



## USAID BERSAMA JOINS MUSRENBANG IN SENTANI SUB-DISTRICT

welcomed the USAID BERSAMA team to his office on February 22 along with several District Government Offices (DGO) under his leadership, including the District Secretary, *Bappeda* (Regional Development and Planning Body), Women's Empowerment Office, Health and Education District Offices, and others.

In this meeting, *Bupati* Awoitauw conveyed the need to identify synergy and cooperation between the government and development partners like USAID BERSAMA in order to leverage each other's work and avoid duplication. He expressed that effective coordination will assist DGOs to implement their programs effectively, and expects that USAID BERSAMA will help them strengthen their efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV).

### USAID BERSAMA's Synchronization with Government Programs

A week after the meeting with the *Bupati*, USAID BERSAMA held a synchronization workshop with the Jayapura district government, which also served

**"WE CANNOT DENY IT; WE MUST ADMIT THAT VIOLENCE OFTEN IS ALL AROUND US."**

- *BUPATI* JAYAPURA, MR. MATHIUS AWOITAUW



The *Bupati* of Jayapura District Mr. Mathius Awoitauw and heads of district government offices welcomed USAID BERSAMA's team in his office – Noldy Abraham.

## The Regent Expresses Support for the USAID BERSAMA Program

USAID BERSAMA has received an enthusiastic response from the Jayapura district government since the program was introduced in early 2017. Jayapura Regent (*Bupati*) Mr. Mathius Awoitauw

“THROUGH SUCH MEETINGS AND SYNCHRONIZATION OF OUR EFFORTS, WE CAN MAP OPPORTUNITIES FOR PURPOSEFUL COOPERATION AND MAINTAIN THIS AS A REFERENCE WHEN DEALING WITH CASES OF GBV IN JAYAPURA DISTRICT.”

- *BUPATI JAYAPURA, MR. MATHIUS AWOITAUW*

as the official district-level launch of the program. The two-day workshop was hosted by the *Bupati's* office auditorium in Sentani. Participants came from district government offices including the District Secretary, Women's Empowerment Office, and Social Affairs, Health and Education Offices. Civil society stakeholders also attended, representing NGOs, universities, religious organizations, media, and citizen journalists.

During the workshop, participants discussed what efforts are underway or being planned to address GBV by government, civil society, and internationally funded programs at provincial, district, sub-district, and community levels. The discussions resulted in a map illustrating where and in what ways different parties can work together.

## Engagement of USAID BERSAMA in Sentani Sub-district's *Musrenbang*

After the synchronization and launch workshop, the Chief of Sentani, one of USAID BERSAMA's target sub-districts, invited the Winrock team to attend its *Musrenbang*, or Development Planning Forum, which has been the principle mechanism for public consultation in development planning since Indonesia's decentralization.

"I greatly appreciate the work of international donor programs like USAID BERSAMA as our partners in developing the Sentani sub-district. Programs like this are important to help the government down to the village level in the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the APBK [sub-district government budget] so that government programs can synergize, run smoothly, and be accepted by village governments and citizens during their implementation," said Sentani Sub-district Secretary Mr. Tahir Iribaram.



Lucia Erni, USAID BERSAMA Field Officer (right), joined the discussion with the village leaders in the Sentani *Musrenbang* – Noldy Abraham.

According to Mr. Iribaram, Winrock's presence in the *Musrenbang* was helpful for identifying how USAID BERSAMA can complement the government's programs and resources in a way that fosters long-term sustainability of anti-GBV initiatives. Mr. Iribaram expressed his hope that the number of cases of violence against women will decline in Papua, especially in the Sentani sub-district.

Ms. Siti Akmianti Aronggear, Director of NGO LP3AP (Institute for the Study of Women's Empowerment and Children of Papua) sees the engagement of USAID BERSAMA in *musrenbang* at the district, sub-district, and village levels as essential to assisting women to claim more space to voice their ideas and participate in decision-making in their villages.

"The district and village *musrenbang* result in decisions about policy and budget. Therefore, the involvement of women is necessary. It is important not just that they be present, but that they be given the opportunity to speak up and to convey their thoughts, especially on women's issues and preventing gender-based violence in their respective districts or villages," said Ms. Aronggear.