

# PROJECT REPORT

## RESEARCH AND CAMPAIGN FOR STRENGTHENING PEOPLE'S ECONOMY AND THE PEOPLE'S INITIATIVES FOR ACHIEVING MDGS

Submitted to  
**OXFAM AUSTRALIA**



**infid** International  
NGO Forum  
on Indonesian  
Development

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## COVER PAGE

Name of the Organization	<b>International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)</b>
Title of the Project	<b>Research and Campaign for Strengthening People's Economy and the People's Initiatives for Achieving MDGs</b>
OXFAM Project Number	<b>IDN-0028-01</b>
Location of the Project	<b>NTT &amp; NTB</b>
Project start date and end date	<b>15 April – 30 November 2010</b>
Overall Objective and Specific Objectives of the project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To educate the public about the meaning of actions taken by the poor in facing their situation and in achieving their own life goals.</li><li>2. To expose to the government and public that the poor have been doing much for their own life and vulnerability are also mainly caused by the government policies.</li><li>3. To expose the local people's economic activities that is supportive to people's resilience to potentials of vulnerability.</li><li>4. To provide alternative position to the government's mainstream policy choices that prioritizes the expansion of big businesses to every part of Indonesia and to expose the urgency of the protection of the local people's economy.</li><li>5. To encourage local government to take action, regulate and provide significant budget to reduce maternal and infant mortality</li></ol>
Number of direct beneficiaries of the project (male and female)	<b>More than 10,000 people.</b>
Period Covered by the Report	<b>April – October 2010</b>
Author(s) of the report	<b>Ahmat Mustofa &amp; Siti Khoirun Nikmah</b>
Date of submission of the report	<b>10 December 2010</b>

## 1. PROJECT CONTEXT

Ten years after its declaration in 2000 and its integration into Indonesia's economic and political commitments, there are still many local governments (provincial and district governments) who do not understand the substance of MDGs. Politicians at national level, who are just elected in the last general election, only few of them have adequate understanding of MDGs. MDGs have become only political slogans or jargons without meanings; very few among the local leaders and national politicians know that MDGs are summary and simple targets to direct the focus of development programs, but with very fundamentally strong rights perspective.

Maternal and infant mortality rates Indonesia remains the highest recorded in South East Asia. This situation indicates that achievement of MDGs to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates are off the track.

Poverty, gender inequality and Gender Base Violence (GBV) might become the roots of maternal and infant mortality problems. Unequal power relationship between men and women in family, especially in the decision making process, double burdens and domestic violence, malnutrition because of lack of access to food and nutrition, low purchasing power and pattern of dietary based on custom and habit are major issues in maternal and infant mortality.

This is further made complicated by its difficult geographic areas, limited road infrastructure and public services like transportation, poor public health care services, lack of access to clean water, lack of knowledge on good sanitation, and lack of alternative sources of income.

One of the problems, that has been always the case for the authorities who just feel free from centralistic and repressive government and become a new center of authority, is that MDGs is perceived as externally driven or that it is driven by central government, and it is

not from below. The other problem is that MDGs become more as political jargon rather than policy and program actions.

INFID has identified these problems and has shared with the central and local governments in several occasions. But the change hardly occurs. Therefore INFID wants to change the public campaign strategy to promote ownership of MDGs. The campaign strategy will be done by using familiar association to MDGs, namely MDGs as My Development Goals rather than MDGs as Millennium Development Goals. The emphasis will be on the initiatives and actions taken by the people. The people will explain what they mean and what goals they want to achieve with their actions and initiatives. Their expressions will be formulated in simple and short statements that expose their willingness and spirit to achieve the goals in their daily efforts and for their own future.

### **Assumptions**

- INFID believes that the majority of poor people in Indonesia lives in rural areas, and is disproportionately dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, especially resources such as forests and fisheries.
- Studies found that local small scale economies are more resilient vis-à-vis the global economic crisis.
- Evidences indicate that the government is still far from achieving the MDGs targets as there are many major development problems unresolved.
- INFID recognized that there are many efforts from grass root communities in building local economic and livelihood initiatives despites of limited promotion and public exposure.
- A strong rural economy, built on improved agricultural productivity and accompanied by the right policy settings will boost national economic growth and reduce poverty.

### **Project limitation**

The constraints of time and limited resources as the project cover broader areas and should be accomplished in very limited time hinder the project teams to implement all of the proposed project activities.

## **2. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

In general, the project on Research & campaign for strengthening people's economy and the people's initiatives for achieving MDGs has been accomplished.

### **2.1 ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

#### **Activity 1: Researches**

One of the programs implemented by the government for poverty eradication is the National Program on Community Empowerment (PNPM – Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Mandiri). There are many other programs for poverty eradication but they are more sectoral or region-based. PNPM was launched by the President on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in Palu, Central Sulawesi. PNPM was designed as the main policy framework that becomes the guidelines and reference for the implementation of all other poverty eradication programs. The community empowerment is a program for promoting capacities of the communities in order to be able to be self-reliant and to promote the prosperity of the poor and to create more job opportunities.

INFID conducted research on the effectiveness of the PNPM in three provinces: Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), dan North Sumatra. NTB and NTT provinces were selected since based on HDI Indonesia Survey in 2005, the two provinces have the lowest HDI in Indonesia, namely 62.4 for NTB and 63.6 for NTT. While North Sumatra was chosen since the HDI Survey revealed that the province had the highest HDI, namely 72,0 and included among the 8 highest HDI in 2005. The selection of the respondents/constituents in based on HDI was made to ensure the objectivity of the assessment on the impacts of PNPM to the communities in the provinces.

In each province, the researchers selected a number of districts to look at the implementation of PNPM at village level. The selection of the districts was also based on

the HDI in the districts. In NTT, for instance, 4 villages were selected in East Sumba District, which had the lowest HDI in NTT, namely 59.6; and 4 villages in TTS District, which had the lowest HDI in Timor island, namely 62.7. One of the villages in TTS District was located in the mining areas of PT Soe Makmur Resources (SMR).

In NTB, 4 villages were selected in West Lombok District, with the lowest HDI in the province of NTB, even the lowest in Indonesia, namely 57.8. One of the villages was claimed by the World Bank as successful, since the village has been able to eliminate malnutrition since the Posyandu provided additional food for the children. The conditions in the 4 villages were contrasted to 4 villages in West Sumbawa District, which HDI of 63.4, located near gold mining areas of Batu Hijau, exploited by the US Transnational Corporation, Newmont. In North Sumatra, there were three districts selected, all are located in and around Toba Lake, namely: Samosir (two villages), Toba Samosir (three villages), and North Tapanuli (four villages). HDI in the three districts are between 72,1 (North Tapanuli) and 74,5 (Toba Samosir).

Compared to the terms of reference (agreement) between Oxfam and Infid, it seems there was some discrepancies, but it did not influence the substance reached by the research. INFID found during the preparation (workshop of researchers, secondary document reviews) and field works, that there is a need for measuring or looking at the success and failures of the poverty reduction programs implemented by the government, that are parts of efforts for achieving MDGs. PNPM has been implicitly used as measures to achieve MDGs. The research found that in its implementation in NTT, NTB and North Sumatra PNPM bear in itself some significant weaknesses that if it is not monitored and evaluated at its onset, it might become the obstacles for achieving MDGs and the measures for poverty eradication might be jeopardized.

The research has successfully exposed and documented initiatives of local communities in achieving their own goals, despite increasing pressures on their livelihood because of the crises. They are well documented in photos and stories. During the field research the participants (the owners of development goals) were happily sharing their experiences and

life stories with strong hope and positive views for their future. INFID documented the photo story research in NTT and NTB and are written in 6 photo-stories:

1. Batu Putih junction and the *Nyong* of Soe in NTT
2. Spirit of service in the Savanna in NTT
3. Questions that remains unanswered for Tanjung Luar's fishing community in Lombok Timur
4. Hanging the weighing scale for the future in Kupang NTT
5. Ongoing suffering of displaced people in NTT
6. The failing life of a *Juki Cilik*.

## **Activity 2: Campaign**

Photo exhibition in the parliament building did take place, since the Parliament Civic Info Fair for 2010 was not conducted by the Parliament Secretariat. The photo story exhibition in the UN Headquarter, New York, was not also done since the photo stories were not published yet due to ied fitri holiday.

INFID participated in the photo and poster exhibitions during the Asia CSOs Meeting for the Special Ministerial Meeting on MDGs in the UN Building in Jakarta, in August. The photos and posters were also exhibited in the National Stage of 1000 Hope in Gelora Bung Karno Stadium. In international and regional (Asia Pacific) events, the photos and posters were also displayed: during G20 Development Forum in Seoul, Korea in October 2010, and in Asia Pacific Workshop on Aid Effectiveness and Climate Financing in Bangkok in November. In December the posters were also displayed during two consecutive events in Hong Kong: Asia Pacific Workshop on CSOs Development Effectiveness and the Asia Pacific Research Network Conference on Development and Economic Crises.

The photo-stories based on the research, for wider campaign, are published as book, namely *My Development Goals*, in Bahasa Indonesia and English, which is now in printing process. Hopefully the book will come out at the end of December 2010. The idea of *My*

*Development Goals* itself had caught attention of the governments during the Asia Ministerial Meeting on MDGs in Jakarta in August, particularly because there has been growing global concerns of the lack of ownership by the people in MDGs.

To boost the campaign INFID utilized public media to disseminate information about MDGs. Following are some activities and media coverage in 2010:

1. INFID proposed to the government that the government should have a Road Map for MDGs and the proposal was adopted by the government during the Cabinet Meeting in Tampaksiring, Bali in April 2010  
<http://www.bappenas.go.id/node/116/2584/sidang-kelompok-kerja-millennium-development-goals-mdgs/>
2. INFID also proposed that the Population Sensus should be used as the baseline data for developing strategies for MDGs achievement. This was published as article by Wahyu Susilo, Program manager of INFID in  
<http://nasional.kompas.com/read/2010/04/24/03295552/Sensus..Jangan.Sekadar.Menghitung>
3. The proposal from INFID was also used as reference for the President's speech about Population Sensus on 30 April 2010 (check the link at [www.presidensby.info](http://www.presidensby.info)).
4. Writing an article responding to the Special Ministerial Meeting on MDGs on 4 August 2010 in Kompas "Wajah Muram MDGs di Indonesia"  
<http://cetak.kompas.com/read/2010/08/04/02410070/wajah.muram.mdgs.di.indonesia>
5. Writing an article about the UN Millenium Summit in Kompas Online on 27 September 2010 entitled: TERSEOK DI MDGS.  
<http://www1.kompas.com/printnews/xml/2010/02/27/02585082/www.kompas.com>
6. Writing an article in Kompas (printed version) on 27 September 2010 entitled "Sasaran Pembangunan Minimum" (Minimum Development Goals)  
<http://cetak.kompas.com/read/2010/09/27/0315048/sasaran.pembangunan.minimum>
7. In 2010 INFID made press statements related to MDGs in various public media, such as:
  - a. <http://batamku.info/infid-utang-program-hanya-menambah-beban>
  - b. <http://www.rakyatmerdeka.co.id/news.php?id=7029>
  - c. <http://www.sumutcyber.com/?open=view&newsid=14406&catid=3>

### **Activity 3: Policy dialogue**

INFID conducted several policy dialogues, both at national and international levels:

1. Provide critical assessment of the Draft MDGs Report by the Government for 2010, by establishing a working group for shadow or Citizen Report on MDGs. The report was submitted to the government.
2. Involved in the preparation of the Writing of the Government Report on 2010 MDGs Achievements.
3. Involved in policy engagement and providing substantial inputs during the preparation of the Special Ministerial Meeting on MDGs in Asia Pacific tgl 3-4 Agustus 2010 – the inputs were provided directly to the Special Envoy for President RI on MDGs, Prof. DR Nila Moeloek.
4. Involved in the Asia Pacific CSO Engagement for SMM MDGs 1-2 August 2010.
5. Involved as observer participant in the Asia Pacific Special Ministerial Meeting on MDGs on 3 – 4 August 2010, in Jakarta.
6. Becoming Policy advisory team member for the Special Envoy for the President RI on MDGs, Prof DR Nila Moeloek, for the preparation of the UN Millenium Summit, September 2010.
7. INFID provided inputs to DPD RI (the Regional Representative Body of the People's Deliberations Council – Senate) for the drafting of 2011 National Budget, related to the MDGs Achievements.

### **Outputs of the Program:**

1. The book *My Development Goals* is published for 500 copies for each language, English and Bahasa Indonesia. The book is about the stories and perspectives of the local communities about development goals they design by themselves and for themselves. Research for the book was not only done in NTT and NTB, but also in Java and North Sumatra. In Java the research was conducted in Sidoarjo, East Java; Grobogan and Semarang in Central Java; Kulon Progo in Yogyakarta. The funds from Oxfam were used for the research in NTT and NTB, while the other 5 field researches were supported by other funding agencies, namely: Trocaire, ICCO and

Development and Peace Canada. Therefore the logos of the other funding agencies are also printed on the book *My Development Goals*.

2. A Research paper on the “National Program for Community Empowerment (PNPM), entitled “PNPM: Ignoring the Aspiration of the Rural Community”. The research identified some substantial problems of the program, such as the jeopardizing of genuine participation of the communities in development, and potentially eliminating local initiatives of economic efforts. The research was done in NTT, NTB and North Sumatra.
3. Photo and posters exhibition exposing My Development Goals were held joining in national, regional and international events (as mentioned in Activity 2 – Campaign above).

## **2.2 Outcomes**

The project has collected various stories about small group of people in Indonesia, particularly in NTT and NTB, about how they perceive their own development and how they utilize their own potentials and available resources to achieve their own goals. They have their own goals without interacting with the so-much-ado campaign of the government about MDGs. They even do not know what Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is, and the government also almost never inform to them. The documentation of the stories is expected to encourage and inspire other people to be self-confident in their own initiatives and creativity to achieve what they have set for their own future and for their communities’ future. The publication is also expected to provide information to the government in order that the government recognize and respect the contributions of the local poor communities in achieving MDGs, so that their voices and participation will be heard, accommodated and respected in the formulation of the government’s policies in the future.

INFID’s policy campaign and dialogues related to the acceleration of MDGs Achievements have been well accommodated by the government, such as the formulation of the Road Map

for MDGs Achievement. Certain regional organizations and government ministries have started considering the “ownership” aspects of MDGs Achievement by the people as the key for accelerating the achievement of MDGs.

### **2.3 Impact**

We cannot monitor the impact of the program, but we anticipate that the participative research and documentation of the stories of the resilient people will become sources of strengths and inspiration for many people and communities, who are struggling for achieving their own life goals.

The research and photo stories implicitly exposed the inability of the government to eradicate poverty and achieve MDGs despite abundant resources the government has. The research and stories will push the government to work harder and more systematic in achieving MDGs and involve the local communities as much as possible. The Road Map for MDGs achievement accommodates the participation of local communities and NGOs.

## **3 CROSSCUTTING ISSUES**

INFID believe that poverty has the element of gender discrimination and potential human rights violation. Therefore since the onset of the project the staff and researchers and local members involved in the project have been warned to be more assertive in looking at gender and human rights aspects of the activities. Questions in the research have to be ensured to be gender sensitive and human rights correct. The selection of the owners of the stories were discriminatory in terms of gender, so that we can find and document the gender discrimination in poverty eradication programs, while at the same time we expose the strengths and spirit of women in achieving development goals for their families and communities.

Participation is included as the rights to development, and part of civil and political and also economic, social and cultural rights. By looking at specifically in the participation of

the local communities in the government's program on poverty eradication, the project (research) intended to expose how the rights of the people are promoted and protected, and how the people can enjoy their rights through participating in the programs.

#### **4 MONITORING AND LEARNING**

The supervisors of the program monitor closely the progress of the implementation of the program. But there was something that was not well anticipated, namely related to two staff who were assigned to be responsible for the program. The program staff was pregnant that hinders her active mobilization and had to take maternity leave before the project finished. The Coordinator of the project had to also take part in a joint mission with government agencies (Military and Police) for border management program, representing civil society, which pulled most of his concentration out of the project.

A new staff was recruited to take over the roles of the program officer for this project, but it was too late and it took some time to transfer the job from the program officer to the interim staff.

Since the slogan "My Development Goals" has been spread around has attracted attention of those involved in MDGs, particularly the government officials, the senior staff in INFID had to concentrate on preparing policy engagement in order that we did not lose the momentum to expose the "ownership", participation and rights of the people in the government's program for achieving MDGs.

It was ambitious project, but it had put strong foundation for the next step campaign on MDGs, and the staff and researchers have internalized the philosophy behind this project.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE PLAN**

- The research and photo-stories are powerful tool for campaign and public education. It would be interesting and expected that the research and photo-stories are expanded to other regions in Indonesia. Besides it will diversify stories and cases, it will also inspire networks among those who are covered by the research and photo-stories.
- INFID will continue the campaign for MDGs achievement in the next years until 2015. We expect that Oxfam will also continue participating in the campaign.

## **6 FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*The financial report is attached in separate report.*