

FACT SHEET

Strengthening Tourism Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Ecosystem in Southwest Sumba



BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Government of Indonesia (GoI) launched Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) revitalization program following a Presidential Instruction No. 9/2016 on Quality Improvement and Competitiveness of Indonesian Human Resources. The target is to increase the employability and competitiveness of the Indonesian labor force both nationally and internationally. In Indonesia, TVET is applied in the education level equal to high school, called vocational high school or *Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (SMK)*, where youths are prepared with certain skills required in the job market.

Regarding this, William & Lily Foundation (WLF), in a collaboration with Center for the Development of Sustainable Tourism (DESMA Center), conducted a baseline study in 2020 to identify the reasons why there are only a few SMK graduates that are involved in and contribute to the tourism industry. The challenges identified are a mismatch between skills taught at tourism SMK and the industry, inadequate facilities and learning materials for students to practice, and the lack of numbers of productive

teachers with suitable academic backgrounds. In Southwest Sumba, for example, there are seven SMKs that already provide tourism-related materials and capacity building as major focuses. However, there are only two SMKs that have provided tourism practical laboratories and one SMK that has been completed with a library.

OUR PROGRAM

In close partnership with DESMA Center, WLF implements a two-year pilot program called “Strengthening Tourism Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Ecosystem in Southwest Sumba”. This program aims to strive for a positive impact on tourism TVET and promote stronger education as a baseline for tourism development and management in two pilot SMKs; SMKN 2 Tambolaka and SMKS Pancasila. From August 2020 until July 2022, the target of the program is to achieve a number of goals as below:

1. Strengthened advocacy to local government to include tourism TVET as part of regional economic development programs.
2. Improved capacity of tourism vocational high school (commonly known as *Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan/SMK*) to prepare for the first grade of professional certification institute (commonly known as *Lembaga Sertifikasi Profesional/LSP Grade I*).
3. Enhanced business linkage of tourism SMK to industry.

PROGRAM KEY ACHIEVEMENT (as of May 2021)

As of May 2021, the program has a number of milestones achieved, including more strengthened advocacy with local government in mainstreaming tourism SMK into the economic development agenda. Coordination platform has been developed with various governmental institutions; Southwest Sumba Regent, East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Education and Culture Office, in order to prioritize teacher capacity building in the local fund allocation and development plan.

In terms of tourism SMK capacity building for LSP grade I standard, DESMA Centre has initiated a series of training on housekeeping and front office skills for SMK teacher capacity building and workshop on vocational education as a strategy to build quality sustainable generation of tourism human resources in Sumba. It was followed up with assistance of the curricula formulation addressing industry challenges. Also, to improve SMK management capacity, DESMA Center partnered with two SMKs that have already been standardized with LSP grade 1; SMKN 3 Denpasar and SMKN 1 Kupang, to be sister schools and references for pilot SMKs. Besides, DESMA Center provided two teachers from SMKS Pancasila with a training on Competency Assessor and Candidate Assessors Assessment for SMK Teachers in East Nusa Tenggara Province.

Furthermore, to strengthen the network and graduate acceptance in the tourism industry, this program engaged tourism-related stakeholders to build the sustainable business linkage between tourism SMK and business in the industry. Besides, DESMA Center engaged with tourism services to support an internship program for teachers. In July 2021, SMKS Pancasila teachers sharpened their competencies in one of tour

and travel agencies, PT Melali Mice, and SMKN 2 Tambolaka teachers improved their skills in hotel management and hospitality in Bali Dynasty Resort. The teachers brought back the lessons they learned from the internship to let the students know the real condition and stay updated about the tourism industry. Besides, teachers worked on improving the teaching materials and delivery in order to prepare students for their future journey to meet the industry demand.



PROGRAM CHALLENGES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, this program necessarily developed precaution strategies to adapt to current situation and mitigate the risks, including limiting the number of participants involving in face-to-face activities, adjusting the activity duration, coordinating with COVID-19 task force to ensure the room is disinfected before and after activity, and applying health protocol as required.



To ensure sustainability, this program facilitates Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between sister schools and tourism stakeholders and study visits. DESMA Center facilitated tourism multi-stakeholders meetings at a district level, workshop on socialization of Finance Minister Regulation Number 128/2019 on Industry and SMK Partnership and development of a pocketbook on internship programs for SMK students in related tourism industry together with pilot SMKs.

SOUTHWEST SUMBA IN NUMBERS (as of 2018)

Source: BPS 2019

- Total Area: 7,000.05 km²
- Population: 338,427 (women: 164,833, men: 173,594)
- Sub districts: 11
- Villages/Administrative villages: 173/2
- Number of SMKs: 7 schools