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Daftar Isi

1. LOCALIZING SDGs TO ACHIEVE 2030 AGENDA – *Media Online The Jakarta Post*

Localizing SDGs to achieve 2030 Agenda

The localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been a hot topic since the time of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and was further amplified by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the power of local action has not yet been brought to the fore in the various discussions on how to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

People tend to focus on what is happening on the global and national levels, but concrete action starts closer to home. The catchphrase "act locally, think globally" still rings true today and should be our guiding principle.

Eight years have passed since the adoption of the SDGs, and yet there is progress in only one fifth of the target categories, while the rest stagnate or even regress.

I believe the time is ripe for us to bring the localization of SDGs to the center, ensuring that local projects become essential to our transformative action to fix the course of the 2030 Agenda and to attain all the targets thoroughly and in a timely manner.

Ever since its foundation, Indonesia has been a country that relies heavily on its villages and local communities. In fact, during the independence struggle, there

was a saying that villages were our first line of national defense.

Today, of course, this adage speaks to a greater degree of many other things, particularly development. Building a great nation starts in the village. In Indonesia, 91 percent of the national territory is comprised of villages, and 71 percent of the population resides in rural areas. By optimizing the role of villages, we identify a significant opportunity to contribute to the success of national development in support of the SDGs.

Indonesia's 75,265 villages are therefore our source of strength and progress. Recognizing the immense potential and transformative power of grassroots development, we initiated SDGs Desa (Village SDGs) in villages across the archipelago in 2020.

Through the SDGs Desa initiative, we empower our villages to take ownership of their development, while keeping in line with the SDGs and ensuring that they are inclusive, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable in the process.

By employing this bottom-up approach, we were able to address the unique needs, priorities and aspirations of each village. The involvement of local community



Insight

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members, village authorities, and relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process has successfully brought innovative solutions tailored to the specific context of each village. From poverty eradication, provision of quality education, water and sanitation, to renewable energy and sustainability, all hands are on deck in achieving impactful outcomes.

There are at least three elements worth mentioning as crucial parts of the SDGs Desa initiative. Data collection is the vital entry point. The process of aligning village development with SDGs all started with data collection. We aggregated micro-level data that includes information on the individual, household, neighborhood and village levels.

This information is aligned with national SDG indicators, and then consolidated digitally in the Village Information System. Through this system, all stakeholders can monitor and assess the progress of the SDGs Desa in each village.

progress in various SDG targets, create synergy between different sectors and enhance coordination between national and local governments.

The strong partnership between the central government, local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector is key to ensuring the success of SDGs Desa. Through this approach that fosters collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders, we have enhanced the effectiveness of our efforts while creating a sense of shared responsibility and collective action in realizing the SDGs.

Continuous support to villages is important. To assist SDGs implementation at the local level, the ministry has launched various programs, including the Direct Cash Assistance for Village Funds, which was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that no villagers suffer from hunger, poverty or a lack of access to basic needs.

In order to empower the marginalized village communities, we have devised the Village Cash for Work program, through which we prioritize the utilization of local resources, labor and technology in various development projects to enhance the income of local residents.

Equitable economic growth in villages is supported through the development of the Village-Owned Enterprises and Village Tourism programs, while innovation in villages is fostered through the implementation of the Smart Village and other appropriate technology programs.

In Nanga Lebang village in Singtang regency, West Kalimantan, the village chief has distributed direct cash assistance (BLT) to villagers in need based on the disaggregated data. In 2022, the BLT amounted to around US\$20,880 for 87 households, while in 2023 the number of households in need of support fell to 25. To help villagers during the pandemic, the village authorities initiated several development projects to empower the local people and provide them with job opportunities.

I believe public discussions will provide a strategic opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, exchange best practices and forge partnerships to scale up our local actions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

Together, let us continue to harness the power of local action to leave a lasting impact on the lives of future generations and ensure a prosperous future for all, with no village left behind.