

# MADANI NEWS

Civil Society Support Initiative

Newsletter no 1, January – April 2020

## MADANI - CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

USAID-MADANI is a five-year cooperative agreement awarded to FHI 360 in March 2019, designed to improve sub-national civil society organization (CSO) capacity and sustainability by providing technical assistance and funding to civil society organizations at the district level. MADANI will improve organizational capacity and legitimacy and create a better enabling environment for CSOs to operate more effectively and sustainably. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), MADANI supports activities that strengthen the ability of local CSOs to advocate for greater governmental accountability and communal tolerance. MADANI is operating in 32 districts/cities in the six provinces of East Java, South Sulawesi, Banten, West Kalimantan, West Java and Central Java.

### MADANI's Thematic issues

- Maternal and neonatal health
- Anti-corruption
- Village Fund transparency
- Youth and tolerance
- Natural resource management
- Frontline service delivery
- Social inclusion



### Greeting from Chief of Party

These are challenges times, with the global COVID-19 pandemic affecting us all. But this is also an opportunity for improved collaboration between CSOs and local governments. The COVID-19 pandemic cannot be treated by medicine alone. It also needs communities to be vigilant in social distancing and maintain strict hygiene. Many of MADANI's civil society partners are communicating risks and distributing protection kits. They are also making sure that social assistance packages and livelihood support reaches those that needs it most. We must not allow citizen trust in government to be another casualty of the crisis. By working together, we can build more resilient communities and stronger CSO - government partnerships.

Warm regards,  
**Hans Antlov**  
Chief of Party MADANI

## Kick-Off Meeting in Boyolali



The *Badan Perencanaan, Penelitian dan Pengembangan Daerah* (BP3D, the District Agency for Planning, Research and Development) representing the local government of Boyolali, held in January 2020 a kick-off meeting to introduce the MADANI program to the public in Boyolali. This meeting took place in the BP3D office on January 22, 2020 and was attended by more than 50 Boyolali CSO leaders and government agencies. The Head of *Bidang Sosial Budaya* (the Socio-Cultural Sector) of the BP3D in Boyolali district, Khusnul Hadi, explained that the local government of Boyolali will commit to and support the implementation of the MADANI program as part of its partnership with USAID. Among the seven thematic issues on which MADANI works, Boyolali has selected maternal and neonatal health (MNH) as its priority.

Hans Antlov, MADANI's Chief of Party, also stressed that MADANI will support local CSOs in Boyolali to improve their capacity, legitimacy, and sustainability. The meeting's participants came from various backgrounds, including CSOs, local media outlets, local government officials, and the local community. This meeting was initiated by Boyolali BP3D as to demonstrate its commitment to work together with MADANI for the next three years to improve local CSOs' ability to address challenges related to MNH.

## MADANI Selects Its Lead Partners in 24 Districts

After receiving more than 100 applications from local CSOs in West Java, Central Java, East Java, and South Sulawesi, MADANI have selected 24 to join the program as Lead Partners. The evaluation and verification processes were conducted in January and February 2020. MADANI has selected a variety of organizations that include five faith-based organizations, 15 NGOs/foundations, and four membership-based organizations. Nine of them work in advocacy, eight in community development, and seven in service provision. In March 2020, the first batch of subawards were approved by USAID and the remaining will be awarded in April and May 2020.



## Provincial Meetings in Banten and West Kalimantan



In February 2020, MADANI organized introductory meetings to the new target provinces of Banten and West Kalimantan. These courtesy meetings allowed MADANI to introduce itself to the provincial authorities and coordinate the selection of districts and CSOs in each district and provided MADANI with an overview the two governments' perspectives on decentralization and the role of CSOs. The meetings also emphasized USAID's support to civil society in the provinces and the critical role civil society plays in supporting local government accountability and social tolerance.

The Director of USAID's Office of Democratic Resilience and Rights (DRG)

Walter Doetsch and MADANI's Agreement Officer's Representative Lutfhi Ashari represented USAID in these meetings, together with Chief of Party Hans Antlov and Mariska Estelita representing MADANI. Representatives from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Kumham) also attended the meetings, sending three staff members to accompany USAID and MADANI. Government officials from the provincial Bappeda, *Kanwil Hukum dan HAM*, *Biro Kerjasama SEKDA* and *Kesbangpol* participated in the meetings.

In the meeting in Banten, the provincial government presented the two priorities in Banten, namely regional disparities (the discrepancy in the poverty rate between south and north Banten) and human resource development. The provincial government also mentioned maternal and neonatal health, as Banten is also part of USAID JALIN's area of operation. One of the participants raised the issue of ineffective budgeting and the gap between the unemployment rate and the demand of industry in Banten. Despite not having formal partnerships with any of Banten's 1,130 registered CSOs, the provincial government responded positively about the idea and welcomed the potential collaboration between local CSOs with district-level governments in the province.

After the meeting with Banten's provincial government, MADANI organized a meeting with local CSOs the provincial capital of Serang. There were 14 participants from various CSOs such as LAKPEDAM NU, Aisyiyah, Nasyiatul Aisyiyah, Forum Peduli Kesehatan Ibu dan Anak (Fokpia), Nahdlatul Ulama Banten, Pattiro Banten, Lazharfa, and Fatayat NU Banten. MADANI initiated this meeting to get CSOs' views on the challenges they face and to socialize them to the MADANI program. When asked about development challenges in Banten, CSOs answered similarly to the provincial government: that poverty and a lack of human capital are the main challenges. Lastly, they also mentioned maternal and neonatal health issues as being a priority, especially in remote area.



## Innovation and Knowledge Hub (iHub)

To enhance Lead Partners' capacity development process in our 32 districts, MADANI is developing an online platform, the Innovation and Knowledge Hub (iHub), that will enable CSOs and individuals to learn to improve their organization management capacities and build their networks. MADANI has selected the KM4NGO network to serve as the operational partner that will host and update the iHub after MADANI has developed and rolled out the prototype. MADANI is currently working with Saraswati on the development of the prototype.

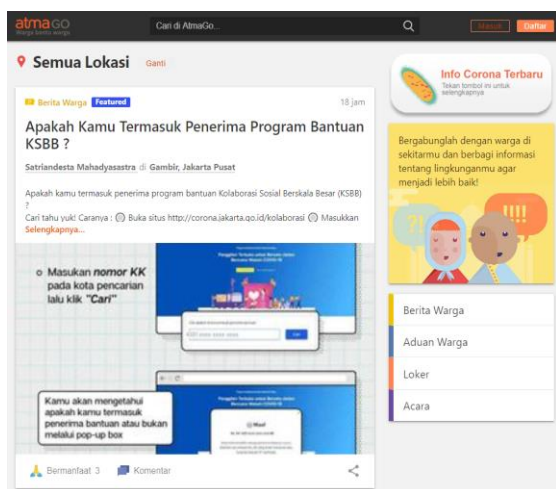
## Expert Resource Organizations Join as Technical Assistance Providers for CSO Capacity Development

MADANI has built a technical assistance (TA) directory of 19 leading local expert resource organizations to provide TA to district-level CSOs on an on-demand basis. On February 26, a first coordination meeting was held with the organizations. MADANI presented its capacity development “best-fit” approach, described the contractual mechanism that MADANI will use to solicit TA, and received feedback from service providers on how to incorporate their best practices in technical capacity building into MADANI’s strategy for supporting the Lead Partners. The initial plan was that, starting in May 2020, these organizations would provide tailored TA to MADANI Lead Partners and Learning Forum members. That will now be delayed until July due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## MADANI Partners with Atma Connect to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency

As a response to the present COVID-19 emergency, MADANI will provide support to Atma Connect and its AtmaGo online platform for community-centered communication and content pieces to share information about

COVID-19, ensuring citizens have the right information to take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their communities. AtmaGo has more than three million users in around 100 districts of Indonesia, focusing on “micro-content” from particular districts. AtmaGo is used to share critical local resources, prevent misinformation by sharing accurate and trusted facts, and help individuals provide each other with community support during crises—which during an emergency such as COVID-19 is more important than ever. AtmaGo also allows users to report problems to local government and share solutions to daily challenges in their neighborhoods. MADANI’s support to Atma Connect will help it raise awareness of COVID-19 through the AtmaGo virtual platform and will link the AtmaGo platform with MADANI’s iHub and the Indonesian government’s LAPOR system (People's Online Aspirations and Complaints Handling Service).



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