

Localising SDGs at Village Level: Best Practice in Gorontalo Province, Indonesia

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Abstract

One of the fundamental issues in the implementation of SDGs refers to the holistic strategy to achieve the goals at the village level. In the context of Indonesia with its vast area and thousands of islands and villages, accomplishing the 2030 targets will be challenging without a holistically integrating development at the village level. Since the democratisation and decentralisation that have placed villages as the centre of development, villages have now become autonomous and received a particular budget for their development under the mandate of the Law No. 6 in 2014. On the other hand, the framework of SDGs in Indonesia has been only at the provincial and city/district level not at village level in terms of the planning and implementation of development schemes. Therefore, it requires a systematic and contextual framework of SDGs at villages to be synchronised with the targets at national and global levels. Through the programme of localising the SDGs at the village level, State University of Gorontalo have formulated SDGs strategies and framework at the village level in Gorontalo Province, to ensure that the focus of village development is in line with the SDGs target in order to strengthen villages' capacity. We have strengthened the commitment by assisting 30 villages to integrate the SDGs into their development plan and providing the Key Performance Indicators to measure the implementation of SDGs at village level as the benchmark in Gorontalo province. Technically, since the problems of poverty, hunger, environment, social justice, education, and health in Indonesia mostly occur in the villages, localising SDGs at Village level is formulated to 'bypass' and to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in Indonesia.

Ever since hundreds of countries around the globe have agreed to achieve the same goals called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), some crucial questions have been raised regarding the implementation of the goals in the middle-income countries such as Indonesia. One of the fundamental issues is to formulate the holistic strategy to achieve the 2030 goals and SDGs objectives in all levels, particularly at the village level. It is essential considering the fact that the framework of SDGs in Indonesia has been only at the provincial and city/district level. It has not been at the village level in terms of the planning and implementation of development schemes. Therefore, it is necessary to acknowledge the involvement of regional and local authorities as well as civil society in order to work together to develop villages as well as to achieve the SDGs targets in 2030.

With its vast area and thousands of islands and villages, accomplishing the 2030 targets in Indonesia will face crucial challenges without a holistically integrating development at the village level. It is essential due to the democratisation and decentralisation that have transformed the core of development in Indonesia by placing villages as the centre of development. Villages have now become autonomous and received a particular budget for their development under the mandate of Law No. 6 in 2014. With these opportunities, the development in Indonesia must be started from villages by considering all challenges and converse them to be the potentials and capitals for the community in the villages. For example, the idea of one village – one product has been promoted to ensure that the community in every village can work together to create their potentials through this opportunity.

In order to create this, it is necessary to integrate SDGs targets into village programmess. The process of implementing SDGs at the village level should be considered as a great opportunity to start a comprehensive effort to empower villages and their community. Consequently, it is argued that the local authorities should work together with civil society to set up the roadmap and action plans of SDGs at the village level in order to develop villages through the implementation of SDGs. Technically, since the problems of poverty, hunger, environment, social justice, education, and health in Indonesia mostly occur in the villages, localising SDGs at Village level is formulated to ‘bypass’ and to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in Indonesia. In other words, the successful implementation of SDGs in Indonesia can be measured by raising these following questions – whether the villages in Indonesia have developed or not? Whether the poverty in the village has been declined or not? Whether problems of social justice, health, education, and the environment in the villages have been solved or not? Therefore, it requires a systematic and contextual framework of SDGs at villages to be synchronised with the targets at national and global levels.

Through the programme of localising the SDGs at the village level, State University of Gorontalo has formulated SDGs strategies and framework at the village level in Gorontalo Province. The strategies and framework are to ensure that the focus of village development is in line with the SDGs target in order to strengthen villages’ capacity. In doing so, we have strengthened the commitment by assisting 30 villages to integrate the SDGs into their development plan. Our team

have worked together with the provincial government to assist local authorities at village level and civil society to make a plan of village development, which is based on the SDGs indicators. We have created a system and a model to assist them to plan their programmes and budget that supports the real programmes in order to tackle the problems of poverty, education, health, and social justice. The system has been created to ensure that all programmes are based on local needs and implemented by the local community as an effort of local empowerment. We have also provided the Key Performance Indicators to measure the implementation of SDGs at the village level as the benchmark in Gorontalo province.

Regarding the Covid19 pandemic, it is suggested that the SDGs targets at the village level should be considered as the effort to help the village to be more aware of crucial problems such as this. As a result, we are in the process of creating a system that can help villages and their community to prevent the spread of the Covid19 as well as to prepare themselves to solve similar or worse problems in the future. This system is called “Kinship Based Mitigation”. This system is developed based on the local values of helping together and living life as a community. The mitigation is not only the effort of government and health authorities, but it mainly depends on the communal effort of people in the villages. The system is developed to ensure that local figures or respected people in the community are involved as the promoters to create an environment that can mitigate the spread of Covid19 and other health problems in the future. As a result, this model can contain the spread of Covid19 as well as to empower the local community to solve their problems with their own potentials.