ProRep's 5-year journey
Connecting People, Experts, and Policymakers to Improve Public Policies and Representation
Indonesia is in many ways a success story. Its economy is the largest in Southeast Asia, has grown at over 5 percent per year over the past 15 years, and its middle class is expanding.

Since reformasi began in 1998, the military’s role in politics has been reduced, political power has been decentralized, and democracy is largely consolidated. Yet many Indonesians feel that their voices are not being heard by the institutions that represent them, that the quality of nation’s laws and policies do not reflect the nation’s best research and thinking, and that transparency and accountability must be strengthened.

Program Representasi, or ProRep, was one means of addressing the need for better representation. Begun in 2011, this five-year program supported a number of civil society organizations, think tanks, and the DPR (House of Representatives) to better research and understand, articulate, and respond to citizen needs and improve public policies. Beginning in 2014, ProRep initiated a new “policy community” phase, supporting civil society, research, and government institutions’ efforts to join forces to improve, and better implement education, health, environment, and anti-corruption policies.
ProRep and partners worked in 25 provinces across Indonesia. This map shows where ProRep and partners conducted activities and highlights some program achievements.

**Geographic Focus & Selected Program Highlights**

**East Java and Aceh: Special Initiatives**

- With the support of ProRep, the OGI Secretariat conducted a scoping assessment to Bi jojonegoro and Surabaya in East Java and to Banda Aceh in Aceh Province to determine OGI pilot project.
- Article 33 and Kopel Indonesia signed an agreement with the Bogor City Education Office adopting a new method for calculating investments in education facilities, and local MPs from Bogor city have committed to oversee local budget discussions to ensure the model is used.
- 10 health centers in East Java have published citizen charters - commitments that the centers will provide citizens with specified services. The specific lists of services were developed collaboratively through a process involving representatives from health center, CSOs, community groups, and local government.
- Several Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) in East Java committed to be actively involved in the anti-corruption movement and are in the process of integrating anti-corruption messages into their curricula.
- Through supporting a series of dialogues between Member of Parliament Teguh Juwarno and his constituents during parliamentary recess periods, the MP was better able to understand their needs. He advocated on their behalf to local and national government officials and was able to build new roads in the district.

**Central Kalimantan: Muslimat NU**

- With ProRep support the women’s wing of the largest independent Islamic organization in Indonesia, Muslimat NU, conducted a survey and held public forums to gain a full picture of the conditions faced by flood victims. With this citizens’ input, along with a review of public expenditures on programs to reduce incidents of flooding, the organization advocated for communities and policymakers to put better plans and programs in place to reduce flooding and the harm it brings, especially to poor families.

**Central and East Kalimantan: LPEM FEBUI**

- LPEM FEBUI conducted a study to analyze the correlation between decentralization and deforestation. They submitted the results to the House of Representatives Commission IV on Agriculture, Plantations, Forestry, Maritime, Fisheries, and Food Affairs.

**Southeast Sulawesi: LePMIL and Sulawesi Institute**

- USAID ProRep supported a program with LePMIL and Sulawesi Institute to help the Moronene Hukaea Lave indigenous community in Bombana Regency achieve legal recognition. “We don’t need to live in fear anymore since we won’t becriminalized if we go to the forest,” said the group’s leader Mansyur Lababa.

**Bengkulu; AKAR Foundation**

- AKAR Foundation advocates for farmers’ legal access to manage state forest areas. Through a governor’s decree signed on November 19, 2015 eight farmers groups, representing 1,200 families, finally received their 35-years Community Forest Management Utilization Permits (IUPHKm), bringing in additional income for their families while also preserving the forest area for future generations.

**Bogor; Article 33**

- Article 33 and Kopel Indonesia signed an agreement with the Bogor City Education Office adopting a new method for calculating investments in education facilities, and local MPs from Bogor city have committed to oversee local budget discussions to ensure the model is used.

**Central Java; JABAT Program**

- Several Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) in East Java committed to be actively involved in the anti-corruption movement and are in the process of integrating anti-corruption messages into their curricula.

**East Java; Prakarsa**

- 10 health centers in East Java have published citizen charters - commitments that the centers will provide citizens with specified services. The specific lists of services were developed collaboratively through a process involving representatives from health center, CSOs, community groups, and local government.

**East Java; Malang Corruption Watch**

- Several Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) in East Java committed to be actively involved in the anti-corruption movement and are in the process of integrating anti-corruption messages into their curricula.
The achievements and lessons that resulted from successful partnerships with Indonesian advocacy organizations, research institutions, and government partners elevated democratic principles, while also integrating them into other sectors to enhance sustainable development in Indonesia. Through ProRep, USAID’s Office of Democracy, Rights, and Governance collaborated with the Offices of Environment, Health, and Education, to deliver a program that went deep in terms of democracy — by aiding policymakers to act on sound policy research and citizen input — while also bringing about needed reforms to safeguard Indonesia’s environment, enhance the access to and improve the quality of health care and education services, and promote greater transparency and accountability well into the future. ProRep is leaving behind institutions better equipped to represent their constituents and members, mechanisms to integrate citizen input into improvements in policies and programs, and a more deeply rooted culture of inclusive and evidence-based policymaking.

The USAID Program Representasi (ProRep) evolved in a number of ways over the five years of its implementation.

The policy community approach facilitated by ProRep — whereby advocacy and research groups collaborate with decision-makers on specific areas of policy or implementation — advanced targeted local level objectives, which in turn supported reforms at the national level. Policy communities also worked to improve implementation of national policy priorities at the sub-national level, further supporting Indonesia’s decentralized system of governance. Over the life of the program, ProRep partners advanced progress on over 59 initiatives to improve policies or their implementation, and were ultimately successful in pushing for the enactment of 19 new policies. The policy agendas that ProRep partners worked on were developed with input across a range of stakeholders, were in line with the Government of Indonesia’s own development priorities, and aimed to improve conditions for Indonesia’s most vulnerable populations.
Beginning in 2014, the project entered its third and final phase, supporting policy communities. In this phase, stakeholder groups came together in alliances, using research and a strengthened collective voice in pursuit of specific policy changes that aligned with the objectives of USAID’s 2014-2018 Country Development Cooperation Strategy, citizen needs, and Government of Indonesia development priorities.

Beginning in 2012, and continuing for the remainder of the project, ProRep added to institutional support a growing emphasis on collaboration among the three groups, making them stronger, more effective institutions. Trust developed among the three groups and with ProRep. This, along with the new skills and knowledge acquired through ProRep capacity building programs, laid the foundation for the third phase.

Beginning in 2011, ProRep provided institutional strengthening support to our advocacy, research, and legislative partners. As these groups saw how ProRep’s objectives aligned with their own — making them stronger, more effective institutions — their trust in the project and its team grew.

Begun in 2011 and completed in 2016, ProRep was a five-year USAID Democracy, Rights and Governance project designed to strengthen representation in Indonesia by (1) strengthening the representational capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs), (2) building the capacity of selected research organizations to conduct policy-relevant research on key policy and governance issues, and to effectively share their findings with policymakers; (3) support more effective, responsive, and transparent legislative processes — working especially with Indonesia’s powerful House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat – DPR); and (4) providing timely assistance for special initiatives needed to protect or advance democratic governance.

Prime contractor Chemonics led the project team, which was made up of the Partnership for Governance Reform (Kemitraan), an Indonesian good governance organization; the Urban Institute, which played a vital role in support to research organizations; and Social Impact, which was responsible for monitoring and evaluation.

In the first phase, beginning in 2011, ProRep provided institutional strengthening support to our advocacy, research, and legislative partners. As these groups saw how ProRep’s objectives aligned with their own — making them stronger, more effective institutions — their trust in the project and its team grew.

Over the five-year lifespan of ProRep, implementation evolved through three overlapping phases, with each building on and continuing the support provided in the previous phase.
Democracy only works if there is sense of responsibility. There is no democracy without responsibility.

Mohammad Hatta
Strengthening Civil Society Organizations

ProRep partnered with organizations seeking to scale up their influence on government to advance their members’ or constituents’ concerns. ProRep issued grants and conducted dozens of trainings, assessments, workshops, and mentored grant partners to help them expand their memberships and constituent bases, engage more frequently with legislators and other policymakers, and become more adept at and more frequently use the media for advocacy and outreach. Partners included organizations representing journalists, women, farmers, migrant workers, small business owners, and fisherfolk. Partners also encompassed a broad spectrum of technical specialties, including parliamentary reform and systems, budgeting transparency and accountability, environmental law, and others. ProRep programs helped CSOs build their memberships and constituency bases, engage more successfully with policymakers, improve their advocacy, and become better at strategic planning and financial management. CSO partners effectively lobbied executive and legislative officials for improvements on a range of issues including budget transparency, freedom of information, gender equality, food security, and others.

Through ProRep, we as a CSO at the local level were given the chance to network with national-level organizations. We were even invited to a national-level event.

Grantee, Focus Group Discussion, 2016

Highlighted CSO Accomplishments

Partner InProSuLA enlisted 485 farmers’ associations in monitoring implementation of a national food subsidy program called “rice for the poor.” They facilitated the government to source 1,200 metric tons of locally produced rice from farmers’ associations in Kulon Progo for the program, and conducted a national workshop bringing the benefits of amending the national program to use locally produced food to the attention of several key ministries.

The Association of Indonesian Women’s Unions, HAPSARI, transformed its advocacy strategy from confrontational street demonstrations to creative social media campaigns on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and face-to-face meetings with government officials. HAPSARI now has national reach, more than 2,000 members, and 10 branch offices. HAPSARI secured a 360 million Indonesian rupiah (IDR) grant from the National Ministry of Cooperatives, and now markets its products at several minimarkets. One HAPSARI member has become a certified facilitator for a state-owned bank and has assisted 20 women to receive microenterprise loans.

ProRep assistance has also helped Central Java-based Yayasan Satu Karsa Karya (YSKK) to become a national-level player in education reform. It played a central role in two national-level conferences on education reform with the Ministry of Education and Culture, and has become a leader in the Civil Society Coalition for Education Transformation (KMSTP), which now represents more than 30 member organizations. ProRep trained YSKK to use social media to support its watchdog and advocacy efforts. As a result, YSKK launched websites and social media accounts for their organization and for their campaign to increase community involvement in monitoring the use of state funds for school operations.

Enhancing Civic Participation

- 317 CSOs received capacity building and/or policy advocacy program support from ProRep
- 12 national and sub-national laws, regulations, legislative amendments, and parliamentary oversight proceedings influenced by CSO advocacy
- 12 In 83% of CSOs surveyed, 50-85% of constituents or members reported that the CSO had effectively advanced their interests
- 102 policy briefs/papers presented to national and sub-national legislative and executive policymakers and substantively reflected in responsive legislation, oversight or budget proceedings
- 20 CSOs or CSO networks significantly expanded their membership or constituent base
- 16 CSOs participated in and provided input to national and sub-national legislative proceedings
- 524 media articles, stories, and op-eds covering CSO advocacy positions
- 12 CSOs employed 22 new methods to receive information and opinions from their members

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Research organizations in Indonesia desiring to impact public policy face several common problems: a lack of core funding, leaving them dependent on the changing interests of donors; little institutional demand in government or parliament for policy research; and policy decisions based on political influence rather than evidence. ProRep assistance was designed to improve research organizations’ institutional and research effectiveness, increase its policy relevance, and to help research organizations better package their findings and communicate them to policymakers. Through grants, trainings, and mentoring — much of it from partner Urban Institute — research organizations learned to conduct better, more relevant research on pressing policy issues.

As with its assistance to advocacy groups, ProRep facilitated greater collaboration among project partners. This included collaboration among research organizations, and between research groups, CSOs, and policymakers. In 2013, the Institute for Economic and Social Research (LPEM FEUI), Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Institute for Research and Empowerment (IRE), Women Research Institute (WRI), Paramadina Public Policy Institute (PPPI), and Prakarsa founded the Policy Research Network (PRN), which has since grown to 12 members. Its mission is to be a credible and sustainable policy network, improve the quality of PRN-member research, and improve the relevance and influence of PRN-member studies on the policymaking process. Supported think tanks worked with CSO and DPR partners on establishing legislative priorities (Prolegnas), amendments to the State Finance Law, the Law on Legislative Bodies (MD3 Law), and others. The PRN has established a long-term MOU with the Association of Parliament Expert Staff (ATAP) and is developing formal media partnerships with a number of leading media groups.

ProRep provided input on how to translate our program’s results into material that would be accepted by policymakers. We learned how to make effective 2-3 page policy briefs, because nobody wants to read dozens of pages of research results.

Grantee, Key Informant Interview, 2016
During its first three years ProRep worked with the DPR to assist the institution to become more effective, responsive, and transparent. ProRep supported the DPR to become more open and engage more substantively with constituents, advocacy, and research groups. The program assisted those outside the DPR to find avenues to communicate with and influence legislative partners, while also supporting DPR members, staff, and committees to be more responsive to civil society involvement. After establishing trust with individuals and organizations within the DPR, ProRep was able to work with a broad variety of stakeholders, including the Legislation Committee (BALEG), Public Accounts Committee (BAKN), the Secretary General’s Office, Bureau for Budget and Budget Implementation, DPR expert staff, staff from the Assessment Bureau, and staff from the Regional Representative Council (Dewan Perwakilan Daerah – DPD). These relationships allowed ProRep to provide technical support through workshops and trainings to increase legislative partners’ skills in areas such as legislative drafting, budget and fiscal impact analysis, audit report analysis, constituent outreach, and research and policy analysis.

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JABAT benefited DPR members and constituents in several ways. MPs met with thousands more constituents, and dozens more groups and organizations than they would have otherwise, and were better able to understand their needs and concerns. Learning of their district’s needs firsthand, MPs then acted on constituents’ behalf in concrete ways conveying their concerns to national and local officials, and securing local infrastructure improvements, such as new roads and ferries in their districts. ProRep published and distributed a guidebook for MPs and their staff on conducting effective constituency visits, and a video in Bahasa Indonesia and English highlighting the benefits of stronger constituent relations. ProRep also developed a practical guide for communities designed and were able to better understand the roles and functions of the DPR and how to voice concerns to their elected officials.

DPR members and staff credited ProRep trainings and programs with improved legal drafting capacity among DPR staff; improvements in budget implementation oversight techniques among DPR members and staff; better interaction and collaboration between offices and structures within the DPR and various civic interest groups and think tanks; and the establishment of the Association of Parliament Expert Staff (ATAP) as a more permanent supporting institution within the DPR.

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USAID included the Special Initiatives component in the ProRep program so that USAID and ProRep would have tools to address unforeseen obstacles and opportunities during the life of the project.

ProRep used funding from this component to conduct a U.S. electoral campaign study tour for Indonesian MPs and think tank and CSO leaders prior to the 2012 U.S. presidential election, and to facilitate group and individual participation in a number of workshops and meetings, including a seminar and congress of the CSO Council on the implementation the 2013 Law on Civil Society Organizations, and a study tour to the United States for members of the Policy Research Network.

The program also provided a range of assistance to the Indonesian National Coordination Team (NCT) to facilitate the design and development of its South-South and Triangular Cooperation program (including a joint Urban Institute—University of Indonesia study on possible Indonesian CSO, research organization, and private sector partnerships in Indonesian foreign assistance efforts), and to engage in studies and technical assistance to assist the Indonesian government to reactivate and rebuild its Open Government Partnership (OGP) program following the 2014 change in presidential administrations. These activities laid the groundwork for deeper U.S.-Indonesian partnerships in each of these areas.
USAID initiated a new five-year Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) in 2014, and in line with this new strategy, ProRep began a new “policy community” or “policy cluster” program. This innovative approach built on ProRep’s experience over the previous three years and brought CSOs, think tanks, and national and local policymakers together to collaborate on specific policy reforms key to Indonesia’s progress in health, education, environment, and corruption prevention. The various actors involved in the policy communities worked together to determine the priority issues to target. Policy communities developed strategies that focused on moving the needle on long standing issues – while also incorporating flexibility to mobilize action on emerging policy opportunities or threats. ProRep helped connect the various parties, facilitated their deliberations and activities, and supported their acquisition and application of the skills and tools needed to advance key reforms.

The cluster approach enhances constructive engagement of CSOs with government, without CSOs being coopted by the government.

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Grantee, Focus Group Discussion, 2016
Indonesia is home to one of the greatest concentrations of biodiversity on earth, but crucial ecosystems are rapidly being depleted. Saving it requires more than local protests and expert studies and expertise from abroad. The environment policy community, which mobilized 13 advocacy and expert organizations, engaged the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the DPR’s Commission IV, international organizations, indigenous peoples’ groups, and several local governments and local legislatures to provide focused technical assistance, public consultations, and policy proposals. These efforts led to the enactment of several laws, regulations, and procedures addressing practical issues that stifled Indonesian efforts to stem the destruction of the environment. Most importantly, the policy community model has shown how government and non-government partnerships can work, practically, to solve critical environmental issues.

Together, ProRep partners have succeeded in facilitating reforms granting legal recognition of several indigenous groups — the Kasepuhan tribe in Lebak, Banten; the Tobu Hukaea Laea tribe in Bombana, Southeast Sulawesi; and the To Kaili and To Kulawi indigenous communities in Sigi and Central Sulawesi — as the first step in the process to restore their authority to manage ancestral lands in environmentally responsible ways. ProRep support has also been crucial in the enactment of a groundbreaking governor’s decree, which extended 35-year community forestry permits to eight farmers’ associations in Bengkulu. Further support has led to the creation of clear guidelines on the recognition of indigenous and community forest rights and enhanced wildlife protection mechanisms. Partners also shared research and developed policy proposals to advance forest and land fire prevention policies, better budgeting for environmental programs, and the development of long-delayed implementing regulations for key environmental laws.

Beginning with just four key partners, the education policy community mobilized a movement of over 30 Indonesia organizations focused on improving education policies and performance under the umbrella of the Civil Society Coalition for Education Transformation (KMSTP). The coalition conducted two national-level policy dialogues in the Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) with Minister Aries Baswedan and his top staff, placed a liaison officer in the ministry, and collaborated with the ministry on several programs and policy initiatives to improve the quality and management of teachers, the national curriculum, and public participation in school management, among others.

The community pioneered a new kind of advocacy in Indonesia — with the KMSTP’s formal partnership with the ministry leading to several KMSTP proposals incorporated into MoEC’s five year strategic plan, the bringing together of many organizations from across the nation to collaborate on reforms, and the inclusion of three USAID projects (ProRep, Kinerja, and Prioritas) in this effort. The community established the groundwork for a thriving partnership between civil society and government.

Even after the end of direct ProRep support to education policy community partners, former grantees are being called upon to provide policy ideas and technical support to the ministry’s reform agenda. Several initiatives are also taking root at the local level, such as the Bogor Municipality Education Office’s adoption of a new method developed by Article 33 to calculate investments in education facilities, and the city of Surakarta’s use of the YSKK Sekolah Montap model to expand public participation in school management throughout the city. YSKK’s policy proposal to revise Gunung Kidul district’s local regulation on education was listed as a legislative priority (Prolegda) for 2016.
Improving national health conditions is a priority for the Indonesian government, and new momentum was created with the creation of a national health insurance plan (Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional – JKN) launched in 2014.

ProRep’s health policy community created and implemented new multi-stakeholder forums (MSFs) and following consultations with USAID’s EMAS program, developed SMS gateway systems in West, Central, and East Java and South Sulawesi. MSFs and SMS gateways have enhanced community involvement in, and influence over, the health care they receive. MSFs bring together health care administration, community representatives, and local government representatives to discuss challenges and improvements related to the local health care system, and in doing so, they help care providers make better informed decisions to respond to community priorities. As a natural technological extension of these fora, SMS-based public complaint systems allow citizens, regardless of economic status, to send in feedback and complaints, while referral features help midwives refer mothers in labor to available health-care facilities. Responding to public feedback, 10 local clinics (puskesmas) have published “citizen charters” – commitments to provide specific health services, developed in collaboration with local communities. Because of their concrete contributions, MSFs and SMS services are being made permanent features of health systems in Semarang and Surakarta, Central Java, and Jeneponto, South Sulawesi through local regulations and government funding.

Other partners have harnessed the power of research to push for key reforms. For example, Frontiers for Health Foundation researched puskesmas staff accreditation and presented policy reform recommendations to the Ministry of Health to enhance health promotion and outreach efforts nationwide. Women Research Institute researched the impact of the new national health insurance plan on maternal and child health, highlighting troubling gaps in the new plan’s coverage of key services in a policy brief, and at a national conference at which Minister of Health Nina Moeloek served as the keynote speaker.

Together, the various communities, CSOs, and research institutions within the health policy community are finding ways to work in partnership with local- and national-level agencies to find and collaboratively implement practical solutions to pressing health problems. The health policy community appointed a liaison officer to facilitate communication with the Ministry of Health which led to the joint planning of a national dialogue on health issues, where the parties committed to collaborate on advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Policy Community

In early 2015, at the request of USAID and in response to events that threatened to erode much of Indonesia’s progress in strengthening accountability, ProRep developed a partnership with the Civil Society Coalition on Anti-Corruption and formed a new democratic rights and governance (DRG) policy community. The program, co-created with ProRep, supported six organizations to draw attention to the unjust “criminalization” of key anti-corruption advocates amid a campaign of harassment, arrest, and intimidation. Partners also monitored the selection process of the new leaders of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), and made recommendations on how to improve the institution’s performance. Partner the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR) conducted research, made recommendations, and is continuing to advocate for amendments to the Criminal Code (RUU KUHP), which is scheduled to be deliberated by the DPR this year. The community expanded its anti-corruption network in several regions of Indonesia and helped CSOs within the coalition to develop and adopt security standards to keep their advocates safe from intimidation and threats. Malang Corruption Watch engaged faith-based communities in their efforts and a number of religious leaders agreed to incorporate anti-corruption messages into religious booklets, pamphlets, and sermons for Friday prayers.

ProRep succeeded in building and delivering a substantive and useful anti-corruption program in a matter of months partly because of the policy community methodology it had already developed in the health, education, and environment communities. Even more important was the existence of an established anti-corruption movement in Indonesia which ProRep was able to engage, and work in partnership with, in advancing this important work.
CONCLUSION

ProRep’s experience bringing together actors from different sectors — CSOs, research organizations, and policymakers — for improved representation and policies, provides several lessons that can be helpful for project designers and implementers working on multi- or cross-sectoral projects.

Lessons Learned

Structure is as important as strategy. The placement of three different kinds of organizations — civil society, think tanks, and policymakers — in one project, allowed for levels of collaboration and policy impact that would not have been possible otherwise. Collective impact literature states that “structure is as important as strategy” and the structural design for ProRep facilitated building a very high level of collaboration among disparate actors. Furthermore, ProRep staff possessed expertise in working with each of the three stakeholder groups, and the structure of the team was sufficiently flexible, allowing the project to adapt smoothly through the various phases of implementation.

The three-phase approach evolved, rather than followed a pre-developed plan. ProRep developed its three-phase approach more through “problem-driven, iterative adaptation” than through a “best-practices project design.” The program learned and adapted its approach each year. The relationships, skills, and working methods developed with the partners over the project’s first three years laid the foundation for ProRep to adjust to its final policy community phase.

Building trust was fundamentally important. Program progress and success took place “at the speed of trust.” Gaining access to and beginning work in the DPR; facilitating collaboration and negotiation of policy priorities among CSOs, think tanks, and policymakers; partners’ work to obtain local governments’ buy-in on innovative pilot programs including MSFs, SMS Gateway systems; and improved models for delivering food aid, and the openness of ministry partners to ProRep partners, all depended on trust — trust that existed before the ProRep project and trust built over the length of the program.

Policy reform is complex and requires long-term effort, but can be worth the investment. Policy reform requires sustained effort, but when the efforts are focused on changes that can “alter the rules of the game”, they are well-worth the investment. Several ProRep programs, especially the policy community and special initiatives programs, either have or will alter the rules of the game, and will benefit many. Such changes include the guidance environmental partners developed to assist government in granting legal recognition to indigenous peoples, assistance to re-establish the Open Government Partnership (OGP) program, and efforts to help Indonesia develop its South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Program. Many of these efforts will need continued support, but costs are relatively small when compared to benefits, especially on potentially “game changing” programs.

There are benefits to working at both the national and local levels. Policy reform in decentralized Indonesia is a joint local/national enterprise. In many cases, ProRep partners were able to present the results of their programs to national-level ministries, potentially benefiting several other regions. In turn, policy community work eased and expanded the implementation of national policy priorities at the sub-national level.

ProRep is a useful model for implementing cross-sectoral policy reform. It was a “representation” project that utilized DRG-based tools and skills to promote an improved policy making process and policy change in four separate sectors: education, health, environment, and DRG.
ProRep program is launched in partnership with the Urban Institute, Social Impact, and the Partnership for Governance Reform (Kemitraan).

ProRep partner ASPPUK uses enhanced skills to secure an IDR 750 million grant for women-owned small businesses from the local Ministry of Cooperatives office.

The Association of Indonesian Women’s Unions (HAPSARI) secures support from the Minister of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection during Women Empowerment National Workshop on promoting women’s access to economic opportunities.

The Policy Research Network (PRN) is established. Over time, membership expands from five initial members to leading think tanks.

Policy community/cluster activities in education, health, and environment begin.

Collaboration deepens between CSOs and Ministry of Education and Culture and the Civil Society Coalition for Education Transformation (KMSTP) is formed.

Local/national governments seek ProRep partners’ technical support to strengthen vocational education, enhance transparency of school management, and to improve budget allocations for educational infrastructure.

New program launched to support the coalition of CSOs promoting accountability in Indonesia, a Human Rights Working Group program to protect anti-corruption activists and whistleblowers.

Partners successfully advocate for local regulations to strengthen indigenous and community forestry in Bombana, Liebok, Liebow, Sig.

ProRep concludes institutional support to the House of Representatives (DPR).

ProRep awards QuickStart research grants to support think tanks.

Working relationships continue with membership- and constituent-based CSOs and research institutes. Programs focus on national budget transparency and public access to information.

ProRep supports greater coordination and stronger strategic planning for CSO members of the anti-corruption coalition.

InProGUA enlisted 485 farmers’ associations in monitoring implementation of a “rice for the poor” program, and brought to the attention of several key ministries the benefits of amending the national food aid program to use locally produced food.

Partners introduce SMS gateway systems and multi-stakeholder forums as new feedback mechanisms on health services in Jeneponto, Semarang, Surakarta.

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A number of policies in environment, education, health, and DRG are in advanced stages of advocacy. Research has been conducted, proposals developed and submitted, and in many cases buy-in from key decision makers has already been secured. As policy reform requires a long term vision and continuous effort, this good progress on the issues can be furthered so as to not lose momentum.

The education policy community has formed a formal coalition (KMSTP) including over 30 education-focused organizations with a close working relationship with the Ministry of Education and Culture. ProRep partners have developed numerous initiatives at the local level to promote social accountability. These empowered citizens with training and tools to play an active role in providing oversight of government services. Many of these have been formalized and adopted by local governments including the use of multi-stakeholder forums and SMS Gateways for the improvement of health services.

ProRep supported the DPR’s expert staff in their efforts to establish the Association of Parliament Expert Staff (ATAP) in March 2014. ATAP is a vehicle for the experts to develop their skills and improve their bargaining stance, and on the other hand, ATAP serves as a bridge for think tanks and CSOs to channel their research products and advocacy agendas to the DPR.

Partners in the health, environment, and DRG policy communities have developed closer working relationships among each other and in key ministries, DPR commissions, and other relevant government agencies; laying the groundwork for future policy reform efforts.

In January 2013, ProRep supported the development of the Policy Research Network (PRN), an alliance of research institutions striving to exert greater influence over public policymaking. Currently, the PRN consists of 12 members and has been actively engaged with policymakers and media through joint research, public discussions, and advocacy activities. The network functions as a facilitator for think-tanks to circulate research findings to decision makers and civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for evidence-based policies. Learn more about the PRN here: www.thinktanknesia.org.

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ProRep’s Legacy

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Indonesia Program Representasi (ProRep) is a five-year project on democracy and governance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Its aim is to connect people, experts, and policymakers to improve public policies and representation.

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