Voices from the Field:

Indonesian Adolescents identify issues in their community: ¹

Step 1: Adolescents identify issues in their community:

“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”.

Step 2: Adolescents develop solution idea to the identified issues:

“In the adolescent circle, we identified the distance of the water supply point as the main issue we were facing as children in this village and started looking for a solution. The first idea we came up with was rainwater tanks for each house. But after we researched it a bit more we realized it would be too expensive, so we kept exploring different ideas until we agreed on the water pump. I like being a leader. Being a leader is more than just telling people what to do, it’s about leading yourself first and working as a team. That’s the best thing I’ve learned from the adolescent circle. “

¹ The preparedness activities as part of the Kit implementation have taken place before, during and after the current monitoring period (July 2018-April 2019)
Step 3: Adolescents proposed their solution idea to the village government:

“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 chili 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! ”.

Step 4: Adolescents’ idea was accepted and realized using village funding:

“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.”

Step 5: Positive Impact to adolescents and communities:

“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 realized that young people have a role to play to make our situation and living conditions better. We can have a say in our future.”