

**Independent Progress Review**  
**of the Support for Education Sector Development in Aceh (SEDIA) program**  
**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND LEARNING AND DISSEMINATION PLAN**

Prepared by: Basic Education Unit, AusAID Jakarta

Approved by: Mat Kimberley

Date Approved: 2 May 2012

**Aid Activity Summary**

<b>Aid Activity Name</b>	<b>Support for Education Development in Aceh</b>		
AidWorks initiative number	INH361		
Commencement date	1 September 2009	Completion date	30 June 2012
Total Australian \$	\$6.9 million		
Delivery organisation(s)	Coffey International Development		
Implementing Partner(s)	Government of Indonesia: Bappenas (National Development Planning Agency); Ministry of National Education; Ministry of Religious Affairs		
Country/Region	Indonesia		
Primary Sector	Education		

**Aid Activity Objective:**

The goal of the Support for Education Sector Development in Aceh (SEDIA) program is to support the province to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of basic education throughout the province in line with policies and strategies articulated in the 2007 Aceh Provincial Education Strategic Plan. The purpose of the program is to support the province of Aceh to operationalize the implementation of the plan.

The expected outcomes are:

- 1) Strengthened capacity of Aceh Provincial Government to implement its medium term strategy to improve educational quality and enhance boys' and girls' access to basic education;
- 2) Strengthened capacity and improved leadership and management skills of district governments to plan and deliver improved basic education services.

**Independent Progress Review Summary**

**Evaluation Objectives:**

- 1) Evaluate performance against planned outcomes and suggest areas for improvement;
- 2) Analyse and comment on the relevance of program objectives and delivery mechanisms against AusAID strategic objectives, and make recommendations on whether the option to extend SEDIA should be exercised;
- 3) Analyse and make recommendations on most suitable mechanisms for AusAID education support in the province over the next five years including if current programs mechanisms should be continued; and
- 4) Identify approaches and activities from SEDIA that could be replicated in other provinces.

**Evaluation Completion Date:** 23 January 2012

**Evaluation Team:** Mr John Fargher, Team Leader and Evaluation Specialist; Ms Hetty Cislowski, Education Specialist.

## **Management Response**

The Independent Progress Review is comprehensive and provides thorough analysis of the program's performance and provides useful lessons to inform implementation of future education programs at the sub-national level.

The independent review found that SEDIA has made excellent progress against the objective to strengthen the capacity of the Provincial Government to implement its education strategy; but that it is likely it will not achieve the planned breadth of coverage (all 23 districts) or depth of capacity building at the district level by 30 June 2012. The ambitious scope for the 2-year program was recognised in the program design, which allows for a 1-year extension (subject to mid-term review). The review found that SEDIA supported the development of key education reforms such as the Equity Strategy for the use of oil and gas funds and establishment of the Education Forum, a multi-institutional forum that coordinates education activities and evaluates progress in Aceh. SEDIA supported the provincial and district governments to start using evidence for development of policy in education. The first Aceh Annual Education Progress Report prepared by the Education Forum, with SEDIA's support, resulted in widespread policy changes by district governments on teacher recruitment.

The program has made some progress in district capacity building, assisting 13 districts with annual plans and budgets (harmonising well with USAID activities supporting the districts with education strategic planning). Support to strengthen district data management units has resulted in better quality annual plans and budgets. Delayed district engagement has meant that only preparatory activities have started on establishing district education forums and planning support for professional development of education personnel.

The recommendations focused on continuation of support to key areas to ensure sustainability and help achieve program objectives. AusAID Unit agrees with recommendations one, three, four and five, and disagrees with recommendation two. The Independent Progress Review recommendations and AusAID Business Unit responses are laid out in the next section.

## **Recommendation One**

**Recommendation:** It is appropriate to continue targeted education support in Aceh with a focus on (1) collection and communication of data on education progress and (2) supporting all districts and selected sub-districts to effectively and efficiently manage and deliver the Aceh Education Strategic Plan in a district context.

**Response:** AusAID agrees

**Actions:** AusAID will seek Government of Indonesia's agreement to extend the SEDIA program for 12 months to continue support to Aceh Province and districts to deliver the Aceh Education Strategic Plan.

## **Recommendation Two**

**Recommendation:** The form of this continued targeted education support in Aceh should also take into account the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Local Governance Innovations for Communities in Aceh (LOGICA2) review. If the LOGICA2 review recommends extension, a merged extension of the two programs could be implemented for an additional 24 months of activities. This merged extension would build on key resources from SEDIA, the district engagement approaches and methods proven in LOGICA2, the existing District relationships established by LOGICA2 and the USAID Decentralized Basic Education (DBE1) team (some of whom are now with SEDIA), and the existing provincial relationships that all programs offer. A merged extension would combine the financial, human and knowledge resources of two programs under one management structure to reduce fragmentation, increase efficiency and enhance effectiveness of education service delivery in Aceh.

**Response:** AusAID disagrees

**Actions:** The independent review of LOGICA2 conducted in January 2012 recommended that LOGICA2 be extended for 24 months but did not recommend that SEDIA and LOGICA2 merge. LOGICA2 and SEDIA were designed for different purposes and use very different implementing approaches. LOGICA2 is a general governance program that focuses on building active communities to advocate priority needs to government, and governments that respond to citizen priorities by effectively allocating resources and

delivering services. LOGICA2 works in six districts. SEDIA works at the provincial level and in all districts and focuses on developing and implementing strategies for education improvement. Merging the two programs would run the risk of diluting the purpose and achievements of the programs and would require a costly re-design. AusAID will continue close collaboration between LOGICA2 and SEDIA around service delivery for education at the district level in a way that serves the intentions and strengths of both programs.

### Recommendation Three

**Recommendation:** If AusAID is unable to adopt a fully merged approach to district capacity development SEDIA should be extended for 12 months and consolidated to finalise the capacity building activities relating to SEDIA Outputs 2.3 and 2.4 in the districts where LOGICA2 and DBE1 have been active and in a targeted way with the remaining districts in Aceh.

**Response:** AusAID agrees

**Actions:** AusAID agrees to extend SEDIA for 12 months with the approval of Bappenas, the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Government of Aceh partners. The extension will focus on: consolidating capacity improvement work in targeted districts, supporting institutionalisation of selected system improvements at Provincial level, and transitioning the province to AusAID's Nationwide Education Program (the Education Partnership) particularly Education Personnel Quality Improvement (Component 2) and Analytical Capacity Development (Component 4).

### Recommendation Four

**Recommendation:** The purpose of either extension would be consolidating capacity to improve service delivery in targeted districts of Aceh; effectively transitioning provincial and district stakeholders to sustainable implementation of planning, data collection and reporting functions; and ensuring district capacity was developed to effectively and efficiently manage and deliver the Aceh Education Strategic Plan as planned in Outputs 2.3 and 2.4 of the SEDIA design. The extension activities would also maintain relationships with existing provincial and district institutions; continue support to education data collation, analysis and reporting under the Coordination Forum for Education Development in Aceh (TKPPA); and prepare for engagement with the Education Partnership (EP) (particularly Components 2 and 4).

**Response:** AusAID agrees

**Actions:** AusAID will work with SEDIA's Management Group and Team Leader to develop a work plan for the 12 month extension that focuses on consolidating activities, continuing district capacity building and transitioning the province to the Education Partnership.

### Recommendation Five

**Recommendation:** SEDIA work with the Coordination Forum for Education Development in Aceh (TKPPA) to review the 2010 Aceh Education Annual Report (LPPA) using criteria of relevance, presentation of evidence, analysis and feasibility in an environment where future reports are fully prepared by Government of Aceh.

**Response:** AusAID agrees

**Actions:** AusAID will work with SEDIA's Management Group to include the review of the 2010 Aceh Education Annual Report in the work plan for the 12 month extension.

### Learning and Dissemination Approach

**Target Audiences:** AusAID's Indonesia program, other AusAID country programs that manage similar education governance programs, Education Thematic Group, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Bappenas and other donors.

### Learning and Dissemination Actions

**Public Release:** May 2012

**Distribution List:**

Stakeholder	Management Response Included?	Distribution Method
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Stakeholder	Management Response Included?	Distribution Method
Provincial and district governments	Yes	Consultation
Ministry of Education and Culture	Yes	Consultation
Ministry of Religious Affairs	Yes	Consultation
Bappenas	Yes	Consultation
Other donors	No	Email

### Learning and Dissemination Activities:

Activity	Target Audience	By When?	Who Responsible?
Aide-Memoire presentation	AusAID Education and Decentralisation Sections	28 Oct 2011	Activity Manager
Consultation with Provincial and district governments on findings and recommendations	Provincial and district governments	30 Nov-1 Dec 2011 (Completed)	SPM and Activity Manager
Consultation with Managing Contractor on findings and recommendations	Managing Contractor	30 Nov-1 Dec 2011 (Completed)	SPM and Activity Manager
Consultation with SEDIA Management Group on final recommendations and actions	Provincial Government	End of April 2012	Unit Manager and Activity Manager
Presentation of the Final Report to key counterparts in Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Bappenas	National Government of Indonesia	Mid May 2012	Unit Manager and Activity Manager
Send the Final Report with management response to Education Thematic Group	Education Thematic Group and other AusAID country programs	End of May 2012	Activity Manager
Send the Final Report to other donors	UNICEF, USAID	End of May 2012	Unit Manager
Upload the final report on AusAID's website	Public	End of May 2012	Activity Manager