

REGENT OF BANGGAI

Luwuk, September 25th, 2020

Open Government Partnership Secretariat 1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20005

Number: 050/1362/Bappedauthang

RE: Letter of Support of Banggai Regency for OGP Local Application

Dear Selection Committee of Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local,

On behalf of the Government of Banggai Regency, Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, I would like to express our willingness and commitment to participate in the Pilot Program of Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local. We firmly believe that an open and transparent government is critical to promoting public participation in reducing poverty and providing the best quality of public services in Banggai.

We are keen to join the OGP Local because the program provides support to the local governments in the form of seminars, training and consultations by OGP practitioners, experts and partners. It also enables us to build multi-stakeholder collaboration across the region to address local challenges. These supports will be beneficial to improve the quality of government-driven action plans and eventually improve the quality of life of Banggai citizens.

By joining OGP Local, Banggai Regency wants to improve and scale up good practices in Banggai. We have been implementing reform measures to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen participation within our local government. Due to our strong commitment, we were the only region outside Java who received the highest score in the Government Agency Performance Accountability System Assessment in 2020 from the Ministry of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reform (Menpan RB).

Important co-creation innovations in public service as follows:

First, we have been implementing the pre-conception Posyandu innovation. It is a cross-sector collaboration to increase nutritional intake for prospective mothers and pregnant women to reduce the causes of maternal death and stunting. It has been implemented since March 2015, starting with cross-sectoral involvement, through the Saving First 1000 Days of Life (HPK) seminar, outreach to stakeholders at the sub-district and village levels, then declaration in each sub-district. At the sub-district level, this activity is conducted in collaboration with the Religious Affairs office, Puskesmas, and Posyandu cadres.

The pre-conception Posyandu innovation, which is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was able to exceed the reduction target, namely reducing the prevalence of stunting from 35.6% in 2015 to 19.90% in 2020, the maternal mortality rate from 206/100,000 Live Births in 2015 to 56/100,000 Live Births in 2019 and the infant mortality rate from 13/1000 Live Births in 2015 to 7/1000 Live Births in 2019

Second, Banggai Regency initiated the Innovation of Moral Movement aiming to increase the citizens' awareness in maintaining environmental hygiene called PINASA (Pia Na Samapah Ala) or See the trash and pick it up. It is a moral movement based on local wisdom and culture to provide exemplary motivation as well as foster a sense of responsibility for the community to be directly involved in maintaining a waste-free environment to create a Clean and Healthy Living Behavior (PHBS). This innovation is funded by companies through CSR programs and regional owned enterprises. In addition, this innovation is supported through local subject and school curricula. Therefore, there is awareness to implement Clean Friday as an effort to protect the environment as well as the availability of 38 Garbage Banks in various areas such as schools and the public environment.

Banggai regency envisions to scale up these good initiatives in OGP Local Program. For instance, Banggai Regency wants to improve the Stunting Prevention Action by having wider community engagement to evaluate and provide advice to improve the program. Moreover, Banggai Regency would like to learn more on data that should be accessible by the public to improve our accountability. We also aim to scale up the PINASA initiative to be more impactful, more transparent on garbage management and to promote the zero-waste lifestyle.

We have a serious commitment to OGP Local and have qualified resources in running the government's openness commitment and carrying out collaborative initiatives with civil society. For example, we have created a special task force "Integrated Stunting Prevention and Control Program" who actively runs a stunting prevention program. It is coordination and interventions efforts, both for sensitive (factors outside the health sector) and specific (factors related to health) to reduce the prevalence of stunting in Banggai Regency. The program is carried out in a planned, systematic manner, and integrated multisector, involving various relevant stakeholders, both regional apparatus, district government, village government, universities, and business. The Banggai Regency also has made collective Agreement with the officials of the Sub-Districts and Villages to boost the Stunting Prevention Efforts.

We also collaborate with higher education institutions namely Hasanuddin University Makassar and international institutions such as Vitamin Angels (California, USA) and Global Nutrition Empowerment (GNE). At the grassroots level, cadres of Integrated Healthcare Center have been trained in monitoring the health of mothers, children and women who are planning their pregnancies.

We also have collaborated with CSOs such as Perkumpulan Media Lintas Komunitas (Medialink) on the access on information, INFID on the issue of Gender and public services and the Secretariat of the CSO - Open Government Partnership Indonesia.

We are willing to commit, learn and share our knowledge through peer learning with other local governments both at the local and abroad. The Banggai Regency Government is actively



involved in the Regional Government Organizations throughout Indonesia (APKASI). We are also often visited by other local governments to learn good practices in improving the quality of public services for their citizens.

All of this prior diagnosis effort will undoubtedly help us to design and implement an ambitious Open Government action plan, in conjunction with the citizen's driving force. Based on various problems, we will focus on thematic policy areas: Digital Governance, Gender, Health and Education.

Therefore, we would be very proud to have the opportunity to get support from the Open Government Partnership to develop and advance the open government system in Banggai. We are very welcome to embrace new ideas about open governance, collaborate with civil society and provide the necessary resources. We are also ready to share ideas and learn about open government practices with other countries.

If you require any further information, please reach us at Ramli Tongko, M.Si (<u>ramlitongko88@gmail.com</u>), Sugeng Bahagijo (<u>sbahagijo@infid.or.id</u>), Ahmad Faisol (faisol.ah@gmail.com), Tanti Budi Suryani (<u>duadunia1ibu.ts@gmail.com</u>)

Sincerely,

IT H HERWIN YATIM, M.M.

egent of Banggai