



# POPULATION DYNAMICS AND THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDONESIA

POLICY MEMO  
AUGUST 2012



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a group of people walking along a beach at sunset. The sky is a deep orange, and the silhouettes of the people are dark against the bright horizon. The water is visible in the foreground, reflecting the orange light. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

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# FOREWORD

Climate change is already affecting Indonesia, as evidenced in the recently-released report “Indonesia Country Report on Climate Variability and Climate Change” (Ministry of Environment, 2007). This report, prepared by a group of leading Indonesian experts from all relevant sectors and institutions, presents an analytical overview of climate impacts in Indonesia. The results presented in this report are consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The impacts of climate change pose a challenge not only to Indonesia’s environment, but to the achievement and sustainability of its socio-economic development goals. We need to make society more resilient to the risks posed by climate change. To counter present threats and plan a more secure future, we must embed in our systems of development planning measures that help populations mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

UNFPA would reiterate the ICPD principle on the sustainable development, population and environment inter-linkages: “Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized, appropriately managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance. To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies, in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (ICPD Programme of Action, Chapter II, Principle 6).

Experts agree that population issues are closely linked with climate change. Population dynamics concerns have even been expressed through international forum such as United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20 in June 2012. In this occasion, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, also expressed in his speech the importance to address the issue of population in the context of sustainable development and sustainable environment including climate change. However, current policy dialogue on climate change—both at international and country levels—have not included consideration of population dynamics. If addressed at all, population is usually countenanced in a very narrow scope that reduces ‘population’ to a single number, attributed as a causative factor of climate change. To better understand the role that population plays in climate change, one must look at the human dimensions of the issue. Such perspective informs discussion of climate change in terms of population ‘dynamics,’ which includes changes in age structure, migration and urbanization patterns. By including these issues in mitigation and adaptation strategies, the effectiveness and efficiency of such measures will be strengthened.

Cooperation among DNPI (*Dewan Nasional Perubahan Iklim* — National Council on Climate Change), BKKBN (*Badan Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana Nasional* – National Population and Family Planning Board), and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) has resulted in this policy memo: “Population Dynamics and Human Dimensions of Climate

Change in Indonesia.” It is targeted toward a broad audience, with the aim of creating awareness and support among policy makers and the general public alike.

This policy memo concisely illustrates how population dynamics influence both causes and consequences of climate change, through an analysis that examines population structure and geographical distribution, as well as size and growth rates. This document demonstrates innovative thinking and contributes significantly to the climate change agenda, prompting us to account for population dynamics as Indonesia builds its national response to climate change.



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is about people as well as climate. This Policy Memo presents a preliminary evidence-based understanding of the ways in which population dynamics – i.e. the interrelated ways in which a population can change in size and composition – may be contributing to the rapidly growing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission rates in Indonesia from burning fossil fuels (FF). Many popular discussions focus on population growth but we argue that population composition is equally important; to focus on one without the other gives a distorted picture. A population perspective also helps integrate the many human dimensions of climate change – economic, political, social and cultural, as well as demographic – into a common framework which can be used in policy formulation. We consider the implications of trends in urbanization, population growth, age structure, and the growth of the middle class for anthropogenic climate change.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has committed the country to reducing GHG emissions by 26 percent by 2020 relative to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario, and an additional 15 percent if suitable international assistance is forthcoming. Addressing population dynamics cannot achieve such ambitious targets on its own but it can make the task easier, especially over the long term.

Based on our understanding of the causal links between population dynamics and GHG emissions we identify a number of population-based policy options for reducing GHG emissions:

- Improving energy efficiency in urban areas by better spatial planning, infrastructure and allied interventions; this policy also has significant co-benefits for population health and well-being. A golden opportunity for implementation is presented by the launch of the new Masterplan on Acceleration and Expansion of Economic Development 2011-2025.
- Revitalizing the national family planning program can make a major contribution to Indonesia's GHG mitigation efforts over the next 40 years, and beyond. The family planning program needs to be revitalized to protect the health and reproductive rights of citizens; that this will also contribute to a reduction in GHG emissions is a fortunate co-benefit.

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