“I never thought the village leaders would listen to us.”

“These adolescents are beyond their years.”

“Adults didn’t even realise there was a problem.”

“We can have a say in our future.”

“I have a dream that our village will have a school bus one day.”

“I feel like I can do anything!”

Adolescents’ voices from Kupang
“I really enjoyed doing the research interviews. After we chose to focus on the water supply issue, we surveyed adolescents at the water point to find out what they thought. It turned out that we all had the same problem.”

“I never thought the village leaders would listen to us, but they did and now we have an easier life.”

“It’s usually adolescents who have to collect water for their whole family every morning and evening. Most days we had to wake up at 4 or 5am. We were often late to school and we had no time to play with our friends.”
“I was so surprised to receive the proposal from the children through their parents. I thought to myself, ‘these young people are not children anymore.’ They can now express their ideas and are thinking about the village’s wellbeing through the activities in this adolescent circle.”

“My staff and I decided to allocate a budget to install a water pump. Now after seeing the benefits we will install two more this year. I will invite children to the village planning meeting in future to share their ideas.”
“We can have a say in our future.”

“Some people told us: ‘You’re only children, what do you know about this?’ But we didn’t let that discourage us. Eventually some adults stopped and listened to what we had to say and that gave us the confidence to continue.”

"Now that we’ve seen our idea become a reality we’ve realised that young people have a role to play to make our situation and living conditions better. We can have a say in our future."
"Since my daughter participated in the adolescent circle I've seen lots of changes in her. She is much less shy and has a lot more confidence. Adults often underestimate children's abilities and their ideas."

"We need to encourage the younger generation in this village. the adolescent circle project has shown us that. The children found this solution themselves because the adults didn't even realise there was a problem."
"I want to study agriculture next year because I think there’s big potential for plantation farming in this area. The adolescent circle proposed the idea of building a water pump right in the village centre as a solution to the long dry season and the village leader agreed to allocate funds for it."

"Now all the water for my family's chilli plantation comes from the water pump that the village installed. It makes it possible to farm all year round. I learned so much through the adolescent circle, I feel like I can do anything!"
"I have a dream that our village will have a school bus one day."

"At first it was hard to get everyone talking and sharing their ideas but now they have so much confidence they are unstoppable. We have already identified the next issue to work on together - "

"we need transport from the village to the senior secondary school because it's far away and motorbikes can be dangerous. I have a dream that our village will have a school bus one day and all our children will be able to go to school safely and complete their education."
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