PROJECT FACTS

Indonesia: the Indonesia Democracy Index (IDI)

UNDP

Budget:	USD 345,000
Project period:	2007-2012
Location:	Nationwide – 33 provinces
Implementing partner:	National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS)

Background

After the fall of the New Order regime, which culminated in the stepping down of Soeharto from presidency in May 1998, the opportunity to revert back to democracy by replacing the authoritarian political system appeared. The citizens of the nation created a spontaneous mass movement to democratize the country, and soon after Soeharto officially stepped down as president, community leaders established political parties and exercised freedom of association and speech.

New laws in politics were issued in early 1999, and the 1945 Constitution was amended to enforce democracy in the national political system. Democratization at the national level was carried out in conjunction with provincial and district/ city level governments. The Law on Regional Autonomy was passed to provide broad based autonomy to provincial governments, and the freedom that was opening up at the national level was trickling down to the regional level.

More than ten years after Indonesia began the process of democratization, it is important to examine how this has developed and progressed. To date, democracy has only been measured qualitatively – that is, based on subjective estimations, without any clear benchmark data. Quantitative measurement will provide a clear picture on the level of democracy and will enable comparison in order to address inconsistencies or deficits. In doing so across Indonesia, the diversity of the country will be represented, as the level and form of democracy may differ across different parts of the country.

Measuring Democratic Governance

Informed debate, sound policies and focused programmes are key in order to lead to better governance, and indicators can play an important role in this regard. The Indonesian Democracy Index (IDI) project is a collaboration between the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), and UNDP. It seeks to establish a multi-stakeholder panel of experts to address the issue. The Ministry of Home Affairs (KEMENDAGRI), Statistics Indonesia (BPS) at the national and sub-national levels, and the Regional Development Planning Agencies (BAPPEDA) are also collaborating on the project.

The information gleaned from the Indonesian Democracy Index can be used for various purposes. It can be used to academically evaluate the level of democracy development in each province in Indonesia, providing an important baseline for further analysis by academics and journalists.

Most importantly, it can also be used for development planning at the provincial level, using the data to pinpoint underdeveloped or less developed sectors, regions or aspects of democracy. The index is also useful in identifying specific indicators with low scores – giving citizens access to that information, and given the government an opportunity to address such issues directly.

Main Components of Indonesia Democracy Index

Aspect 1: Civic Liberties
- Freedom of Assembly and Organisational Rights
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Religious Affiliation
- Freedom from Discrimination

Aspect 2: Political Rights
- People's Participation in Politics
- Participation of the People in Governance Monitoring

Aspect 3: Institutions of Democracy
- Free and Fair Election
- Parliament's Role
- The Role of Political Parties
- The Role of an Independent Judiciary

Utilisation of the Index

Once the IDI is finalized, it should foster national conversation on the subject of democracy. In this regard, the project has two main functions:

1) Use of the IDI as its tool for political development planning by BAPPENAS, which will be included in Indonesia's Mid-Term Development Plan 2010-2014
2) Use of the IDI as a tool to understand democratic development in Indonesia by the public (represented by CSOs, universities, and other stakeholders)

In 2011, UNDP already extended its support to the Government of Indonesia in piloting the utilization of the index in three provinces: Aceh (representing the West of Indonesia), Banten (representing the Central part of Indonesia), and Gorontalo (representing the East of Indonesia). These three provinces were selected through extensive discussions with the Government of Indonesia and other stakeholders, while also considering the 2009 IDI results.

Achievements

Until today, the Government of Indonesia has published two Indonesian Democracy Indices: the first one in 2008 (2007 IDI) and the second published in mid-2011 (2009 IDI).

After successfully launching the second index and setting the result as a benchmark for the compilations of future indices on democracy in Indonesia, the Government has decided to allocate a portion of the state budget to the development of the 2010 IDI through the Coordinating Ministry of Politics, Law, and Security (KEMENKOPOLHUKAM).

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 coordinate and align programmes and policies pertaining to democratic consolidation. As stated above, since 2011 the compilation of the Indonesia Democracy Index will be undertaken using the state budget which will be coordinated by Coordinating Ministry of Politics, Law, and Security, in collaboration with BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the National Development Planning Agency. Finally, the extensive use of the indices by key agencies as tools for planning will be an important element defining sustainability.

Further Information:

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