



Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta

QUARTERLY REPORT
(January 2012 – March 2012)
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF GOVERNANCE IN GUNUNG MAS REGENCY



Gunung Mas Regency 2012



Chapter 1

Introduction

This report presents the significant progress witnessed in the quality of governance in the district of Gunung Mas, in relation to YTS' governance program. Indeed, fundamental changes have occurred within the district's governance during the first quarter of this program, as a result of the newly published sub-district budget ceiling policy.

The information presented in this report was collected from three different sources:

1. From reports on training activities, technical assistance and other field visit activities submitted by the YTS training and media team after each event.
2. From program beneficiaries' feedback on their impression of the program.
3. From data collected during the first quarterly monitoring and other supervising activities carried out by the management assistant and the training division team.

During the first quarter of this program, several factors have contributed to achieving progress in local Governance, as follows:

1. YTS' strength as a non-governmental organization

YTS benefits from several assets that have enabled the foundation to reach the program's objectives:

- Thanks to constant funding provided by KSK as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility program, YTS is able to carry out this program sustainably.
 - As YTS projects do not only rely on external donors' input, the programs are highly adaptable to changes occurring in the field: adjustments are possible, while still keeping up with the objectives previously agreed with the donor and counterparts such as Gumas government officials.
2. Gunung Mas Government's strong commitment and support, especially from the Board of Planning as the key stakeholder;

This quarterly report presents the entire Village Planning process, from village level to district level. Indeed, supporting Village Development Planning is the main focus of this program. In January 2012, the Board of Planning passed the Sub-district Indicative Budget Ceiling policy in order to make development planning and budgeting more effective. The government's decision to apply the indicative budget ceiling policy is a proof of how the latter fully commits to improving local governance: for such support and commitment is essential for the effectiveness of the program as it enables YTS to dedicate more time and resources to experimenting further with policy application and capacity building for the stakeholders. The immediate engagement and commitment of the Gumas government, and more specifically the Board of Planning, is a unique and highly encouraging achievement for YTS.

Program beneficiaries' have shown much enthusiasm for the program:



"YTS' support in improving the quality of district planning and budgeting is essential and highly useful. We are currently concentrating on finalizing the sub-district indicative budget ceiling policy by learning from the previous implementation in Kebumen. Despite the various challenges in carrying this policy out, I will not retreat! We should keep the sub-district indicative budget ceiling policy running."

(Yansiterson, Head of the Board of Planning, during the Joint SKPD Forum meeting on March 14, 2012 in Kurun, Gunung Mas)



"This year, the village planning process has progressed substantially compared to previous years, as the process was properly prepared. I personally feel this is a historical moment as I had the chance to see representatives from both hamlets come together to attend the annual development planning meeting, with the same amount of people for each hamlet. Previously, villagers from hamlet II, originally from Mangkuhung, refused to blend in with other villagers. I am very thankful to the YTS facilitators who made this event possible. Looking at the implementation process this year, the village development planning ran smoothly and in good order, right up to the decision making process."

(Surya Bestary, Head of VMG, Mangkuhung-Miri Manasa)



Chapter 2

Activities & Outputs

During the first quarter of this program, the eight activities that were carried out focused on capacity building for YTS staff, village representatives and government officials. Eight trainings and workshops were completed as detailed below:

Trainings and Workshops

1. The Training on “Public Organization for Planning and Budgeting” was addressed to YTS staff, program officers in Gunung Mas, representatives from pilot villages and local facilitator candidates. The event took place in Palangka Raya, on January 4th and 5th.
2. A workshop on “Action Plan Design” was held to increase and improve support for the implementation of Village Development Planning in 2012-2013: The event took place in Palangka Raya on January 6, and was mainly designed for the management staff of Gunung Mas Government.
3. A workshop on “Developing a Logical Framework for Action Plans” took place in Palangka Raya, on January 17-18 and was addressed to the Government Technical Team.
4. A workshop on “Building Synergy in Strategic Planning in Gunung Mas Government Agencies” took place in Palangka Raya on January 2012 and was addressed to the Government Technical Team.
5. A training on “Building Relationships with Legislators” was addressed to the YTS staff and more specifically to the field staff in Gunung Mas. The event took place in Palangka Raya, on January 8 - 9.
6. A training on “Designing an Effective Development Program” was addressed to the Government Technical Team and took place in Kuala Kurun, on February 15 -16.
7. A training on “Budget Literacy” was addressed to community representatives from the 19 villages in which YTS is working. The event took place in Miri Manasa, on 20-21 March.
8. A training on “Building Relationships with Legislators” was addressed to community representatives from the 19 villages where YTS is working. The event took place in Miri Manasa, on 22 March.

Outputs:

1. 24 people (YTS staff, village cadres and village government staff) have developed practical skills and understanding on Participatory Planning and Budgeting.
2. Three action plans were designed to facilitate the village development planning in six villages in three Sub Districts, as pilot projects.
3. The Government Technical Team can now deliver this program according to a precise action plan.
4. YTS and local government now have a clear analysis of five governmental agencies' Strategic Planning approach referring to Gumas midterm strategic planning.
5. YTS program officers are now able to coach their partners in the villages according to three new action plans.
6. 19 government staff now benefit from improved knowledge and skills on how to create effective programs for government agencies
7. 23 villagers now benefit from precise understanding of government budget allocation and structure.
8. 23 villagers now benefit from improved understanding on how to build relationships with the Local Legislature.

Musrenbang - Village Annual Development Planning**A. Village Annual Development Planning**

The Village Annual Planning was completed in six pilot villages during the third and fourth week of January 2012, as detailed below:

VILLAGE	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Mangkuhung-Kec. Miri Manasa	Tuesday, 17-01-2012	42 people
Tumbang Posu-Kec. Damang Batu	Wednesday, 18-01-2012	30 people
Tumbang Sian-Kec. Kahut	Thursday, 19-01-2012	42 people
Tumbang Koroi-Kec. Miri Manasa	Monday, 23-01-2012	33 people
Tumbang Tajungan-Kec. Kahut	Wednesday, 25-01-2012	30 people
Tumbang Mahuroi-Kec. Damang Batu	Friday, 27-01-2012	32 people

YTS local facilitators assisted the program officers with preparation and implementation of the Village Development Planning process in the three sub-districts.

Outputs:

Out of six pilot villages, four have applied the new sub-district Indicative Budget Ceiling when designing their Annual Development Plan (Tbg. Tajungan, Tbg. Sian, Tbg. Mahuroi and Tbg. Posu). However, due to limited communication and information about the policy, the remaining two villages (Tbg. Koroi and Mangkuhung) have not used it to organize their annual planning, although they still managed to come

up with a short list of priorities to be submitted in the Annual Development Plan. The sub-district of Miri Manasa particularly lacked information about the Indicative Budget Ceiling.

B. Sub-district Annual Development Planning

The Sub-district Annual Development Planning was successively conducted in three pilot areas as detailed below:

NAME OF SUB-DISTRICT	DATE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Damang Batu	Selasa, 21-02-2012	69 people
Kahayan Utara (Kahut)	Rabu, 22-02-2012	63 people
Miri Manasa	Kamis, 23-02-2012	69 people

Outputs:

- Kahayan Hulu Utara and Damang Batu have successfully designed a Village Development Plan that complies with the indicative budget ceiling, while Miri Manasa continues to submit too many proposals, as the village lacks guidelines from the sub district government on the indicative budget policy. Therefore, during the Sub-district Annual Development Planning, proposals had to be assessed again under the direction of the Board of Planning officials, in order to match Indicative Budget priorities.
- Proposals from Manyoi village and Siruk Village, respectively, requesting bakery tools and sewing machines were immediately approved as private donations by Yeselin, a legislative member.

C. Joint Forum for Government Agencies on Annual Planning

The event was held on March 2012 at the Board of Planning office and attended by 112 people (90% of whom were government officials and government staff, 10% YTS staff and other participants who came from the national program for community empowerment). However, the YTS team observed that the actual number of participants reached over 150 people.

This year, the Government Agencies Forum was designed differently to previous years, and only five Government Agencies managing the sub-district indicative budget ceiling got to present their program in the meeting: Public Works, Health, Agriculture & Plantations, and Fisheries & Animal Husbandry. The Head of the Board of Planning facilitated the meeting as keynote speaker, answering and solving most of the questions raised during the meeting. His comprehensive and practical approach led to a truly productive meeting.

D. District Annual Development Planning

This event was held after the Government Agencies Forum, on March 15 at the Board of Planning office, and was attended by 89 people (90% of whom were government officials and staff, 10% of whom were YTS and members from the National program for community empowerment etc). However, the YTS team observed that the actual number of participants reached over 100 people. Unfortunately, the team could not find an explanation for the decreasing number of participants in comparison with the year 2011.



Chapter 3

Result Achieved in Comparison with Initial Objectives

A. Time target, numbers, and trend of results

100% of the targeted participants attended the Training on “Public Organization for Planning and Budgeting” (24 people from YTS staffs, program officers in Gunung Mas, representatives from pilot villages and local facilitator candidates; 9 women and 15 men).

99% of the targeted participants attended the “Action Plan Design” Workshop (23 people of 24 targeted managing staff of Gunung Mas Government; 9 women and 14 men).

88% of the targeted participants attended the workshop on “Developing Logical Framework of Action Plan” and the workshop on “Building Synergy in Strategic Planning in Gunung Mas’ Government Agencies” (14 out of 16 targeted people from the Government Technical Team members; only 1 women and 13 men).

93% of the targeted participants attended the Training on Building Relationship with Legislatives (13 people out of 14 targeted people from the YTS staff; 3 women and 10 men).

92% of the targeted participants attended the Training on Designing an Effective Development Program (23 out of 25 targeted participants from the Government Technical Team members; 2 women and 21 men).

86.5% of the targeted participants attended the Training on Budget Literacy (30 out of 34 targeted participants from the 19 villages where YTS is working; 2 women and 28 men).

79.41% of the targeted participants attended the Training on Building Relationship with Legislatives (27 out of 34 targeted community representatives from the villages where YTS is working; 2 women and 25 men).

Activities were implemented as presented above, according to the initial work plan. As the number of women participating remained low, the local government is expected to carry out a special follow up so as to make sure that female government staff become increasingly involved in the process. The overall trend of results is satisfying, as the total participation reached 90% of expected participation.

B. Unexpected Results

The release of the Sub-district Indicative Budget Ceiling this January 2012 significantly improves communication among village, sub-district and district program activities. This policy implies that the village government has to have the capacity to facilitate and process its own planning and budgeting activities. If not, then this policy will not provide optimum benefits to the community. The quality of planning and budgeting will greatly determine the ability of rural villages to access funds from Government Agencies. On the other hand, the idea behind the indicative ceiling of fiscal decentralization is to improve public services and promote economic growth in the region. As a result, Government Agencies in the district will then on be able to pay more attention to public services standards and macroeconomic management, at the same time as ensuring the enforcement of social justice and security.

Based on this observation, YTS is now adjusting some of the targets, strategies and activities in this program so as to keep up with new needs arising from the field. Today, thanks to the excellent commitment from the government, the program targets an increasing number of points of improvement in local governance. For example:

- Lawmaking for participatory development for the years 2013
- Lawmaking for the Village Allocation Fund: However this is still at the stage of discussion about the scope of the regulation for the year 2013



Chapter 4

Risk Management

The Sub-district indicative budget ceiling policy will not be implemented properly in Gunung Mas in the coming year unless intensive capacity building in planning and budgeting is undertaken among the village government. It was observed that YTS did not spend enough time and resources on capacity building at the village level, in comparison with the amount of time and resources spent at the district level. Therefore YTS and district government should increase capacity building for village government and especially the Board of Planning. To improve this situation, the latter should be made responsible for running the “supporting clinic” (the technical team that provides services in planning and budgeting for the village). The supporting clinic will provide villages with capacity building so as to improve village government’s participation in the government agencies forum process and activities in the sub-district and villages.

Additionally, the district government under the board of planning should design programs and activities that can reach all remote villages in order to ensure that the budget ceiling policy is understood by the village governments.

Furthermore, government agencies currently held responsible for sub-district indicative budget ceiling should be more open to approving village proposals that comply with the Budget Ceiling Policy, as these fulfill the criteria required for local development. Also, government agencies should be more attentive to issues such as the adaptability of a program in remote areas compared to other areas where access to public services is straightforward. Otherwise, development will never take place equally in the district. The government should analyze each remote village situation on a case by case basis.



Chapter 5

Action Plan for Three Months

April 2012

1. Analytical visit to Kebumen from April 9th to 11th: This visit will aim at learning about the success of the Sub-district Indicative Budget Ceiling implementation. The participants of the visit will be the Head of the Board of Planning of Gumas, the Head of the Board of Community and Village Government Empowerment & Family Planning, and two staff of the Board of Planning, besides the YTS team.
2. Analytical visit to Tuban from April 11th to 13th. This visit will aim at learning about the successful use of the Village Allocation Fund and Village Asset Management implementation in Sugihan Village and Klotok Village.
3. After the visit to Kebumen and Tuban by the Head of the Board of Planning and the Head of BPMPD-KB (Board of Community and Village Government Empowerment & Family Planning), discussion and information transmission about the visit will be carried out with the Regent and decision makers in Gunung Mas, as well as with the Heads of Sub-districts and villages.

May 2012

1. Quarterly Monitoring by YTS, Board of Planning, Sub-district officials and the rest of technical team members in Kuala Kurun, Gunung Mas
2. Small Workshop on formulating Finalization of the Sub-district Indicative Budget Ceiling. The Board of Planning and BPMD-KB (Board of Community of Community Empowerment and Family Planning) will be involved in the workshop as leading agencies, with YTS as consultant and facilitator.
3. Small Workshop on Establishing Teams for Village Allocation Fund Evaluation. The Board of Planning and BPMD-KB will select five to six government staff from both agencies to become members of the Village Allocation Fund evaluation team. YTS will provide a series of technical assistance and help with the design of the team's action plan.
4. Discussion about shared learning on YTS livelihood program with the Department of Agriculture & Plantation and Fishery & Animal Husbandry.

1. Evaluation of the Village Allocation Fund by the Village Allocation Fund evaluation team
2. Training for the government technical team on pro-poor budgeting.
3. Consultation and assistance for government agencies and sub-district budgeting