Sub-theme: New Imperatives for Education, Teaching and Learning

Abstract: Early Childhood Development Provision for all in Indonesia: A Post-2015 Agenda

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This paper examines strategic options for expanding holistic, integrated Early Childhood Development services for every child in Indonesia.

Quantitative analysis of national household and village survey data, combined with qualitative fieldwork in 6 sites across Indonesia show that current provision reaches only a limited number of mothers and children, and that provision is inequitable, and not widely integrated across different sectors, despite some innovative attempts by the government of Indonesia.

To achieve universal coverage in Indonesia’s decentralised system, any post-2015 development model must take into account two types of institution: those that will emerge from private or community initiatives and those that will emerge through a government-led approach. But while there is a strong institutional and programmatic foundation for Early Childhood Development which can accommodate these institutions, there is currently no development model for translating policies and practices into sustainable local level support for children.

Drawing upon international best practice and based within the framework of the current institutional arrangements, this paper proposes a mix of policies aimed at Central, Regional and Community levels as the most appropriate way forward to achieve universal coverage. These policies include: promoting central government coordination, guidance and standardisation through a national advisory body; strengthening district level technical support and provision of incentives for communities to invest in ECD; and supporting community level cross-sector coordination and strengthening of existing institutions, amongst others.

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