

# INDONESIA

**IN INDONESIA, WOMEN'S ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN COMMUNITY-BASED MECHANISMS IS A DRIVING FORCE IN ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SUSTAINING PEACE.**



# JUSTICE FOR WOMEN, JUSTICE FOR ALL

## ADVANCING THE COMMUNITY-BASED JUSTICE MODEL IN INDONESIA

### INTRODUCTION

Across 10 villages in Java, Indonesia, the community-based model for justice has been recognized by local community members and national partners as a successful approach to enhancing women's access to and participation in justice systems. Since launching the pilot model in 2019, UN Women, in partnership with the Wahid Foundation and local women's groups have **engaged more than 500 community members and relevant actors in effective collaboration on the co-creation and delivery of community-based and gender-responsive justice mechanisms, centred around women's justice needs.**

**In connection with the Peace Village initiative,<sup>1</sup>** the pilot strengthened existing community networks through a series of holistic interventions, including **enhancing women's leadership and legal literacy, establishing dialogue and coordination platforms and involving communities at large** to engage in the processes and lead advocacy efforts.

In this context, particular efforts were made to increase women's active engagement to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls through strengthened community-based protection mechanisms for women and girls seeking justice.

### STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The **Peace Village initiative supports women's active citizenship to promote peaceful and resilient communities** that are socially just and gender equal. At the heart of the model are the Pokjas, which are community-based working groups. **Women currently hold 40 per cent of the Pokjas seats, and their presence has ensured the promotion of women's equal participation and active engagement** in community-based protection and prevention mechanisms.

In recognition of the **vital role of women in the Pokjas and at the community level, the initiative involved them as active agents for gender justice** throughout all phases of the pilot.

<sup>1</sup> <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/01/peace-villages-women-leading-peace-in-indonesia>

### KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION

As an initial component of the pilot, a series of gender justice and legal literacy trainings were rolled out for **94 members of Pokjas** (60 women and 34 men), **as well as 451 representatives of grassroots and community-based organizations** (337 women and 114 men) to support them in the delivery of comprehensive community-based gender justice. This included sessions on the following topics:

- **Advocacy strategies** for women's human rights.
- **Protection mechanisms** against extremism and violence against women.
- **Gender-responsive** conflict mediation and resolution.
- Application of **national and international human rights standards.**

### WHOLE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

After receiving the trainings, the two groups led a series of **focus group discussions with more than 500 community members on the justice needs of women** and the participants contributed to the co-design and development of community-based guidelines for protection and prevention mechanisms for women and girls seeking justice.

### KEY QUOTE



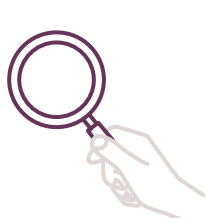
In the past, women in this village had no idea what they should do when they encountered problems, especially violence they experienced at home or at school... I think, now the atmosphere has changed, and women are beginning to have ideas of what they should do as there is a shift in values and they understand there is a sort of support system available, people they could talk about their problems”.

Nyai Fadillah, Female religious leader and teacher of Guluk-Guluk (Peace) Village of Sumenep City, East Java

## COORDINATED AND CATALYTIC EFFORTS

Building on the knowledge obtained during the community-based focus group discussions, **regular exchange platforms were established with the Peace Village working groups and task forces were to facilitate dialogue and coordination efforts** among the Pokjas, community leaders, local government legal aid service providers, women-led civil society organizations and the Provincial Integrated Service Centre for the Empowerment of Women and Children.

The establishment of the platforms **led to a formalized agreement between all actors to improve referrals between justice service providers and legal aid** for women seeking justice, and increase their engagement in community monitoring systems.



Monitoring and prevention



Legal aid and services framework



Referral guidelines



Formal and informal justice procedures

As a result of the coordinated and collaborative efforts led by all actors involved, including local women community members, the Guidebook: [Community-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Tools and Systems in Advocating the Rights of Women and Children](#) was developed. The guidebook includes basic paralegal knowledge, referral procedures and formal justice structures, and advocacy strategies for women's human rights. A plain language version was also developed to empower members of the community to protect their families and communities from human rights violations and climate related disasters.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND MOBILIZATION

The **community-based guidebook and procedures are living documents that are adaptable to the needs and conditions in each village**. They continue to be used at the community level as a tool for advocacy and to mobilize community members and actors.

### KEY QUOTE



Now, there is a support system for women provided by the women's movement in our village, which was driven by the Wahid Foundation's programme...I think, in general, no change is more significant than the others, yet the most significant of all is efforts and mechanisms to protect women. As women become the driver of change in this village, they caught the attention of the government of all levels, including city, district, and provincial governments".

Pokja member, East Java

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