

COUNTRY PROFILES

Indonesia

Capital: Jakarta

Area: 1,904,600 sq km

Language: Bahasa Indonesia

Ethnic groups: Javanese 45%, Sundanese 14%, Madurese 7.5%, coastal Malays 7.5%, other 26%

Administrative divisions: 30 provinces and 2 special regions (Aceh and Jogjakarta)

System of government: Unitary Multiparty Republic

Currency: Indonesian rupiah

INDONESIA IN FIGURES	
Human Development Index ⁸ (2003)	0.697 ⁹
Demography	
Population (2005)	222.8 million ¹⁰
Population under 15 (as % of total) (2003)	29% ¹¹
Economy	
GDP (2004)	US\$ 257.6 billion ¹²
GNI (per capita) (2004)	US\$ 1,140 ¹³
Unemployment (as % of total labour force) (2005 est.)	10.9% ¹⁴
Inflation rate (2004)	7.1% ¹⁵
Population living below the national poverty line (1990-2002)	27.1% ¹⁶
Health and education	
Life expectancy at birth (2004)	67.4 years ¹⁷
Adult literacy rate (15 years and above) (2004)	90.4% ¹⁸
Gross primary enrolment ratio (2003)	116.2% ¹⁹
Survival rate to Grade 5 (2001-2002)	89.1% ²⁰
Gross secondary enrolment ratio (2003)	61.8% ²¹
Public expenditure on education (as % of GDP) (2002)	1.2% ²²
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP) (2002-02)	1.2% ²³

⁸ The Human Development Index focuses on three measurable dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life, being educated and having a decent standard of living. Thus it combines measures of life expectancy, school enrolment, literacy and income to allow a broader view of a country's development than does income alone.

⁹ UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.

¹⁰ UNFPA, State of World Population 2005.

¹¹ UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.

¹² World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

¹³ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

¹⁴ CIA World Factbook.

¹⁵ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

¹⁶ UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.

¹⁷ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

¹⁸ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

¹⁹ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

²⁰ UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2006.

²¹ World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI) database 2006.

²² UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.

²³ UNDP, Human Development Report 2005.

Background

Situated in South-East Asia, Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago nation. The country consists of five main islands – Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi, Kalimantan (60 per cent of Borneo) and Irian Jaya – as well as 13,667 small islands and islets. The five main islands account for 90 per cent of the total land area, and each island has its own coastal and mountain regions.

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country. Large-scale migration to urban areas means that some 42 per cent of people now live in cities. Furthermore, the population distribution between regions is highly uneven: more than 60 per cent of Indonesians live on Java, Bali and Madura, which make up only 7 per cent of Indonesia's land surface area.

Economy and development

Indonesia has a market-based economy in which the government plays a significant role. The country has struggled to overcome the Asian financial crisis, and still grapples with high unemployment, a fragile banking sector, inadequate infrastructure, a poor investment climate and unequal resource distribution among regions. In late December 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami took 131,000 lives in Aceh and North Sumatra with another 37,000 missing, displaced some 570,000 people and caused damage and losses worth an estimated US\$4.5 billion.

After President Yudhoyono took office on 20 October 2004, he moved quickly to implement a “pro-growth, pro-poor, pro-employment” economic programme. He and his team have targeted average growth of 6.6 per cent from 2004–09 to reduce unemployment and poverty significantly. Indonesia's overall macroeconomic picture is stable and improving, although GDP growth rates have not yet returned to pre-crisis levels.

Education

Indonesia has a 12-year public and private education system (primary – grades one through six; junior high school – grades seven through nine; and senior high school – grades ten through twelve). Schooling is compulsory at the primary and, since 1994, junior high school levels; senior high school education is optional.

In 1994, the government implemented a policy aimed at achieving nine years of basic education for all children by 2008. The Education Strategic Plan 2005–09 sets out a Medium Term Policy Framework with a major objective of equalizing and broadening access to education. This calls for full implementation of the nine-year basic education programme, taking into account the need to tackle obstacles facing the poor and geographical obstacles relating to participation in education.

The National Medium Term Development Plan 2004–09 reported that in the 13–15 age bracket the school enrolment rate for the rural population is 75.6 per cent, whilst for the urban population the enrolment rate is 89.3 per cent.²⁴ However, actual participation is well below the enrolment rate, particularly in rural areas.

As with other countries, there is a correlation between drop-out rates and involvement in economic activity, and drop-out rates and level of income. For example, school enrolment rates of lower income groups vary by 17 per cent compared with higher income ones at the primary level and 52 per cent at the secondary level.²⁵ The major drop out occurs at the transition between primary and junior high school.

In 2005, the increase in the education budget was the largest of any ministry, reflecting a government commitment to improving access to and quality of education.

²⁴ National Medium Term Development Plan 2004–09, 27-3.

²⁵ Summary report focusing on intolerable forms of child labour for ILO-IPEC Project INT/96/MO3/CIDA, 1998.

Child labour situation

Indonesian labour laws have established a minimum age of 15 for employment. The Manpower Act 13/2003 states that between the ages of 13 and 15, children can do light work up to three hours a day, provided that such work does not disrupt their physical, mental or social development. This Act also prohibits employment of children in the worst forms of child labour.

Despite the legislation, data from the National Socio-Economic Survey in 2003 show that 1,502,600 children aged 10–14 are in the labour force and not attending school. Another

1,621,400 are not attending school and are described as helping at home or doing other things.

In 2002, a National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour was established. This set priorities and strategies for eliminating the worst forms of child labour in a three-phase programme within a 20-year framework. The Plan identifies five forms of child labour as immediate targets: children involved in the sale, production and trafficking of drugs; trafficking of children for prostitution; and child labour in offshore fishing, in mining and in the footwear sector.