

COUNTRY YOUTH

# CALL TO ACTION 2025

APFSD Youth Forum | Feb 19-21, 2025

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence based solutions for the 2030 agenda and its SDGs for leaving no young person behind in Asia and the Pacific



INDONESIA

## Situational Analysis

Indonesia, with a population exceeding 275 million, is a nation marked by diversity and rapid transformation. As the country continues its journey toward economic growth and social change, challenges remain in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This document crafted by Indonesian youth presents an evidence-based, inclusive perspective and outlines necessary policy measures to accelerate progress toward SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 14, and SDG 17

Indonesia's healthcare system has evolved significantly since the launch of Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional (JKN) in 2014, now reaching nearly 80–85% of the population. However, disparities persist. There is still an Urban-Rural Divide still persisting. Metropolitan regions benefit from modern facilities and specialized care, while remote archipelagic areas face chronic shortages in healthcare professionals and infrastructure. There is an existing disease burden with the rise in non-communicable diseases, diseases from environmental conditions, mental health challenges (affecting one in five young people), and recent COVID-19 impacts underscore the need for more robust primary care and community-based interventions. Indonesia still has neglected Health Issues in the form of challenges in managing tuberculosis, leprosy, and the health needs of individuals with disabilities. There is a human resource gap as well. While the doctor-to-patient ratio has improved from 0.1 to 0.7 per 1000 over two decades, it still falls short of the WHO standard of 1:1000, with significant regional disparities.

Indonesia has made strides in female education and literacy, with literacy rates exceeding 95% and high enrolment figures in tertiary education,

however, systemic gender inequalities persist. Female participation in the labor force remains around 51%, with underrepresentation in leadership roles in both public and private sectors. Approximately one in three women experiences domestic violence. Additionally, digital and technology-facilitated violence has emerged as new challenges. Despite advances like the Sexual Violence Criminal Act and services such as SAPA 129, funding cuts and inadequate legal frameworks continue to hinder full protection and support, especially for gender-diverse groups and women with disabilities. Structural barriers, especially for women in Papua, Aceh, and women with disabilities, limit meaningful participation in politics. Review, revision, and elimination of gender-discriminative national and local acts (i. e. Peraturan Daerah Kota Bogor No. 10/2021 tentang Pencegahan dan Penanggulangan Perilaku Penyimpangan Seksual; Peraturan Pemerintah, problematic article in Peraturan Pemerintah Republik Indonesia No.64/2007 tentang Pengangkatan Anak (Article 13) is highly needed.

Indonesia's robust economic growth is tempered by challenges in job quality and employment security. An estimated 60% of workers are working in the informal sector and without adequate social protection. Youth unemployment hovers around 14% with widespread underemployment and a mismatch between educational background and market needs. Although programs like "Kartu Prakerja" have reached many, a comprehensive strategy linking academia with modern digital and technical skill demands is urgently needed.

As the world's largest archipelagic nation, Indonesia's marine ecosystems are central to its food security,

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biodiversity, and economic development. Issues such as coral reef degradation, plastic pollution, coastal reclamation, and illegal wildlife trade threaten marine biodiversity. Conservation Challenges still exist. Despite designating 9% of its waters as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), effective management is hampered by illegal activities such as dark fleets and insufficient enforcement. Coastal communities suffer from habitat loss, displacement due to commercialization, and increased domestic waste affecting marine life. There is significant untapped potential in renewable ocean energy and eco-tourism, which requires balanced policies to protect marine resources while fostering sustainable development. While effective partnerships are critical for sustainable development there are still challenges pertaining to the same. Fragmented coordination amongst diverse stakeholders including government, private sector, civil society, and international partners often work in silos, leading to inefficient resource allocation. Rapid technological changes demand up-to-date, disaggregated data to inform policy and ensure that international finance reaches marginalized communities. Recent “budget efficiency” measures and reduced international aid has further strained Indonesia’s capacity to sustain essential public services. The 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report from Indonesia highlights a significant digital divide. Urban and main island areas have better internet access than rural and outer island regions. Vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and people with disabilities also face internet access challenges.

## Recommendations

Our recommendations for Cambodia on selected SDGs to achieve optimum target are as follows-

### SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

- **Infrastructure & Investment:** Increase healthcare investments in rural and remote regions. Expand digital health initiatives (telemedicine, remote diagnostics) and primary care services.
- **Human Resource Development:** Enhance training, retention, and equitable distribution of healthcare professionals with competitive incentives.
- **Inclusive Health Policies:** Integrate sexual and reproductive health education into curricula, support mental health programs, and ensure health services for people with disabilities.
- **Policy Reform:** Reassess budget efficiency policies that undermine public health initiatives, including TBC management, other neglected tropical diseases (such as Dengue Fever), and air quality management.

### SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Legal and Policy Enforcement:** Strengthen anti-discrimination laws and enforce protections against gender-based violence, both online and offline.
- **Women’s Leadership:** Develop targeted mentorship and leadership programs to increase female representation in politics and senior management.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Bridge the gender digital divide by providing equitable access to technology and digital skills training.
- **Inclusive Political Participation:** Reform electoral processes to ensure that women, especially those from marginalized communities and with disabilities, are genuinely meaningfully represented.
- **Supportive Environment and Ecosystem for survivors of gender-based violence:** Develop detailed regulatory packages, emphasize the need for sufficient human and financial resources and reliable disaggregated data, and strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to build a robust framework for protecting victims of gender-based violence.

### SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- **Formalizing the Informal Sector:** Implement policies that extend social protection and fair wage standards to all workers.
- **Skills and Vocational Training:** Align education with market needs including but not limited to vocational training, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship programs, to reduce people not in employment, education, and training (NEET).
- **Sustainable Business Practices:** Incentivize responsible corporate governance that meets environmental and social standards, ensuring that economic growth benefits all citizens.
- **Renewable Energy & Green Jobs:** Foster investments in renewable energy and green jobs to create sustainable job opportunities across urban and rural areas.
- **Legal Protection for Domestic Workers:** Urge the Domestic Workers Act Draft to be adopted.



## SDG 14 : Life Below Water

- **Marine Conservation & Enforcement:** Strengthen MPA management while reinforcing the 30x45 vision within the 30x30 Global Biodiversity Framework, enforce waste management regulations, reintegrate with local wisdom marine management, and curb the illegal trade of endangered marine species.
- **Community-Led Initiatives:** Support coastal communities and grassroots marine conservation projects including but not limited to capacity-building, training, and funding.
- **Blue Economy Development:** Expand sustainable marine industries (eco-tourism, aquaculture), promote research on blue carbon ecosystems, and promote fishermen's well-being.
- **International Collaboration:** Accelerate the ratification of international treaties including not limited to the BBNJ Agreement (also known as the High Seas Treaty), and ASEAN Blue Economy Framework, and promote a global plastics treaty that holds producers accountable.

## SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Transparent Monitoring:** Develop digital, disaggregated reporting systems for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) to enhance accountability.
- **Inclusive Partnerships:** Foster multi-stakeholder collaborations that integrate local knowledge and ensure equitable resource distribution from downstream to upstream
- **Enhancing Local Government capacity:** Improving local governments' capacity to ensure equitable service delivery, social welfare and sustainable development.
- **Financial Accountability:** Protect sovereign wealth funds and ensure that public resources are used transparently, preventing tax evasion and money laundering.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Prioritize the expansion of fixed and mobile broadband networks, especially in rural and marginalized communities, to bridge the digital divide

## Indonesian Youth Demand Bold, Evidence-Based Action, and Advancing Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation for a Sustainable Future

Indonesian youth stand united in demanding immediate, transformative action to secure our nation's prosperity and sustainable development. The evidence is overwhelming: healthcare disparities, entrenched gender inequality, precarious job conditions, marine degradation, and fragmented partnerships threaten our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. As passionate young leaders committed to sustainable development, we call on the Indonesian government, private sector, and civil society to act decisively and inclusively. We insist on policies that are rigorous, inclusive, people-driven, data-driven, and science-driven. We urge you to:

**Strengthen Healthcare and Save Lives:** We demand that the government boost investments in healthcare infrastructure, especially in remote regions where critical shortages persist. With nearly 80–85% of the population covered under JKN, millions still remain vulnerable due to uneven access and inadequate facilities. Expand digital health services and community-based care to ensure that every Indonesian can access quality health services when needed.

**Empower Women and Eradicate Gender Inequality:** It is time to dismantle systemic barriers that limit female participation in the workforce and leadership. Reform electoral processes to ensure that women, especially those from marginalized communities and with disabilities, are genuinely meaningfully represented. Despite high literacy rates and educational achievements, women remain underrepresented. Only 51% of the labor force and about 20% in decision-making roles. We call for the strict enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, targeted leadership programs, and urgent measures to end gender-based violence, ensuring that every woman is empowered and protected.

**Create Quality Jobs and Drive Economic Growth:** With 60% of workers in the informal sector and youth unemployment at 14%, the Indonesian economy is at a critical juncture. We demand comprehensive reforms that formalize informal employment, offer fair wages, and secure social protection. Invest in vocational training and green energy initiatives that align with modern market demands, ensuring that every young Indonesian can access a quality job that supports a sustainable future.



**Protect Our Marine Resources and Champion the Blue Economy:** As the world's largest archipelagic nation, Indonesia must act decisively to preserve its vital marine ecosystems. It must ramp up enforcement of Marine Protected Areas, tighten waste management, and halt illegal activities that endanger biodiversity. By strengthening coastal community support and investing in sustainable blue economy projects, we secure not only our environment but also the livelihoods of millions.

**Forge Transparent and Inclusive Partnerships:** We demand that every stakeholder from the government to the private sector to civil society adopt transparent, accountable practices that guarantee equitable resource distribution. Establish robust digital monitoring systems for data collection and ensure that every initiative is informed by real-time evidence and community feedback. Only through united, accountable partnerships can we achieve our SDG commitments.

Indonesian youth refuse to accept half-measures. We demand decisive, evidence-based action now. We call on our leaders to rise to the challenge, implement bold reforms, and deliver a future where every Indonesian thrives in a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous society.

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*The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on 19-21 February, 2025. The Indonesia drafting team consisted of Dina Chaerani, Steven Setiawan, Agatha Syailendra Hamdan, Ahmad Fazri, Alvian Wardhana, Aqilla Izzi, Arfiana Maulina Fatimah, Belva Aulia Putri, Bertha Samponu, Brigitta Maria Andrea Gunawan, Bryan Akthur Alexander, Faridah Hanum Rajagukguk, Fithriyyah, Hendri Surya Wicaksana, Indra Oktor, Intan Kusumaning Tiyas, Fatimah Islamia, Lucia Damanik, Marsha Aziza Wardhana, Meihartati Kristiani Zebua, Muhammad Dhirham Zakaria, Najmi Nasyithalillah, Paula Theresa Putri Jeremi Silewe, Sarah Indiana Karmani, Vevi Alfi Maghfiroh, Wahyu Candra Dewi, Eva Nurcahyani, and Nadin Sahasrakirana Acintya. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.*

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