



# Indonesia

## Pilot Project: Strengthening Religious Actors in Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The fourth most populous country in the world, Indonesia is characterised by its religious diversity and the strong influence of religious values on society. Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism – the six officially recognised religious communities in the country – are important players in the society’s development. The Indonesian government recognises this and as it works toward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it aims to strengthen the inclusion of non-governmental organisations, such as religious organisations, in this process, as outlined in the institutional framework of Agenda 2030 (Decree Nr. 59/2017).

The GIZ project “Strengthening Capacities for Policy Planning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Indonesia and in the Global South (SDGs SSTC)” has supported this goal by bringing religious organisations more into the focus of national and subnational SDG processes. Multi-faith dialogues and capacity-building projects initiated between November 2020 und April 2022 were aimed at making the contributions of religious actors towards sustainable development more visible and promoting them.

### Results

To kick off the pilot project, a comprehensive multi-faith dialogue on the SDGs was initiated at the national and local levels, with 727 representatives from 35 religious organisations taking part in activities. These included trainings, workshops, and focus group discussions on subjects like SDG planning cycles, effective communication, and monitoring.

<b>Total Duration:</b>	11/2020 – 04/2022
<b>Implementation:</b>	GIZ Project “Strengthening Capacities for Policy Planning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Indonesia and in the Global South (SDGs SSTC)”
<b>Partners:</b>	Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), National SDG Secretariat, SDG-Centre, Leading religious organisations / Representatives of the six officially recognised religious communities in the country (Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism)

This was followed by two high-ranking events at the national level, held in order to establish a common understanding of the SDGs’ relevance and to identify possible forms of cooperation. At the “Religious diversity for sustainable development” launch workshop, representatives from different religious organisations agreed that SDGs and religious values are closely connected. As the Minister for National Development Planning emphasised: “Eradicating poverty, eradicating hunger, promoting peace and justice and preserving the environment are the basic values taught by all religions to their followers. For this reason, the role of religious organizations is very important to ensure that the goals of sustainable development can be understood, agreed and implemented by the Indonesian people”.

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### The Problem

Despite policy intentions, the contributions of state and non-governmental actors toward the SDGs are frequently not aligned, which negatively influences the SDG performance. In addition, religious organisations often rely on the resources of their own followers. Further efforts are necessary to better integrate religious actors into the national and subnational SDG process and more closely align activities with state activities.

### The Role of Religious Actors

Religious actors are among the most important non-governmental players. Although they play an important role in national development relative to other non-governmental actors, in the SDG process they have thus far been neglected. This is especially true with a view toward identifying and documenting SDG efforts.

A key result of the project was the development of the SDG action plans by 66 representatives from four provinces, who created concrete strategies for the implementation of the SDGs in their communities. Five religious organisations also developed SDG action plans at the national level. The Bishops' Conference of Indonesia shared their concepts countrywide with representatives from 34 provinces. Smaller religious communities, such as Confucian and Hindu groups, also began discussing the SDGs as a result of the project.

In collaboration with the Ministry for National Development Planning (Bappenas), a communications guideline on the SDGs was developed. The guide supported religious organisations in ensuring their development activities were planned and communicated in alignment with the SDGs. Bappenas distributed a film around the country to drive awareness to the project

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activities and the pilot project; it was shown on the national holiday “Pancasila Day,” among others.

In addition to the thematic work, digital skills were also advanced: 85 teachers from religious schools were trained in implementing online learning within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initiated as part of the SDG action plans, these activities improved education for sustainable development (SDG 4).

## Challenges and Learnings

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic made personal meetings difficult during the project. It demanded flexibility in the planning and implementation of virtual events. Nevertheless, the pilot project was successfully continued with innovative approaches such as distance learning. The incorporation of high-ranking officials at events also proved to be an additional success factor.

The cooperation with religious organisations made clear that the pre-existing knowledge of the SDGs varied greatly, both at the national and the local levels. In order to ensure better results, adopting an individual approach to each community proved to be useful in order to better understand their level of awareness and secure their participation.

The pilot also reiterated the importance of including religious actors in the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. Bappenas showed strong interest in continuing the cooperation. In the future, the focus should be set on selected SDGs, such as health, education, and life basics.

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