

Empowering

Change in

Indonesia



From the desk of the Managing Director, Asia Pacific



Joanne Choe
Managing Director
– Asia Pacific

I am thrilled to share this small glimpse into the work that we are privileged to be a part of in Indonesia, a country of such magnificent breadth, richness and complexity. Throughout this incredible country, we come across individuals and organisations that are striving to make positive changes to the lives of people facing exclusion, hardship or adversity. We are honoured to be able to work with them, support their efforts and contribute to those changes, big and small.

Many are working at a systemic level, aiming to shift laws, policies, norms or attitudes. The challenges can seem great, and change can sometimes seem too difficult or remote. Yet without their strident efforts, their ongoing commitment to change and their vision for a better way of being, nothing will shift. That we can find meaningful ways to come behind them and bolster their contribution is a small part of the story that we hope to share here.

This publication is dedicated to all those people and organisations that we work with who are devoting their lives to forging positive change in Indonesia. Day by day and little by little, their efforts are adding up and making a difference. We are honoured to stand with them and behind them, in partnership.

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Foreword



Aarohi Vashishtha
Country Manager –
Indonesia

Empowering Change in Indonesia, a publication that offers a glimpse into the extraordinary work that has been carried out across our Australian government-funded programs in Indonesia. These stories reflect the commitment, innovation, and perseverance shaping our efforts this year. They highlight the impact of our partnership with local communities, governments, and organisations, all united by a common goal: driving positive change nationwide.

From the crucial work of the AIHSP in tackling the urgent challenge of rabies control in West Manggarai, to the ongoing efforts of AIPJ2 in empowering women and improving access to justice for marginalised groups, the year has been marked by transformative achievements. These initiatives reflect the dedication and resilience of all involved, working tirelessly to create long-term positive change for communities in every corner of Indonesia.

This year, we also witnessed remarkable progress in health infrastructure development, particularly through our Katalis program in West Java. With a vision to revitalise and transform Indonesia's health sector over the next 20 years, these efforts promise to deliver a profound impact on the region's economy and the health of its people. Similarly, the work of SKALA in supporting GoI programs like PAITUA in Papua Barat Daya demonstrates the power of enabling the elderly to remain valuable contributors to society. Stories like those of Alex Vadan and Alexina Osok—whose resilience in the face of adversity inspires us all—show us the strength of Indonesia's elderly population.

The KIAT program has played a pivotal role this year in strengthening the enabling environment for Public-Private Partnerships, ensuring that these collaborations are designed to meet international standards and attract vital investment. The launch of KINETIK Hub, as the latest investment of DFAT, marks another milestone in the Australia-Indonesia shared vision for a greener, more equitable future. It represents the promise of accessible energy transition, driven by both environmental and social progress, and showcases our ongoing commitment to innovation and sustainability.

Our work through the PROAKTIF-supported TNP2K Policy Team has also been critical, particularly in monitoring the Government Food Reserve program during Indonesia's response to the challenges of the 2023–2024 El Niño. This collaboration highlights the importance of collective effort in addressing environmental crises. Through Prospera's technical advice, Indonesia is making great strides in developing a greener, more resilient financial sector, one that integrates climate risk into decision-making. This is not just preparing the country for future challenges; it is fostering an inclusive economy that benefits all Indonesians.

We are proud of our inclusive programs that foster locally led development. Initiatives like Emerging Leaders in International Development ensure all voices are heard and leadership grows from within, empowering individuals to shape their futures and ensuring sustainable impact.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta for their steadfast support and partnership throughout 2024. Their collaboration has been crucial to the success of our programs, helping us make significant strides toward our shared goals of sustainable development and supporting communities across Indonesia. We value this partnership and look forward to continuing our work together to create lasting change.

As you read these stories, know that they reflect the strength, determination, and spirit of the people of Indonesia. They highlight the power of resilience and the transformative potential of collaboration. We hope this publication celebrates the successes of 2024 and serves as a reminder of the collective effort needed to drive positive, enduring change in the years ahead.

Rabies control efforts in West Manggarai:

A path to healthier communities



Nestled in the stunning landscapes of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), West Manggarai District is home to breathtaking natural beauty, including the world-renowned Labuan Bajo. However, beneath its picturesque vistas, the region faced a serious challenge—combating rabies in an area where rugged, mountainous terrain isolated many villages, making access to vital health services a daunting task.

In early 2024, the urgency of the situation became painfully clear when 537 cases of rabies-infected animal bites were reported, affecting local communities. The threat of rabies loomed large in a region deeply connected to its animals. But through a spirit of collaboration and unwavering dedication, West Manggarai is now turning the tide against this deadly disease.

For years, rabies management in the district had been hindered by the region's challenging geography. Remote areas were difficult to reach with crucial health messages and vaccination services. Ursula Nijan, Head of the Disease Prevention and Control Division, recalls how these challenges felt overwhelming. 'The isolation of mountainous areas made it hard to deliver information and vaccinations to rural communities,' she says. Public awareness of rabies was low, and the disease was often dismissed as a minor issue, exacerbating the problem.

The turning point came when AIHSP stepped in. Recognising the need for a more integrated and inclusive approach, AIHSP worked closely with West Manggarai's local government to revamp the region's rabies control strategies. Through their support, the district developed and implemented new Standard Operating Procedures that embraced the One Health approach and addressed the needs of marginalised groups through a Gender, Disability, and Social Inclusion analysis.

'As we collaborated with AIHSP, we realised that rabies control was a shared responsibility between health and livestock services,' Ursula notes. This partnership facilitated coordination among local government, the Regional Parliament (DPRD), relevant departments, and the community, ensuring that everyone took ownership of the issue.

One of the most significant changes was the improvement of communication systems. AIHSP helped West Manggarai tailor its outreach methods to reach diverse groups, using local languages and targeted media. Information about vaccination and rabies prevention was delivered to even the most remote communities through strategic outreach at village offices and schools.

'We now deliver information in ways that are accessible to everyone,' Ursula explains. This collaboration has transformed rabies control efforts, making them more coordinated and efficient. Pet vaccination rates increased, public awareness grew, and access to crucial information became widespread.

Perhaps the most inspiring outcome of this transformation has been the united effort of the community. What was once a daunting, isolated challenge has become a collective mission. Local leaders, health workers, and members of the community have embraced their shared responsibility in preventing rabies and saving lives.

'This success story shows the power of collaboration and inclusivity in addressing complex health challenges,' Ursula proudly says. With the support of all involved, West Manggarai is now on the right path to eliminating rabies, marking a bright, hopeful future for its communities.

AIHSP (2020–2025) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From community to court:

Access to justice for women and girls



AIPJ2 has made significant strides in promoting gender equality, disability inclusion, and social justice in Indonesia, with a focus on empowering women and improving access to justice for marginalised groups. These efforts are carried out through two main approaches: integrating GEDSI into core strategies and implementing targeted interventions that improve justice for women and people with disabilities.

Central to AIPJ2's work is the commitment to women's agency; enabling women to participate in decision-making, pursue their goals, and engage in society free from fear of violence or retribution. A key achievement has been the support for the establishment of the Indonesian Association of Women Judges (BPHPI). Since 2021, AIPJ2 has partnered with the Indonesian Supreme Court and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia to foster international dialogue on increasing women's leadership in the judiciary. This initiative culminated in the formal establishment of BPHPI in September 2023, with Hon. Justice Nani Indrawati as its first chair.

BPHPI has since hosted its first international seminar in April 2024, gathered important data on women judges, and contributed to the development of a Supreme Court policy focused on creating women- and children-friendly courts. The association also advocates for judicial wellbeing and is developing a mentorship program to support the next generation of women judges.

In addition to supporting women's leadership in the judiciary, AIPJ2 has focused on reforming family law to provide better support for women and children, particularly after separation. This work was sparked by research in 2019, revealing that a shockingly low percentage of divorce cases involved child maintenance orders. Given that many divorces in Indonesia involve children under 18, the need for reform was urgent. AIPJ2's initiatives in Aceh and South Sulawesi have made substantial progress in addressing this gap.

In Aceh, AIPJ2 supported a regional seminar involving the Supreme Courts of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia, leading to the Government of Aceh's decision to propose regulations ensuring financial support for former wives and children. The Governor's Decree on this matter is now progressing through Parliament. Similarly, in South Sulawesi, AIPJ2 helped forge a Memorandum of Understanding between local governments and courts, ensuring that public officials provide support for divorced women and children.

These initiatives have reached beyond local regions. AIPJ2's advocacy led to the integration of family law reforms into Indonesia's national development plans for 2025–2045, marking a pivotal step towards more equitable legal systems. Bappenas, Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning, launched a scoping study in November 2024, highlighting the need for stronger enforcement of divorce decisions and better family support mechanisms.

Through these initiatives, AIPJ2 has not only transformed legal systems but also empowered communities to embrace gender equality and social inclusion. The progress made in women's leadership in the judiciary, and the reforms to support women and children post-separation, exemplify the power of collaboration, advocacy, and the shared commitment to justice and equality.

AIPJ2 (2017–2025) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Transforming healthcare in West Java:

The visionary Health Infrastructure program



In November 2020, a groundbreaking partnership between two Australia-based healthcare companies, Aspen Medical and Docta, and PT Jasa Sarana, a state-owned infrastructure company, led to a bold commitment to invest US\$1 billion in healthcare infrastructure in Indonesia. The goal was to build 23 hospitals and 650 new clinics across West Java over the next 20 years. This collaboration, known initially as the Sanusa Medika Group, has since evolved into Aspen Medical Group Indonesia, driving a new era of healthcare in the region.

In July 2021, the consortium sought support from Katalis to fund the bankable feasibility studies for the first two hospitals to be constructed on greenfield sites. These studies, carried out by a consulting firm between March and September 2022, assessed the physical, operational, and commercial viability of the hospitals. They took into account cultural, demographic, regulatory, and market conditions to ensure the hospitals would meet local needs while remaining financially sustainable.

The results of these feasibility studies confirmed the need for these hospitals and highlighted their potential to attract medical tourism, providing a robust case for investment. The studies gave investors and lenders confidence, paving the way for the construction of the first hospital in Sawangan, Depok. The support from Katalis played a crucial role in accelerating the project, enhancing investor confidence and helping bring the vision to life more quickly than would have been possible otherwise.

In June 2023, the groundbreaking ceremony took place, and construction began in March 2024. The hospital is slated for completion by the end of 2025 and is expected to be operational by early 2026. Designed by Emerald Hospital Design, an alliance of international and Indonesian experts in healthcare facilities, the hospital will be Indonesia's first 'green' hospital, built to Platinum LEED environmental standards. This will be a flagship project for Aspen Medical, emphasising sustainability in healthcare infrastructure.

The hospital, costing approximately A\$95 million, will employ 400–500 local staff, supported by international specialists. Its development is expected to encourage Indonesians who would otherwise go abroad for medical care to instead seek treatment locally. This project is not only about building state-of-the-art medical facilities but also about improving healthcare accessibility within Indonesia.

According to Dr Andrew Rochford, CEO of Aspen Medical Group Indonesia, the market analysis conducted through these Katalis studies is now the foundation for all future projects in Indonesia, whether for hospitals or clinics. Aspen Medical is already conducting due diligence on two more sites in West Java, while also developing two pilot clinics in Makassar. Furthermore, they have signed an agreement with PT Tridaya Group to build a hospital in eastern Indonesia.

Looking ahead, if the vision is fully realised, the total investment in Indonesia's healthcare sector could reach A\$2 billion over the next 20 years. This ambitious project is not only transforming healthcare in Indonesia but also making a lasting impact on the region's economy and the wellbeing of its people.

KATALIS (2020–2025) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Nurturing hope for the elderly through PAITUA



In Indonesia, the growing elderly population presents both challenges and opportunities. As the population ages, many seniors face complex issues, including financial insecurity and a lack of support systems. In regions like Papua Barat Daya, where poverty rates are high, older individuals are increasingly at risk of falling into poverty, particularly when their children face their own economic struggles. However, stories of resilience from seniors like Alex Vadan and Alexina Osok offer hope and highlight the strength of the elderly in overcoming these challenges.

Alex Vadan, 68, works tirelessly as a sago farmer in his old age. Despite the physical toll, Alex remains determined not to rely on his children. He continues to harvest sago, following a family tradition, and values his independence above all. 'If I stop working, I'll fall ill more often,' Alex says, as he navigates his farm. His determination to maintain his health and financial independence is an inspiring example of how the elderly can remain active contributors to their families and communities, even in later years.

Similarly, in Klain Village, 70-year-old Alexina Osok exemplifies resilience. After her husband's passing, Alexina continued running a small business selling betel nuts and vegetables. Despite the challenges, she was able to support her five children through high school. 'I'll do whatever it takes to support my children,' Alexina says, showing that determination can help the elderly live with dignity and independence. Her ability to maintain a small business and manage her garden demonstrates that older individuals, given the right support, can continue to contribute meaningfully to society.

While these personal stories are heartening, they also underscore the broader need for systemic support for Indonesia's elderly population. As one of the largest and fastest-growing populations of seniors in Asia, Indonesia faces a demographic shift that demands attention. According to the Ministry of National Development Planning (PPN / Bappenas), approximately 11.75 per cent of Indonesians are over 60, a number expected to grow to more than 20 per cent by 2045. This shift presents unique challenges, particularly in areas like Papua Barat Daya, where the poverty rate is more than twice the national average.

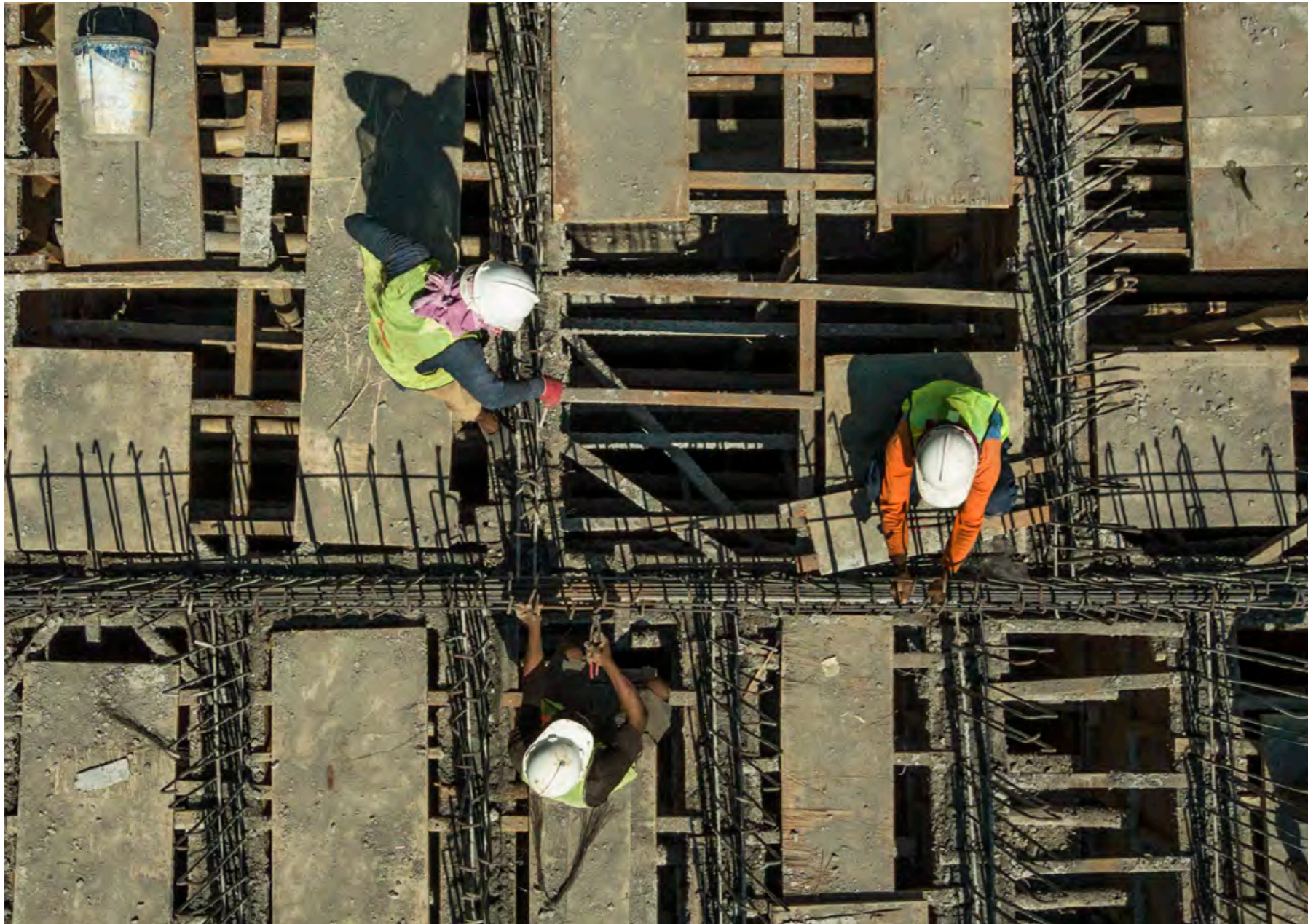
The SKALA Program supported the Papua Barat Daya Provincial Government to respond to these challenges by launching the Social Protection for Older People Program, known as PAITUA, in 2023. The program aims to improve the welfare of over 13,000 elderly people by providing cash assistance through bank transfers. With monthly payments of IDR 250K, recipients can cover basic needs such as food and healthcare, alleviating financial pressure on families and improving the quality of life for seniors.

PAITUA has made a significant impact, helping older people like Alexina live more independently and healthily. By strengthening their livelihoods, the program empowers seniors to continue contributing to their communities. PAITUA represents a broader shift in how society views its elderly members; not as burdens, but as valuable contributors who deserve support and respect.

This program exemplifies the power of a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the needs of the elderly. It marks a step towards a more inclusive, compassionate Indonesia, where older individuals can thrive and contribute to society's growth.

SKALA (2022-2030) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Reforming Indonesia's infrastructure funding and financing landscape



Indonesia's ambitious infrastructure development goals require significant private investment. During the 2020–2024 national plan, the government estimated nearly 42 per cent of the required infrastructure funding would need to come from the private sector. Looking ahead, even greater contributions are anticipated to meet the 'Golden Indonesia 2045' aspirations. To help achieve these targets, KIAT has played a pivotal role in strengthening the enabling environment for public-private partnerships (PPP) and ensuring that PPP projects meet the standards necessary to attract international investment.

KIAT's support has been critical in reforming Indonesia's infrastructure funding and financing mechanisms. This includes innovative approaches such as Limited Concession Schemes, which allow the lease or sale of public assets to generate funds for new infrastructure without raising taxes. Another key initiative, Land Value Capture, leverages the increase in property values driven by infrastructure development to offset project costs, creating a win-win scenario for both the government and the private sector.

Through its partnership with the National Public Procurement Agency, KIAT has also worked to reform PPP procurement processes, making them more transparent, efficient, and aligned with international best practices. These reforms, including new PPP procurement regulations and model bidding documents, have enhanced probity, value-for-money, and investor confidence, encouraging more private sector participation in Indonesia's infrastructure projects.

KIAT has also championed reforms to improve social inclusion and financial sustainability in infrastructure. KIAT has integrated climate change, gender equality, and disability considerations into regulatory reforms. This has included requiring public consultations and socio-economic analyses to ensure that the concerns of project-affected communities are addressed. Additionally, KIAT has incorporated climate change and disaster risk assessments into project preparation, ensuring that infrastructure projects are not only viable but also resilient and sustainable in the face of future challenges.

Through these efforts, KIAT is helping to transform Indonesia's infrastructure landscape by making it more attractive to international investors while ensuring that projects are socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The reforms and mechanisms introduced have already begun to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PPPs, paving the way for significant progress towards Indonesia's long-term development goals.

As Indonesia strives to meet its infrastructure needs, KIAT's role in facilitating private sector involvement and promoting sustainable, inclusive development has never been more vital. With continued support and innovation, KIAT is helping to create a stronger, more resilient infrastructure that will support Indonesia's growth for generations to come.

KIAT (2016–2026) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australia and Indonesia's shared journey to achieve net-zero emissions



Australia and Indonesia are embarking on a shared path towards net-zero emissions, addressing climate change's challenges while seizing opportunities in the clean energy transition. In June 2022, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and President Joko Widodo launched KINETIK, a landmark partnership that strengthens bilateral efforts to reduce emissions and accelerate the clean energy transition.

KINETIK is a climate, renewable energy, and infrastructure collaboration aimed at supporting Indonesia's move toward a sustainable energy future. With an investment of A\$200 million, the partnership will help Indonesia access increased climate finance, build climate-resilient infrastructure, and fast-track its clean energy transition. A central focus of KINETIK is to ensure a just energy transition, where women, people with disabilities, and marginalised communities are included and benefit from the shift to net-zero emissions.

The partnership through KINETIK Hub brings together three key partners: Prospera, Australian Development Investments, and Private Investment Development Group. Together, they will support Indonesia's sustainable finance and energy transition agenda, providing technical assistance, expanding government-to-government partnerships, and building on the success of the Prospera program. This collaboration will provide valuable data and evidence to inform public policy for both energy transition and climate change responses.

KINETIK Hub focuses on promoting gender equality, disability, and social inclusion within Indonesia's energy transition. The Hub seeks to ensure that underrepresented communities play an active role in policy processes and benefit from the transition. Initial initiatives include a short course on climate financing through blended finance and business incubation programs for climate-focused start-ups led by women or people with disabilities.

Through KINETIK, Australia and Indonesia are not just working together to tackle climate change; they are creating opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth. The partnership represents a shared vision for a greener, more equitable future, where the energy transition is accessible to all, driving both environmental and social progress. KINETIK Hub was established in August 2024.

KINETIK Hub (2024–2026) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Strengthening food security:

Extension of the Government Food Reserve Program amidst El Niño challenges



The Government Food Reserve (CPP) program played a crucial role in helping Indonesia address the challenges posed by the 2023–2024 El Niño. Launched in January 2024, the CPP program aimed to support food security by providing 10 kg of rice to 22 million households affected by the disruptions caused by the climate phenomenon. El Niño, which brings warmer-than-usual temperatures in the tropical Pacific, can lead to droughts, floods, and natural disasters that severely affect agriculture and water resources, particularly in vulnerable regions of Indonesia.

PROAKTIF supported a monitoring exercise led by the TNP2K Policy Team, which provided vital evidence on the program's success, highlighting its significant role in addressing food insecurity. The monitoring report revealed that the CPP had reached 85 per cent of beneficiaries from the lowest income deciles (one to four) and that nearly half of the recipients were first-time social assistance beneficiaries. This was made possible through the Accelerating the Elimination of Extreme Poverty database (P3KE), ensuring that the most vulnerable communities were prioritised.

The program's effectiveness also reflected its increased reach to food-insecure households, rising from 6–8 per cent in 2023 to 50 per cent in 2024. Furthermore, 89 per cent of recipients reported being satisfied with the rice quality, and almost 100 per cent used the rice for consumption rather than redistributing it, demonstrating the program's success in providing tangible benefits.

The findings from TNP2K's monitoring exercise played a crucial role in Cabinet discussions on extending the CPP program's duration. President Joko Widodo acknowledged the effectiveness of the program in targeting the most vulnerable populations and confirmed the extension of assistance until December 2024, with three additional deliveries scheduled.

The CPP program's rapid response and focused efforts have significantly contributed to mitigating the impacts of El Niño in Indonesia, providing much-needed food relief to millions of households and improving food security for the country's most vulnerable. The collaboration between TNP2K, Kemenko PMK, and other government bodies underscores the importance of evidence-driven policy decisions in times of crisis, ensuring that aid reaches those who need it the most.

PROAKTIF (2023–2026) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Strengthening Indonesia's Financial Sector for a Climate-Resilient Future



Indonesia is making significant strides in its climate and energy transition, with industries shifting toward low-carbon pathways and increasing investments in clean energy. Alongside this, lifelong learning initiatives and targeted social policies are being implemented to support the transformation. A key player in this transition is the financial sector, which must not only drive the flow of private investment needed for clean energy but also prepare for climate-related risks.

In February 2024, former President Joko Widodo marked a pivotal moment in Indonesia's sustainable finance journey with the launch of the updated Sustainable Finance Taxonomy. This tool helps steer investments toward sustainable sectors, using a traffic light system to classify financing based on climate considerations. The updated taxonomy, tailored to the Indonesian context, draws on international benchmarks to ensure that green finance initiatives balance economic growth, environmental responsibility, and inclusivity. In his speech, former President Widodo highlighted the careful efforts that went into its preparation, emphasizing the importance of this new framework in fostering a sustainable future for Indonesia.

This forward-thinking approach extends beyond just investment. In June 2024, Indonesia launched its climate-risk stress testing framework for the banking sector, marking a major step in integrating climate risks into financial sector management. The guidelines help banks assess how climate change could affect their business models, governance, and strategies, including how they disclose and report on these risks. This framework is critical for ensuring that financial institutions are resilient in the face of climate impacts and are well-positioned to support sustainable development.

Prospera has played a crucial role in supporting these efforts. Working closely with Indonesia's Financial Services Authority (OJK), Prospera helped develop the first-ever banking sector guidelines for managing climate risk, which were published in March 2024. This was followed by a pilot Climate Risk Management and Scenario Analysis initiative involving 18 Indonesian banks in June.

Australia's Ambassador to Indonesia, Penny Williams, praised the ongoing collaboration between the two countries, saying, 'Through our partnership, we will provide technical assistance for creating climate scenarios, designing climate risk policies, and assessing climate risk impacts on banking and economic performance.' This partnership demonstrates the power of international cooperation in addressing climate change and building a more sustainable economy.

Through Prospera's technical advice and engagement, Indonesia is making significant progress in creating a greener, more resilient financial sector. This collaborative effort ensures that Indonesia is well on its way to meeting its climate goals while promoting long-term economic stability and sustainability for all. The integration of climate risk into financial decision-making is not only preparing Indonesia for future challenges but also fostering an inclusive, sustainable economy that benefits everyone.

Prospera (2018-2026) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Potential for independence and inspiration



Down Syndrome is often misunderstood, with many believing that individuals with this condition cannot contribute meaningfully to society. However, as awareness grows, we can challenge these misconceptions and celebrate the unique talents and creativity that people with Down Syndrome bring to the world.

Down Syndrome is a genetic condition caused by an extra copy of the 21st chromosome, known as trisomy 21. While most people have 46 chromosomes, individuals with Down Syndrome have 47, which affects intellectual development and results in distinct physical features. Despite these challenges, individuals with Down Syndrome possess a range of unique abilities, including warmth, friendliness, and a natural ability to connect with others. While cognitive, language, and health challenges may be present, early intervention through therapies like physical, speech, and occupational therapy can help individuals with Down Syndrome develop the skills needed for independence and lead fulfilling lives.

SKALA is dedicated to social inclusion, particularly for people with disabilities. In honour of Down Syndrome Awareness Month, SKALA hosted a knowledge-sharing session titled 'The Potential for Independence and Inspiration,' aiming to break down these barriers and showcase the positive impact people with Down Syndrome can have. In this event, SKALA highlighted the importance of inclusion, featuring inspiring speakers who challenged the perceptions of Down Syndrome. One such speaker was Defrey Adipratama, a young man with Down Syndrome, former intern at SKALA, and a passionate advocate for people with disabilities. Defrey opened the session with an engaging quiz and a lively djembe performance. He then shared his story, expressing his love for gamelan, Muay Thai, swimming, and more. Defrey's optimism for the future shone through as he spoke about his hopes for a fulfilling job. He believes that with the right training, empowerment, and community support, individuals with Down Syndrome can thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.

Eliza Rogi, Chair of POTADS, an Indonesian parents' association for children with Down Syndrome, also shared her insights. Eliza discussed the unique developmental journey of individuals with Down Syndrome, offering practical advice on how to engage with them. She emphasised the role of POTADS, a nonprofit foundation, in supporting families through information sessions, talent development, and helping individuals find internships and jobs. Eliza's message was clear: with the right guidance, people with Down Syndrome can work productively and become valuable members of society.

People with Down Syndrome can lead vibrant, fulfilling lives, filled with education, work, and community involvement. With the support of families, friends, and society, they can develop their skills, explore interests, and form positive relationships, ultimately working towards greater independence. However, challenges remain, particularly in areas where individuals are still kept hidden away by their families.

Down Syndrome Awareness Month served as an important reminder to recognise the potential of individuals with Down Syndrome and to strengthen our commitment to inclusivity. By providing support and creating opportunities, we can empower individuals with Down Syndrome to continue inspiring and contributing to their communities.

SKALA (2022-2030) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Emerging Leaders in International Development

A transformative journey for local leaders



DT Global Asia Pacific proudly celebrated the graduation of 18 participants from the second Cohort of the Emerging Leaders in International Development (ELID) program. This special occasion highlighted the remarkable growth and achievements of the participants, who shared their reflections on the 12-month leadership journey. They spoke about the transformative value of engaging with First Nations providers, how they applied adaptive management techniques in their workplaces, and the importance of locally led development practices. The program not only sharpened their leadership skills but also deepened their understanding of how to foster inclusive and sustainable development in their respective regions.

Margaret Sirait, a graduating Emerging Leader and Operations Manager of the Katalis Program in Indonesia, shared her personal experience of the program, describing it as a transformative journey. 'On behalf of the 2023-2024 ELID class, I can say that the past year has been an extraordinary journey,' Margaret reflected. 'Through the lens of adaptive leadership, we have witnessed a profound shift in our mindsets, leadership styles, and our overall personal and professional identities.'

She went on to explain how the program had encouraged her and her fellow participants to evolve continuously, adapt to complexity, embrace uncertainty, and lead with empathy. These skills, she noted, will be essential as they move forward in their careers, applying their newfound knowledge and capabilities to shape the future of international development.

The graduation event not only marked the end of one chapter but also the beginning of a new phase in the graduates' careers as emerging leaders in international development. Their journey of growth, resilience, and innovation is a testament to their commitment to making a meaningful impact in the world. The ELID program has equipped them with the tools, skills, and mindset to navigate the challenges of an ever-changing global landscape and to lead with purpose and empathy. As these leaders continue to chart their paths, they carry with them the invaluable lessons learned during the program, poised to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future for communities across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

ELID is a DT Global initiative to support locally led development in the countries we operate in.



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