

**A Brief Review of  
the Use of the SMERU Research Institute's  
Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000**

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## **I. BACKGROUND**

Poverty reduction programs are continuously encouraged by various parties, both by the government and nongovernment institutions. In order for these programs to successfully achieve their objectives, area targeting is crucial. To date, reliable regional poverty data with a national scope is only available down to the provincial and district/city levels.

As an effort to provide poverty data at the subdistrict and village levels, SMERU and Statistics Indonesia (BPS) with the support of the World Bank have tried to estimate poverty rates at the subdistrict and village levels in three provinces, namely DKI (Special District Capital of) Jakarta, East Java, and East Kalimantan. Poverty rates were estimated by processing the data available in the Household Consumption Module of the 1999 National Socioeconomic Survey (Susenas), the 1999 Core Module of Susenas, the 2000 Village Potential (Podes) data, and the 2000 Population Census conducted by BPS. Following a successful trial, SMERU with the support of the Ford Foundation had continued the calculation of poverty rates at the subdistrict and village levels in other provinces throughout Indonesia.<sup>1</sup>

The poverty rate calculations have resulted in a poverty map of Indonesia that covers the subdistrict and village levels. The map is presented in the form of an interactive CD and has been distributed to various stakeholders since the beginning of 2005. In order to find out the uses of the poverty mapping CD, SMERU conducted a brief review by interviewing various stakeholders who have received the interactive CD.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this review are to:

- discover how stakeholders have used the Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000 CD; and
- obtain feedback which can be used to improve the appearance of the Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000 CD.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

This brief review was conducted qualitatively. The information was gathered from various respondents through interviews using question guidelines or questionnaires. Three approaches were used for the interviews, namely:

- direct interview;
- telephone interview; and
- questionnaire dissemination via email.

Respondents were generally individuals or representatives of various institutions that had received the Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000 CD from SMERU seminars, from SMERU staff, through requests via telephone, mail, or email, direct request during a

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<sup>1</sup>See Asep Suryahadi et al (2005) "Developing a Poverty Map for Indonesia: A Tool for Better Targeting in Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Programs Part 1 (Technical Report)." Jakarta: The SMERU Research Institute.

visit to the SMERU office, or from other institutions. Respondents were traced back through attendance lists containing the participants of SMERU seminars who received the CD. In addition, the respondents were traced back through the snowballing method, that is, based on information from various parties and respondents who had been interviewed previously.

This study was conducted over roughly three months. Preparation (formulation of TOR and question guidelines), tracing back respondents, and information collection were conducted from August to September 2006, while the processing of information and the brief report writing was carried out in January 2007.

The report will be presented with brief explanations on simple tabulation results regarding the number of respondents, how the respondents obtained the CD, how the respondents were involved in the dissemination of the CD, the types of uses of the CD, how often respondents accessed the CD content, the problems respondents have faced when opening and using the CD, and respondent feedback for possible improvements to the CD.

#### **IV. RESULTS OF THE REVIEW**

SMERU has distributed more than 400 Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000 CDs since early 2005. The total number of distributed CDs differs from the number of institutions/individuals receiving the CD as some institutions/individuals requested more than one CD. SMERU was able to contact 126 CD recipients, from which 69 people stated that they have used the CD while the other 57 people had not.

The respondents who use the CD stated a number of reasons that had spurred their interest in using the CD, namely: (1) the CD provides detailed poverty information down to the village level; (2) the content of the CD is suitable for their needs; (3) the CD presents poverty information in the form of a map so that it is easy to understand and it makes it possible for a quick search for poor areas; and (4) the program has an interesting appearance, is easy to understand, informative, and systematic in its structure. Those who had not used the CD gave several reasons for not using it, including that the data used in the program is already outdated so they are concerned that the map does not provide a picture of the current poverty condition or because they have not been doing any activities that require the information available in the CD. The following discussions are based on the information from the respondents who have used the CD.

The respondents who use the CD come from various organizational backgrounds including government agencies at the central level, regional governments, universities and research institutes, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), companies or business associations, donors or international partnership projects, other institutions, and individuals. Although almost all respondents came from certain institutions, an institutional approach was not always adopted because in some cases different users from the same institution use the CD for different purposes. As a result some institutions appear more than once.

Table 1, which presents the number of respondents using the CD classified by institutional background, shows that most institutions/individuals that use the CD are NGOs (26%), government agencies at the central level (23%), donors or international partnership projects (19%), and universities and research institutes (16%).

**Table 1. The Numbers of Respondents Using the CD Classified by Organizational Background**

Type of Organization	Number of Respondents	
	N	%
Government agencies at the central level	16	23.19
Regional governments	5	7.25
Universities/research institutes	11	15.94
NGOs	18	26.09
Companies/business associations	4	5.80
Donors/international partnership projects	13	18.84
Other institutions	1	1.45
Individuals	1	1.45
Total	69	100.00

The respondents using the CD obtained the CD in a number of ways, but most commonly when attending SMERU seminars (67%). A number of respondents acquired the CD from a SMERU staff member (7%), some obtained it when they requested it during a visit to SMERU or via telephone/mail/email (19%), while others obtained it from other institutions 13%.

**Table 2. How Respondents Obtained the CD**

Method of Obtaining the CD	Number of Respondents	
	n	%
During a SMERU seminar	46	66.67
From a SMERU staff member	5	7.25
Requested it during a visit to SMERU or via telephone/mail/email	13	18.84
From another institution	9	13.04

The respondents who requested the Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000 interactive CD via telephone/mail/email had received information about it from other parties prior to ordering it. The fact that information concerning the availability of the CD was spread

by word of mouth was confirmed by most respondents (71%), who said they informed other parties about the CD.

Many respondents (25%) gave the CD to other parties. Some of them gave out a copy that they requested from SMERU. Others duplicated the CD that they received from SMERU by themselves. Two NGOs even duplicated the CD in quite large numbers to be distributed to their network and use as training material. Some respondents (4%) lent their CD to other parties. They informed other parties about the CD and either lent or gave them the CD because they think the CD is interesting and the information available in the CD can be used by many parties.

The interactive CD of Poverty Map of Indonesia 2000 is used for varying purposes. Some respondents have used it for several purposes and have plans to make use of for even more. In total, there are 106 kinds of use. When grouped, the most common use is for referencing, be it for reports, papers, articles, or books (27%). Other uses include for targeting areas where programs or activities are to be implemented (21%) and for materials used in presentations, discussions, training programs, and advocacy (16%). Table 3 shows the details of the number uses for the CD classified by type of use.

**Table 3. Number of CD Uses Classified by Type of Use**

Type of Use	Number of Uses	
	n	%
For referencing (reports, papers, articles, and books)	29	27.36
For targeting areas	22	20.75
As materials for presentations/discussions/training programs/advocacies	17	16.04
As materials for comparison or cross-checking	11	10.38
As reference for activity implementation	15	14.15
Database	6	5.66
As reference for program budget allocation	5	4.72
Others	1	0.94
Total	106	100.00

In order to use the CD, the respondents of course have to open the program and read the content. The frequency of opening the program varies between respondents and this is possibly influenced by the types of uses. Most respondents (59%) admitted that they opened the program quite often or had done so at least four times. Around 17% of the respondents had opened the program three times, 15% of the respondents had opened it twice, and only 9% of the respondents once (see Table 4). The respondents who often opened the program usually used it for a number of purposes or for one purpose requiring meticulous detail, such as for writing materials, targeting locations

for program implementation, for analysis, and program implementation. Those who only opened the program once usually used the CD as a reference for comparison with other data or for presentation materials.

**Table 4. Number of Respondents based on Frequency of Opening the CD**

Frequency of Opening the CD	Number of Respondents	
	n	%
Often or at least four times	41	59.42
Three times	12	17.39
Twice	10	14.49
Once	6	8.70
Total	106	100,00

Almost all respondents (90%) did not experience any problems when operating the program. They acknowledged that it was easy to understand the menu and the available data. The rest of the respondents (10%) admitted that they had experienced a problem with the CD, for example, the CD could not be opened, there was a mismatch between the computer specifications required to open the CD and their computer specifications, it was difficult to understand the menu or data, and it was difficult to open a certain area in the map.

The majority of respondents (88%) offered suggestions for how the CD could be improved, while the rest (12%) did not give any suggestions at all, either because they already consider the CD to be good or because they did not offer any feedback. Some of the respondents gave more than one suggestion, so there are 93 suggestions in total. Table 5 shows the kinds of suggestions conveyed by the respondents.

**Table 5. Number and Types of Suggestions Given by Respondents**

Type of Suggestion	Number	
	n	%
The data should be updated.	33	35.48
The map should be supplemented with other parameters or pieces of information such as gender, income, geography and topography, number of micro enterprises, etc.	11	11.83
There should be a manual on how to use the CD.	9	9.68
The map should be supplemented with an explanation on methodology, such as the indicators and methods used.	7	7.53
The distribution and socialization of the CD should be extended; for example, it should be made available in the SMERU website, socialized to many parties, and duplicated in a larger number.	7	7.53

There should be an additional feature so as to make the names of subdistrict, district/city, and province appear when looking at a certain area.	7	7.53
The appearance of the map should be made more attractive; for example, the colors should be brighter with different gradations, the program should use catchy pictures, sounds, fonts, symbols or icons.	6	6.45
There should be a separation between the Indonesian version and the English version.	3	3.23
The menu should be more informative.	2	2.15
The CD should be more user-friendly.	2	2.15
Others	6	6.45
Total	93	100.00

Some of the suggestions given by the respondents will be implemented to improve the appearance of the program and the distribution of the CD. However, the suggestion regarding the updating of the map which was conveyed by many respondents cannot be implemented at this time because updated data is not available. The next available data on the population census results, for example, cannot be obtained before 2010 as the population census in Indonesia is only conducted once every 10 years and the last census was conducted in 2000.