

Towards Equitable and Sustainable Development in Indonesia



From the desk of the Managing Director, Asia Pacific



Joanne Choe
Managing Director
- Asia Pacific

In 2025, I had the privilege of visiting Indonesia and spending time with our incredible corporate staff and program teams. Hearing directly from those implementing ambitious, innovative, locally led programs deepened my appreciation for the nuance, passion, and commitment behind our development work, and for our shared mission to bring about positive change.

I was especially thrilled to convene GEDSI practitioners across our programs to hear about their ongoing efforts to strengthen gender equality, disability, and social inclusion. It was a fantastic opportunity to share insights on the challenges practitioners face, exchange ideas, and bolster each other with new approaches. This gathering was a reminder that our work is about more than simply delivering programs, but about creating spaces where everyone can participate, contribute, and thrive.

I was also delighted to welcome Neil Durnan as DT Global's new Indonesia Country Manager. Neil brings energy, insight, and experience to the role, and I am confident his leadership will foster collaboration and focus as we grow and strengthen our work in Indonesia.

Looking back on 2025, I feel inspired by our collective achievements and energised for the opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you all for your dedication, creativity, and passion. I am proud to work alongside you and look forward to all we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Foreword



Neil Durnan

Country Manager
- Indonesia

Towards Equitable and Sustainable Development in Indonesia highlights the accomplishments of our Australian government-funded programs in Indonesia over the past year. These stories illustrate the broad scope of our work, including bilateral economic cooperation, inclusive development, social protection, climate resilience, infrastructure, health, and governance. Across a diversity of sectors, these projects share the common goal of delivering tangible, positive results for all Indonesians.

This year, the KATALIS program celebrated five years of supporting the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) through the development of tangible commercial partnerships. Among the program's many successes are a training program for health care professionals, which allows them to gain Australian-certified aged care credentials, opening up economic opportunities for Indonesian professionals while meeting critical needs in Australia. Similarly, KATALIS developed the Access Indonesia app to encourage inclusive tourism in Bali for individuals with disabilities, positioning the island as a regional leader in the growing inclusive tourism space.

Ensuring inclusive growth was a key theme across our programs this year, as demonstrated by PROAKTIF's development of resources providing practical guidance for policymakers to better integrate gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) into social protection and economic empowerment programs. At the regional level, SKALA continues to support equitable and sustainable development through initiatives such as the Mentari Kaltara Forum in North Kalimantan, an ongoing platform that has helped to ensure that regional planning and budgeting reflect community priorities.

As the world's largest archipelagic nation, climate-resilient infrastructure and clean energy are essential elements of equitable and sustainable development in Indonesia. To this end, KIAT provided critical support to the Ministry of National Development Planning on its Climate Resilient Development Policy, in partnership with Australia's national science agency. The assessment, which covers transport, telecommunications, and electricity infrastructure, provides critical information that will be used to mitigate climate risks in the coming years and decades. Meanwhile, innovations developed under the KINETIK NEX Entrepreneur's Program harnessed renewable solar power to bring tangible, positive benefits to citizens like Mama Konga in East Sumba.

This year, the inauguration of two new programs, KITA SEHAT and AIPJ3, served as a continuation of Australia's development assistance in the critical areas of health and justice, respectively. Building on the successes of AIHSP, KITA SEHAT will focus on strengthening human and animal health systems working at the central level and in three regional offices across Indonesia, with the first opening in NTT in November. Launched in May, AIPJ3 is focused on addressing Indonesia and Australia's shared policy priorities, including but not limited to access to justice, criminal justice reform, women's leadership in the justice sector, and addressing transnational crime. We are honored to continue to support Indonesia's development journey in these two critical sectors moving forward.

Local leadership is a key component of equitable and sustainable development. To this end, DT Global inaugurated the fourth cohort of the Emerging Leaders in International Development (ELID) program in December. Over the next 12 months, participants will undertake an intensive curriculum focused on adaptive management and development effectiveness.

DT Global would like to thank the Australian Embassy in Jakarta for the opportunity to implement a diverse portfolio of impactful programs as well as their collaboration towards equitable and sustainable development in Indonesia. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our exceptional team members and stakeholders, without whose efforts none of these achievements would be possible. We greatly value these partnerships and look forward to continuing our work together in 2026 and beyond.

Advancing Indonesia - Australia Economic Cooperation



Over its five-year duration, KATALIS was instrumental in growing the Indonesia/Australia economic relationship. From health and the care economy to vocational training, digital transformation, and agriculture, the program helped translate the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) into tangible commercial partnerships.

The KATALIS Program Showcase, delivered in August 2025, highlighted five years of KATALIS progress and marked a celebration of Indonesia-Australia economic relations.

The Showcase put a spotlight on KATALIS' many success stories. This included an ongoing training program delivered in Indonesia by the University of New England Partnership (UNEP) and Living Well Seniors Communities. Indonesian health care professionals can now access Australian-certified aged care training that is equipping them to work in Australian aged care centres, thus fulfilling a critical need in Australia.

"We expect to see the program grow four times next year...which is obviously great for our business, but also really important for the Australian aged care sector, because we really desperately need passionate, dedicated aged care workers," said Ben Gilmore, CEO, UNEP.

The Showcase also highlighted KATALIS' role in encouraging Privy, a Jakarta-based digital identity verification company, to enter the Australian market. Privy is now looking to use Australia as a springboard to export to third-country markets.

"Australia is an important market for us. We need to prove that the Privy's app is accepted in a developed country since our vision is to grow globally. With our partnership with KATALIS, we are now developing a strong commercial footprint in Australia," said Privy CEO Marshall Pribadi.

Beyond showcasing achievements, the event also looked forward. Panel discussions explored emerging opportunities for bilateral economic cooperation, reaffirming IA-CEPA's role as a strategic framework for prosperity.

With strong participation from business leaders, policymakers, and development partners, the Showcase underscored one clear message: Indonesia and Australia are ready to deepen their economic partnership, and KATALIS will continue to be at the core of that journey.

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

Inclusive Development: How North Kalimantan is Listening to its People

Inclusive development is at the heart of Indonesia's commitment to building a fairer, more resilient, and socially just future. This commitment is reflected in the 2025–2045 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) and echoed in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The promise is simple but bold: no one should be left behind.

For many, that means access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. But for vulnerable groups — women, children, Indigenous communities, older people, and persons with disabilities — it also means being seen, heard, and counted in decisions that shape their lives.

The Ministry of Home Affairs' regional planning guidelines also support inclusive development planning by emphasising the importance of public participation at every stage — from Regional Long-Term Development Plans (RPJPD) and Regional Medium-Term Development Plans (RPJMD) to Regional Government Work Plans (RKPD).

Although the Provincial Government of North Kalimantan is committed to supporting inclusive development, data indicates that many in the community still face discrimination and marginalisation. While Kaltara's poverty rate compares well nationally, gender inequality remains a significant concern. Kaltara's score on the 2024 Gender Development Index was lower than the national average, at 88.77% compared to 91.85%. The province also records the highest rate of child marriage in Indonesia, in addition to a relatively high number of people with disabilities.

The Australian Government is proudly supporting Indonesia through the SKALA Program in facilitating and launching the Mentari Kaltara Forum. This forum is designed to amplify the voices of vulnerable groups and ensure their aspirations are reflected in the local planning and budgeting process for the 2026 RKPD. Held for the first time in April 2024, the forum brought together women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous leaders, older people, civil society organisations (CSOs), and government representatives.



The Kaltara government is integrating their inputs into official planning documents to ensure regional policies reflect the forum's recommendations. This process involves coordination between Bappeda and local government agencies to align proposals with provincial and national development priorities. Including proposals from these groups in official planning documents increases their likelihood of receiving budget support and being implemented.

CSOs play a vital role in fostering inclusive regional planning and cooperation, representing diverse voices from across the community. Since 2024, a broad range of CSOs, including those focused on women, people with disabilities, children, older persons, and Indigenous communities, have united under a common platform: the Civil Society Network (Jaringan Masyarakat Sipil, or JMS).

Working through its four sector representatives, the JMS brought together a wide array of CSOs to exchange ideas, share community insights, and shape common goals. These contributions were carefully integrated into a unified proposal that reflects the collective voice of Kaltara's civil society.

Through the JMS, these shared aspirations were conveyed to the provincial government during the Mentari Kaltara Forum. The Network played a key role in advocacy and facilitation so that community perspectives were acknowledged and embedded in planning and budgeting processes.

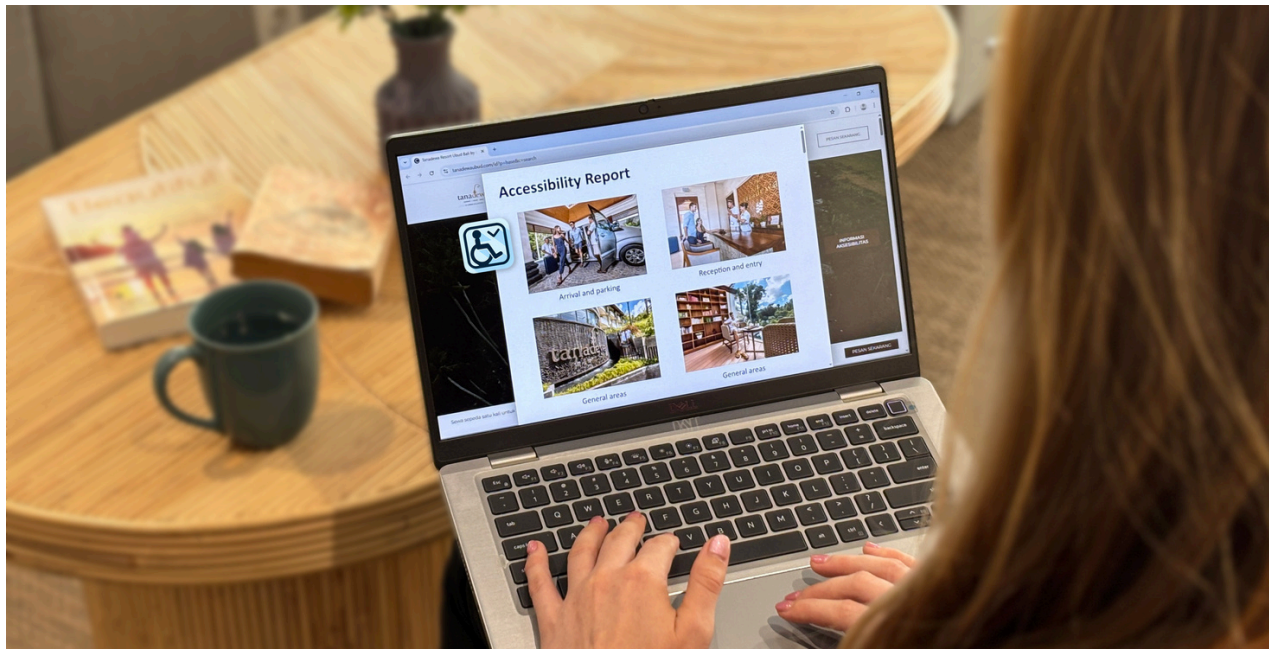
Mentari Kaltara has already produced tangible outcomes. Recommendations from the forum were integrated into the RKPD, and several were accepted for further review. Coordination between provincial planners and local government agencies is ongoing to ensure alignment with national priorities, especially around social protection and inclusive basic services.

While challenges remain, the progress achieved through Mentari Kaltara demonstrates that inclusive development is achievable when dialogue is institutionalised. The experience shows that policies grounded in listening are more responsive, sustainable, and effective. As Indonesia advances toward its 2045 vision, North Kalimantan offers a clear lesson: inclusive planning is not a one-off initiative, but an ongoing practice that works best when government, civil society, and partners move forward together.

Kaltara's experience shows that inclusive development is a practice of listening, designing spaces for dialogue, and embedding those voices into the heart of planning. Government commitment, civil society persistence, and external facilitation - like SKALA's role - can create a multiplier effect. It gives bureaucrats tools and frameworks. It gives citizens a voice. It also provides planners with a direct line to the realities they are trying to shape.

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

Access Indonesia: Unlocking Travel without Limits



In 2024, Bali welcomed 16.3 million tourists. Almost a quarter of these travelers had disabilities such as impaired mobility or vision.

For these tourists, a decision to travel depends not only on the destination itself, but also on whether the selected hotel can accommodate their specific needs and is welcoming of people with different abilities.

The business case for improved accessibility is also very clear. Travellers with disabilities often take longer, more frequent trips, travel in larger groups, and spend more per visit, generating a powerful multiplier effect. Studies also show that for every dollar invested in improved accessibility, \$13 is returned to the local economy. Further, for every dollar spent on improved access to information over digital platforms, the returns jump to \$100. Improved accessibility is clearly a smart investment.

With these benefits in mind, KATALIS, in partnership with Inclusive Tourism Australia, Cross Hotels and Resorts, and Bali Buddies, an Australian-owned tourism promoter, developed the Access Indonesia app. The app allows hotels to display key accessibility information, such as step-free entry, bathroom accessibility, and availability of mobility aids. Access Indonesia targets high-impact points along the traveler journey, from hotel arrival and paths of travel to their rooms, dining, and other tourism experiences. Co-designed with input from travellers with disabilities, the app is now giving hotel operators the ability to describe their facilities accurately and clearly. With this information, travellers with disabilities can now make confident choices when planning their next trip to Bali.

As Karlie Cummins, CEO of Bali Buddies, explained at the launch of the app in September 2025, “Travel should be about experiences, not barriers. The “Access Indonesia” application gives hotels the tools to open their doors wider, so every traveler, no matter their ability, can enjoy Bali with confidence. We invite every hotel in Bali and beyond to give it a try and see how simple steps toward accessibility can make a big difference.”

The Access Indonesia app represents a significant step in positioning Bali as a regional leader in inclusive tourism. It is proven that when everyone is welcomed, everyone benefits.

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

Strengthening GEDSI in Indonesia's Social and Economic Policies

In 2025, the Government of Indonesia took another step toward strengthening inclusive policymaking with the handover of the *Integrating Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI): Insights for Policymakers and Civil Society Engaged in Social Protection, Economic Empowerment, and Related Policies and Programs in Indonesia*. Developed under the PROAKTIF (Poverty Alleviation and Comprehensive, Inclusive and Adaptive Social Protection) program with support from the Government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and implemented by DT Global, these practical booklets were produced in close collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry for Community Empowerment (Kemenko PM), in consultation with the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) and DFAT's INKLUSI program. These consultations ensured alignment with Indonesia's national and international commitments, including CEDAW, CRPD, the SDGs, Presidential Instruction No. 9/2000 on Gender Mainstreaming, and Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities. The booklets provide practical guidance for policymakers and civil society to integrate GEDSI considerations into social protection and economic empowerment policies and programs, addressing structural barriers and responding to the specific needs of women and persons with disabilities.

Building on an earlier GEDSI toolkit produced under the MAHKOTA program in 2022, the booklets now expand the focus to include disability inclusion and other intersecting dimensions of exclusion. They are concise, user-friendly, and tailored to policymakers, civil society, and practitioners in the Indonesian context. Comprising five editions, one on basic principles, two on inclusive social protection, and two on economic empowerment for policymakers and civil society, each provides step-by-step guidance, practical tools, and examples drawn from national experience. Together, they support government and civil society actors in translating Indonesia's GEDSI commitments into practice.

In September 2025, at the request of Kemenko PM, PROAKTIF supported a two-day internal workshop in Jakarta to introduce and discuss the booklets with around 40 Kemenko PM staff, including Echelon II officials. The workshop featured contributions from key stakeholders such as Romlawati from PEKKA, who shared experiences on women's empowerment, and Ari Triono, a disability rights advocate from PERTUNI and Linktara, who spoke on inclusive community empowerment. Sessions focused on applying GEDSI principles in the design, implementation, and monitoring of programs, particularly those supporting women-headed households and persons with disabilities.

Kemenko PM officials noted that the Integrating GEDSI Booklet fills a critical gap by providing practical, context-specific tools to turn Indonesia's inclusive development vision into action. The materials are expected to strengthen institutional understanding and capacity for inclusive policymaking and implementation across the social protection and economic empowerment sectors.

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



Powering Change in Eastern Indonesia



In the small village of Laindeha in East Sumba, Mama Konga beams as she recharges her mobile phone using a PowerWell, a solar-powered unit which brings clean electricity to off-grid homes. Many villages in Sumba, an island in eastern Indonesia, still lack reliable electricity, particularly in remote inland areas.

Before PowerWells came to Laindeha in 2021, villagers had to recharge their phones by wiring them to used motorcycle batteries or leave them at the homes of friends with diesel-powered generators.

Children studied by the flickering light of smoky kerosene lamps, and women had to stop weaving when it got dark. The PowerWells, which are made from electronic waste such as old batteries and discarded TV screens, are distributed by Sumba Solusi Alam, a renewable energy social enterprise founded in 2019.

Sumba Solusi Alam is one of 15 startups selected to be part of the KINETIK NEX Entrepreneurs' Program, which supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on clean energy and climate solutions across Indonesia. The program has a focus on women-led startups and those based in eastern Indonesia, which is less economically developed than western Indonesia.

KINETIK NEX is delivered by New Energy Nexus Indonesia, a non-profit organisation that supports clean energy startups, and by KINETIK, the Australia–Indonesia Partnership for Climate, Renewable Energy and Infrastructure. It will provide startups with eight weeks of tailored mentoring, technical support, and access to investors. Five of the startups will be awarded a share of IDR 1.6 billion in funding for their projects.

Sumba Solusi Alam hopes its participation in the KINETIK NEX Entrepreneurs' Program will help it to distribute PowerWells to more villages in Sumba that are still dependent on kerosene. Each PowerWell contains a solar panel, battery, lighting, and a mobile device charging port. Villagers pay in instalments over three years to make them more affordable, with monthly payments of IDR 60,000 (about USD 4).

“With PowerWells lighting women can weave at night and produce two sarongs in seven days, compared to only one sarong previously,” said Jetty Alenda Maro, the coordinator for renewable energy at Sumba Solusi Alam. “Village kiosks can now stay open until midnight, instead of only until 7pm, increasing their income.”

Ms Jetty said children can now study longer without the fumes from kerosene lamps, and mothers no longer struggle with flashlights or wiring up a light bulb when caring for babies at night. PowerWells are also installed at the health clinic, so patients giving birth at night and those involved in accidents can be treated.

KINETIK aims to deepen bilateral cooperation between Australia and Indonesia to reduce emissions and accelerate the just energy transition. Indonesia has committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2060 or sooner. The vast archipelago nation has abundant solar, wind, geothermal, and bioenergy resources stretching from Sabang to Merauke. However, around 80% of the country’s electricity is still generated from fossil fuels. By providing support to early-stage startups, KINETIK helps generate and scale local innovations that can reduce emissions in sectors such as energy, waste, and transport.

The 15 startups in the KINETIK NEX Entrepreneurs’ Program are working on projects including windows that turn sunlight into electricity, an electric motorbike taxi service designed for people with disabilities, and the conversion of coffee and patchouli waste into organic fertiliser using solar energy. These enterprises create green jobs and new market opportunities that contribute to Indonesia’s economic growth and transition to clean energy.

KINETIK Director John Brownlee said KINETIK was committed to supporting climate solutions tailored to the needs of local communities. “When we see women like Mama Konga able to recharge her phone and light her home with clean energy in East Sumba, it reminds us why programs like KINETIK NEX are important,” he said. “Through the KINETIK NEX Entrepreneurs’ Program we are contributing to an inclusive energy transition, not just in major cities but also in off-grid areas where clean energy can change lives.”

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

The Impact of Climate Change on Indonesia's Infrastructure

Climate change will increase the frequency and severity of climate-related natural hazards, such as flooding, storm surge, and severe wind, but the impacts of these hazards will be highly contextual to different locations and to different types of infrastructure.

Throughout 2025, the Indonesia Australia Partnership for Infrastructure (KIAT) has been collaborating to assess the climate risks facing Indonesia's infrastructure. Working with the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) on their Climate Resilient Development policy, and in partnership with CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, KIAT has supported an assessment for three critical infrastructure sectors in Indonesia:

- Transport: including national roads, rail, airports, and seaports
- Telecommunications: mobile cell towers
- Electricity: generation and 'first mile' transmission

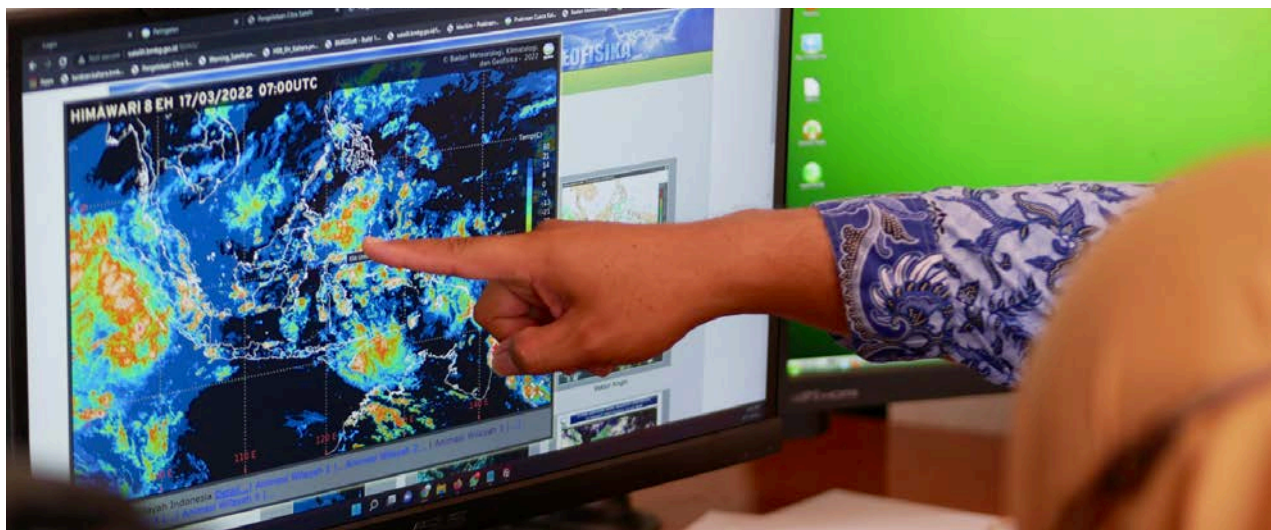
Location data for thousands of infrastructure assets was overlaid with downscaled climate and hazard modelling, allowing comparison of economic losses for now and in two future time periods, the 2040s and the 2060s. Infrastructure usage data was integrated into the modelling to enable estimation of the economic disruption that would be caused by infrastructure outages.

The assessment found that the direct and indirect economic costs of climate hazards to Indonesia's infrastructure could increase by 3.5 times nationally over the next 20 years. Surprisingly, this rapid growth in losses occurs most evidently to the 2040s and then slows to the 2060s, highlighting the immediacy of addressing the climate challenge.

The increase in losses is relatively consistent across all three sectors, but there is significant variation in the amount of change by province, reflecting Indonesia's size and climatic diversity. An anticipated increase in the incidence of severe winds is a particular concern for cell towers and transmission lines, which are highly vulnerable due to their aerial location. In transport, flooding, and landslides are the main drivers of increasing economic costs.

The results of the risk assessment have informed the development of recommendations on how Indonesia can progress towards more climate-resilient infrastructure, including improving planning processes, better access to climate risk data and new climate financing mechanisms. KIAT is now engaging with a wide range of infrastructure stakeholders across the Indonesian government to share the results and the recommendations.

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



Strengthening Our Partnership for Health Transformation



The Australia–Indonesia Partnership for Health Transformation (KITA SEHAT) was first announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and President Prabowo Subianto during the Indonesia–Australia Annual Leaders’ Meeting 2025 in Jakarta. During her visit to Indonesia, Australia’s Minister for International Development, Small Business and Multicultural Affairs, Dr. Anne Aly MP, together with Indonesia’s Minister of National Development Planning, Prof. Dr. Ir. Rachmat Pambudy M.S., formally signed the partnership agreement on 4 August, reaffirming both nations’ commitment to strengthening Indonesia’s health systems.

Backed by an investment of approximately AUD 50 million over four years (2025–2029), with the potential to extend for a further four years, KITA SEHAT builds on the work of the Australia–Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP). This new program will focus on strengthening both human and animal health systems, ensuring Indonesia is better prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to health challenges, while also supporting more equitable and resilient primary health care.

Operating nationally and in selected provinces, KITA SEHAT brings together government at national and subnational levels, civil society, UN agencies, and development partners. Through policy advice, technical assistance, research, and grants, the program aims to deliver lasting improvements in health security, system enablers, primary health care, and inclusive governance. With a heightened focus on Gender Equality, Disability Equity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and climate change adaptation, KITA SEHAT promotes approaches that ensure no one is left behind while building climate-resilient and inclusive health systems. With fewer provinces and more focused engagement—beginning with NTT—KITA SEHAT is designed to drive innovation, strengthen feedback loops between local and national levels, and build resilient systems that serve communities for the long term.

KITA SEHAT (2025–2029) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Renewing Our Partnerships in Justice and Security

Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 3 (AIPJ3) is a five-year program from May 2025 to May 2030. It aligns with Indonesia's National Development Plans (Long Term National Development Plan 2025-2045, Mid Term National Development Plan 2025-2029) and the Australia-Indonesia Development Partnership Plan 2024-2028.

AIPJ3 will focus on seven policy priorities that are important to both Indonesia and Australia: transparency and accountability, criminal justice reform, preventing violent extremism, addressing transnational crime, commercial law, access to justice, and women's leadership.

On 13 June 2025, the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas conducted a kick-off meeting with the Government of Indonesia representatives to present an overview of the strategic priorities and outline the bridging grants for the AIPJ3 Inception Phase (June to December 2025).

The bridging grants fund the implementation of priority activities in 13 ministries/agencies, including: The Ministry of Law; the Ministry of Immigration and Corrections; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Transportation; the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; the National Counterterrorism Agency; the National Cyber and Crypto Agency; the Maritime Security Agency; the National Narcotics Agency; the Indonesian National Police; the Attorney General's Office; the Supreme Court; and the Judicial Commission.

On 28 July 2025, Bappenas and DFAT launched AIPJ3 through the first Partnership Board Meeting, which approved AIPJ3's interim work plan. The launch was followed by a high-level lunch meeting with the Government of Indonesia stakeholders' representatives.

AIPJ3 (2025-2029) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Emerging Leaders in International Development



DT Global is pleased to announce the newest cohort of participants selected for the Emerging Leaders in International Development (ELID) Program.

Following a rigorous and competitive selection process, 15 emerging leaders from nine countries across the Asia-Pacific region have been chosen to join the latest cohort. Each participant brings a strong commitment to advancing development outcomes in their respective contexts and to strengthening their leadership capabilities within the sector.

The diversity of backgrounds and experiences represented in the cohort underscores DT Global's ongoing commitment to embedding its Locally Led Development Framework, which places local leadership and decision-making at the centre of development practice.

Leonie Whyte, DT Global APAC's Head of Program Quality and Gender, welcomed the incoming cohort and highlighted the importance of the program's role in strengthening leadership capability across the development sector.

"Each year, the ELID Program provides an opportunity to support emerging leaders who are driving meaningful change in their communities," Leonie said. "This cohort reflects the depth of talent across our region, and DT Global is committed to equipping them with the leadership skills and platforms needed to further their impact."

Over the next 12 months, participants will undertake an intensive, primarily online learning program focused on a range of leadership models, including Adaptive Leadership. The curriculum is designed to enhance participants' ability to apply these approaches within their professional roles. The program will also include group and individual coaching sessions and dedicated modules on development effectiveness, decolonisation in the international development sector, and the importance of locally led development.

DT Global extends its congratulations to all participants and looks forward to supporting their leadership development in the year ahead.



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