



Indonesia

Progress Map Indonesia

Jakarta opened the first **MRT (Mass Rapid Transit)** metro line in early 2019.¹ The aim was to offer an alternative to the chronically congested roads in the nation's capital city. This development finds high support within the population and represents the area where Indonesians are most united in wanting things to move faster.

Indonesia is currently graduating out of bilateral EU **development assistance**.² At the same time the country launched its own development agency in 2019 to aid neighbouring countries. This is in accordance with the desire of Indonesia's citizens to increase the country's contribution in this regard.

In order to optimize costs, many companies relocate aspects of their production processes abroad. The Indonesian population wants to make progress in welcoming foreign companies to the country and to see things move when it comes to lowering bureaucratic hurdles and reducing regulation. The possible influx of foreign experts on the other hand is viewed more critically.

According to a study by the Australian-based Lowy Institute, the biggest challenge facing Indonesia these days is not in improving access to education, but in improving the quality of education.³ The population prioritizes education and research very highly and wants to see progress in both lifelong learning and greater spending on R&D.



Compared to the priorities in most of the other 16 countries surveyed, gender equality is not a top issue in Indonesia, but progress is desired all the same. Other aspects of a liberal society have been more under strain in Indonesia recently: lawmakers planned to update the country's penal code restricting gay rights – among other things. President Joko Widodo has now vetoed this bill, which is in line with the findings of this year's Progress Barometer showing

¹ <https://www.spektrum.de/news/jakarta-findet-absurde-loesungen-fuer-das-verkehrsproblem/1669650>

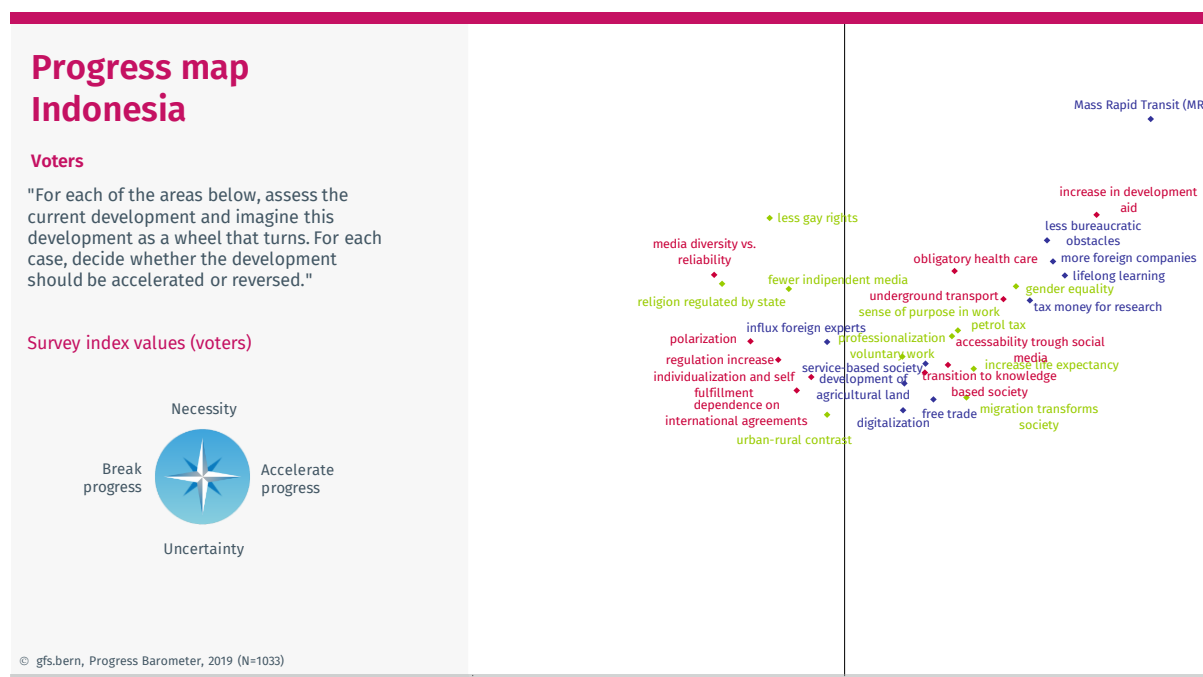
² https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/indonesia_en

³ https://www.lowyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/Rosser_Beyond%20access%20-%20Making%20Indonesia%27s%20education%20system%20work_WEB_2.pdf

that Indonesians would rather turn back the dial on the further restriction of the rights of homosexuals.⁴ They also disapprove of the government's increased influence in regulating religion.

The trade-off between the increase in media diversity through the internet at the cost of the accuracy of this information is viewed critically. People would also like to turn back the dial on the decrease in independent media outlets in Indonesia.

Indonesians are reluctant to take a clear stand when it comes to the transition and modernization of its economy and society: In the area of digitalization, the redevelopment of agricultural land for better infrastructure and the growing cities, as well as the professionalization of previously voluntary work such as care of the elderly, there is a desire for some progress – but not too much too fast.



Desire for Progress in Indonesia

Overall, Indonesians want to see the wheels of progress in their country move slightly faster than in the past. In the ranking of all 16 countries surveyed, Indonesia is number six in terms of readiness for progress. The desire to move the dial faster is most decisive when it comes to issues concerning the economy and society. In the area of politics, Indonesians are somewhat less willing to see progress.

Indonesia's self- assessment of progress

When asked how Indonesians themselves would rate progress in their country, 71% are of the opinion that Indonesia is currently very progressive or somewhat progressive when it comes to economic issues, 62% think the same of social progress, whereas only 59% would rate Indonesia progressive when it comes to the current development of its politics.

⁴ https://www.lowyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/Rosser_Beyond%20access%20-%20Making%20Indonesia%27s%20education%20system%20work%20WEB%202.pdf

Further information



Future prospects: A large majority of Indonesians (91%) are confident or fairly confident about their own future - in contrast to a small minority (6%) who view their future with pessimism. Even when it comes to the future of Indonesian society as a whole, a generally positive feeling prevails in the country (86%). Only a low 40% see a risk that their children will be worse off than the respondents themselves. Other nations are much more pessimistic than Indonesia on this topic. Indonesia is also the country where the proportion of citizens who are very or quite confident they will have enough funds for a comfortable retirement is highest (62%). The average of all 16 countries surveyed lies at 29% on this issue. This goes to show that, compared with the other countries, Indonesia is definitely optimistic about its future.



Assessment of past 10 years: The majority of Indonesians feel a definite improvement in almost all aspects of life surveyed in this year's Progress Barometer, most notably in the country's inventiveness (70%), in its use of sustainable technologies (76%), in its infrastructure both in rural (71%) and in urban areas (78%) and or in the stability of economic relations (56%). Where Indonesians are undecided is in their assessment of progress in the protection of privacy and national unity, the proportion who see a deterioration being roughly the same as the proportion who see an improvement (around 40%).



Social cohesion: Indonesia has the second-highest proportion of citizens who claim to be fully satisfied with life (59%) of all 16 countries (only China is higher). While Indonesians are quite content and optimistic overall, Indonesia is also one of the countries surveyed where the proportion of citizens who feel that government should do more to reduce income inequality between rich and poor is highest.



Battle against climate change: A clear majority of Indonesians believe that new technologies will help solve global problems (79%) such as climate change rather than having to forego things such as air travel or eating meat (59%). However, they are also of the opinion that people should return to living in harmony with nature (69%), focus more on sustainability than purely on growth when it comes to their economic development (87%) and – despite their aversion to regulation – have the state intervene to stop companies polluting the environment (67%).



Political past and future: Indonesia's past under a military junta reverberates in public sentiment to this day: it is among the nations which most wholeheartedly agree that social development means resolving conflicts without weapons (86%) and that good social change means greater tolerance in dealing with minorities (85%). At the same time, they are quite sceptical of those institutions that effectively concentrate political opinion in the democratic process: namely, political parties; 71% feel that the nation's problems would be better solved without parties than with them.