

PROJECT FACTS

Legal Empowerment and Assistance for the Disadvantaged (LEAD)



- Total budget : USD 9,699,800
- Available budget : USD 7,734,104
- Unfunded budget : USD 1,965,696
- Project period : 2007 – 2010
- Implementing partner : National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
- Donors : The Royal Norwegian Embassy, The Royal Netherlands Embassy, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UNDP
- Location : North Maluku, Central Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi and Jakarta

Background

UNDP defines access to justice as the “ability of people from disadvantaged groups to prevent and overcome human poverty, through formal and informal justice systems, by seeking and obtaining a remedy for grievances in accordance with human rights principles and standards.”

Those without access to justice are prone to suffer human rights abuses as they are effectively denied the ability to utilize legal and human rights protection mechanisms. In Indonesia, there are numerous barriers to access to justice. They include long delays within the formal justice delivery system; the lack of free legal representation for vulnerable and marginalized groups; abuse of authority and corruption; weak law enforcement; deficits in legal and human rights knowledge and awareness across formal and informal justice delivery systems, the legal community and general public; discrimination against women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups within both the formal and informal justice delivery systems; and the lack of available legal and human rights information.

These barriers are especially pronounced for the poor and disadvantaged who, in turn, are effectively discouraged from utilizing informal and formal justice delivery systems.

Access to justice is a basic human right that is essential to reducing poverty.

The LEAD Project builds on a 2005-2006 joint assessment by the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and UNDP of access to justice in the five Indonesian provinces of West Kalimantan, Maluku, North Maluku, Central Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi. Throughout these provinces, the assessment found that economic concerns presented the strongest access to justice challenges, a reflection of priorities in many Indonesian communities where daily life often revolves around maintaining an adequate livelihood.



Open forums for discussion help to ensure transparency and community empowerment.

Objectives

The LEAD Project (Legal Empowerment and Assistance for the Disadvantaged) aims to increase access to justice across Indonesia through support to legal services, legal capacity development, legal and human rights awareness and related development activities for the poor and other disadvantaged groups.

Key steps in accomplishing these objectives include: (i) establishing a grant-making facility focused on civil society empowerment; (ii) the provision of civil society support and capacity development; (iii) ensuring legal and human rights empowerment at the grassroots level; (iv) fostering a human rights-based approach with regard to grantee activity development and implementation; and (v) constructively engaging state authorities.

On the national level, LEAD supports the Government of Indonesia in working towards the development of a comprehensive National Access to Justice Strategy for inclusion in the National Medium Term Development Plan

Donors:



for 2010 to 2014. Complementing this effort, the project will establish a Coordination Secretariat in BAPPENAS to support the coordination of donor assistance across the legal and justice sector.

On the provincial level, LEAD works with Indonesian civil society to support the legal and human rights empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities by improving access to information and free legal assistance.

The programme currently functions as a pilot project in North Maluku, Central Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi, where it provides small grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organizations (including universities) to carry out activities aimed at increasing access to justice for the poor and disadvantaged.

Grant activities seek to strengthen public awareness and legal empowerment (with an emphasis on women's rights, land and natural resources, and local governance issues) and assist the legal service community to provide free legal assistance to the most vulnerable and marginalized. Further, the project facilitates community participation in the development, implementation, and oversight of local government policies and service provision.

Achievements

- The regional consultation process for developing the National Strategy on Access to Justice has so far involved some 530 civil society and government experts from all 33 provinces in Indonesia. This is the first time that the Government of Indonesia has opened the process of developing inputs for its Mid Term Development Plan to civil society participation from the beginning.
- LEAD now supports 23 grantees in its three target provinces. Large amounts of legal information are being disseminated, legal training delivered and legal services provided to poor communities in locations where very



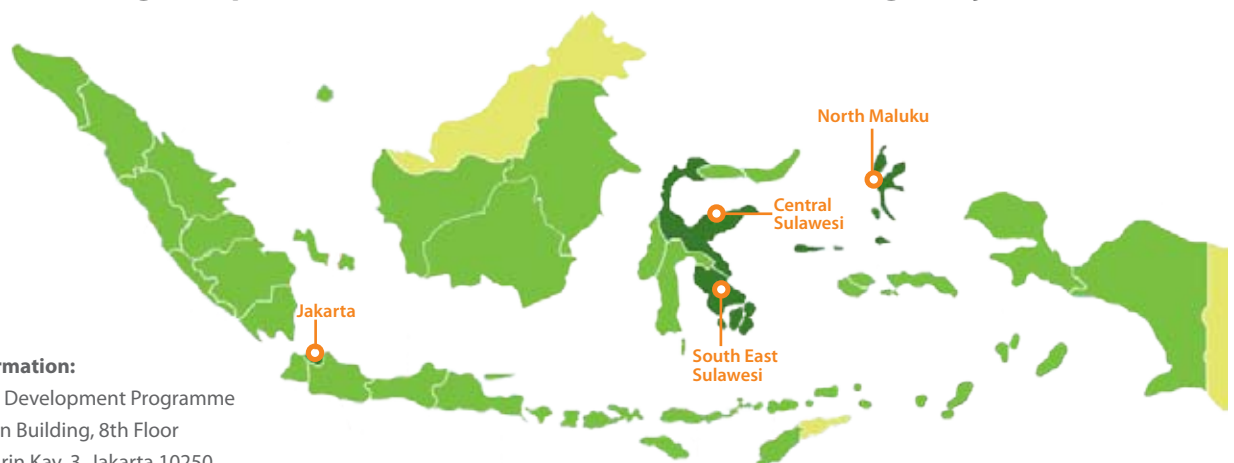
When members of the public realize their basic human rights, they are empowered to protect those rights.

little legal information or assistance has ever previously been made available. From April to June 2008 alone, LEAD's partners distributed 14,000 posters and leaflets on legal rights; trained 400 paralegals and citizen advisors; held community discussions on legal issues with 13,700 villagers; produced 2,200 advertisements in radio, TV and print on legal rights, and provided legal counseling and support for 88 cases.

- Citizen complaints centres are being set up in all three provinces to handle grievances related to land and natural resources' issues. Southeast Sulawesi's newly-elected governor launched a citizen complaints centre established in Kendari by LEAD partner WALHI in June 2008. Mining and logging affected communities can now bring grievances to the complaints centre for investigation and follow-up.

Read more on LEAD's website: www.lead-project.org

Legal Empowerment and Assistance for the Disadvantage Project Sites



For more information:

United Nations Development Programme
Menara Thamrin Building, 8th Floor
Jalan MH Thamrin Kav. 3, Jakarta 10250
Phone: (62-21)3141308. Fax: (62-21)3145251
Email: media.id@undp.org
Website: www.undp.or.id