Country Background

Comprised of over 17,000 islands between Asia and Australia, Indonesia is the world’s largest archipelagic state and Southeast Asia’s biggest economy. The country is home to more than 264 million people, made up of approximately 300 different ethnic groups with more than 700 native spoken languages. This research was conducted in Aceh, a province with a population of 5,189,466 located in the western part of Nusantara archipelago. Aceh is one of the 34 autonomous administrative provinces with ‘special territories’ status, and receives ‘special autonomy funds’ from the Government of Indonesia in addition to its own regional income.

While Indonesia has achieved some noteworthy development strides in recent years, many barriers to the achievement of the SDGs still remain, particularly in relation to ending poverty (Goal 1) and meeting the development needs of women (Goal 5) and persons with disabilities (Goal 8). The government’s embrace of market liberalisation and foreign trade and investment in the past two decades has eroded labour conditions, and escalated social and economic inequalities, resulting in the government’s failure to deliver equitable benefits to the majority of people. Further, patriarchal and fundamentalist values remain a barrier to achieving gender equality and just development. Violence against women continues to be a widespread problem, and women remain deprived of equitable access to resources and opportunities. Many women often end up working in the informal sector with little or no social protection, and are denied equal participation in decision-making processes. Similarly, the impacts of social and economic inequality are acutely experienced by persons with disabilities. The specific needs of women with disabilities must be recognised and addressed in planning, implementing, and monitoring the SDGs.

Aceh is the 6th poorest region in Indonesia, yet recent development focus has been on infrastructure development rather than the empowerment of marginalised groups. Although Aceh has several regulations and policies that protect the right of persons with disabilities, they have not been implemented well and fully.

Architecture for SDGs Implementation

In order to facilitate the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs, Indonesia has developed an institutional structure comprised of a Steering Committee, an Implementation Team, and four Working Groups (see diagram below). The four Working Groups consist of representatives from the government, the philanthropic and business communities, civil society organisations, and academics and experts. Implementation of the SDGs has been integrated into national law and national action planning since 2017, with a focus on local implementation at the provincial level. Some mechanisms exist for civil society participation, such as collaborative Regional Action Planning initiatives between regional Development Planning Agencies and local CSOs. However, there is a need for better-developed plans for local-level implementation that are responsive to the conditions and goals of different localities focusing on addressing the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country population:</th>
<th>264 million</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita:</td>
<td>3,846.86 USD (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palma ratio:</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP Gender Inequality Index Value:</td>
<td>0.453 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP Gender Inequality Index Rank:</td>
<td>104 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government budget expenditure:</td>
<td>Military Expenditure: 8.178 Billion USD (2017)1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Expenditure:</td>
<td>3.8 Billion USD (2017)2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Retrieved from https://www.indonesia-investments.com/finance/state-budget/item7464?

Are CSOs included in the mechanisms for developing the national plan and implementation of the SDGs?

Are women’s rights organisations included in the mechanisms for developing the national plan and implementation of the SDGs?

Is the information/data accessible?

This brief is a summary of Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat Berkebutuhan Khusus Aceh (FKM-BKA)YWU’s fuller Peoples’ Development Justice Report.
In order to achieve meaningful implementation of Goals 8 and 11, the Government of Indonesia/ Aceh government must:

- Collect data on people with disabilities disaggregated by gender and age and open access to these data publicly.
- The government must ensure the full implementation, including in the private sector, of the national regulations 8/2016 concerning people with disabilities’ right and Qanun Aceh 7/2014 (regional law) concerning employment right which calls for 1 percent of private agency workers and 2 percent of civil servants to be persons with disabilities.
- Improve access to inclusive education for persons with disabilities.
- Adopt stronger labour regulations to deliver decent work and living wages for all, including laws to reduce disparities between employment protections for temporary and permanent worker in relation to working hours, health insurance, pension, and labour conditions. Reduce the inequalities between formal and informal workers, as well as between men and women (who comprise a majority of the informal economy).
- Introduce programmes such as Musrena (women’s action plan forum) and Regulation 8/2016 regarding disability rights at the village, sub-district, regional, and international levels.
- Implement inclusive planning in every aspects of development, for example, in education, employment and training, so that persons with disabilities can access decent work.

Goal 8:
IAEG Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and person with disabilities

No unemployment rate of persons with disability is available at either Aceh or national level. Several studies have found that persons with disabilities in Indonesia were 30% to 50% more likely to be poor especially in urban areas due to their disability, the impact of their disability on their livelihood and labour force participation.

The government strategy to support the labour market is ineffective, therefore those receiving vocational training have difficulties to access jobs.

The shortage of competent professional trainers for persons with disabilities makes it difficult for them to access vocational training.

Goal 11: Target 11.2:
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

Many infrastructures in Aceh are not disabled-accessible, including public facilities such as transportation, which do not have any access ramp. Only 37% of total public buildings surveyed are equipped with basic facilities for providing access to persons with disabilities, and in many of these buildings, these facilities are insufficient.

Goal 11 Development Justice Indicator:
Proportion of population, especially women, involved in planning, design, decision making and management of urban spaces, disaggregated by age, sex, income, disability and other relevant categories.

Persons with disabilities are generally excluded from participating in urban planning and decision making; there is no formal space for expressing their needs and opinions.