



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

Ambassador Pascoe Applauds Indonesia's Successes in Family Planning



Monica Kerrigan/USAID

From the left: Dr. Harni Koesno, Chairperson, Indonesian Midwives Association; Mr. William M. Frej, USAID Mission Director; Dr. Sumarijati Arjoso, Chairperson, BKKBN; Dr. Hasyim Muzadi, President, Nahdlatul Ulama; Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe; and Dr. Din Syamsuddin, President, Muhammadiyah.

United States Ambassador to Indonesia B. Lynn Pascoe applauded Indonesia for the success of its family planning program and called upon national and local governments to renew the country's commitment to family planning as a means of securing a healthier and more prosperous future for the Indonesian people.

Ambassador Pascoe made his appeal to a gathering of lawmakers, government officials, and civil society activists during a June 8 ceremony at his residence commemorating 35 years of collaboration between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN). The Ambassador remarked that the 35-year partnership has been "truly historic" and, as a result, "Indonesia is rightfully regarded as a world leader in family planning."

During the event, Ambassador Pascoe and USAID/Indonesia Mission Director William M. Frej presented the "The Outstanding Partnership Award" to four Indonesian organizations with whom USAID has closely worked. BKKBN, the Indonesian Midwives Association, and the country's two largest Islamic movements, Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama, were the pioneers in family planning and continue to play a leadership role providing critically needed outreach, supplies, and quality services to more than 25 million people. The Ambassador expressed "our sincere appreciation to all the Indonesian leaders who have made this family planning partnership a resounding success," adding that "Indonesian achievements in family planning are truly historic." Accepting the awards on behalf of their organizations were BKKBN Chairperson Dr. Sumarijati Arjoso; the President of Muhammadiyah, Dr. Din Syamsuddin; the President of Nahdlatul Ulama, Dr. Hasyim Muzadi; and the Chairperson of the Indonesian Midwives Association, Dr. Harni Koesno.

"The United States of America is proud to have played a supporting role," said Ambassador Pascoe. "From the outset, both partners committed significantly to make this program successful. The Government of Indonesia made family planning a national priority, mobilizing vast human and financial resources. USAID also made a significant commitment - investing more than 340 million

dollars to help develop Indonesia's family planning capacity - in management, training, communication, logistics, social marketing, and service delivery. For Indonesia to continue to grow prosperous, to educate its citizens, and to have a healthy workforce, all families must be quality families. We need your continued commitment to BKKBN and the national family planning program now and into the future."

"Very few times in our lives will we participate in a collaborative effort that did so much to improve the lives of so many people and in so doing strengthened the development of a whole nation and its people," said Mission Director Frej. "USAID is proud of the contributions that have been made and we recognize the profound impact of this partnership for Indonesians and the world."

USAID will end its technical assistance to BKKBN in June 2006. During the more than three-decade family planning partnership, Indonesians have overwhelmingly embraced smaller families. In the early 1970s, a woman had an average of six children. Today most women have between two or three children. It is estimated that Indonesia has 80 million fewer people today due to the success of family planning. "It is in witnessing these tremendous accomplishments that USAID is graduating its family planning assistance program," concluded the Ambassador. "We are confident that the Indonesian family planning program remains in strong, competent, and caring hands, through the BKKBN and their extensive network of partners."

June 2006