journalist organizations to establish a legal aid institute to defend journalists and media from legal actions against them and to encourage the journalist to create a union in the media company they work at. AJI Jakarta now has 417 members consists of journalists, columnists, and bloggers residing in Jakarta.

Media plays important role in making public procurement more transparent and accountable, yet lack of understanding on open contracting makes journalists and the media rarely reveal corruption cases in procurement. Hivos and Alliance of Independent Journalist (AJI) Jakarta will work to develop a network consists of 12 local investigative and citizen journalists from Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Bojonegoro, Mataram, and Makassar. The network of investigative journalists will report on corruption in public procurement particularly in health and education sectors, and investigate on citizen journalist reports. AJI Jakarta will also facilitate fellowship program to encourage young journalists to improve data driven reporting/investigation in their work. This work will contribute to SPEAK’s Specific Objectives 2. Improve accountability of public procurement and public services through community-based monitoring. The project also aims to increase public awareness of preventing corruption in health and education sectors and the importance of public participation in corruption prevention and its supervision.

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Even more, this organization also encourages women’s groups to report their findings and give recommendations for improvements in health and education services via Siipp.Net platform, an application for open information and public procurement monitoring developed by Bojonegoro Institute in cooperation with Bojonegoro local government.

In order to maximize the utilization of Siipp.net, local organizations that engaged in the issue of good governance have recruited and trained volunteers who will become agents of change. It is an effort to involve more citizens to participate in overseeing and monitoring the goods and services procurement in Bojonegoro.

“By involving citizens and communities to participate in overseeing and monitoring public procurement, government’s work in supervising would also be effective and efficient. This can improve accountability and quality of services or public procurement at the local government level,” added Syaiful Huda.

This effort was one of the follow-up actions of the initial initiatives by Bojonegoro Institute and Hivos South East Asia to encourage open contracting in Bojonegoro through the development of Bojonegoro Open System (BOS). The BOS platform functions as a center for providing information on the process of government’s online-based goods and services procurement; from the process of suppliers selection to the quality control of goods and services, including the audit process.

Bojonegoro Institute and Hivos South East Asia believes that their efforts to increase women’s involvement and encourage openness in the process of public procurement would help the government to implement programs that meet the needs of citizens, including vulnerable groups. Through this process, the government will find it easier to alleviate poverty in its area, improve the quality of education and health, achieve gender equality, and ensure public involvement, especially vulnerable groups in the development process.
Press and Citizens Participation in Monitoring Public Service Delivery

To create a good and open government, State must guarantee citizens’ rights to monitor the performance of public officials, to obtain information, and to be involved in public policy making process. State must also guarantee people’s freedom of expression, including press freedom.

Press, in a democratic country, holds an important position as the fourth pillar of democracy after the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions. Press plays some important functions: to oversee, examine, and criticize government policies and programs. Press also functions as an information media, educational media, as well as a room for discussion and advocacy.

Press requires information disclosure to carry out its roles and functions optimally, independently, and free from any group intervention. Without information disclosure, Press cannot obtain information and data to be further processed and delivered to the public. If Press fails to deliver information to public, they have failed to fulfill its duties and functions, and there will be no democracy.

Information disclosure in Indonesia has been well implemented but improvements are still needed. The government has developed various platforms to support it. In the procurement sector, for example, the Indonesian government already has INAPROC, LPSE, and SiRUP, digital platforms which contain various information on government’s procurement.

Despite the existence of those platforms, journalists still have not fully utilized the available information and data. Hence, they cannot provide in-depth reporting and often missed the important information. This is unfortunate because data-based journalism is not only able to encourage the creation of a transparent government, but also a tool to combat disinformation and hoaxes.

The journalists’ lack of capacity to understand and to process data will result in a poor investigative journalism in the Country. It is because data is the most essential thing in creating an investigative report.

In addition, investigative report without strong supporting data would increase the chance for journalists to be sued for defamation with the Information and Electronic Transaction Law Number 19 of 2016.

Having ability to understand and transform data is not enough. Journalists must also be able to write it into a story that the public can understand.

Citizens, especially women and youth, who actively participate in monitoring the government’s works and are involved in public policy making process, are assets to create an open government. If journalists deliver their findings on conventional media, women’s and youth groups can use social media to share their experiences of accessing public services, especially in health and education sector. In fact, the two groups can inspire more people with their stories, particularly women and youth.

Like journalists, women’s and youth groups must also use valid data and information to support their stories and arguments on social media so they would not be easily found themselves in legal issues with the Information and Electronic Transactions Law. For more effective monitoring of

IET Law Threatens Press Freedom

In 2008-2018, 14 journalists and 7 media were charged under the Information and Electronic Transaction (IET) Law*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Journalist</th>
<th>Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Press freedom index in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>36.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>36.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Timor</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>29.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most used law articles to charge journalists & media:

- IET Law Article 27 (3) about defamation
- IET Law Article 28 (2) about spreading of hatred
- Criminal Code Article 310-311 about defamation
- Criminal Code Article 156 about Tribe, Religion, Race, and Inter-Group
- Others

Source:
* SAFENet, 2018
** World Press Freedom Index, 2019
government performance and advocacy, women’s groups and the journalists need to work together. They need to communicate and share their knowledge and experience, as well as strengthen each other’s role.

Given this fact, the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Jakarta works to empower journalists, women’s and youth groups to carry out these roles simultaneously and sustainably. Through the SPEAK program which is supported by Hivos South East Asia and the European Union, AJI Jakarta provides capacity building to women’s groups and journalists to understand and process data related to health and education. AJI Jakarta will then encourage both groups to write the results of their reports and share them to the public. The women’s groups will upload their story on social media and journalists will publish their report on their media.

AJI Jakarta will provide specific training to several journalists from six districts/cities in Indonesia; Semarang, Bojonegoro, Mataram, Bandung, Makassar, and Jakarta. After the training, AJI Jakarta will mentor them to make investigation proposals regarding health and education services in their respective regions. They will also be encouraged to use and follow up on stories and findings of the women’s groups.

AJI Jakarta will then select 12 journalists with the best proposals and award them a fellowship program. AJI Jakarta will support their investigations and assist them for approximately six months to ensure the continuity of their work. The journalist organization will help them planning their investigation and ensure the results are in accordance with the standards journalism code of ethics.

Furthermore, AJI Jakarta will encourage women’s groups and youth groups in the six regions to become citizen journalists and re-elaborate the work of investigative journalists. They will also train the groups to make narrative and brief coverage in accordance with the basic principles of journalism. This Journalist Alliance will also train citizen journalists for the basic techniques to take photos and to record videos. The skills are necessary because the existence of photos and videos is important to complete the news or information to be published. Photos and videos are also able to build readers’ trust in the content of information.

Not only posting the information on their social media accounts, AJI Jakarta also teaches women and youth groups how to report findings of potential irregularities and corruption in the education and health sectors to the authorities. They also encourages the groups to report to the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) via JAGA application, an application developed by the KPK to help citizens monitoring public service delivery in all sectors, including health and education.

“This training is important. If they submit a report to JAGA application without data, it won’t be followed up. By joining this training, AJI Jakarta hopes that the participants will be able to report corruption cases in their community along with supporting data. It will help KPK to follow up their report. Journalists can also use their data as basis to conduct investigations,” said Afwan Purwanto, the Secretary of AJI Jakarta.

Both investigative journalists and citizen journalists will be provided with various information about their rights and obligations in order to avoid the elastic articles in the Information and Electronic Transactions Law. This is also an effort carried out by AJI Jakarta and Hivos South East Asia to protect citizens’ freedom of expression and press freedom in Indonesia.

Internet Freedom in Indonesia
The Information and Electronic Transaction (IET) Law are often used to restrict citizens’ freedom to express their opinion, including in the digital platform.

Indonesia was rated “partly free” in Freedom on the Net 2018

Freedom on the Net Scores in 2018

Indonesia 46 < Malaysia 45 < Philippines 31

0=Most Free, 100=Least Free

Indonesia’s score in 2018 is the second worst in the last five years.

Source: Freedom of Internet released by Freedom House, 2019