

PROJECT FACTS



Indonesian Democracy Index (IDI)

- Total budget : USD 900,000
- Available budget : USD 779,851
- Unfunded budget : USD 120,149
- Project period : 2007 - 2009
- Implementing partner : National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
- Location : Nationwide

Background

Over the past decade Indonesia has been undergoing an important transition towards democracy. Democratic elections in 1999 and 2004, constitutional amendments, new institutions like the Regional Representative Council and the reform of basic political laws have introduced democratic practices and good governance principles. New political parties have been allowed to form and contest general elections, and the president was directly elected for the first time in 2004. In addition, the country is undergoing the decentralisation of its government and services, delegating power from the centre to 33 provinces and over 500 districts and municipalities.

With this process came an increasing demand from the Government of Indonesia to measure the country's progress, or lack of it, in different aspects of democratic governance. Informed debate, sound policies and focused programmes are key to the drive for better governance, and indicators can play an important role. The Indonesian Democracy Index (IDI) project is a collaboration between the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to address the issue. Central Statistics Bureau (BPS) and Regional Development Planning Agencies (Bappeda) are also collaborating on the project.

Measuring Democracy

The IDI project provides support to a nationally owned process for assessing and monitoring democratic governance within Indonesia. This new Democracy Index measures democratic progress and setbacks within all 33 provinces, and provides a policy planning tool for government agencies. The underlying principle of the IDI is to move the focus from international ranking-based indices towards nationally owned indicators. UNDP, the value of a nationally owned governance indicator system is that

it serves as a critical accountability mechanism for Indonesian citizens and non-state actors. A nationally owned system provides upward internal rather than external pressure for reform. Thanks to greater transparency, it also provides a catalyst for greater citizen engagement in democratic governance processes and for demanding greater government effectiveness.



Achievements

The project started in spring 2007 and has so far achieved the following:

1. Panel of four prominent Indonesia social scientists devised the index and data collection methodology and instruments
2. IDI variables and design are strengthened and refined through regional seminars in western, central and eastern regions
3. Data collection and research in 33 provinces conducted
4. Expertise of Bappenas officials is increased through training on governance indicators and international best practices

Currently, the expert panel is finalizing the analysis of data and findings from research and drafting the index for further public consultation and awareness-raising.

Utilisation of the Index

Once the IDI is finalized, it should foster national conversation on the subject of democracy. The project has two main functions: 1) Bappenas will use the IDI as its tool for political development planning, which will be included in Indonesia's Mid-Term Development Plan 2010-2014; 2) The public (represented by CSOs, universities and related stake-holders) will be able to utilize the IDI as tool to understand the democratic development in Indonesia and as a way to benchmark the government's development planning.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the index depends in part on the active involvement of partners in all stages of the project. As a preliminary step, Bappenas has indicated its commitment to institutionalize the IDI as part of its regular functions, i.e. to co-ordinate and align programmes and policies pertaining to democratic consolidation.

For more information:

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IDI: Main components

Civil liberty:

- freedom of assembly
- freedom of speech
- freedom of worship
- freedom from fear
- freedom from discrimination

Political Rights:

- right to vote & be elected
- people's participation in decision making processes
- people's participation in government's oversight

Democratic Institutions:

- free and fair elections
- role of the parliament
- role of political parties
- role of local government
- independency judiciary