

# Assessing Long-Term Impact:

## USAID/Indonesia Scholarship Programs



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### Program Overview

Through the **USAID Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD)** program and the **Program to Extend Scholarships and Training to Achieve Sustainable Impacts (PRESTASI)**, USAID/Indonesia provided scholarships to **357 Indonesians** from 2006 through 2020. An additional **1,280 Indonesians** participated in **short-term training programs** with USAID PRESTASI support.



*PRESTASI-3 Scholar at IIE's Leadership Workshop*

Scholarship recipients pursued **U.S. graduate degrees** in the fields of Economics, Education, Environment, Democracy and Human Rights, and Health, and received supplemental training in areas such as **English language proficiency and leadership development**. The HICD and PRESTASI programs expanded scholarships into programs that contributed to the holistic education of each scholar and equipped scholars with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to contribute to the continuing development of Indonesia.

Founded in 1919, the **Institute of International Education (IIE)** is a global leader in international education, designing and implementing programs that advance scholarship, build economies, and promote access to opportunity around the globe.

IIE undertook an **independent study to assess the long-term impact of USAID-funded scholarship programs** on scholars' professional and personal lives upon their return to their home country. As part of this effort, IIE reached out to scholars who participated in the Indonesia HICD Program (2006-2011) and its follow-on, the PRESTASI program (2011 - 2020). The following results are based on findings from **150 survey respondents** and **15 long-form interviews**.

### Professional Development

Personal skills gained or strengthened as a result of USAID scholarship:

- English language skills (88%)
- Critical thinking (87%)
- Research skills and techniques (77%)
- Communication & adaptability (77%)
- Leadership (71%)

Professional/life skills attributed to USAID scholarship program:

- Strengthened technical skills and knowledge (93%)
- Greater confidence in the workplace (80%)
- Improved job performance (77%)

### Personal Enrichment

- The scholarship and U.S. educational experience had a very positive impact on their personal lives (82%), with the remaining 18% responding that it had a positive impact.

### Close Ties to the U.S.

- Remain in close contact with U.S. colleagues and counterparts (91%)
- Share American culture (food, language, etc.) in Indonesia (47%)

### Giving Back to Others

Contributions made to community as a result of USAID scholarship:

- Tutoring and sharing skills with others (74%)
- Community service/volunteering (56%)
- Bringing awareness to issues affecting local communities (50%)
- Participating in community organizations (47%)

## Life Changing Experience

Upon their return to Indonesia, alumni remarked that their job performance increased, and they received more opportunities. The technical and soft skills they learned in the U.S. are utilized daily in their professions. Many also received promotions, new and/or higher roles at their institution, and felt more confident in the workplace.

## More Inclined to Give Back to Communities

USAID scholarship alumni share resources, help others seek similar scholarship opportunities, and mentor students in Indonesia. They participate more in community service, particularly in rural and underserved areas in Indonesia. Alumni also collaborate across sectors to support humanitarian, economic, and social assistance programs through their government ministries or non-governmental organizations.

## Ambassadors for Indonesia

Alumni built strong networks with their U.S. universities, made professional international connections, and developed lifelong friendships. As a result, they now act as ambassadors of Indonesia in both their personal and professional networks.



*PRESTASI-III scholar presenting on gender equity and inclusion*

**“The way America teaches people to be open minded without changing their own principle is the most precious lesson. The way that we can be different, be friends and work together, with different principles”**

- Dwi Martina,  
PRESTASTI-III Scholar

**“I was a cofounder of a foundation that helped the elderly. We managed to get support from the government; like home visits to take care of them. I helped them with management systems, HR, to coach the staff and volunteers. Again, these skills are not there suddenly, it’s from experience from America and the learning process from my organization really helped me to transfer the professionalism aspect of my life.”**

- Frans Samosir



## Contact Us

Interested in learning more about the survey results and how IIE designs and leads scholarship programs?

Contact David Simpson, USAID Programs Director, at [DSimpson@iie.org](mailto:DSimpson@iie.org)

*IIE would like to recognize and thank Lidia Awad for her contributions in conducting the impact assessment.*



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