

**SUMMARY OF EVALUATION REPORT
COMMON GROUND INDONESIA**

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's economic and political crisis of 1997-1998 was the catalyst for the eruption into violence of many latent tensions and conflicts. Severe communal violence occurred in Kalimantan, Maluku, Central Sulawesi; while conflicts between secessionists and the state reached new levels in Aceh and Papua. In addition, violence occurred in many other locations not officially regarded as "conflict areas." In Central and West Kalimantan, two of the main focus areas of Common Ground Indonesia's work, conflict between indigenous Dayaks and Malays, and Madurese 'migrants' to the area caused thousands of deaths and over 150,000 displaced.

Common Ground Indonesia (CG Indonesia) is a representative office of Search for Common Ground (based in Brussels and Washington DC). With an overall vision "to create a shared life which is peaceful and just through transforming conflict, using methods which generate solidarity, participation and pluralism", Common Ground Indonesia has been carrying out programmes for conflict transformation in Indonesia since January 2002.

After careful assessment over several years, CG Indonesia decided to work in the provinces of Papua, Central and West Kalimantan, and the island of Madura as the initial focuses of its programming. The reasons for this decision were:

- (1). There is strong potential for reoccurrence of conflict in these regions,
- (2). There is a need for efforts in conflict transformation,
- (3). While there was some activity towards reconciliation in these locations, there were still major gaps to be filled,
- (4). Positive response from civil society organizations, community leaders, media and government officials to CG Indonesia's proposed work there.

Nationally, CG Indonesia's consists of four programme divisions:

1. Community-based conflict transformation (West and Central Kalimantan, Madura, Papua)
2. Media programming (peace education comics, radio soap opera, film festivals)
3. Women for peace (West and Central Kalimantan, Madura, Papua, Jakarta)
4. Conflict prevention in the elections (West Kalimantan, Papua, East Java, Central Java, Bali, Jakarta)

FOCUS OF THE EVALUATION

After two years of implementing these programmes, CG Indonesia chose several activities to be the focus of an evaluation by external evaluators. The evaluation was designed to gain objective input into programme impacts. The programmes chosen for evaluation were:

1. Community-based conflict transformation (*only the West and Central Kalimantan, and Madura components which began in February 2002*)
2. Media programming (*only some elements of the peace education comics programme, which began in June 2002; and Menteng Pangkalan radio soap opera which began in January 2002*)

CG Indonesia had three major objectives with this programme evaluation:

1. Outcome achievement: to determine if projects have achieved the stated objectives.
2. Measurement of impact: to identify the impact (positive, negative, intended and unintended) of CG projects individually and programming collectively on the target populations.
3. Appropriateness: to determine if the projects currently undertaken target the right sector and the right people. Is there other work (type or target) that has the potentiality of instigating greater change?

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation used participatory methods, which included in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and a workshop. In addition to these, secondary data was studied, and direct observation of activities in the field was carried out. Interview and FGDs were conducted with selected local partners, programme audiences/ beneficiaries, CG Indonesia Advisory Board Members, and government officials. In addition, discussions were held with CG Indonesia management and programme staff.

The evaluation was carried out in December 2003 and January 2004, in Western Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, and Madura.

Due to time and budget constraints, the evaluators could not meet all the programme stakeholders and therefore could not reach comprehensive conclusions about the effectiveness of the programmes evaluated. However, the information and analysis attained should give some valuable insights to Common Ground Indonesia and its partners.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

1. In the opinion of the evaluators, CG Indonesia is an institution with a lot of potential and is a leading organization in conflict transformation in Indonesia.
2. CG Indonesia's choice of West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and Madura as some of its main focus regions is strategic and appreciated by major stakeholders. For example, three senior officers of the Department of Social Affairs and some participants of Dayak-Madura dialogues said that CG Indonesia is the only organization working on continuous systematic basis in conflict transformation activities in Central Kalimantan.
3. Some of CG Indonesia's activities in Western Kalimantan, for example the Conflict Transformation Workshop and Multiethnic Kids Jamboree are still on temporary basis, without concrete follow-up joint activities.
4. In some project activities there was inadequate coordination between CG's various programmes, which confused some programme participants and partners.
5. Some programmes try to do too many activities at once in too many locations, which means there is not always enough focus on maintaining quality programmes. For example, local partners of the comic project in Western Kalimantan and Madura still need capacity and technical assistance, while the comic programme team has already started assessing for a new programme in Papua.
6. Day-to-day monitoring and evaluation is not yet strong enough to keep up with the dynamics of the local context. For example, at one point there was strong resistance in

Sampang, Madura, towards CG's comic programme due to inadequate socialization of the comics' purpose and content. Another example is the local government asking CG to cancel some village dialogues because of wrong assumptions about the aims of the dialogues.

7. Activities' achievement indicators were clear, but CG needs better systems to incorporate the lessons learned from monitoring these indicators.

After around two years work for conflict transformation in challenging contexts, CG Indonesia has shown significant results. Its work is appreciated and respected by its stakeholders, partners, beneficiaries and local government.

PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC CONCLUSIONS

RADIO: The radio drama "Menteng Pangkalan" has been on air three times a week on 140 – 170 private radio stations across Indonesia for a year. It has achieved its objectives in terms of creating a nationally broadcast soap opera about conflict resolution, of increasing the amount and circulation of practical information on community conflict resolution through radio. However, in terms of the goal of promoting dialogue at the community level and increasing the capacity of local communities to solve conflict in a positive manner, we were unable to reach a conclusion because too few respondents could be reached during the field assessment due to time constraints and the poor audience data maintained by the radio stations themselves.

COMIC: The Gebora comic programme has attained its goal of providing entertaining and practical information for teenagers about conflict and how to deal with it in non-violent ways. In FGD's with the comic readers (target audience young people in conflict areas 12 – 17 years old) in West Kalimantan, Madura and Jakarta, most children expressed their enjoyment of the comics and were also able to relay back the messages of the stories. However, as of December 2003, only editions 1, 2 and 3 of the comic had been distributed, and therefore it is too early to see an impact on the attitudes and behaviour of youth, although the comic has strong potential for this. One of the goals of the programme is for the comics to be included in school curriculum. This had only been partially achieved, with several schools in West Kalimantan, Madura and Jakarta cooperating with CG Indonesia in promoting the comics to students as part of the schools' regular activities.

COMMUNITY-BASED CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION: Activities evaluated in West and Central Kalimantan and Madura for the Community-based conflict transformation programme were:

- (1) Second track dialogue
- (2) Peace education for children: REDAM youth bulletin
- (3) Betang Media Centre Information Forum
- (4) Peace journalism
- (5) Dayak-Madurese womens forum: Dara Arum
- (6) Peace education in Islamic Boarding Schools (pesantren) in Madura
- (7) Community based dialogue

The dialogue programme and the follow up from the dialogues has successfully brought together many key stakeholders from the different sides of the conflict, and this has opened the road to multifaceted dialogue and peacebuilding. Capacity-building in conflict resolution skills and peace education activities need to be strengthened, and the broader goal of preventing conflict through strengthening community skills in conflict management is a longer-term goal difficult to evaluate after only 2 years of the programme's life. The pre-mediation stage of the dialogue programme should be strengthened, and relationships should be continually developed in order to prevent suspicion of CG and the reconciliation process. For example, there were still some suspicions in Central Kalimantan that CG and its partners' primary goal was to send back all the Madurese who had fled, for which many Dayaks felt they were not ready.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support stronger follow up of recommendations and plans made in dialogue forums.
2. Increase human resource efficiency in certain programme areas, including better coordination between programmes, with the Field Officers playing a stronger role and given more authority. Field Officers should be appointed in priority locations where they do not already exist, eg. West Kalimantan.
3. Improve sustainability of management by strengthening senior staff with leadership skills and management training. Improve teamwork through teambuilding activities.
4. Provide more capacity-building for local partners so that they fully understand and are competent in implementing strong conflict transformation programmes.
5. Publicise CG programmes more through the media, eg. Utilizing CG's radio network.
6. Do more comprehensive assessments and programme designs which provide enough information to verify outcomes and impacts during and after the programme.

PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Radio Programme

1. Increase radio networks broadcasting the drama, and work with the network partners Radio 68H and Internews on developing more activities, eg. quiz, karaoke competition singing Menteng Pangkalan "jingle", Menteng Pangkalan Fans Club, and some "off-air" activities to strengthen the show's messages and to help monitor the programme's effectiveness.
2. In terms of quality, focus and prioritizing locations where the programme broadcasts would help make the messages and characters increasingly relevant and make it easier to monitor quality.

Comic Programme

1. At the stage of storyboard and message development, focus more on being sensitive and ethical in the language used, and on ensuring that verbal and non-verbal language, including slang is understood by readers.
2. Consult local partners and other stakeholders on content, especially that related to cultural, religion, social, and political sensitivity. More accommodative and appreciative to such inputs.
4. Further training for local partners on the comics' substances and children in conflict issues.

5. Better coordination and experience-sharing between partners and regions.

Community-Based Programme: Kalimantan-Madura

1. Link the second-track dialogue participants (ethnic leaders, religious leaders, IDPs, intellectuals, and grassroots leaders) with each other in follow-up activities.
2. The Betang Media Centre, as one of outputs of the local leaders dialogues, needs a better model of management and implementation.
3. Peace journalism should be developed further, in order to strengthen mass communication, interaction, and networking to provide balanced and accurate information to both sides. The peace journalism programme can also help monitor and give constructive input into government policy related to the conflict and reconciliation.

EVALUATORS

The evaluation team consisted of Ms. Miryam Nainggolan miryamn@cbn.net.id and Mr. Indrian Lubis itlubis@macon.web.id. Both consultants have many years experience working in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in various places in Indonesia.