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The world's first slum upgrading programme

The innovative Kampung Improvement Programme (KIP) in Jakarta, Indonesia, launched in 1969 is the world's first urban slum upgrading project.

To this day KIP stands as the Jakarta Administration's response to so-called *kampungs* –the densely populated, unserviced, low-income urban homes scattered around the city that are home to 60 percent of its 4.8 million inhabitants. The KIP worked to provide basic urban services, such as roads and footpaths, water, drainage and sanitation, as well as health and education facilities.

KIP quickly became a model programme that served to transform slums from illegal settlements into a part of the urban fabric. And it did not take long for this non-conventional approach to win over the population as well as Indonesia's politicians and media. Thanks to official recognition of improved *kampungs* as formal settlements, the city administration has made an addition to the housing stock that was provided by the people themselves. It also gave them security of tenure.

During the initial stage, 1969-1974, the Jakarta Administration (DKI) managed to improve living standards for 1.2 million people through an average expense equivalent to only 13 US dollars per head. The *kampung* improvement scheme quickly gained its reputation as a model system as word spread of its successes through the country and across the developing world. It was an approach that seemed to make every dollar go a long way. It embodied not only slum upgrading, but social upliftment.

From 1974, the World Bank supported the KIP scheme with soft loans to accelerate the pace. A dedicated KIP unit was set up to bring fragmented planning and implementation under a single umbrella. By 1979, the Indonesian government endorsed the KIP scheme as national policy.

When World Bank assistance came to an end in 1982, the KIP had improved conditions for close to 5 million urban poor. Permanent monitoring and assessment, based on trial-and-error as well as input from the communities, was a key factor behind this achievement.



By 1988, all those involved realized that blanket solutions for slum upgrading were no longer in order. They came to realize that the communities themselves had to be involved in programme planning and implementation. They took on a new approach which came to be known as KIP III whereby they brought in the idea of a sustainable environment to complement the social and economic dimensions of the scheme.

As the KIP III system was extended to other Indonesian cities, the original World Bank unit was merged into the Housing Department in 1993.

The system had served to improve the external environment of the *kampung*s with vastly improved services, but it had not yet reached inside – into the single room homes typically shared by five people on average. Poor roofing, poor natural ventilation, poor lighting all combine to make for an unhealthy degree of humidity making respiratory problems rife. With 51 per cent of Jakarta's population still relying on waste-contaminated ground water, *kampung* residents also fall victim to dengue fever. However, as security of tenure improves – a prerequisite for interior change – simplified procedures are remedying these problems too. Affordable solutions are available in other areas. These range from microcredit to fund windows and ventilation, and greenery to generate much-needed oxygen, to collective roofing for rainwater collection.

Today, government policies are affecting *kampung* settlements across the country in a variety of ways. At provincial level, a new Sub-district Society Empowering Programme (PPMK) introduced in the year 2000 endorses the latest KIP approach. But with its focus on economic development and poverty alleviation, PPMK hardly affects living conditions or the quality of the environment. Moreover, with its uniform allocation of 200,000 US dollars per sub-district, the scheme fails to recognize that individual areas have strengths and problems of their own.

Indonesia's housing agencies feel duty-bound to build apartment buildings for the urban poor at a cost of nearly 100 million US dollars so far. Yet only 20 per cent of those for whom the apartments are intended remain in them. With building costs of 3,200 US dollars per head, the ratio to KIP III costs at 23 US dollars per head is 140 : 1.

Continuous improvement of living conditions in Indonesia's *kampung*s thus remains a challenge. Sustainable development must be mainstreamed and it must command political support, and consistent public policies to keep on track. The KIP has gone through various stages over the past 30 years, but its change from a physical approach to community-based development was made possible by support from the population, institutions and politicians.

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Such support remains badly needed today. Internal migration keeps undermining recent improvements in Indonesia's *kampung*s. Jakarta has the resources and the know-how to prevent them from sliding back into slums, and the city cannot ignore that *kampung* dwellers are predominant in its population. Therefore Jakarta must revive the mainstream Kampung Improvement Programme so dear to the hearts of its poor community.

It should not just be the first slum upgrading programme, but it can make history if it remains a model that others emulate.

This article is written by Dodo Juliman, Habitat Programme Manager in Indonesia and Darrundon former Director of the Jakarta Kampung Improvement Programme. Please feel free to publish or quote from this article provided UN-HABITAT Features is given credit. Suitable photographs are available on our website.

Journalists around the world are encouraged to write similar stories about meeting the MDGs in their own cities about slum upgrading.

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