



# Achieving SDGs in a Decade of Indonesia South-South Cooperation

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## Abstract

Since 2010, South-South Cooperation (SSC) has become part of Indonesia's foreign policy. This study seeks to answer how SSC cooperation in this decade can impact the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program. The researcher uses a qualitative method with a descriptive analytical approach and an interactive method as an analytical tool to answer this. The SSC program within the framework of achieving the SDGs for a decade is divided into four broad categories, including people (SDG 1-5), prosperity (SDG 6-10), planet (11-15), peace, and partnership (SDG 16-17). The development for a decade of SSC will be the development of SSC in the future. SSC has become a vital modality and strategic tool for Indonesia to contribute to realizing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and later developed into the SDGs.

**Keywords:** south-south cooperation; SGD's; indonesia; SSC program

## Introduction

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a form of cooperation between developing countries. Historically in Indonesia's diplomacy, SSC has its place (De Renzio & Seifert, 2014). The initial milestone in the implementation of Indonesia's SSC began with the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955, which established ten agreements or often called the Ten Principles of Bandung, whereas point 9 was stated: "Advancing Mutual Interest and Cooperation" (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2020).

Consequently, the 10 Principles have become the cooperation basis and solidarity between developing countries in Asia and Africa and have developed into the basis for cooperation and solidarity (Engel, 2019). The implementation of Indonesia's SSC itself has continued to evolve since the Asian-African Conference was held. The Indonesian SSC program has been implemented regularly since the 1980s. However, the development of Indonesia's SSC over the last decade is quite significant in terms of the number and types of programs implemented (Engel, 2017).

In addition, there is the development and strengthening of the Indonesian SSC institution so that it will provide a form for the future

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Indonesian SSC program is transparent, accountable, directed, and strategic. The development of Indonesia's SSC during this decade can be the basis for developing Indonesia's SSC in the future (Jose, 2020).

This study aims to determine how Indonesia's SSC programs meet SDGs and the benefits of SSC policy and implementation for the Indonesian national interest (Kato, 2012). Besides, this research is also to find out the role and benefits of local government as one of the actors in foreign policy to participate in the development cooperation. It is important to research it to continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of the future of Indonesia SSC (Winanti & Alvian, 2021).



**Figure 1.** 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Indonesia's SSC has the potential as a tool of diplomacy for achieving national interests, strengthening Indonesia's stances in international forums. It is also interesting to observe that Indonesia's SSC could be seen as a rooting/grounding concept of the comprehensive concepts of Indonesia's foreign policies. In this regard, two research questions arise. First, how are Indonesia's SSC's policy and implementation in one decade (2011-2021)? Then, did Indonesia's SSC programs achieve SDGs that became the basis of its future development?

## Research Methods

This type of research is qualitative and intends to provide a clear picture of how the SGDs have achieved in a decade of Indonesia's south-south cooperation. The data collection technique was carried out in this study by studying literature on journal articles related to Indonesia's south-south cooperation. Data analysis used in qualitative research was carried out during and after completing data collection within a certain period.

The technique used to analyze data in this study was the descriptive technique using the interactive method which is; First, data condensation refers to selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that has been collected. Second, the presentation of the data here also helps understand the research context because it carries out a more in-depth analysis. Third, the conclusions drawn here are carried out by researchers from the beginning; researchers collect data such as looking for understandings that do not have patterns, noting regularity of explanations, and causal paths, which in the final stage concludes all the data obtained by researchers (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014).

## Results and Discussions

Indonesia has always viewed SSC as an embodiment of solidarity and cooperation to achieve mutual prosperity and independence based on solidarity, shared interests, and mutual benefits among developing countries.

### Institutional Reform in Indonesia SSC's One Decade (2011-2021)

Indonesia always wants to be a true partner for development through Indonesia's SSC for developing countries. Therefore, Indonesia continues developing and strengthening policies and institutions that support Indonesia's SSC. Since 2010, SSC has been part of Indonesia's foreign policy under the 2010-2014 Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN). In the same year, the strengthening of SSC institutions was carried out by forming the National Coordination Team for SSC and inaugurated through the Decree of the Minister of National Development Planning No. 67 of 2011 concerning the Coordination Team for the Development of South-South Cooperation (Tahalele, 2020).

In 2019, the International Development Cooperation Fund (LDKPI) was formed, known as the Indonesia Agency for International Development (Indonesian AID). The Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia at that time, Jusuf Kalla, in the inauguration of the LDKPI said that the formation of the LDKPI was a form of embodiment of "hands-on diplomacy" which would strengthen Indonesia's role as a country providing international assistance (Rahma, Khaerah, & Akbar, 2021). LDKPI, through Government Regulation No. 57 of 2019, is in charge of managing international development cooperation funds (endowment funds) and funds in the context of providing grants to foreign governments/foreign institutions (Kenny, Fanany, & Rahayu, 2013).

Over a decade, the National SSC Team has continuously made improvements to improve the quality, effectiveness, and accountability of Indonesia's SSC by, among others, preparing guidelines (guidelines and standard operating procedures) for capturing demand, involving non-state actors, communication strategies, and monitoring and evaluation instruments for training programs, workshops and expert dispatch (Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2020).

### Development of Indonesia's SSC Program to Achieve Global Development Goals

For a decade, from 2011 to 2021, the Directorate of International Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs has identified more than 400 SSC programs, with the number of recipients reaching more than 6,500 people. The SSC program consists of various training programs, workshops, apprenticeships, dispatch of experts, scholarships for degree and non-degree programs, grants, and provision of infrastructure in leading sectors such as agriculture, marine and fisheries, energy, democracy, and good governance, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), entrepreneurship, infrastructure, disaster risk management, and women's empowerment (Redclift, 2005).

SSC has become a vital modality and strategic tool for Indonesia to contribute to realizing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and later developed into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Indonesia and developing countries (Habibi & Pratama, 2021). Statistically, the SSC program in the SDGs for a decade can be divided into four orientation categories, namely people (SDG 1-5), prosperity (SDG 6-10), planet (SDG 11-15), peace and partnership (SDG 16-17) with the following details (Kementerian Luar Negeri

Republik Indonesia, 2020).

The first program that contributed the most was SDG 4 through the scholarship program in the people category, with 496 participants from 219 countries. At the same time, the second program is on SDG 3 through training, with a total of 126 participants from 30 countries (Mutiarani & Siswanto, 2020).

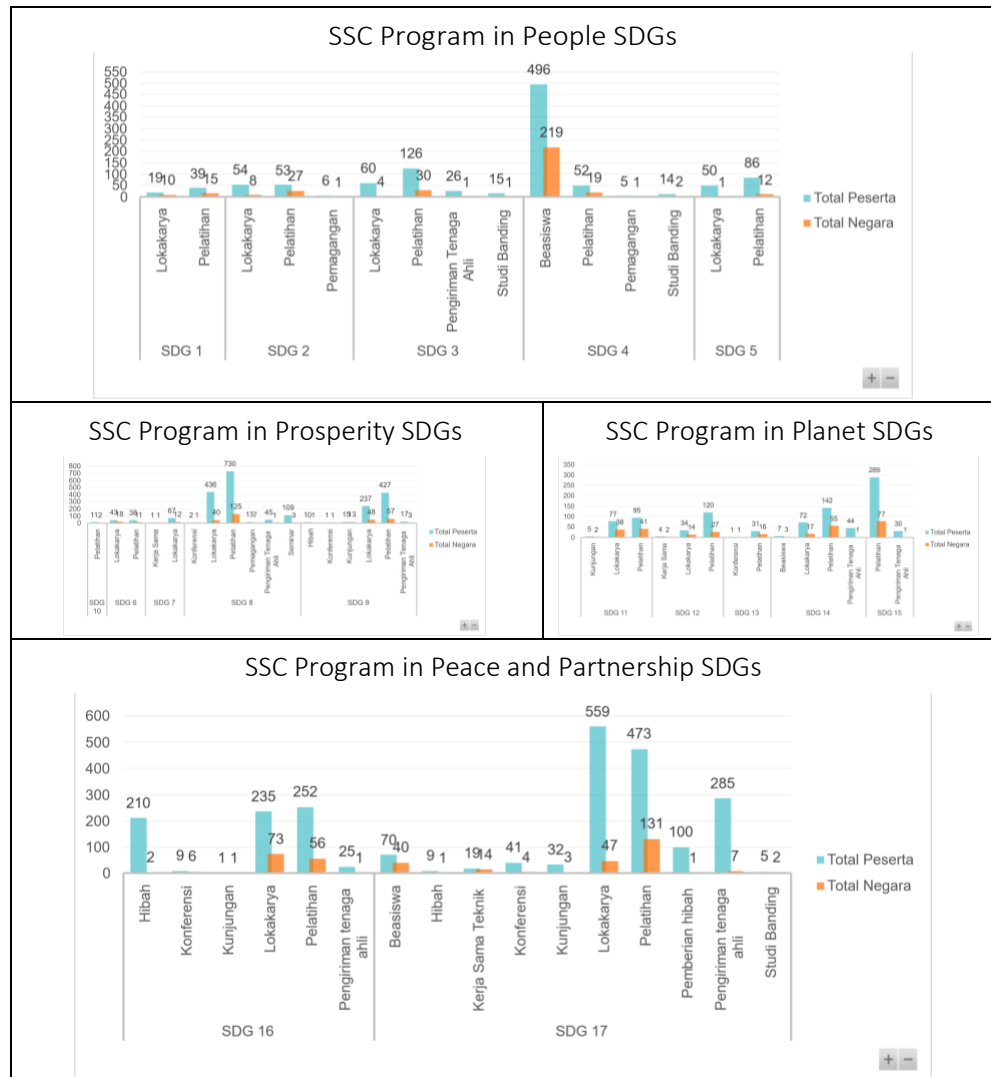


Figure 2. SSC Program in Achieving SDGs

Source: Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia (2020)

In the prosperity category, the first and second programs have the most participants in SDG 8 (see figure 2). The total participants of the first training program reached 730 people from 125 countries, while the second program was a workshop with 436 participants from 40 countries. In addition, the statistics also show that SDG 9 is quite prominent in the number of participants through training programs and workshops. The total participants of the training program reached 427 people from 57 countries. Meanwhile, the total workshop participants reached 237 people from 48 countries.

The planet category shows a reasonably even significance for each SDG. However, the highest significance is in SDG 15 through training programs with 299 participants from 77 countries. In addition, SDG 14 also has the second-highest significance through training programs with 142 participants from 55 countries (see figure 2).

In SDG 16 and 17, the significance is still dominated by workshops and

training programs. The total participants of the two programs are mostly SDG 17, with a total of 559 workshop participants from 47 countries, while the total training participants are 473 people from 131 countries. However, another program that is also significant apart from workshops and training is the dispatch of experts on SDG 17. The total number of experts is 285 people in 7 countries (see figure 2.).

SSC has become a very strategic tool for Indonesia as a new emerging donor to carry out a dual role as a recipient and a donor at the same time. It is hoped that the increasing role of Indonesia as an aid provider can provide benefits for Indonesia. LDKPI, as the forerunner of the Single Agency for SSC Indonesia, will play an increasingly vital role. The role of LDKPI as a Public Service Agency (BLU) is expected to be an independent international development institution and has institutional, human resources (HR), and financial capacity.

Thus, it is hoped that Indonesia's SSC will no longer depend on the state budget. The source of funding for the SSC program in the future can use an independent and self-sustained pattern, in which the budget for the implementation of the SSC program will be sourced from an endowment fund for international development cooperation (endowment fund). The funds are invested in several financial instruments, including government bonds. In 2020 and 2021, a budget of 3 trillion IDR has been allocated and will continue to be added until it reaches 10 trillion IDR in 2025.

This will open up opportunities for Indonesia's considerable value assist and variations in assistance/cooperation forms that are not limited to implementing capacity-building programs. Indonesia's SSC programs can be expanded to meet the increasingly complex needs of developing countries. Economic cooperation can be the main priority of the SSC program by strengthening the technical, political, and socio-cultural cooperation sector, as well as science and technology.

The implementation of SSC programs is expected to provide political benefits such as support for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and have direct economic benefits such as opening up market access and investment opportunities for Indonesian business actors in developing countries. In the future, the role of non-government actors in Indonesia's SSC needs to continue to be developed. This has more or less been done by using Indonesian products and the involvement of Indonesian SOEs/companies in several Indonesian SSC programs.

This is because at the national level, in practice, Indonesia's SSC cannot be separated from the role of development partners such as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH/GIZ, Islamic Development Bank/IsDB, United States for Agency Development/USAID, United Nations Development Program/UNDP, United Nations Population Fund/UNFPA, ASEAN Secretariat, Korea International Cooperation Agency/KOICA (Runde, Metzger, & Abdullah, 2020). Japan International Cooperation Agency/JICA was listed as the most active institution in partnership with Indonesia to carry out SSC activities, which amounted to 176 activities. Apart from JICA, other development partners that carried out quite many activities are USAID and GIZ (Kim et al., 2017).

Meanwhile, development partners are international organizations that are the most involved in Indonesia's SSC were institutions within the scope of the UN, namely UNFPA, UNDP, and UNESCAP. However, it is interesting to note that IsDB, in the last ten years, has shown an increase in its involvement in Indonesia

SSC through the reverse linkage program ([Özkaragöz Doğan, Uygun, & Akçomak, 2021](#)).

Increasing the role of Indonesia's SSC will require the strengthening of autonomous institutions that can precisely coordinate and use the combined capacity of the Ministry/Agency implementing the SSC program. Hopefully, this effort is expected to strengthen Indonesia's position as a new emerging donor to improve Indonesia's image in international forums.

### **Benefits for Indonesia**

As Indonesia is active in assisting within the SSC framework, the first clear benefit for Indonesia is in the economic sector. In today's era of globalization, the existence of opportunities for economic cooperation is a significant opportunity that is needed by the region. Cooperation between developing countries with built-in SSC is expected to provide those opportunities. The expected economic benefits are the immediate and more opening of new markets for Indonesian products, especially in the countries receiving the training. They are expected to become users and buy Indonesian products. For example, in agricultural training, Indonesia could attract training recipients to buy equipment or agricultural seeds, or vaccines from Indonesia.

The second benefit would be strengthened domestic capacity, Local Governments, in particular, assisting in SSC programs. The reciprocal relationship in SSC implementation through knowledge sharing can be applied at the local level. With conditions of economic development that have the same level of development progress, various Local Governments can be effective partners with regions in other developing countries. Both parties can share knowledge in enhancing the development and capacity of their respective regions. Furthermore, Local Governments can disseminate their knowledge to other regions to help develop other regions in Indonesia ([Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2020](#)).

Third, the implementation of SSC can also encourage the strengthening of support for Indonesia's agenda, position, and candidacy in international forums and organizations. The support from the recipient countries of Indonesia's SSC aid for Indonesia's candidacy in international forums has been lacking. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a strategy that is expected from each recipient country so that the provision of assistance is not only known by individuals who participate in the training but is also recorded and known by the central government and the people of the recipient country ([Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, 2020](#)).

### **Conclusion**

First, SSC Indonesia needs to continue strengthening institutions, human resources, budgets, and programs, considering the increasingly strategic role of SSC. The presence of LDKPI in supporting the SSC program also needs to be given more space, mainly to run programs in increasingly complex developing countries. Second, the increasing role of non-government and private sectors needs to be encouraged to support the SSC programs. During the decade of Indonesia's SSC, non-government and private actors have increasingly played an important role, and therefore future collaborations between these actors with government actors are essential to be developed.

Third, Indonesia's SSC has become an important modality and strategic instrument in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), later developed into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Indonesia and developing countries. The SSC programs in the SDGs for a decade can be divided into four orientation categories, namely people (SDG 1-5), prosperity (SDG 6-10), planet (SDG 11-15), peace, and partnership (SDG 16-17).

Fourth, the implementation of the Indonesian SSC programs provides direct political and economic benefits, especially during the economic recovery period due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has plagued the world since 2020. The pandemic has affected most sectors of people's lives, such as the economy, health, tourism, education, and technology. This condition is undoubtedly a big challenge for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by every country in the world. As a form of solidarity between South-South countries, Indonesia's SSC creates a beneficial form of partnership for all parties. In the recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, Indonesia's SSC is expected to be one of the means/tools for recovering from crisis conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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