

Re-thinking Public Policy and Building A Consensus



UNSFIR works with multiple stakeholders

Project Information Sheet

Project Number:
INS/99/002

Project Title:
Technical Assistance towards Policy Formulation and Strategic Planning for Sustained Social and Economic Recovery

Executing Agency:
National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS)

Project Status and Duration:
Ongoing, 5 years (2000 – 2005)

Project Budget:
US\$ 4,252,365

Coverage:
Nationwide

Website:
www.unsfir.or.id, www.jajaki.or.id

Responding to the policy challenge

Indonesia is facing the greatest challenge in its post-independence history. The economic crisis that started in 1997 has now spilled over into a total transformation of society and politics. Indonesia is not just restructuring its economy, it is also simultaneously rebuilding its democracy - and that includes decentralizing much of the authority for policy-making to hundreds of individual districts. This is a transition that goes far beyond the scope of standard structural adjustment programs. Sustainable recovery in Indonesia will thus demand a new generation of approaches, ideas and policies, and the Indonesian

Government is earnestly searching for the policy options and institutional innovations that will allow the country not only to accelerate its economic recovery, but also for a more open, transparent and decentralized policy-making process that ensures the consent and support of the Indonesian people.

The overriding purpose behind the establishment of the United Nations Support Facility for Indonesian Recovery (UNSFIR) as a UNDP/Government of Indonesia project in mid 2000 was to promote and assist this systematic search for alternative development policy options for Indonesia over the medium to long term. In addition, it also acts as an in-house policy advisor to the UN country team, by assisting the wealth of technical works of the UN into the policy arena.

Combining strategic capacity building and consensus-building

The UNSFIR project contained within it three distinct but interlinked types of activities. The first was the production of studies, issues papers, policy briefs to illustrate the range of alternative views possible on key policy areas selected in the project. The second involved advocating and establishing an effective network of institutions which would engage in an informed and effective policy dialogue. And the third is the submission of the recommended policy proposal through BAPPENAS or the relevant line ministry to the cabinet for adoption as a government policy statement and subsequent presentation to Parliament.

To facilitate this process of public discussion of policy alternatives, UNSFIR was instrumental in creating the Indonesian Public Policy Network (JAJAKI in its Indonesian acronym). JAJAKI is intended to be a network of institutions that aims to provide a platform for a well-organized system of public policy dialogue, out of which the combined experiences of the diverse range of stakeholders will form a valuable knowledge base to fashion a domestically-

The Indonesian Human Development Report: Consolidating Democracy Through Human Development

In 2001, UNSFIR was commissioned by BAPPENAS, Statistics Indonesia and UNDP to prepare the first Indonesian Human Development Report titled "Towards a New Consensus: Democracy and Human Development in Indonesia". The central theme of the Report is the relationship between democracy and human development in the context of Indonesia, and it argues that progress in human development is not just vital in itself but also lays the essential foundation for a stable democracy and flourishing economy.

One of the significant features of this report is an analysis to show human development progress in different districts so that all Indonesian could be entitled to a common minimum standard of achievement as promoted in the proposal for an Indonesian Social Summit. These minimum standards are based on a more universal vision, taking inspiration from international goals and standards as reflected by the MDGs. The report has since gained worldwide recognition by winning the Human Development Award for the category of Excellence in Quality of Analysis.

owned future development strategy for Indonesia. This network is composed of Indonesian institutions, which includes leading universities and policy think tanks, a range of key government ministries and provincial administrations, media, private sector, and civil society groups. Essentially, the goal of this partnership is to contribute to the building of a new policy-decision making culture that builds on principles of democracy.

UNSFIR's own technical and advisory services span seven major policy areas: agriculture, industry, external trade, foreign aid management, social welfare policy (including social conflict), the interaction between state and civil society, and regional disparities in the context of decentralization.