

Introduction

Brief history of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Millennium Summit. In September 2000, Heads of State and representatives of the Governments of 189 countries adopted the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations Summit in New York. The Declaration outlines the central concerns of the global community—peace, security, development, environmental sustainability, human rights and democracy—and articulates a set of inter-connected and mutually reinforcing goals into a global agenda for development. The goals, called the Millennium Development Goals, put human development as its main focus. Each goal has been translated into one or more targets and its benchmark indicators.

Indonesia's first Progress report on the MDGs was issued by the Indonesian government in 2004, describing the human development in regards to the first to the seventh goal; measuring the progress, recognizing the challenges; and reviewing the policies and programmes necessary to meet the targets. The report used 1990 or the closest data, wherever available, as a baseline. The main purpose of this report was to establish consensus and reach agreement on Indonesia's progress with its MDG targets and to set benchmarks for future work.

Indonesia: Context of Development

The economic development in the previous era had not only brought some significant improvement but also some pressing matters. The focus on high economic growth had resulted in the increasing income per capita, reducing poverty and unemployment rate, and general improvement of quality of life. However, such approach, which focused on the improvement of the national products was not supported by the enhancement of capacity of either public or private financial institutions, institutions had led to ineffective and inefficient resources allocation. Supported by a centralized and repressive system, the process of the economy development had even helped cripple some strategic institutions, such as the legal system, the political system, and the social system. The result of the development, in fact, had caused negative impacts in the form of social and regional gaps, and the discrepancy of incomes. Meanwhile, eroded and crippled systems and strategic institutions had brought about delicate condition vulnerable to either domestic or international tremors due to globalization.

The economic crisis during 1997-1998 was a costly lesson learnt for the country. The crisis has brought changes in the economic, political, social and law reforms. The reformations are expected to lead the country to a new fair, and sustainable system.

Some problems and challenges faced by Indonesia in the future are (i) slow economic growth, (ii) low quality of human resources, (iii) disintegration of environment protection activities and the exploitation of natural resources which can cause conflict of interests, (iv) disparity of regional development, such as between Java and outside Java, between Western Indonesia and Eastern Indonesia, and between urban and rural areas, (v) quality and services of infrastructure and the postponement of the development of new infrastructures, and (vi) the potentials of separatist movements and horizontal conflicts.

To address the challenges the government has developed three agendas in the medium term development plan 2004-2009: (i) to create safe and peace Indonesia (ii) to create fair and democratic Indonesia (iii) to increase people's welfare. In regards to the third agenda, the development priorities and policies are: eradicating poverty and unemployment; increasing foreign investment; revitalize agriculture, forestry and fishery; reducing disparity by rural development; increasing access to quality primary health and education service; establishing social safety net and developing infrastructures.

Population and MDGs

The total number of population has increased from 119 millions in 1971 to 179 millions in 1990 and it is estimated to reach 219 millions in 2005. The population growth rate has decreased from 2.32 percent during 1971-1980 to 1.48 percent during 1990-2000. The diminishing rate was attributed to the Indonesia's success in reducing the total fertility rate (TFR) from 5.6 children in 1971 to 2.6 children in 2003. The contraceptive prevalence also increased from 57.4 percent in 1997 to 60.3 percent in 2002-2003. Annual birth is estimated around 4 millions up to the year 2015.

Considering the fact above, Indonesia may not be able to achieve the goals of MDGs unless the demographic problems, including rights and universal access to reproductive health service, especially family planning are well addressed.

The government's commitment to achieve MDGs

Even though Indonesia is still facing many problems and challenges in the implementation of its development, the government is committed to achieve the target of MDGs in 2015. The national goals set for the poverty eradication as stipulated in the Medium-term Development Plan are more ambitious than the MDGs. Dialogues with all parties will be continually carried out in order to find mutual understanding and cooperation in the future. It is an important thing to do because it will be difficult to achieve MDGs without active participation of both private sectors and the public.

As the domestic resources are still not sufficient to finance the development, the government continuously tries to improve the quality of the implementation of the development cooperation through strategic management of foreign debts, coordination enhancement, monitoring and evaluation, encouragement of harmonious implementation of cooperation.

The Indonesian government is in enhancing its support to the regional partnership in the Asia-Pacific region. Economic cooperation and trade are potentially viable to be further developed in the region to pursue the achievement of the MDGs as well as to increase the global bargaining position.