



USAID
DARI RAKYAT AMERIKA

JAdi Pengusaha MandiRI

Empowering Disabled Persons in Business



Ani Dewi, 40, from Blitar Regency

Ani Dewi (40) from Blitar Regency has been a physically disabled person since elementary school. During that time, she was forced to begin using a prosthetic leg and crutches to move around, which affected her confidence a great deal.

However, she had a turning point in high school when she visited a disability foundation in Solo. There, she saw a family riding a motorcycle and noticed that the mother was a person with a physical disability just like her. From that moment, Ani thought that being a person with a disability is not a reason for someone not to

have a good life, and she should always try as hard as possible to not let her condition prevent her from achieving great things. Ani has since progressed as a person with a disability and has become an active member of the Indonesian Association of Persons with Disabilities (PPDI). She even became a businesswoman, owning a shop that sells hijabs through online and offline markets.

Ani was introduced to the USAID JAPRI program by a JAPRI field officer who invited her to participate in the program's Disability Perspective and Interaction training, as well as its Training of Trainers (ToT). Both activities would increase her capacity to spread the knowledge she has as a disabled person-entrepreneur to other members of her community. On February 23-25, 2021, Ani Dewi and ten other entrepreneurship trainers from the JAPRI Persons with Disabilities program in Blitar completed the ToT under the Ciputra University Master Trainer. Ani's team will then train 122 people with disabilities and deliver entrepreneurship material in the Blitar regency from March 13-27, 2021. This training will include support for physical, deaf, blind, intellectual, and mental disabilities in Blitar.

After completing the three-day ToT on entrepreneurship, Ani was pleased, as she had received an incredible amount of material and knowledge from the master trainer that she felt could propel her business forward. She had initially thought her business was running just fine, but thanks to the ToT, she now wants to further develop her business using the theories and methods she learned from that the master trainers.

Ultimately, Ani wants to empower persons with disabilities to establish new businesses and develop existing small businesses. She is especially concerned about the hardship faced by persons with disabilities in running a business and seeking employment during COVID-19. In reflecting on her time as a new entrepreneur, she knows how difficult it was to start a business as a person with a disability. Using her personal experience and the training she received under the USAID JAPRI program, Ani wants to motivate and assist disabled communities in Indonesia to thrive.

Impact

Ani Dewi, an entrepreneur in Blitar Regency, completed the USAID JAPRI Persons with Disabilities entrepreneurship Training of Trainers program in February 2021. Thanks to the training, which provided an opportunity to interact with others from various disability types, Ani has gained a whole new perspective on how she can best support other persons with disabilities and aid them in becoming economically independent as entrepreneurs.

"I want to help my friends who are also people with disabilities with the knowledge I received from training to be a trainer, to be able to be empowered to build a business from small to grow."

-Ani Dewi

