

## **Abstract**

### **Justice for Vulnerable Groups and Civil Society Coalitions: Case Study of Access to Justice Advocacy in Indonesia (MAJu, 2016-2021)**

This paper focuses on MAJu (eMpowering Access to Justice), a USAID-funded project in Indonesia. Particularly the gap between the ideal of justice for all and the reality that justice is still inaccessible for many; there is a disparity between the number of people seeking justice and the services available. USAID MAJu increased access to legal aid for vulnerable, poor, and marginalized groups and strengthened the environment by supporting civil society organizations, including community groups assisting them.

USAID MAJu introduced the importance of inter-issue literacy supported by collaboration and coalitions for change, communication between civil society groups, and community mapping. The paper underlines the importance of continuous and regular opening of communication channels for developing advocacy coalitions. The program had four strategies:

- Community-based legal and rights empowerment
- Building multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Encouraging a culture that can increase pro bono advocates to provide legal aid services
- Building civil society organizations' capacity to perform better, to help increase access to justice for marginalized communities, and to reduce discrimination.

USAID MAJu was implemented from 2016 to 2021 in Jakarta, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Jogjakarta, Papua, and North Sumatra. USAID MAJu succeeded in inclusively strengthening legal aid for marginalized and vulnerable groups, and the program demonstrates that the path to justice can be achieved if citizens are empowered to fight for their rights, channels for accountable problem-solving are available, and fair solutions for all parties are attainable.