

## CISAGO LEARNING CENTRE

### SUMMARY

*Java Village's programmes aim to help women and young people make a positive change in their lives. The proposed 2018-2020 Learning Centre programme will focus on young people who have had little access to education and life skills by supporting the development of those skills, and by increasing awareness of key issues in their community and their lives. The issues include Gender, Health and Hygiene, Child Protection and Participation, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Motherhood.*

*The Learning Centre 'Rumah Belajar' for young people and adolescents in the community, will:*

- *Function as a space where **youth can gather, and access information about issues such as Health, Hygiene, Gender, Child Protection, and Motherhood***
- *Provide **opportunities for young drop-outs** to keep learning and develop their potential*
- *Provide **information to girls and boys about their basic rights: right to life, right to development, protection rights and participation rights***
- *Empower girls by offering training and activities **with the purpose of preventing early marriage and providing support for married girls***
- *Help youth to **practice leadership** and to **have a youth forum** supported by the local government*
- *Increase **community and local government awareness** about issues affecting young people*

### PROJECT INFORMATION

The purpose of the project is to empower young people living in Cisago<sup>1</sup>, Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia by implementing a learning centre programme focused on development of life skills, and increasing awareness of key issues.

Together we can use 'Rumah Belajar' to engage with young people, including those who are disadvantaged due to "dropping out", or because of early marriage.

**Theme:** Indonesia/Youth/Education/Health care

The project will focus on creating and enhancing life skills, and improving awareness of and access to (sexual) health topics for young people in rural West Java, Indonesia. It will contribute both to improvement of education opportunities for vulnerable youth, and to allowing better access to healthcare facilities and information.

#### **Organizations involved:**

Mies Grijns, founder of Stichting Java Village (SJV), and her team have carried out anthropological research on child marriage practices in this district. As a response to research outcomes and a needs assessment among youth in the area, we integrated current education and health care programmes of Java Village Foundation with a new approach to empowering young people. The learning centre programme, started by Java Village, and inspired by others in the local area, is being carried out in cooperation with both government programmes and those of other NGOs such as PKBI, ARI and Rumah KitaB.

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<sup>1</sup> Cisago is a pseudonym as the real name of the village is kept confidential

## PROJECT PLAN

The project will focus on two integrated elements, namely the Learning Center itself, and a Youth Forum.

### LEARNING CENTRE (Rumah Belajar)

The Learning Centre will be the focal point of the project. It will be available for training aimed at the needs of young people, and indirectly those of other community members. It can support learning for both in- and out-of school youth. As a response to our research on early marriage, we will give special focus to the needs of married girls or those prone to early marriage, thus also contributing to early marriage prevention. Rumah Belajar will focus on both online and offline learning, on the one hand to increase young people's knowledge and skills, and on the other to strengthen their participation in contributing to community development.



### YOUTH FORUM (Forum Remaja)



The setting up of a Youth Forum will be a useful means of strengthening the learning centre, making it part of a community facility; it can function as a platform from which different parties can express concerns on topics such as child protection and child participation. The Youth Forum will be an element of the local government system, enabling young people's voices to be heard and represented. This will be organized in accordance with the village policies that are being developed in line with the national Village Law 2014.

From this starting point, a protection system aimed at preventing early marriage and violence against young people can be established, strengthening a more active adolescent community. The Youth Forum will consist of eight young people (girls and boys), from every neighbourhood in the village. It will address the issues brought to our attention by young people who are concerned about the lack of a safe space where they are encouraged to let their voices be heard. According to them, violence against both young people and women is a significant problem in the community; there is not enough awareness about it, and no place to report cases of violence.

### SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT Our Impact:

Java Village has designed this programme with sustainability and long-term impact in mind. Through it we target local youth, as well as established organizations, including a local Youth Forum and Cisago's local government, with the aim of building local-level capacity, and ensuring that the knowledge and skills acquired are maintained and utilized at community level. In particular, we foresee that empowering young people and providing them with tools and opportunities for their voices to be heard will increase their future participation in decision-making at both community and government level.

With the establishment of the learning centre we hope that young people from poor backgrounds and low educational levels in Cisago will be helped. Through this programme they will still be able to learn and join activities without fear that their rights will be denied. Rumah Belajar Cisago will also ensure that young people retain their basic rights, namely the right to life, the right to grow, the right to protection and the right of participation. With this approach, child marriage - just one example of deprivation of child protection rights - can be avoided.

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## **SUPPORT RUMAH BELAJAR CISAGO**

### **Contact**

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### **Donations**

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