

PROJECT FACTS

Building and Reinventing Decentralized Governance (BRIDGE)



• Total budget	: USD 4,520,199
• Available budget	: USD 4,306,847
• Unfunded budget	: USD 213,351
• Project period	: 2005 – 2008
• Implementing partner	: National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
• Donor	: UNDP, DSF and Spain through ART GOLD Trust Fund
• Location	: South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Gorontalo, North Sulawesi

Background

Tremendous reform is now taking place across Indonesia, including the rise in overall transparency, the move towards decentralized government and the nation's implementation of direct elections for all. Increasingly, the Indonesian public is engaged in shaping the nation's democratic development and future.

Indonesia's reforms present particular opportunities. As Indonesia's decentralization unfolds, the focus on the districts has meant less attention for the provinces which play a crucial intermediary role between central and district-level governments. At the same time, Indonesia is experiencing a rapid proliferation of districts and provinces, further shaping the current political landscape.

In this context, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) BRIDGE project seeks to improve the delivery and quality of public services at schools and community health centres, as well as strengthen relations between citizens and the local government.

BRIDGE stands for Building and Reinventing Decentralised Governance and beginning in 2008, the programme's remit was extended to include the task of facilitating a new decentralization initiative that will bolster the role of provincial government. The move reflects the strategic importance of provincial governments in the ongoing transformation.

Furthermore, pilot projects established by BRIDGE have been scaled up to other sites within the province, underscoring the importance of provincial government..



Indonesia's education system benefits from the process of government decentralization.

Objectives

BRIDGE aims to enhance the capacity of local government officials through implementing good governance principles. to improve public service through more interactive governance, and to strengthen public monitoring of the government through improved access to information. Its actions have focused on health centres and schools.

In the context of strengthening the role of the provinces, BRIDGE is crafting a new programme that will focus on two main objectives:

- (1) clarifying and strengthening the position, roles and responsibilities of provincial governments through policy research and advocacy at national level, and
- (2) establishing role models of effective, transparent and accountable provincial governance, through capacity building in selected pilot provinces.

A BRIDGE to the Future

BRIDGE is intended to improve the quality of public service delivery in schools and local health clinics (puskesmas), ensuring better access to health services and improved educational quality at the elementary school level.

The lasting impact of the BRIDGE project rests on changing attitudes and mindsets to ensure a stronger commitment to public service delivery.

Until mid 2008, BRIDGE covered a selected number of communities in Sulawesi. BRIDGE is working to bring other health centres, schools and government officers in the region to adopt the same approach and methodology to public service delivery, through dissemination of good practices and experiencing sharing.

Increased and improved quality of public services should be the focus of planning and budgeting at every level of government, from the provincial and district levels to the villages. BRIDGE has so far successfully demonstrated how good governance can have a direct and important impact on human development. Starting in mid 2008, BRIDGE has been collaborating with ART GOLD, to foster decentralized cooperation between Indonesia and European countries. The aim is to build wide-ranging partnerships between the public, and private and civil society sectors focusing on five key areas, namely health, education, governance, environment and local economic development. This approach is at presently in operation in the Province of Gorontalo. Working groups of each key area are formed in a participatory way at district and provincial level, which leads to the identification of the strategic drivers of regional development across districts and sectors. The ART GOLD is also fostering decentralized cooperation between regional governments in Indonesia and regional governments in other parts of the world. The initiatives are expected to deliver progress with regard to Millennium Development Goal targets in the areas that are being targeted.

Results

BRIDGE has helped to ensure:

- **The development of 21 multi-stakeholder groups** representing local government, civil society organizations, the media, local parliament and the management of schools and health centres to improve public service delivery.
 - Consultations have taken place at ten community health centres, two hospitals, fourteen primary schools, and six junior high schools.
- **Supporting improved monitoring and evaluating mechanisms** to boost teacher performance and school financial management.
- **Health sector results include:**
 - Supporting participatory programmes of health centre performance monitoring;
 - Establishing epidemiology surveillance mechanisms.
- Ensuring **media coverage** of health programmes in the local radio and newspapers,
- Supporting **community based information systems** into hospitals standard operating procedure;
- Developing **standard operating procedures for clinic staff;**
- Promoting an independent clinic management system;
- **Gauging trust and citizen perceptions** of representation through community surveys;
- **Disseminating BRIDGE multi-stakeholder facilitation approach** in public service delivery to key actors and facilitators.
- **Preparing the Gorontalo Provincial Human Development Report/Index.**
- **Establishing multi-stakeholder provincial working groups in five areas namely health, education, governance, environment and local economy in Gorontalo Province.**
- **Completion of the study of the Evaluation of the Proliferation of Administrative Region in Indonesia.**

Building and Reinventing Decentralized Governance (BRIDGE) Project Sites



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