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IUWASH Chief of Party, Louis O’Brien and Director of Perum Perhutani, Bambang Sukmananto signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), witnessed by the USAID Mission Director to Indonesia, Andrew Sisson, Director of Housing and Settlement BAPPENAS, Nugroho Tri Utomo and BSM representative.

PHOTO CREDIT: VIRGI FATMAWATI/IUWASH JAKARTA

IUWASH Expanding Partnership with Bank Syariah Mandiri and Perum Perhutani to Provide Clean Water Access for Low-Income Families

New partnerships with private sectors help open the access to clean water and sanitation for low-income families.

JAKARTA. The U.S. Agency for International Development Indonesia Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID–IUWASH) project signed a Partnership Agreement with Bank Syariah Mandiri on 16 January 2013 in Jakarta, to broaden IUWASH efforts to provide up to 40,000 low-income households throughout Indonesia with microloans for water connection fees.

On average, new water utility (PDAM) customers pay an upfront cost of approximately Rp 1.5 million to Rp 3 million, which many low-income families cannot afford. Customers receiving loans will pay in 12 to 36 installments, usually of Rp 50,000 to Rp 100,000 per month.
“Water is a basic human need, but for many, accessing safe, clean water is not a reality,” said USAID/Indonesia Mission Director Andrew Sisson. “The United States, through USAID, is very pleased to support microfinance partnerships that offer a path for low-income households to afford clean water connections in their homes.”

The partnership is an expansion of the works of USAID-IUWASH and Bank Syariah Mandiri (BSM) in Kudus District of Central Java and Mojokerto District of East Java, which have already provided water connections to 3,750 households.

“We are set to provide additional Rp 150 billion in lump sum for water and sanitation microfinance in 2013. The ongoing non-performing finance ratio of BSM water and sanitation microfinance is 0 percent. It is very satisfying. There is no payment default because the credit limit suits the low-income community’s capacity,” said The Director of BSM, Hanawijaya.

The fund will be channeled through 50 recommended water utility (PDAM) in five IUWASH working areas.

Meanwhile, on the same day as the agreement signing with BSM, IUWASH Chief of Party Louis O’Brien and Director of Perum Perhutani Bambang Sukmananto signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), witnessed by the USAID Mission Director to Indonesia, Andrew Sisson. With this cooperation, IUWASH and Perum Perhutani will develop climate change adaptation and raw water resources conservation programs.

“Perum Perhutani will synergize with IUWASH to conserve raw water resources in Perhutani’s forest areas by constructing infiltration ponds. It will increase the balanced recharge of groundwater that will be utilized by communities living around the downstream area. This is a part of Perhutani’s sustainable forest management efforts to implement triple bottom line (People–Planet–Profit) concept,” said Bambang.

USAID–IUWASH, a five-year $33.7 million project, works in 54 cities and districts nationwide to increase access to clean water for two million people and improve access to sanitation for 200,000 people. USAID–IUWASH is an important part of the US–Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, a commitment made by President Obama and President Yudhoyono to broaden, deepen and elevate bilateral relations between the United States and Indonesia.

USAID/Indonesia, Perhutani official website, BSM official website
Gender Training for Sanitation Facilitators in Bogor

Gender training provides participants with needed knowledge on gender mainstreaming and related issues to be transferred at community level.

BOGOR. Gender mainstreaming within IUWASH is viewed as central to the sustainability of the program activities at all levels. IUWASH works with civil society organizations, PDAM and local government officials, as well as, local sanitarians and others to promote gender sensitive approaches throughout IUWASH activities. With that purpose in mind, training on gender issues was held in the previous quarter and IUWASH Gender Working Group also implemented several activities at the regional level.

In June 2012, gender training for STBM (see box) facilitators was conducted in Bogor City to improve awareness among STBM implementers on gender issues, and better prepare them to identify and address these issues at community level. The training was attended by 29 participants (eight men and 21 women) comprising eight sanitarians, 16 community cadres and five local government officers from provincial development planning board (BAPPEDA) and the Ministry of Health. The topics reviewed included understanding gender, gender inequity, gender issues in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector, and gender mainstreaming in STBM.

Neneng, a community cadre from Harjasari Village, said the training made her more interested in gender issues. “The training materials are easy to understand. We also enjoy the method,” said Neneng. Another cadre from Cimahpar Village, Asep, said the training provided them with the necessary knowledge to be transferred at the community level. “I feel lucky to participate in this training. All of the topics were important and it increased my knowledge as facilitator,” said Asep.

In the next period, IUWASH gender-related activities will focus on the continuation of gender mainstreaming in the water supply and sanitation sector at regional level, through activities such as gender training for STBM facilitators in Tangerang and East Java; the integration of gender sessions in STBM training for community members in Tanjungbalai, Tebing Tinggi, Takalar and Kendal; and gender training for NGO partners in East Java.

Moreover, IUWASH will initiate an engagement with Family Welfare Development movement (Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga/PKK) to support the strengthening and monitoring of gender programming as it relates to the promotion of improved hygiene behavior at the community and household level. IUWASH will also discuss with the Ministry of Public Work and State Ministry of Women Empowerment to support gender-strengthening program in water supply and sanitation sector. Internally, with the entire project technical teams, IUWASH will develop additional gender mainstreaming activities and conduct an IUWASH Gender Working Group meeting to prepare the gender work plan for 2013 fiscal year.

Alifah Lestari, Virgi Fatmawati/IUWASH Jakarta
THE WATER UTILITY (PDAM) OF SEMARANG DISTRICT IS EAGER TO EXPAND ITS SERVICE AREA AND DEVELOP EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE, TARGETING PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMERS FROM HOUSEHOLDS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR. TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, PDAM SEMARANG DISTRICT HAS CONDUCTED INTENSIVE AND WELL-PLANNED PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES, INITIATED BY CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY (CSS).

The survey involved 913 respondents, both customer and non-customer groups in Ungaran, Ambarawa and Salatiga cities. The result showed that 94 percent of respondents (households group) and 87 percent of respondents (non-households group) were satisfied with the PDAM service, especially for the water quality. Meanwhile, 75 percent of non-customer respondents did not show much interest in becoming customer because they believed that the water from local wells was cheaper.

This fact encouraged PDAM Semarang to improve its customer satisfaction program and expand the service. The spokesperson of PDAM Semarang, Wicaksono Suwandi said that PDAM felt confident about its promotional scheme. The high level of satisfaction among current customers is an important basis to lure new ones, as the PDAM still has the capacity to increase its services up to 80 percent by 2015. The company’s technical division is currently reviewing the plans to expand the area. With a new water resource in Muncul Spring, Banyubiru Subdistrict, PDAM Semarang would be able to provide 300 liter of water per second, covering 24,000 new connections by the end of 2014.

“We also conducted our campaigns and promotions through local radio and newspapers to draw new consumers’ attention. These activities were inspired by the CSS supported by IUWASH in January. We had never done such a survey before. The CSS result is very helpful and will also be used to develop our business plan in the near future, also with the support from IUWASH,” added Wicaksono.

Speaking at “Workshop on the Portrait of PDAM Semarang Services based on the CSS”, Head of Semarang District, Dr. Mundjirin ES, explained that with the total population of 936,058 people, the PDAM recently covered about 28,000 connections or only 18 percent of the population. It means that the PDAM needs to expand its services rapidly. Based on the hydrological statistic, some of the available water resources in Semarang District that could supply raw water for the PDAM are springwaters with 7,331 liter/second capacity, which spread across 15 subdistricts; and Rawa Pening Reservoir with the volume of 65 million cubic meter (pooling water of 2,770 hectares area) at the maximum level, while the minimum water surface elevation has a volume of 25 million cubic meter.

Nugroho Andwiwinarno/IUWASH Central Java, Virgi Fatmawati/IUWASH Jakarta
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Iuwash Water Cost Survey: Average Water Cost Decreased by 39 Percent

In the areas where microfinance and master meter initiatives for low-income community are in place, water cost has decreased up to 39 percent.

Abi (35) buys clean water for his family from a public hydrant in Pademangan, North Jakarta. In average, Abi and his family need at least four jerry cans (IDR 500/jerry can) of clean water per day.

Jakarta. Iuwash has been conducting surveys related to the cost of water paid by low-income households benefiting from the project’s microfinance and master meter initiatives. Surveys were conducted in Kudus District, Central Java in September 2012, and in Mojokerto District, East Java in September and December 2012.

The main findings of the Kudus survey were that the cost of household water for all types of needs had decreased by 58 percent (from Rp 91,250 to Rp 38,000) and that the cost of drinking water had fallen by around 32 percent.

The 280 survey respondents reported that without a PDAM connection, the average monthly cost of clean water was Rp 75,000, while now that they have a piped connection, the cost has fallen to Rp 27,000 (a 64 percent decrease). The average cost of drinking water also fell, from Rp 16,250 to Rp 11,000 (a 32 percent decrease), while the volume of water used is in the range of nine to 22 cubic meters per month in households with piped water connections.

Another water cost survey involving 230 respondents in Mojokerto found that the average water cost had fallen by up to 39 percent (from Rp 87,244 to Rp 53,062 per month). While the average cost of clean water in households has increased from Rp 25,063 to Rp 28,583 (covering both monthly installments and water bills), the community has benefitted from a significant decrease in the average monthly cost of drinking water, namely from Rp 62,181 to Rp 24,479. Mojokerto households have also increased the volume of clean water they use, from 6.5 to 10 cubic meters per month.

Iuwash shared the findings of this water cost survey at a workshop for local water utilities held in Kudus District on 11th December 2012. The workshop was attended by 15 water utility directors and staff who were interested in the results and wanted to better understand how these findings can be used to improve water utility services.

The survey also indicated that after households have been connected to the piped water system, many customers continue to purchase and use “refill” water for drinking water. This behavior appears to be in large part due to a commonly held belief that refilled water is potable and can be consumed directly without treatment. Yet Indonesia’s Ministry of Health has warned that the water used in many water “refill” operations is unsafe and should not be consumed directly.

Based on this survey finding, the PDAM directors and staff attending the workshop recognized that they need to engage with “refill” water operators to ensure that they obtain their water from the PDAM. The PDAM also recognized a need to better educate the public on the need to treat “refill” water, and asked Iuwash to assist it in developing related activities. The Kudus PDAM showed keen interest in holding further water cost surveys in the future.

Virgi Fatmawati, Iuwash Jakarta
Journalists Covering Alternative Access to Water for Low-Income Households

A ‘master meter’ communal connection for the urban poor of Sidoarjo District targets 400 low-income households.

Local journalists from Surabaya in East Java interview a resident of Lemahputro, Sidoarjo District who still obtains her water from a well, with bathing, washing and toilet facilities nearby. The woman noted that the smell and clarity of the well had changed with the increased number of septic tanks being built by her neighbors, which indicates effluent leakage due to improper septic tanks construction.

SIDOARJO. On August 8, 2012, 33 journalists from various broadcast and print media in East Java went to see the results of the USAID-funded IUWASH grants program to provide piped water to the urban poor in Sidoarjo, East Java. The program uses a ‘master meter’ approach to water supply provision. A master meter is a single connection from the area water utility (PDAM) from which the community (through a Community Self-Support Group, or KSM) develops and manages a neighborhood distribution system. This approach allows the PDAM to provide water to communities that are normally unreachable because the households either lack the appropriate land title or are too poor to afford connection costs.

The media visit was organized by IUWASH and Spektra, a non-governmental organization that received the grants and is now providing piped water to more than 400 households using the master meter approach. Prior to the media visit, a short workshop was held at the IUWASH office in Surabaya, where Eko Wiji Purwanto, Head of the Sub Directorate for Drinking Water and Wastewater at the National Development Planning Board (Bappenas), described the state of urban water and sanitation in Indonesia. Mr. Purwanto noted that Sidoarjo District has one of the most successful master meter programs in Indonesia, which was initially developed under another USAID initiative, the Environmental Services Program (ESP), in 2008.

Aside from many other elements, including the commitment of the PDAM and political leadership, the KSM is established by the local community is crucial to a successful and sustainable master meter program. The KSM manages the piped water connections, maintains the community’s internal distribution system, handles billing and collection for participating households and, importantly, pays the water bill on time. According to Binti Muamin of Lemahputro Subdistrict, who works for the KSM, “This job is not my preferred choice, but it has to be done so that disadvantaged people here can keep using clean water for their everyday needs.” Another resident, Arifin, a construction worker who earns less than Rp 750,000 (US$80) per month reports, “Before the USAID program, the water here was murky and had an unpleasant smell. After taking a bath, your skin didn’t feel clean and fresh; it felt itchy, instead. Now all those problems are in the past, and the water even costs less.”

John Hansen, Director of the Environment Office at USAID Indonesia, who was also in attendance, echoed Mr. Arifin’s sentiments saying, “I am very happy to work with the Government of Indonesia to improve access to clean water. I believe clean water is very important for the people here.” Also attending the media visit were USAID Outreach and Communications Officer, Janice Laurente and Contracting Officer’s Representative, Trigeany Linggoatmodjo.

The media visit led to 14 print and online news reports, and there was also a live radio talkshow on RKPD Radio in Sidoarjo. The news was also posted on government web sites including those of East Java Bappeda and DPRD Sidoarjo.
Subsea Piped Water Connection for Enggros and Tobati Islands

Local government’s commitment to provide access to clean water despite technical and logistic challenges brings an end to a long wait for people in two remote islands in Jayapura.

JAYAPURA. Located off the shore of Jayapura City, Tobati and Enggros Islands belong administratively to South Jayapura District. These two islands are in the middle of Yotefa Bay and are inhabited by approximately 140 households, who are mostly fisher folks. The people of Enggros and Tobati get their daily needs, such as food, clothing, fuel, and clean water from Abepura, the closest town some 30–45 minutes away by speedboat.

Having recognized the challenges of getting clean water in those islands, Jayapura government provides clean water by installing a subsea pipeline directly from Abepura to Enggros and Tobati. Based on a mayoral decree, Jayapura government will subsidize Rp 200,000 per household to subscribe to a new water connection from the water utility. Meanwhile, other equipment such as water meter and piping connection will be provided by Jayapura Water Utility (PDAM Jayapura) and Public Works Office. The low-income households have to pay the monthly water bills only.

Clean water will be channeled using the gravity force from a 300 cubic meter reservoir on the mainland to a smaller, newly built reservoir. This system was planned by the Public Works Office to target household connections for 100 households in Enggros Island and 45 households in Tobati Island. IUWASH has facilitated PDAM Jayapura by providing primary data, measuring distances and elevations, tracking piping line, and determining required supporting building sites.

The total budget for the construction of water supply system is up to Rp 1,6 billion and financed by Jayapura government. At present, Jayapura Public Works Office has finalized 90 percent of the subsea pipeline construction while piping connection to the houses will be ready by the end of February 2013. IUWASH and PDAM Jayapura are joining Jayapura Public Works Office to supervise the water supply system construction.

Marten Drunyi, a community figure in Enggros and Tobati said, “It has been a long time wait for clean water to finally reach this island. We used to spend half an hour to two hours on a boat to get clean water in Entrop or Abepura. We are so thankful for this new water connection and are going to willingly pay the monthly bills. I myself will support the community’s agreement to cut off anyone’s water connection if they have payment defaults”.

In an effort to strengthen the community, IUWASH and PDAM Jayapura introduced the water supply system and rates, and will also establish a forum for drinking water customers. The construction of the water supply system using the subsea pipeline will give residents of Enggros and Tobati Islands a sustainable access to clean water at affordable price.
Exposure Visit Enlightens Drinking Water and Environmental Health Working Groups

IUWASH organized a cross-visit for working groups from eight cities to enhance their understanding on City Sanitation Strategy and Sanitation White Book developments.

**PAREPARE.** IUWASH has supported the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Working Group (Pokja AMPL) to prepare and review Sanitation White Book and City Sanitation Strategy (CSS) of their respective cities/districts since October 2011, and has encouraged three districts to obtain assistance from the central government’s Settlement Sanitation Development Acceleration Program (PPSP) in 2013.

To enhance the understanding of the Pokja’s role in the development of the CSS and Sanitation White Book, IUWASH organized a cross-visit for Pokja AMPL from eight cities to Parepare, where local Pokja AMPL is supported by Water and Sanitation Formulation and Action Planning Facility (WASPOLA) and National Pokja AMPL to prepare sanitation documents.

In the documents prepared by Pokja AMPL of Parepare City, the development of water supply is combined with that of sanitation sector. This atypical practice makes a good example for Pokja from other cities to consider good practices and lessons learned from the city of Parepare.

The exposure visit was conducted in June, 2012 and attended by 21 participants from eight Pokja AMPLs and 10 members from Pokja AMPL of Parepare.

The Pokja Secretary of Parepare City, Amiruddin Idris believed that the exposure visit was a clear support demonstrated by the city governments for the development of water and sanitation sectors. “We can see (the commitment) from the budget allocated in our District Government Budget every year. Parepare City even already has a participatory policy that obliges the government offices to allocate a budget for community programs.” Amiruddin added.

Pokja AMPL of Parepare explained that the main difficulty faced in CSS development was the implementation of the Environmental Health Risk Assessment study – the participatory survey to understand the conditions of sanitation facilities, health and hygiene, as well as the behavior of a community — that will be used to develop sanitation and advocacy program. This study is critical in preparing the Sanitation White Book but the process is burdensome and time-consuming. All Pokja members said the visit has enhanced their understanding on the position and the function of Pokja AMPL in the district/city in supporting the development of the sanitation documents.

The Head of Regional Development Planning Board (Bappeda) of Jayapura District, Anna Sawai said, “I now understand that the water supply and sanitation working group should exist in every city. Following the information provided by IUWASH, Pokja AMPL’s role is very important in supporting better conditions of water and sanitation sector in our region. When I return to Sentani, I will start building a strong Pokja AMPL. I am also going to revise the district budget in order to implement the program. We already have a development fund of Rp 100 million per village.”

Selviana Hehanussa/IUWASH South Sulawesi & Eastern Indonesia, Alifah Lestari/IUWASH Jakarta
PDAM JAYAPURA:
Optimizing Piping Network to Reduce Water Leakage

Critical piping network repairs and installation of customer water meters have successfully cut off 35 percent of non-renewable water rate in Padang Bulan Sub-zone.

JAYAPURA. PDAM Jayapura faced a very serious problem related to the high rate of non-renewable water or loss of water. Case in point, as explained by the General Director of PDAM Jayapura, Gading Butarbutar that Padang Bulan Sub-zone has high payment defaults with only 10 out of 200 customers had paid their water bills. Meanwhile, many other customers still do not have water meters.

This situation has led the PDAM Jayapura to establish a technical team to prevent leakage, starting with 200 households in Padang Bulan. IUWASH supported the effort through technical assistance and mentoring activities, with objectives included assisting the PDAM in identifying piping network and customers, preparing a geographic information system (GIS) based for the spatial pipelines map, identifying customers for the sub-zone, and preparing a program and system for the piping network optimization service.

By the end of July 2012, IUWASH and PDAM Jayapura had completed some activities in Padang Bulan, including the mapping of piping network, developing GIS-based spatial data on customers to draft proposal for piping network optimization program and metering.

The Technical Director of the PDAM Jayapura, Abdul Patenongan said, “The GIS-based piping network map in Padang Bulan is very helpful for us. In the near future, we wish to have a better customers database system. I imagine that just by clicking on an object then we will able to see the customers’ detail information, such as their name, address, identity number, location and other administrative status, as well as the existing pipeline network. This data will also help PDAM Jayapura to identify and evaluate the service system in our coverage areas.”

As a follow-up to reduce non-renewable water connections, PDAM Jayapura has procured water meters and fixed the water distribution networks in Padang Bulan sub-zone. By September 2012, they have successfully reduced the rate of non-renewable water up to 35 percent. Among the targeted 200 illegal connections in Padang Bulan, 70 household connections with non-renewable water rate have water meter installed on them and the households agreed to pay monthly water bill to PDAM.

“The program to reduce non-renewable water in Padang Bulan Sub-zone has been successfully implemented by critical repairs and installation of customer water meters. It is also combined with the campaign to encourage the community to pay water bills,” said Abdul.

Agung Kurniawan, Ridwan Habibie/IUWASH South Sulawesi & Eastern Indonesia, Virgi Fatmawati/IUWASH Jakarta
Microfinancial Scheme for Toilet Construction Improves Access to Sanitation

Microfinancial scheme triggers behavior changes among community members to improve sanitation facilities.

PROBOLINGGO. Although Kedung Galeng is located in the downtown of Probolinggo City, it is not a dense area with urban atmosphere around it but it looks more like a rural area. Many people still defecate in the river, as most of them do not have toilets at home. After an initial triggering activities facilitated by Sulistyo Triantono, a sanitation officer from the local community health center, a respected religious leader, Kyai Fauzan then emerged as a local leader to support this program.

Kyai Fauzan moved quickly to organize the housewives also to attend several “triggering” activities, whose goal was to change the behavior of local community in improving their sanitation facilities. Kyai Fauzan was also invited by IUWASH to join a study visit to Jombang, to learn about leveraging financial resources to support improved sanitation. He was confident he could convince the local community to change their defecating habit.

Through a long process of meetings, the people of administrative unit (RT) II agreed to be introduced to a microcredit scheme to build toilets. The credit system was managed by Kyai Fauzan and Sulistyo Triantono. People paid the cash advance of Rp 100,000 to 200,000 while the remaining amount would be paid in several installments. Each installment was Rp 20,000 per week until full payment has been made in a total of Rp 750,000. Anton and his team of local masons supported the construction of the toilet, which included a water closet and septic tank.

Up to January 2013, 110 households have committed to participate in buying the toilets through this microcredit scheme. All of 110 toilets have already been constructed and now being used by 559 people in total.

When asked why they decided to use the credit system, most community members said it was because there was a guarantee that their toilet would be built the way they like. A Kedung Galeng resident, A’yun explained, “I have a blind aunt. She has to go to the river to defecate and it is dangerous, so someone must accompany her. But now with our new toilet she can do her business at home and also our family does not contaminate the river and we expect that our lives will be healthier.”

Mrs. A’yun, a beneficiary of the microcredit program for “Healthy Jamban” and Kyai Fauzan, a religious leader in Kedung Galeng, Probolinggo.
Jayapura Government and Community Prioritize on Sanitation

A strong commitment from the city government and community has been a good indicator to prioritize water and sanitation development in Jayapura.

JAYAPURA. Expanded access to clean water and improved sanitation in the city of Jayapura are achieved through increasing production capacity of water system in Sentani Lake, establishing Sanitation Working Group, and implementing sanitation initiatives supported by the central government. IUWASH works closely with the city government of Jayapura to ensure that the residents have better access to clean water and improved sanitation.

During 2012-2013, Jayapura government demonstrated clear commitment to prioritize water and sanitation development by reviewing its Sanitation White Book, developing City Sanitation Strategy and carrying out Environmental Health Risk Assessment (EHRA) surveys, which identified water and sanitation issues in five subdistricts, and allocating a total of Rp 425 million from the special autonomy fund (in 2012) and district government budget (in 2013).

With the total of Rp 444 million from special allocation fund, Jayapura Development Planning Board held Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Development and Environmental Health Program and built “bathing, washing and toilet plus plus” facility (MCK++) in Ardipura Village in May 2012, which is used by more than 600 people in the neighborhood.

During the construction of the MCK++, IUWASH supported the design, construction and community-strengthening program. IUWASH regarded the importance of strengthening the communities so they would not only be actively involved from the initial planning to the construction process, but also in the maintenance of sanitation facilities they use. The expected results were raising public trust in the allocation of local government funds, as well as public recognition to take care of the communal sanitation facilities.

This approach proved to be quite effective. Since August 2012, residents of Ardipura Village have formed a community-based facility management board. The residents also agreed to pay Rp 10,000 per household as monthly maintenance fee for the MCK++.

IUWASH’s supports have motivated Jayapura government to further improve their water and sanitation conditions and to change people’s behavior. It is reported that local community of Jayapura began to realize the importance of clean water supply, adequate sanitation facilities, as well as daily clean and healthy practices.

The construction of “bathing, washing and toilet plus plus” facility (MCK++) in Ardipura Village. Now this MCK++ is used by more than 600 people in the neighborhood.
Big Hope for PDAM Wastewater Services Improvement in Surakarta

An introduction to wastewater services and health promotion activities urge a thousand customers to get linked to water utility’s wastewater connection.

SURAKARTA. The Water Utility (PDAM) of Surakarta City currently serves 12.5 percent of the city’s total population in regards to wastewater. The current tariff for a household wastewater service is Rp 5,000 per month, generating revenue of about Rp 400 million per year. However, the operating expenses reach Rp 1.4 billion per year, which means that financially the wastewater service is still heavily subsidized by the revenue from the PDAM’s clean water supply service.

IUWASH, in cooperation with PDAM Surakarta, conducted a baseline survey on wastewater services in January 2012. The results of the survey suggested that some wastewater service customers were less satisfied with the water service because the wastewater pipes are often clogged. Also, residents who were not customers of the PDAM were unaware of any wastewater services being offered.

As a follow-up of the survey, in April 2012, the PDAM and IUWASH conducted a series of wastewater service introduction and health promotion activities in Nusukan Village, Banjarsari Subdistrict. Following the introduction, the PDAM received a much better response from the community with around 1,200 residents wanted to sign up for wastewater connection. The PDAM then developed an action plan to serve the prospective customers and this would be included in a grant program from IndII Project of AusAID. The PDAM also planned to conduct similar campaign in other locations.

“It is very interesting for PDAM Surakarta to find out about the opinions of wastewater service customers, and whether people want to be connected to such service,” said Nanang Pirmono, the Head of Wastewater Division at PDAM Surakarta City.

In addition to the increased revenue from wastewater services, which will make the water division more sustainable without charging high tariffs for low-income communities, the water needs to increase the number of business customers, such as hotels and restaurants, and to restructure its wastewater tariffs.

“We hope that in the near future, our wastewater services can be managed and operated independently, so there will be no more subsidies from PDAM water supply revenues,” said Nanang.
Slum Area Improvement Program Puts Greater Priority on Sanitation

GEBAK PAKUMIS, an area-based housing and slum improvement program of the Ministry of Public Housing (Kemenpera), implemented cluster approach through integrated social, economic and environmental development strategy as “an entrance” towards holistic community development that is socially effective and economically productive.

TANGERANG. Tangerang District received support from the Ministry of Public Housing under the national slum area rehabilitation program since 2008. This program then also resulted in a Slum Area Improvement Project, known locally as “Gebrak Pakumis” (Gerakan Bersama Rakyat Atasi Permukiman Padat, Kumuh dan Miskin) in 2011 to mark local government’s commitment on poverty alleviation. As of today, about 1,500 houses have been rehabilitated with the central government’s funds, plus an additional 50 houses from the local government budget.

This year, 12 villages in six subdistricts identified as slum areas will receive support from the program which now involves a 50:50 contribution from the national and local government. The program aims to rehabilitate 2,129 semi- and non-permanent houses, including the improvements of supporting public facilities, such as pathway upgrading, public hydrants provision, installation of shared-septic tanks, integrated solid waste disposal and a proper drainage or wastewater collection system.

Although Gebrak Pakumis program uses community development approach and more than half of the houses do not have toilets, which means that open defecation practice is common, sanitation has never been a priority in the program. In 2011, only three communal septic tanks connecting 60 houses were installed under this program. IUWASH then urged two working groups, namely Drinking Water and Environmental Health and Gebrak Pakumis, to place more emphasis on sanitation sector and dedicate a bigger slice of the Rp 1.4 billion public utilities budget (35 percent of the total budget of IDR 4 billion) for sanitation improvement.

IUWASH also supports this initiative by developing detailed engineering design, a typical design for shared septic tanks, each for three to 10 houses. This IUWASH’s pilot project targets a minimum of one shared septic tank to be installed in each of the 19 slum areas, which will benefit 85 households (340 beneficiaries) in Kemuning and Koper Village of Kresek subdistrict. It is also to support the same bigger scale project funded by Kemenpera and APBD Tangerang that targets communal septic tanks installation for 1,300 households plus an integrated wastewater treatment plant, this year.

During the launching of Gebrak Pakumis program in Pakuhaji Subdistrict, the District Secretary of Tangerang, Hermansyah, explained that Gebrak Pakumis program was not only a joint effort between several different local government offices, but also an encouragement for private sector and donors to collaborate.

“We are aiming to improve health condition in general. At the end, this will lead to improvements in our quality of life, thus taking us out of the poverty chain,” Hermansyah added.

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Visioning Workshop Strengthens Local Government Commitment to Water and Sanitation Sector

Enabling environment will increase financial access to water and sanitation infrastructure development.

MEDAN. The visioning workshops were conducted in three cities in North Sumatra — Binjai, Tebing Tinggi and Tanjungbalai, attended by the Mayors, the speakers of the Regional Legislative Assembly (DPRD) and Local Government Technical Department (SKPD) working in the water and sanitation sectors. Directors of water utilities partnering with IUWASH were also present.

The local governments have made some commitments following these visioning workshops. Binjai government agreed to increase service capacity of PDAM through the assessment on structure, needs and employee optimization of Tirtasari Water. This effort would also help cut off the losses based on the Ministry of Home Affairs Decree No. 47/1999 on performance appraisal. Bukit Tinggi was committed to improve PDAM Tirta Bulian service coverage up to 68.33 percent, and increase the number of septic treatment plant to seven units and 100 percent coverage of sanitation advocacy for all urban areas by 2015. Meanwhile, Tanjungbalai government on the signed agreement stated that they would improve water service coverage up to 65.74 percent through Tirtakualo Water and the provision of sanitation facilities to reach 37,400 individual septic tanks and 187 toilets by 2015.

By March 2013, IUWASH and the water and sanitation stakeholders have conducted the visioning workshops in 22 cities/districts of IUWASH working areas. The objectives of this activity was to disseminate the information on the state of existing water and sanitation services in each city, as well as the targets and policies at the national level, especially for achieving the MDGs. It also discussed partnership opportunities and support from IUWASH in addressing challenges in the water and sanitation sector and the advocacy to encourage local leaders to be more committed to the development of water and sanitation by strengthening the enabling environment, including local policies and financing.

The expected outcome was strong commitment and statement from high-level leaders that they would improve water and sanitation access over the next five years.

The workshop was successful because it gave stakeholders clear and transparent information about the existing state of water supply and sanitation sector. At the end of the workshop, the Mayors and local legislators signed a commitment to place greater priority on improved safe water supply and sanitation services.

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