Ten Ways of Achieving MDGs in Cities in Indonesia
MDGs and Roles of Cities in Indonesia

MDGs: 10 Ways to Improve Local Development

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established in September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, where world leaders came together to express their commitment to improving access to education, health care and clean water, as well as fighting poverty and hunger, gender inequality, environmental degradation, and HIV/AIDS. The target for achieving the MDGs was set for 2015.

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education
Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

In order to achieve MDGs, local governments in Indonesia has integrated the goals into their policy and budget allocation, as well as implementing good governance principle such as accountability and transparency, to realize the targets of MDGs. These efforts and the decentralized system have served as supporting factors in attaining such targets, through involvement of institutions in the provincial, municipality and regency level, and monitoring efforts by all stakeholders.
Balanced Development
Tarakan City, Kalimantan Timur

Way 1: Localising the MDGs

MDGs targets can only be attained when these targets have already been localized to suit the condition and need of an area at best. Local government needs to ensure best strategies to integrate such targets so that they adhere to the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Tarakan City, a city within the Province of East Kalimantan, Kota Tarakan, has established balanced development that encompasses economic, physical-environment, and socio-cultural aspects. This vision is translated into five development mission, which are, (i) provision of good public service, (ii) maintaining environmental carrying capacity which allows establishment of central business district, (iii) increasing social welfare, (iv) building a healthy and sustainable city and (v) developing an educated and cultured society.

Realization of aforementioned missions are among others: protection program for mangrove forest, budget allocation for provision of education and health facility, energy efficiency through local electrical price to generate community awareness on the importance of energy-saving, and establishing a population management to control flows of migration.

Tarakan City’s balanced development is a testament of successful local initiative that was met with strong commitment and leadership from the Mayor. Optimizing the momentum of decentralization and regional autonomy, the municipality government of Tarakan had demonstrated real efforts in having a development that upholds the local condition and local needs. This effort has resulted in achievement of MDGs targets in health and especially in education where the municipality government had excelled the target’s baseline by having a free basic education for 9 years.

Source: www.tarakankota.go.id
Way 2: Formulating MDG-related Development Plan

The next step in achieving MDGs target is to have them integrated in local development plan and budget plan. Integrating program and activities related to MDGs can be executed through active participation from local stakeholders along with the local government and local legislatures.

Sukabumi city is prominent for its commitment in improving its effort in MDGs achievement. Strong commitment among elected head and local stakeholders: local legislatures (DPRD), non-governmental organizations, and civil society based organization, had resulted in the integration of MDGs targets in the local development plan. The integrations resulted in several programs and activities comprising of: slum settlement upgrading, securing provision of health and education facility, and 2.5% budget allocation to boost investment and capital injection as part of poverty eradication effort. This positive synergy was also apparent through many MDGs related activities conducted in the city, such as pilot testing of MDG report card to evaluate local achievement on MDG, City to City to City Cooperation Project on Making MDGs Works for Cities in Asia which is supported by CITYNET, and involvement in Stand Up and Speak Out Against Poverty Campaign.

Efforts to integrate MDGs targets into the local development plan and policy, had benefited Sukabumi city. The city had successfully implement Basic 12-year Education program and placed 3rd in the West Java Province as the city with best provision of education, facilities and health program that are accessible for every group in society, as well as an established solid waste recycling management in 7 sub-districts and Final Disposal Site.
Way 3: Ensuring Maximized Community Participation

Local government needs to involve community and other non-governmental institution/organization in attaining MDGs. Their participation contribute significantly in determining priorities in local development plan, decision-making in the budgeting process, determining programs as well monitoring provision of goods and services to public.

Embarking democratization era, role and participation of city residents becomes much anticipated and improved. In Bandung city, several non governmental organization, along with universities, association of profession and media, formed a forum named ‘Sawarung’ or Bandung Community Forum. The objective of this forum is to strengthen role of civil society in execution of public affairs in Bandung city.

Specifically, Sawarung aims to empower community to be more critical and active in evaluating and monitoring local government’s performance. The forum received various positive response from Bandung community, urban expert, and donor agency, both national and international. It also served as a control mechanism for Bandung municipality government in their effort to attain development goals.

Emergence of community forum such as Sawarung, reflects the growing awareness for community participation in development. Bandung Municipality Government had given positive response on community involvement in the development process, acting as partner for the local government. This had resulted in a supportive environment which allows emergence and improvement of community participation, and encouragement for civil society involved in public issues.

Source: www.smeru.or.id
E-Government  
Pangkalpinang City and Palembang City  

**Way 4: Building Accountability through MDGs**

Transparency and accessibility of information is a pivotal element in ensuring accountability of local government. In order to achieve this, the local government can allocate funds to develop a media/tool which allows high accessibility of information and therefore, encourage higher community participation.

Pangkalpinang city has been establishing Pangkalpinang Cyber City by developing an internet network that connects Support Working Unit (4 boards, 14 units, 2 secretariat that covers 11 access point units, 4 offices and 5 sub-districts), and implementation of On-line Finger Print Attendance System, as well as availability to access information on local government performance through http://www.pangkalpinang.go.id. Website. These measures are initiatives taken by the Mayor to attain goal of having an Informed Society 2015 Indonesia, in Pangkalpinang city.

Within the past year, Palembang city had been under the spotlight for its establishment of E-Government in conducting government affairs. Form of E-Government is the website of Palembang Municipality Government (www.palembang.go.id) that provides online information and services for Land and Building Tax, Management Information System for Local (SIMDA), as well as interactive page in where users can submit complaints or information. These efforts signified willingness from the municipality to build local government accountability through establishment of a media which encourage citizen’s participation by ensuring transparency on local government’s performance.

Implementation of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) had provided transparency and higher accountability of public service. Utilization of ICT to convey information on local government performance and service provision for community, is most likely to result in higher accountability for local government.
Way 5: Invest in Monitoring Mechanism to Track Progress on MDGs

Current and accurate data is a main requirement to establish to track progress on achieving MDGs. Therefore, local government needs to invest resources to have a data collection method that will result in comprehensive and specific data, based on gender, age, location and other variable that will be able to accurately illustrate local situation.

Municipality Government of Balikpapan city had executed a population management policy, starting from the sub-district level and village level, through poverty mapping and updating database. The aforementioned database is then used as guideline in poverty eradication effort through ‘9 On 1’ program (1 low income citizen will be supported by 9 citizens). The local government also issued special Identity Card for poor citizens that will allow them to gain access to health service, education services, micro credits and so forth.

Through its Population Management Policy, Balikpapan Municipality Government had been able to monitor accurate population number and demographic condition. This information is highly valuable to increase efficiency of local government’s programs. For example, an accurate number of poor households is useful in determining strategies used in poverty eradication program, or number of population in a certain period of time so that resources allocated to accomodate such needs is well-proportioned.

Source: APEKSI
Way 6: Mobilize Local Resources to Fund MDGs Efforts

It is important for local governments to be able to generate funding at the local level to finance their policies and programmes. While revenue from international agencies, the national government, and non-government bodies is necessary, municipalities must also focus on raising funds locally. Way to do so is by mobilizing local potentials and opportunities that will generate higher local revenue.

Tomohon city has fertile soil, which makes it geographically strategic to develop agricultural and horticultural sectors. Acknowledging this potential, Tomohon Municipality Government had encouraged its community to develop local economy activity of floriculture. This effort had stimulates and motivates many citizen to establish a middle-small scale entrepreneurship. Tomohon Municipality also had the initiative to organize Tomohon Flower Festival as one of its tourism attraction. Other than increasing local revenue, it also serves as efforts to eliminate poverty.

To implement policy or program that are aligned with MDGs, an adequate resources is required. Therefore, creativity and innovation from the local government is needed to mobilize resources for such programs and other development activity. Local government has to be able to identify local potentials that can be utilized and explores as means to attain high economic gains for community and to the area. The Tomohon Flower Festival is a testament of Tomohon Municipality effort in developing local economy through floriculture.
Reformation of Public Service
Gorontalo City, Gorontalo

Way 7 : Reforming Public Service to Attain MDGs

Implementing good governance is essential in attaining MDGs. Through its established principles, such as participation, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, and so forth, then the local government performance will improve and increase society welfare.

The public service reformation in Gorontalo city is reflected through three local regulations stipulated in 2002, on Participatory Planning in Development, Transparency in Municipal Government of Grontalo, and Monitoring on Local Government’s Performance, and at the same time, serve as results of the practice of good governance. In 2007, city of Gorontalo was awarded as city with best public service for investment by Survei Indonesia City Public Service Index, that was organized by SWA magazine and Business Digest. Such improvement in public service is also visible in many sectors such as: clean water supply, licensing procedures, provision of transport infrastructure and service and health service. This efforts had contributed in attaining social welfare, increasing citizen participation in development hemisphere as well as improving local competitiveness.

Tangible results of reforming the management of public service is increased local government’s performance as well as increasing local attainment of Human Development Index, which covered aspects of education, health and purchasing power (economy). This signifies that regional autonomi allows maximum opportunity for local government to explore their potentials and determine which development strategy suited best for their local condition and needs.

Source: www. Resources.worldbank.org
Women empowerment is an inseparable process in development, especially in attaining MADs. Ensuring women involvement in development process is in sync with efforts to increase women’s welfare in Indonesia, using indicators such as decreasing of maternality death, higher women literacy rate, and so forth.

Municipal Government of Banda Aceh had showed a series of efforts to increase female participation in development, which are through undertaking Female Action Plan Forum, and establishment of Women Empowerment Bureau, as an institution which focus on empowerment efforts. Main objective and function of this institution are: (1) Document and analyze data needed to set up pilot project in improving living condition of women. (2) to improve and execute women empowerment program, (3) increase female participation, including by providing capacity building to institutions/stakeholder that aim to do so, and (4) evaluate content and impact of existing program and policy toward woman.

Tangible results of the two aforementioned programs is the establishment of Woman Development Centre as part of the agenda identified in Female Action Plan Forum, as well as the establishment of a protection and empowerment body for female, such as: Centre for Integrated Service for Women Empowerment – Rumah Putroe Aceh, Centre for Integrated Service for Women and Children as Victims of Domestic Violence and Indonesian Child Protection Commission in NAD by the Bureau, cooperating with local and international NGO.

Source: www.aceh-eye.org
Efforts to accelerate MDGs attainment must not only be done at the local level, but national mobilizing to attain MDGs also continuously need to be done and monitored. Local Government, along with other local stakeholders, need to perform advocacy at the central level to ensure that the local agenda is aligned with the national agenda.

“Stand Up & Speak Out Against Poverty” campaign is a conducted simultaneously across the world on October 17th 2007, to remind the world leaders that they have obligations that are yet fulfilled, which is to eradicate poverty and ensure welfare to world citizen as part of the 8 Millennium Development Goals. Indonesia had followed in the line, and conducted the campaign, along with several municipal government in Indonesia, such as: Sukabumi, Pontianak, Central Jakarta and Padang, and followed by all stakeholders comprising of government, private, NGO, media and community. At the same time, it also serve as realisation of advocacy effort to accelerate attainment of MDGs.

National Development Agenda needs to reflect and comprehend difference of region, priorities and obstacles, in improving local governments’ resources (human or financial) to be able to fulfill its responsibility to attain MDGs. Therefore, local government and other stakeholders need to convince central government on the importance of having their support within the process.
Way 10 : Forging Partnership to Attain MDGs

Forging partnership with stakeholders who share concern in efforts of attaining MDGs, open access and opportunity to experience sharing and best practice, in the national, regional or international level. At the same time, it also serves to synergizes efforts with each counterparts, and effectively, encourage central government to accelerate its attainment of MDGs by providing further support with its related programs and activities.

Several organization in the national, regional and international level, had forged partnership in order to attain MDGs, which are:

**CITYNET** was established in 1987, Yokahama, Japan and serve as a regional network of municipal government in the Asia Pacific region. Its goal is to increase capacity of its members in delivering public services through modes of training and forum for experience sharing. One of its activity is flagship TCDC (Technical Cooperation between Cities in Developing Countries), yang which ensures the formulation of affiliation among cities in the Asia Pacific region to be able to have best practices in governance and urban development.

**CITYNET Indonesia** was established in December 27, 2006, in order to promote span and benefit of CITYNET network across cities in Indonesia. Similar to CITYNET, CITYNET Indonesia, aims to promote initiatives on urban development through experience sharing between cities and relevant stakeholder, development of forum and city-to-city cooperation, as well as experience sharing among its members.
Association of Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI) aims to be a strategic organisation in empowering cities and realize its regional autonomy at best. In attaining MDGs, APEKSI has a role of socializing and advocating to municipal governments on the goals through Stand Up & Speak Out Against Poverty campaign and MDGs Award. Other than that, it also actively empower cities through a series of seminar and forum.

Urban and Regional Development Institute (URDI) is an independent, not-for-profit research institute that was established in 1985. URDI aims at contributing to the realization of more sustainable urban and regional development with its social, economy, and environment dimensions through modes of research, communication, and local capacity building. URDI had been actively involved in networking, and participating in activities that aims to accelerate MDGs achievement at the local level.

United Nations Millenium Campaign (UNMC) is an initiative by United Nations in supporting and inspiring world citizen to do real efforts in attaining MDGs. One of its initiatives is to forge partnership with UCLG dan CITYNET to organize MDGs Awards for cities around the world, as a way to stimulate further participation of cities in developing countries, in attaining MDGs.
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