

Assistance in Preventing and Combating Corruption in Indonesia (APCC)

Entry for the Gender Competition 2017

Opening insight: KPK saved the life of Mr. Rumi's baby

"Corruption not only stops counties from getting wealthier, it ruins peoples' life." says an officer of the Indonesian Anticorruption commission (KPK) on a joint mission with the GIZ Project on corruption prevention.

The team is traveling in July 2017 in a remote area of central Sumatra area (in Riau Province) on dusty roads through dense palm oil plantations on a survey mission. They have met Mr Rumi who explains to the team from KPK and GIZ that his wife is in labor. It is a risk birth, because Ms. Rumi has lost her previous two children while giving birth. It is crucial she received medical assistance, but Mr Rumi explains that although they have medical insurance that the assistance should be free of charge for them, they cannot afford to call a doctor or midwife.

The midwife as well as the doctor explained her that if the family wants to have medical assistance, they have to pay for it. The total cost would be IDR 900.000 (65EUR) for the birth and IDR 700.000 (50EUR) for the ambulance. The monthly income for the family is around Rp 1.000.000. (70EUR). Furthermore, the husband of Ms. Rumi explained, that they were asked by the doctor to buy medication some days before.

The Officer from the Anticorruption commission intervenes and soon an ambulance arrives at the house to bring Ms Rumi to the hospital, the new-born is for some days in a critical condition, but with the right medical care is now well. The baby boys name is Rahman (means: blessing).

"It is a particularly cruel irony that medical care is among the worst in the country in many rural areas of Indonesia where income from forestry is created. People living on the edge of the forests who are devastated to fill the pockets of civil servants must go through enormous distances to reach the nearest doctor."¹

About the Project and Gender Strategy

Gender and RBM

The German Federal Government has been supporting the corruption prevention measures of the Indonesian Government through a joint project that is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ GmbH) and the Indonesian anticorruption Commission (KPK) since 2007. The current project objective is *"the KPK implements corruption prevention in selected sectors and on sub-national level as planned in coordination with other governmental authorities and civil society actors"*.

Historically, KPK was built based on the fact that corruption has done a great damage to the Indonesian economy and public trust. The Asian financial crisis heightened the awareness about the severity of the impacts of corruption in Indonesia. KPK has a broad mandate to prevent and combat corruption in Indonesia. Against all odds, the KPK has demonstrated a remarkable and unprecedented success. It has investigated high ranking officials, some of them are from the most powerful entities in Indonesia, and it was able to make 100 percent convictions. However, KPK has paid costs, some of them quite steep, for its success. It has to continuously battle attempts to curtail its power. This contestation of

¹ As per 08.08.2017: <https://www.hrw.org/de/news/2009/12/01/indonesien-hohe-verluste-durch-korruption-im-forstsektor>

KPK's power leaves KPK in a defensive mode. There appears to be no place for other discourse, such as gender.

However, within the context of KPK duties which encompasses, among other things, education and corruption prevention and its remarkable and unprecedented success, the KPK has an ample room to start a discourse on gender and corruption. Thus, as a GG1 project, we introduced one indicator that specifically has concern on gender equality: *"the KPK has tested the participation of civil society actors (specifically those promoting women's rights) in 4 sector specific pilot measures for the prevention of corruption"*. The selected pilot provinces are Riau and Banten. Through dialogue forum (regular coordination meeting), the women organization express and convey their voice on how corruption affected the women lives conditions. Therefore they determine the solution of the problem based on women perspectives.

The strategic role of KPK will contribute to gender equality

Decentralisation has become an emerging trend since 2008 and governments (including Indonesia) have been increasingly encouraged to decentralise their activities and shift decision making to the local level in order to promote public participation, government accountability as well as responsiveness of public policies and service delivery. Although decentralisation provides opportunities as well as entry points for anti-corruption reform programmes, specific corruption risks and vulnerabilities are associated with it. Corruption occurs in almost all sectors, local budget management (APBD), procurement of state goods and services, natural resource management and licensing, and corruption in other sectors

Thus, KPK supported by GIZ in 2016, started its approach (through the Coordination and Supervision Team on Corruption Prevention/Korsupgah) to closely monitor selected local governments in the implementation of those three prone to corruption areas, by bringing government activities closer to the people, making the public sector more responsive, transparent and accountable to the citizens to promote greater transparency in the local allocation of public resources, making service delivery and local investments more responsive to the local community needs, including the poor and marginalized groups.

Currently, KPK perceives that this approach is successfully implemented to prevent corruption in subnational level. Many local civil servants feel supported by KPK in implementing their innovative ideas, get less intervention from the local parliament, motivated to do simple bureaucracy, have fair remuneration system, able to increase local revenue, etc. Nevertheless, there are still many loopholes for corruption and KPK cannot work alone with its limited resources. The limited resources in monitoring the local governments can be answered one of them by community involvement, because the impact of corruption on the community, both small and large scale corruptions have significant impact on the impairment of rights to services that people should receive.

Public Participation, Women Participation

Seeing the opportunity that KPK has successfully approach the local governments, the project initiated a pilot program to link local government in Riau Province with local communities in monitoring the implementation of public services in Riau Province. In Riau province, since 2010 - 2016 there were 36 corruption cases handled by KPK, Police and prosecutor office. Corruption involved 292 perpetrators, consisting of 3 Governors, 7 regents / mayors, 46 politicians (members of parliament), as well as hundreds of bureaucrats and private officials. Thus, KPK has determined Riau Province as one of the three areas as a corruption- prone area.

Encouraging public participation in the prevention of corruption is one of the recommendations of the KPK for Riau Province government, because so far, public participation in monitoring the development process has not been running optimally yet. The policy is in line with the efforts of KPK in its community development program (Comdev). Collaboration between policy maker (Government) and community (public) is considered successful if all parties involved have common understanding, values and principles so that all parties will feel convenient to take actions. Organizing and strengthening dialog forums becomes an effective way for designing collaborative building in decision making.

Thus, the pilot program was started by mapping which communities will be involved directly or indirectly in every stage of the process in collaboration to carry out follow-up actions as agreed. After the mapping, the selected communities are equipped with sufficient knowledge thereby they have common

knowledge on government (policy makers) and confident in delivering message and fact through dialogue with decision makers.

There was a very challenging process in the beginning in facilitating dialogue between two parties (the government always feels watched and criticized by the local communities, while the local communities always feels underestimated by the local government). Then, the solution was to enable the local community to use better communication strategy in the dialogue forum, by not using intimidating words in discussing the problem, then the local government officials who attended the dialogue forum felt more open in expressing ideas on the public service activities they have undertaken and also able to freely tell the challenges they face to improve the quality of the service. At the end, the local government realized that they need local communities to give real feedback from the ground, what is still lacking and needs to be improved. Even more, both parties established a joint forum which is called MARWAH Forum.

Gender Based Participatory Action Research

Based on some hypotheses on public service situation that has been unveiled in dialog forums, the Government, KPK and local community conduct Participatory Action Research (PAD) approach in 12 poorest villages in Riau province through Field Survey, In-depth Interview, Observation and Focus Group Discussions FGD from May-August 2017. The Participatory Action Research concentrated on public services in health, education, village fund as well as water management. Some of the local communities involved are really focus on women empowerment.

The instrument and approach were formulated with strong consideration on gender perspective. Like for example one special campaign session for women for each village, making use of the guest house (base camp for surveyors) and its facilities that was organized by local women as well as questions in the questionnaire (to identify the women's participation, access, control, impacts of development policy and its impact for women).

Besides Ms. Rumi's case that was mentioned in the beginning, in other village, in a campaign session for women, when the representation of district education and health offices presented about School operational assistance fund (BOS) as well as national health security system, most of the participants felt surprised that they did not know that they (1) do not need to pay the school fees and other fees for their children as it is covered by BOS fund, (2) do have right to ask for generic medicines (3) can report their complaints and many other facts.

In short, all of the findings from the Participatory Action Research are followed up by having the local government as well as local communities in Riau developed their joint action plan. All of the points in the action plan will be allocated in Riau Province annual budget.

Having seen this fact, KPK plans to replicate this approach in other 100 poor districts in Indonesia. KPK realized that this kind of collaboration action needs to be replicated in other provinces, districts and cities in Indonesia. Considering gender, for KPK, women are not only victim of corruption but can be also potential partners to work with in preventing corruption in Indonesia, as long as they get access to know their rights.