

# SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: SHARING INDONESIA'S BEST PRACTICES WITH THE WORLD

South-South Cooperation provides a means for countries to share perspectives and insights on development issues, enabling them to develop concrete solutions to development challenges. SSC is in keeping with Indonesia's vision to strengthen its role in the region and share the lessons it has learned on its development path. In turn, it provides a mechanism for Indonesia to learn from other countries in the region. This ultimately facilitates the achievement of development goals.



**T**he development and promotion of international partnerships through the South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been an important policy of the Indonesian Government for the past three decades. The national Population and Family Planning Development Board (BKKBN) has an impressive legacy of South-South Cooperation activities, successfully sharing experiences and strategies in managing population and family planning (FP) programmes with delegates from over 90 countries.

## Bilateral SSC

Since 2012, a bilateral South-South Cooperation between Indonesia and the Philippines has provided a platform to strengthen family planning and other related issues. Facilitated by UNFPA Country Offices, the SSC partnership enables sharing of experiences between Indonesia's National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) and the Philippine Commission on Population (PopCom) to the mutual gain of both countries. In the Philippines, the focus of the SSC is in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM),

an area that has cultural and religious similarities to Indonesia. The South-South initiative aims to generate low-cost and effective practices that could be scaled up to contribute to the attainment of MDGs and ICPD goals.

## Strategic Partnership with Muslim Religious Leaders (MRL) in Family Planning

Indonesia's remarkable progress in FP is associated with the Government's strategic partnership with Muslim and other religious leaders. The involvement of influential Islamic leaders has resulted in several declarations of religious support that are vital to the acceptance of the FP programme in Indonesian Muslim communities.

Drawing from successful engagement with MRL, BKKBN and UNFPA have jointly designed a training course for other countries entitled *Developing Strategic Partnership with Muslim Leaders in Family Planning*. Since 2013, successful training sessions have been conducted with participants from 12 countries. The training provides the participants with information and

capacity building to develop strategic partnerships with Islamic-based organizations and Muslim leaders in supporting family planning.

## Centre of Excellence for Comprehensive Family Planning Training

BKKBN is collaborating with the Faculty of Medicine of Gadjah Mada University (FK UGM) to establish the *Center for Excellence for International Training on Comprehensive, Right-Based Family Planning*, enabling Indonesia to share experiences in extending FP information and services with health providers from other developing countries. With technical and financial assistance from UNFPA Indonesia, the Centre will provide a base to deliver high quality, rights-based family planning training that meets international standards. This will be shared with other countries under the SSC initiative. The Centre will also contribute to enhancing the quality of Indonesia's national family planning programme and will become a reference institution for other clinical training centres in the country.

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