



# USAID | INDONESIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

2009



Photo: USAID/Ruici Tio

A woman casts her vote during the Presidential elections on July 8, 2009 in Jakarta. USAID was the largest donor supporting the 2009 democratic election process for Indonesia's Parliamentary and Presidential elections.

### THE CHALLENGE

Years of centralized and, until 1998, autocratic governance have rendered democratic institutions weak and unprepared to carry out essential reforms

Political parties have not provided effective democratic channels for constituent demands

There is growing frustration with the government's inability to control major issues such as corruption and conflict

Post tsunami recovery of communities and livelihoods in Aceh Province has presented long-term challenges, while at the same time presenting unprecedented opportunities for the people of Indonesia

### THE GOAL

Consolidate national level democratic reforms

Expand participatory, effective and accountable local governance

Address conflict and encourage pluralism

### OVERVIEW

USAID supports the consolidation of Indonesia's democracy through assistance for effective and accountable local governance, mitigating conflict and ensuring sustained peace. The U.S. government has dedicated \$129 million over five years (2004-2009) for furthering these aims.

### PROGRAMS

#### Mitigation of Conflict and Support for Peace

USAID is a key donor in mitigating social violence and enhancing peace building efforts in conflict-affected areas including Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and Central Sulawesi. USAID supports conflict-sensitive approaches to development, technical capacity building, livelihood development, civil society and academic input in relevant legislative drafting and transition assistance to conflict-affected persons.

#### Justice Sector Reform

USAID supports the bureaucratic reform efforts of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) through technical assistance and training for prosecutors. USAID also works with the Supreme Court and the AGO on their bureaucratic reform efforts with the overriding aim of developing a more effective, professional, transparent, accountable and independent justice system.

#### Legislative Strengthening

USAID provides support to the National House of Representatives capacity building and reform efforts. Activities include promoting constituency and media outreach, developing capacity to draft and analyze legislation, operational budgeting and supporting legislative commissions to carry out their functions.

#### Local Governance Strengthening and Decentralization Support

USAID supports Indonesia's decentralization by helping local governments become more democratic, more competent at the core tasks of governance and more capable of managing public services and resources. In more than 60 districts and cities, the program offers technical assistance to local administrations, local legislatures and civil society in participatory planning, budgeting, financial management and management systems. At the national level, USAID supports the Government of Indonesia and civil society to improve decentralization laws, policies and regulations.

#### Elections and Political Processes

USAID supported the 2009 Parliamentary and Presidential elections through international and local non-governmental organizations. The election support package included: political party development, election administration, voter education, election monitoring and oversight, and strengthening of the legal framework.



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### Promoting Democratic Culture

USAID supports civil society organizations and government institutions in efforts to promote and protect citizen's rights. Activities under this program include human rights, advocacy, capacity building and training for both civil society and local government.

### Fighting Trafficking in Persons

USAID is assisting the Government of Indonesia and civil society to develop policies and procedures to prevent trafficking of women, girls and men and provide protection to survivors of trafficking.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Support for the Aceh Peace Process

The 2004 Memorandum of Understanding ended the political conflict in Aceh, but integrating peaceful conflict resolution techniques is a long term effort. Aceh has many governmental and local organizations committed to sustaining peace. Through local and governmental organizations, USAID's SERASI program helps strengthen the capacity of key leaders and institutions to communicate and develop strategies for keeping the peace process on track. Examples include support for the Commission on Sustaining Peace in Aceh (meetings, a unique forum that brings together key stakeholders in implementing the Helsinki peace agreement, and supporting projects that relay stories and best practices of successful reconciliation efforts.

### Landmark Passage of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

In April 2008, the House of Representatives passed a new *Law on the Transparency of Public Information* (similar to the US Freedom of Information Act). The passage of this law signals a step forward in increasing the transparency and accountability of all levels of government. The Democratic Reform Support Program (DRSP), which supported civil society and the DPR in advocacy for and development of the Law, is now assisting Government of Indonesia to lay the groundwork for its implementation.

### Citizen Participation in Local Governance

The Local Governance Support Program (LGSP) has expanded opportunities for citizens to participate in the affairs of local government. New guidelines and regulations adopted by the Ministry of Home Affairs encourage local governments to pay closer attention to citizen participation in local planning. In 60 districts and cities throughout Indonesia, civil society organizations are utilizing new and innovative approaches to successfully advocate for improved government services, monitor local government budgets and public policy formation, and participate in advisory committees and boards. Combined with greater local government capacity and openness, the result is local government policies and services that are more responsive to citizen priorities.