

Save the Children's Youth Employment Programs

Country Overview: Indonesia

Across Indonesia today, 5.16 million youth ages 18-24 are unemployed. That makes life even more difficult in a nation where 40 percent of the population lives on less than \$2 a day.

Working through our Youth Employment Programs, Save the Children is helping Indonesian youth ages 15-24 acquire skills that will open doors to employment and economic opportunity. Our youth employment programming approach identifies and serves the most deprived and at risk youth and collaborates with the private sector by creating job linkages based on market assessments, local private-sector partnerships, and a dynamic training curriculum that combines employability skills, entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy, job counselling, mentoring and vocational training.

Youth Employment Program Strategies

Save the Children's Youth Employment programs are making a difference to deprived and at-risk youth in Indonesia through a five-pronged approach that encompasses training and job placement opportunities. We are:

- Validating vocational and job-skills needed by local industry based on labor market conditions and needs assessments
- Strengthening employment opportunities for youth through securing experiential or applied learning opportunities in apprenticeships
- Partnering with local NGOs to leverage linkages to private sector employers through apprenticeships and jobs and entrepreneurship training
- Establishing business and social support for networks with government entities, businesses, NGOs and peer groups
- Introducing a voucher system for poor students 16 years old and older that will enable them to access vocational training

Program Locations

The program currently works in Bandung, West Java Province, and Bandar Lampung, Lampung Province



Munin, 19, and his family run a hat business out of their home. A graduate of the Youth Employment Program, Munin enrolled to perfect his sewing skills and help his family's business grow. Here, he and his instructor model his hats. Photo: Angga Darmawan

Accomplishments to Date

As of the end of 2014, the Youth Employment Programs have demonstrated measurable impact on the lives of deprived and at-risk youth. Thanks to the project, thousands of young people are on track for more prosperous and fulfilling futures. Nearly 3,000 young people, half of which are female, have completed employability skills training, and nearly 2,000 have been enrolled in vocational training. More than half of our trained youth have been placed in apprenticeships, jobs or have built their own business since graduating.

Our success is thanks to strong collaborations with local government, accredited technical and vocational institutions, local and global businesses with operations in the Philippines, and other stakeholders.

Plans for the Future

Our goals through 2018 are to deliver skills training to more than 30,500 in-school and out-of-school youth; to place at least sixty percent (nearly 18,000 youth) in jobs and to help 400 start their own businesses. We will also conduct labor market assessments on the hospitality, culinary, garments, sales and services sectors to make our curriculum even more market relevant, and pilot e-learning

methods for youth-skills training to further improve quality and reach our target youth. Tracking youth participants is a challenge, so we will institute an online centralized database management system and

mobile data collection to better monitor and evaluate our impact. Finally, we will continue to build and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders from the government, such as BAPPENAS, employers, local business associations and training centers.

Baking their Way to Success



Meliana Sri Lestari, 23, and Sri Dewi Yani, 23, wake up early in the morning to start baking. They make about 100 pastries daily and usually sell out, bringing in a profit of just over \$4.00 per day. That may not seem like much, but it can go a long way in helping to make ends meet.

“Before the Youth Employment Program, nobody was selling anything in our community,” says Meliana. “Now, four women are.”

Living in close proximity to the industrial harbor of Way Lunik, part of the Lampung province, many of the girls and women who live near Meliana and Sri are at risk and some turn to prostitution.

Meliana credits the Youth Employment Program with empowering young women in the neighborhood to take charge of their lives and become entrepreneurs, rather than succumbing to hopelessness.

Stitching Together a Good Life



After perfecting their sewing skills through the Youth Employment Program, two best friends, Ike Wardavi and Lidiana Usia, both 18, landed dream jobs at a high-end boutique.

The Princess Jasmine Boutique, nestled in an affluent neighborhood of Bandar Lampung on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island, is owned by Elsa Lianti, 29.

“Youth, especially girls, have to have skills to be empowered,” says Elsa, echoing the mantra of Save the Children’s Youth Employment Program. “A woman must have income for herself to boost her self-esteem and so she is not too dependent on her husband.”

Supportive of Ike’s and Lidiana’s dreams of becoming designers and opening their own boutiques, Elsa is determined to continue to train the girls and guide them along the way.

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