



Australian Government  
AusAID



# Building a sustainable future: Effective governance



Photo: Claire McGeechan, AusAID

**Effective governance builds an environment where jobs can be created and services delivered to poor people. It enables people to defend their rights, voice their concerns and influence their own futures.**

Australia is working with partner countries to ensure social stability, and develop accountable, responsive and transparent civil society and government institutions critical to deliver effective governance and sustainable development outcomes.



Photo: Rob Maccoll, AusAID

## Improving financial management in the Philippines and East Timor

Strong public administration and financial management can support local populations to claim better and more responsive services from their governments.

Australia and the Government of the Philippines have established a long-term partnership for improving the efficiency, accountability and transparency of public expenditure in the Philippines. The program prioritises practical budgeting and management reforms that strengthen public finance management systems. It is helping decision-makers work more effectively to deliver goods and services to the community.

In partnership with the World Bank and other donors, Australia is assisting the Government of East Timor to introduce a new financial management system that allows the Government to assess the quality of its essential services spending and so deliver more money where it is needed. More than 90 per cent of East Timor's budget was spent in 2010, compared with only 49 per cent in 2007.



Photo: Josh Estey

## Enhancing security and justice in Indonesia

Australia is committed to promoting equitable and responsive legal systems. We work with partners on improving security, stability and criminal justice systems, and ending violence against women, children, and marginalised groups.

The Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice is working with justice sector and civil society partners to help the Government of Indonesia enhance professionalism, transparency and accountability in the justice system. The partnership has seen the number of cases heard by courts in remote areas more than double between 2007 and 2009, a 1000 per cent increase in the number of court fee waivers—primarily to the benefit of local women, and 21,800 court decisions published online.

## Transparent and accountable governments in Asia and the Pacific

Governments that are inclusive, accountable and responsive deliver better services that are more closely aligned to people's needs, resulting in long-term improvements in services for poor and marginalised people. Helping communities assist the fight against corruption is a crucial step in developing the economy and reducing poverty.

Australian aid to Transparency International is strengthening and expanding the organisation's network of national advocacy and legal advice centres in Asia-Pacific.

The centres are a simple and credible way for people to pursue corruption-related complaints. Since 2003, more than 60 centres have been established in 50 countries, facilitating 95,000 corruption-related complaints.

## Ensuring people with disability have a vote in Indonesia

People with disability in developing countries are often excluded from democratic processes. Many have difficulty physically accessing voting places and accessing information about the electoral process.

In 2011, Australia supported the International Foundation for Electoral Systems to encourage more accessible elections in Indonesia. An Election Access Guidebook was distributed to national and local governments, as well as organisations working with people with disabilities.

Rafendi Djamin, an Indonesian representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, says the guidebook is a good step toward a more democratic country. "By addressing the needs of people with disability, we are answering a fundamental principle, or non-discrimination principle, to have a better transition to democracy," he said.