



MEDIA RELEASE

Government of Indonesia and UNICEF sign five year cooperation agreement

Jakarta, 27 January 2006

The Indonesian Government today signed a \$126.5 million five year cooperation agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. The agreement was signed by the Minister for National Development Planning/Head of National Development Planning Agency, Paskah Suzzeta, and the UNICEF Representative in Indonesia, Dr. Gianfranco Rotigliano. The Minister of Home Affairs, Moh. Ma'ruf, Governors and Heads of Parliament from 14 provinces were present and pledged their commitment to support the programme.

The 2006-2010 Programme of Cooperation will mainly focus on seven programme components: Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Education, Child Protection, Fighting HIV/AIDS, Communication, and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

In his speech, the Minister for National Development Planning/Head of National Development Planning Agency said that childhood has an important influence on human development. Therefore, investing in childhood will reap good benefits. One of the biggest challenges is limited financial resources. The Minister stated that the Government has not yet been able to allocate adequate resources to all development sectors. However, this alone is not the reason for the slow growth of human development. There are other areas of financial efficiency that needs to be improved. There are also activities whose implementation needs to be accelerated in order to impact on programmes.

Dr Rotigliano said the next five years were critical to the success of the Government's effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals. "Indonesia has made progress over the past decade in many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), notably, reducing poverty and improving education and literacy. Progress lags in others, such as reducing child malnutrition, improving maternal health, and access to safe water."

"Without focused attention, millions of children will remain trapped and forgotten in childhoods of neglect, with devastating consequences for their long-term well-being and the development of a nation."

UNICEF pointed to a number of examples the uneven progress being made toward the MDGs:

- The rate of maternal mortality remains high with 307 women dying per 100,000 births, compared to East Asia's average of 110 per 100,000.
- In education there is near-universal primary education enrolment (94 per cent), but junior secondary education enrolment is only 65 per cent with an estimated two million children of school age are still out of school.
- Three million children work in potentially hazardous occupations.
- Many female sex workers in Indonesia are under eighteen years of age. An estimated 100,000 women and children are trafficked annually, mostly as commercial sex workers in Indonesia and abroad.
- Recent studies show that abuse and violence against children and women are common throughout Indonesia.

Dr. Rotigliano warned that one of the major challenges was stopping the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which if not rolled back, threatened to undo much of the progress that has been made. By 2010, an estimated 110,000 people will be suffering or will have died from AIDS and another 1.5 million will be HIV-positive.

"I believe that the Indonesian Government is on the right track to addressing these issues and we at UNICEF stand ready to support them. This Program of Cooperation is concrete proof of our commitment to Indonesian children," Dr. Rotigliano said.

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