



YOUTH CALL TO ACTION INDONESIA

Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for young people in all their diversity.

Situational Analysis

Indonesia stands at a critical inflection point where improvements in infrastructure access coexist with deep structural inequities affecting youth, particularly in water security, energy justice, urban housing, and future skills. While headline access indicators for water, energy, and digital connectivity have improved, deep spatial and intergenerational inequities persist,

particularly in urban slums and 3T (frontier, outermost, remote) regions. At the same time, as the government pursues 8 percent GDP growth by 2029, Indonesia remains constrained by entrenched dependence on extractive sectors, incomplete mainstreaming of a just transition, and unresolved structural barriers to inclusive and sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

» **Green Informal Service Zones:** Pilot designated municipal zones where informal water vendors and community-based providers are formally recognised and integrated into official WASH systems. Through licensing, technical training, water quality monitoring, and outcome-based contracts, these actors can be incentivised to deliver safe, affordable, and environmentally sustainable

water services. This approach strengthens service coverage in underserved settlements, reduces illegal or unsafe water distribution, and creates green livelihood opportunities while aligning informal delivery with SDG 6 standards.

» **Community Water Co-Governance:** Institutionalise youth-led “data brigades” to systematically map WASH gaps in slums and marginalised areas using participatory tools and

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digital platforms. Their findings should be formally integrated into provincial and regency planning and budgeting cycles, ensuring community-generated evidence directly informs infrastructure investments, service improvements, and accountability mechanisms. This model promotes transparency, strengthens local ownership, and fosters intergenerational leadership in advancing equitable water governance.

- » **Promote gender-responsive water governance:** Ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable access to clean water while actively involving women in WASH planning and decision-making. Governments should strengthen piped water systems, especially in rural, peri-urban, indigenous communities, and mining-affected areas, ensure safe and accessible water points, as well as integrating women's leadership in water management, and enforce stronger environmental regulations to reduce water insecurity and gender inequalities.
- » **Institutionalise a National Youth Water Advisory Board:** It is important for young people not only involved in water campaigns and research as well as field projects but also given an institutionalised mechanism to engage in advocacy and consultation with government policy processes and programmatic works.

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

- » **Local Technical Sovereignty and Workforce Transformation:** Allocate 30% of energy project budgets in remote regions to provide training to local youth technicians, establishing community-based maintenance centers, and providing open-source operational manuals in local languages. Establish a dedicated "Community Energy Fund" sourced from reallocated fossil fuel subsidies. This fund provides low-interest micro-loans and grants for village-owned enterprises (BUMDes) to procure and maintain renewable hardware, ensuring financial autonomy beyond initial government installation.
- » **Mandate energy transition literacy and co-design platforms from urban schools to extraction-affected communities:** Indonesia

should institutionalise nationwide energy transition literacy and participatory co-design platforms to address persistent knowledge gaps and social exclusion in energy planning. The mandate should involve the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of National Development Planning. This would include integrating renewable energy, fossil fuel impacts, and local energy rights into school and vocational curricula; establishing district-level energy learning hubs linked to existing community centers and pesantren; and requiring that energy and extractive projects conduct iterative co-design processes with affected communities rather than one-off consultations. This should prioritise practical, locally relevant applications of renewable energy technologies and environmental safeguards, enabling communities to understand, operate, and shape energy solutions across contexts from urban neighborhoods to customary territories. Strengthening societal energy literacy and agency in this way supports equitable deployment, informed consent, and long-term stewardship in Indonesia's transition.

- » **Reform fossil energy subsidies into a Just Transition Community Benefit and Skills Fund targeting informal workers and extraction-affected regions through a dedicated Just Transition Community Fund:** Indonesia should progressively reallocate coal and fossil energy subsidy expenditures into a dedicated Just Transition Community Benefit and Skills Fund, prioritising informal workers and communities in extraction and energy-producing regions. The fund would finance reskilling programs for informal and low-income workers in renewable installation, operations, and maintenance; support locally governed transition planning in coal-dependent districts; and require extractive energy projects to implement long-term community development agreements extending beyond project lifetimes. Subsidy reform should be paired with transparent district-level energy allocation reporting to address perceived inequities in clean energy distribution. By linking subsidy reform to tangible local economic opportunities and durable community

benefits, this mechanism addresses the political economy constraints of coal dependence while operationalising a people-centered and just energy transition.

- » **Indonesia should advance responsible governance of energy-transition minerals by shifting from extraction-led growth to a sufficiency approach that caps overproduction, internalises environmental and social costs, and delivers lasting community and ecological resilience:** Indonesia should move from market-driven control of critical mineral production toward a sustainability-based production framework that links output levels not only to trade flows and global price signals but also to environmental carrying capacity and cumulative ecosystem impacts. As the government currently moderates mineral supply in response to global oversupply, production caps should be defined through transparent sustainability indicators such as watershed stress, deforestation thresholds, biodiversity risk, and community well-being metrics. Embedding these criteria into national mineral planning and licensing decisions would align production management with environmental resilience and long-term just transition objectives rather than short-term market cycles.

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- » **National Youth Green Skills Compact:** Establish a formal compact to co-design competency standards for renewable energy and circular economy between industry and vocational schools (SMK). The compact will also serve as a roadmap for national decent jobs.
- » **Align vocational education and youth entrepreneurship with digital and restorative local economies:** Reform vocational and skills systems to strengthen industry linkages, support startup and MSME participation in global digital markets, and integrate green and restorative economy sectors such as sustainable agriculture and ecosystem restoration. This includes work based learning, local industry partnerships, and financing and incubation for youth led enterprises

so that SMK graduates and rural youth can transition into productive employment aligned with Indonesia's evolving economic structure.

- » **Green TVET Centers of Excellence:** Ensure each province has at least one center by 2030 to prototype solar installation, energy-efficient retrofits, and digital maintenance platforms led by the TVET Centers of Excellence. The Centers can usher both public and private finance to promote innovative industrial talent development on energy and sustainable development.
- » **Promote gender inclusive and place based economic participation in the digital transition:** Address structural barriers to women's employment and youth informality by expanding digital work opportunities, remote employment pathways, and entrepreneurship support for women and rural youth. Policies should couple digital inclusion with local economic diversification beyond extractive sectors, ensuring that growth sectors such as palm oil regions adopt restorative and environmentally sustainable value chains that create decent jobs without ecological degradation.

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- » **Amend regulations on Restorative Housing Standards:** Increase the minimum floor area in subsidised housing schemes (e.g., Tapera) from 18 m² to around 30 m² to meet restorative health standards. Mandate gender-responsive housing design, including safe communal spaces and passive cooling through cross-ventilation.
- » **Upgrade informal settlements with gender-responsive WASH and climate-resilient housing standards:** Scale up slum upgrading programs that prioritise safe water access, sanitation, and hygiene facilities designed for women and girls, alongside structural retrofitting for disaster resilience. With about 29.9–33 million Indonesians living in urban slums and only 65.25 % of households in adequate housing, interventions should replace substandard units including 18 m² subsidised houses with minimum livability and seismic safety standards, ensuring kitchens and sanitation spaces are structurally reinforced given documented

gendered disaster risks.

» **Reform affordable housing policy toward livable, safe, and inclusive urban environments:**

Shift subsidised housing from minimum-size supply targets toward quality-based standards that guarantee adequate floor space, access to water and sanitation, proximity to services, and free or affordable public green space. National housing programs such as Tapera should adopt livability thresholds aligned with disaster risk reduction and child-friendly urban planning, recognising that compact emergency-type units are unsuitable for permanent residence and perpetuate urban inequality.

» **Integrate social and cultural vulnerability into housing and community development policy:**

Housing and poverty programs should incorporate local socio-cultural drivers of vulnerability including gender norms, marriage debt burdens, and displacement risks in regions such as eastern Indonesia. Community-based development and women's economic empowerment initiatives can reduce indebtedness pressures and strengthen household resilience, ensuring that housing, WASH, and livelihood interventions address both structural deprivation in slums and culturally embedded barriers to well-being.

» **Planetary health infrastructure that mainstream Indonesia's diverse local ecological knowledge and vernacular settlement systems into national climate adaptation and disaster risk policy:**

moving beyond site specific pilots toward standardised design guidance for climate and hazard resilient infrastructure. This includes embedding adaptive principles from traditional land, water, and housing practices into urban planning codes, financing mechanisms, and public housing programs, while scaling modular and incremental construction technologies for safe, affordable, and locally maintainable homes. A national platform linking customary institutions, engineers, and local governments should co-develop context specific resilience standards so that infrastructure simultaneously supports ecosystem integrity, cultural continuity, and community safety across Indonesia's varied geographies.

- » **Participatory Safety Audits:** Establish women's and youth advisory boards to ensure inclusive standards. Utilise social mapping and transect walks to identify high-risk zones to reduce gender-based violence (GBV)

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- » **Youth Advisory Boards:** Mainstreaming the spirit of partnership and co-creation with youth on national policy spaces through strong institutionalisation of meaningful youth engagement in Indonesia.

- » **Open SDG Data Commons:** Develop a transparent data system combining national datasets with community-driven indicators generated by youth "data brigades" that leverage citizen science and accountable facilitation from the government.

- » **Local Wisdom for Resilience Fund:** Create a dedicated fund to finance partnerships between youth and indigenous communities to adapt traditional knowledge to contemporary urban challenges.

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 18-20 February, 2026. The Indonesia drafting team consisted of Hino Samuel Jose, Sarah Indiana Karmani, Michelin Sallata, Putu Yunia Andriyani, Alifah Salsabila, Bryan Akthur Alexander, Muhammad Dhirham Zakaria, Thegar Setianegara, Arka Nareswari, Siska Wanda Raihan, Achmad Faiq, Maysa Angelina Ridwan, Yurose Muhammad Rafti Budi Ibaraki. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.