Seeing this problem, the village government cooperated with WVI to provide clean water facilities in the hamlet. The village government allocated funds amounting to IDR 29,569,000 and carried out the construction process. The construction of clean water facilities was carried out cooperatively by the community and the Water Committee. The community also collected voluntary donations amounting to IDR 7,200,000 for consumption costs during the cooperative work. Despite having farming duties, the community managed to work together every day until the construction process was completed.

“In the past, we didn’t have water in our bathroom. If I wanted to go to school, I had to walk to the river to bathe. Sometimes I had to go to the river very early in the morning. If I didn’t, I could be late for school,” said Roky, a six-year-old child.

All the homes in village now have access to clean water

Universal access to clean water is one of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is also the dream of one of WVI’s partner villages in Sekadau District, West Kalimantan. Clean water access for all children and the community is a key factor in child welfare in the village. Moreover, access to clean water and sanitation is one of the determinants for accelerating the reduction of stunting rates in the village.

When clean water finally reached their homes, the children were very happy. “Because of the clean water facilities that were built, water now reaches our house, and we no longer need to bathe in the river. We have water in our bathroom,” said Roky cheerfully. Currently, all households in the village have access to clean water. The sanitation issues have begun to be addressed, and in the future, there will be no more stunted children in the village.
Sanitation Entrepreneurship Stimulates Village Economy

“Stop Defecating at the Neighbor’s House” once became a slogan in two hamlets located in a village in Ende Regency, East Nusa Tenggara. This slogan emerged because many homes lacked healthy latrines, causing residents to often use their neighbor’s facilities. This was also evident from the results of the CBTS (Community-based Total Sanitation) triggering conducted by WVI (Wahana Visi Indonesia) together with the Ende Regency Health Office. It was also identified that most residents without healthy latrines were from poor families.

Seeing the importance of sanitation in supporting family health, the Water Committee in one of WVI’s assisted villages took the initiative to address this habit. Moreover, residents had already committed to declaring their hamlets as open defecation-free zones. Since the sanitation issues in these hamlets intersected with economic problems, the Water Committee, village government, and traditional leaders decided to provide training on healthy latrine construction. This training aimed to spark the creation of Sanitation Entrepreneurs in these two hamlets.

Mr. Benyamin and the residents who participated in the training hope that healthy latrines can not only be used at home but also drive the family economy. The knowledge gained from the training will be applied at home and serve as a foundation to start sanitation entrepreneurship. Thus, besides living in cleaner and healthier conditions, household economic management will also improve.

I see this kind of work and I feel we can do it because we were taught clearly in simple language, so we quickly understood. Most of us here are also builders,” said Mr. Benyamin, one of the training participants and the secretary of the Water Committee. He added, “I see the Lthis product we made is just like those in stores; in fact, our results are better because the mixture is very strong. Store-bought ones are only smooth on the outside. If we sell these results, many will buy because the outcome is very appealing.

Author: Yohanes Brechmans Tanaboleng
A new hope emerged for Mrs. Samsiah when she became one of the beneficiaries of the TTG Gentong Mas Santun. Her family and neighbors helped install the facilities at her house. Now, Mrs. Samsiah has an innovative toilet, the result of community cooperation. This toilet symbolizes the care and mutual support among the villagers.

"Before we had toilets, it was difficult to defecate. I had to go down to the river, and sometimes my eyes could hardly see. Especially since I am a widow and live alone in this house, said Mrs. Samsiah, one of the beneficiaries.

Improving access to sanitation through appropriate technology

Accelerating the achievement of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status requires collaboration from various parties. The Sekadau Hilir Sub-district Government designated one of the villages assisted by Wahana Visi Indonesia as one of the ODF target villages in 2023. This village is located along the Kapuas River. Many residents still do not practice clean and healthy living, often defecating in the river.

Through philanthropic funding, WVI implemented appropriate sanitation technology called TTG Gentong Mas Santun as an alternative model of a healthy toilet for stilt houses by the river, over swamps, or in tidal areas, which can also be applied to houses on land. With this innovation, people living by the river and swamps will be helped to solve sanitation problems as this toilet model protects water and the surrounding environment from indiscriminate fecal contamination. WVI specifically conducted training on the definition, benefits, and installation of TTG Gentong Mas Santun for the beneficiaries and the village government to ensure sustainability. Based on mutual agreement, beneficiaries are responsible for building the upper part of the toilet in their homes.

"Now it's comfortable. I can bathe and defecate in my own toilet. I don't need to go down to the river anymore. I even installed a water pump to keep my toilet filled with water. This TTG has greatly helped me, especially at my old age. I will take care of this facility to keep it well-maintained"

Author: Bastian Rengga, Sekadau Area Program
Yogi Utilizes Sunlight for Drinking Water Treatment

Yogi, a diligent seventh grader, plays a crucial role in helping his mother at home. His responsibility is to ensure a steady supply of drinking water for his family. Living in one of the WVI-assisted villages in Melawi-Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan, Yogi stands out as a child representative who takes his duties seriously. At home, he has found an energy-efficient and economical way to prepare safe drinking water using Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS). SODIS is a simple yet highly effective method for purifying drinking water. It is especially beneficial for children and communities in areas where access to safe drinking water facilities is limited. In Yogi’s village, there are frequent shortages of LPG gas, which is typically used for boiling water. Since adopting SODIS, Yogi’s parents don’t need to buy LPG gas as often, reducing the family’s expenses. Other residents in Yogi’s village have also started to try SODIS to help meet their household’s safe drinking water needs.

“"I used to think the only way to make drinking water safe was by boiling it, but now I’m used to processing drinking water by placing it under the sun,” said Yogi.

Author: Sabinus Dody