



Indonesia: The ICPD+20 and the Unfinished Agenda

A Review of Indonesia's Progress on the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action

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A. INTRODUCTION

In 1994, 179 countries including Indonesia met in Cairo and agreed to adopt a 20-year Programme of Action (PoA) at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). As the 20th anniversary of that commitment approaches this year, the global community is reviewing the successes of the ICPD PoA, assessing areas of improvement and defining a renewed global agenda on population issues, within the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The ICPD PoA is based on the fundamental idea that increasing social, economic and political equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), is the basis for individual well-being, lower population growth and sustainable development.¹ This translated globally into concrete actions to improve maternal health, family planning, prevention and treatment of HIV, adolescent reproductive health, and the prevention of gender-based violence, among others. It was a global push for a rights-based approach to core development issues, based on developing the capacities of individuals to claim their rights, and the capacities of governments and other duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations.

The on-going ICPD review looks at substantial achievements, areas of unequal progress, new challenges and opportunities, and issues with implementation of programmes. The global review reaffirms the core ICPD message that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity – across multiple sectors and throughout the life-course – is the foundation of sustainable development.²

This report will review Indonesia's engagement with the ICPD PoA over the past 20 years. Indonesia has experienced significant demographic, social, economic, environmental and political change since 1994. Access to reproductive health has expanded for a greater share of the population, fertility and mortality levels have declined, education is improving, income level is increasing as Indonesia solidifies its status as a middle income country, and the education and economic status of women is improving. Indonesia's formulation and issuance of population-related laws, policies and regulations, has been attributed to the increasing awareness, understanding and support from the national and sub-national governments as well as support from the international community and nongovernmental organizations. Population issues are increasingly integrated in the formulation of development policies and planning.

1 ICPD Global Review Report 2014. http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/icpd_global_review_report.pdf

2 *ibid*

Yet, as Indonesia advances, there are key demographic profiles that are at risk of being left behind despite the country's national achievements in advancing the ICPD agenda. Access to quality services for the poorest Indonesians, adolescents and youth, older people, and populations in remote areas is often well below the national average. The implementation of regional autonomy in the early 2000s devolved enormous responsibilities and budgetary control to local governments, leading to some significant setbacks in population issues. By 2014, there is fragmented but increasing commitment on many ICPD issues from all levels of government.

Despite Indonesia's overall progress on the ICPD agenda, there are key areas for future improvement. More needs to be done to truly achieve universal access to reproductive health for all Indonesians.³ Indonesia will likely fall short on its national targets for contraceptive prevalence rate and in addressing the unmet need for family planning, particularly in the unmarried population and in remote or under-served areas. Despite steady progress since 1994, within the past five years, the maternal mortality ratio has regressed to a 1990s level, meaning more mothers are dying of preventable causes. It is difficult to garner political will to address issues of adolescent reproductive health and early marriage remains a concern. Indonesia has not managed to stabilize the spread of HIV, and is already facing a generalized epidemic in Papua and West Papua. Antiretroviral treatment and services for mother-to-child transmission of HIV need significant scaling up. Gender-based violence and the prevalence of harmful practices still demand urgent attention and are substantial barriers to the realization of gender equality.

At the same time, a number of new and emerging population issues present opportunities and challenges. As national demographics change, Indonesia faces larger cohorts of older persons and youth – key population groups with unique unaddressed needs. Climate change, expanded urbanization, and increasingly mobile populations are trends that present exceptional challenges to ensuring that individuals can fully attain their rights, including their rights to sexual and reproductive health, in changing environments.

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