

# INDONESIA

- Population Sex Disaggregation: 50% male to 50% female<sup>1</sup>
- Population Age Disaggregation: <5yrs 10%; 5-19yrs 28%; women 15-49yrs 27%; >65yrs 5%<sup>2</sup>
- Average household size: 4<sup>3</sup>
- Female headed households: 14%<sup>4</sup>
- Infant Mortality rates: 43 per 1000 live births<sup>3</sup>
- Maternal Mortality rate: 126 per 100,000 live births<sup>5</sup>
- Child Marriage: 17% women aged 20-24 years who were married or in union before the age of 18<sup>6</sup>
- Disability Prevalence Rate: 2.45% however likely to be higher<sup>7</sup>

## Gender in Brief

The Republic of Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation in the world with a multitude of ethnic, religious and cultural groups. While rapid urbanisation and ongoing reforms have led to significant advances in gender equality and women's empowerment, Indonesia continues to rank relatively poorly on the Gender Inequality Index (103 out of 152 countries).<sup>8</sup> Key challenges hindering efforts to advance gender equality and the status of women include: discriminatory attitudes and gender roles that limit women's ability to exercise their economic and labor rights, harmful traditional practices, the exploitation of women migrants, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), with some provinces reporting the highest rates of domestic violence in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>9</sup> Natural disasters, sectarian violence and rapid urbanization also continue to harm livelihoods, cause displacement of people and threaten safety in certain regions; all factors that worsen women's vulnerability to poverty and the pre-existing inequalities they face, particularly in relation to livelihood opportunities, land ownership and inheritance, access to credit, wages and workplace benefits and violence.

**Gender Roles and Responsibilities:** For most people in Indonesia, traditional gender roles exist; women hold the role of "wife", and are expected to undertake the majority of household, childcare and overall caring work, while men are expected to provide and be the decision-makers as head of the family (set in law by the Marriage Act 1974). This includes decisions about family assets, which women usually need permission from their husbands to use and sell. Further, property attained as a result of, or during a marriage is usually titled in the husband's name and in some regions women are customarily not entitled to own land.<sup>10</sup> In 2011 men owned 91% of the land. While this is the case, the Indonesia Demographic and Health Survey reported that, in some parts of Indonesia women control at least part of the family's income, especially if they earned the income and participate in decision-making on family issues. CARE's development work in Indonesia has shown that single mothers and/or widowers have problems accessing distributions and services. Furthermore, it shown that while 14% of household in Indonesia are headed by females, they are often not fully recognized, both in the legal system as well as in social life. As a result, female heads of households often face discrimination in terms of social, political and economic rights.

**Education and Economic Empowerment:** There is little difference between education attainment for women and men, girls and boys. However, this has not been translated into employment and labor force attainment.<sup>3</sup> Men are more likely to participate in the formal/ commercial labor force (86.2% men as compared to 53.3% women) and are more likely to operate machinery, tools and technology.<sup>11</sup> Changing economic conditions have meant that women are increasingly working outside of the home, particularly the informal sectors such as subsistence farming and aquaculture and care and domestic work.<sup>12</sup> Women also constitute most of the self-employed and migrant workers and own 35 % of Indonesia's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), however, they have limited knowledge about access to financial institutions and their businesses are often registered under their husbands' names. Unemployment is also higher for women than men. All these factors place women at a higher risk of being engaged in risky and less secure work without legal and social protections.

**Participation and Policy:** Indonesia has signed and ratified the CEDAW, the Rights of the Child and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It has also announced a "zero-tolerance policy" and laws on VAW and the integration of gender mainstreaming and equality in national development processes remains a top priority.<sup>13</sup> However, positive steps are often undermined at a local level; discriminatory bylaws that contain rules on clothing, morality and religion limit women and girls' ability to exercise their rights, which, for example, prohibit women from leaving their houses after dark without being accompanied by a spouse or male representative.<sup>14</sup> In addition, women's participation in decision-making positions remains low; men are usually responsible for decision-making responsibilities in formal systems as *Adat* chiefs, religious leaders and village heads, while women tend not to be involved or consulted in planning and decision-making processes. This was seen in peace negotiations and peace-building efforts in provinces of Aceh and Papua, which had ongoing secessionist violence. Women, particularly indigenous women, were not involved in this process and as a result

policies and programs largely neglect the needs and rights of women. Nevertheless the introduction of a 30% quota for women in the National Parliament has helped increase women's political participation. Some women also participate informally in decision-making for the community, such as, wives of local leaders who may have informal decision-making roles and host spaces for women to discuss community issue. Women's groups exist in many parts of Indonesia and have been essential in advocating for women's freedom's and rights including the Law on Domestic Violence (2004) and in drafting of the Gender Equality Law.

**Gender Based Violence and Protection:** Violence Against Women and trafficking are of serious concern and UNICEF reports that female genital mutilation/ cutting (11%), forced divorce, illegal marriage, and child marriage (17%) are found in areas across Indonesia. Studies suggest that VAW is widespread and remains underreported.<sup>15,16</sup> The National Census Survey (SUSENAS) in 2006 found approximately 3% of Indonesian women (three million women nation-wide) report having experienced violence. Incidences were higher in rural areas and likely to be underreported.<sup>17</sup> Papua has the highest reported rates of domestic violence in which 60% of males admit perpetrating intimate partner violence, many before the age of 15. A study on the perpetration of sexual violence by men reports the main reasons for committing this violence were because they felt entitled to sex, were bored, or were angry and needed to punish someone.<sup>18</sup> Women with HIV/AIDS have also been subject to violence such as sexual abuse and forced sterilization and in 2009 women comprise 25% of people living with HIV/AIDS - the majority are married and infected by their partners.<sup>19</sup> Sex workers and migrant women are at particular risks of gender based violence both in the workplace and at home. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual people and the disabled are also marginalised by society and subsequently face many forms of violence. Indigenous people, particularly women, continue to face numerous human rights violations in regard to their rights to land and natural resources.

**Gender in Emergencies:** Humanitarian emergencies impact women, men, boys and girls in different ways and can rapidly change their needs and vulnerabilities. Steps to address the harm emergencies cause need to appropriately understand and respond to these differences. Sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) and gender and generational analysis of this data *after* the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami in Indonesia helped to understand the effects of this natural disaster. It found that two-thirds of those who died were female and in some villages all dead were females. Focus group studies that allowed safe spaces for women to voice their concerns found that among displaced families a significantly higher proportion of female headed-households were living among villages and towns and not in displaced camps, in part due to women being widowed and believing the camps were unsafe for them and their family. Data and analysis of this data that accounted for gendered changes from prior to the emergency showed an increase in early marriages and early high-risk pregnancies—girls attracted or pushed into early marriage—as the men did not have the skills to care for themselves or their remaining children.<sup>20</sup> Understanding and gendered differences is essential to strengthening humanitarian responses deliver more targeted evidence-based assistance and providing programming that is more specific and effective; not doing so can and *has* led to interventions being misguided, failing and has even put vulnerable groups at further risk.

<sup>1</sup> Catatan tahunan kekerasan terhadap perempuan, Komnas Perempuan, 2016

<sup>2</sup> United Nations World Population Prospect Indonesia 2010

<sup>3</sup> Demographic and Health Survey Indonesia 2012

<sup>4</sup> National Socio-Economic Household Survey Indonesia (SUSENAS) 2007

<sup>5</sup> World Bank database <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT>

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF global databases 2014. Based on DHS, MICS and other national household surveys.

<sup>7</sup> Pusdatin, Penyandang Disabilitas pada Anak:

[http://www.depkes.go.id/resources/download/pusdatin/infodatin/infodatin\\_disabilitas.pdf](http://www.depkes.go.id/resources/download/pusdatin/infodatin/infodatin_disabilitas.pdf) (note: article in Indonesian)

<sup>8</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2014.

<sup>9</sup> UN Gender Inequality Index 2012. <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/IDN.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/sites/default/files/country-profiles/fullreports/USAID\\_Land\\_Tenure\\_Indonesia\\_Profile\\_0.pdf](http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/sites/default/files/country-profiles/fullreports/USAID_Land_Tenure_Indonesia_Profile_0.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Gender Inequality Index, Table 4, Human Development Report 2010, UNDP.

<sup>12</sup> Kusabe & Kelker. 2001. Gender concerns in aquaculture in Southeast Asia. Gender Studies Monograph No. 12. Bangkok, Asian Institute of Technology, School of Environment Resources and Development.

<sup>13</sup> Presidential Instruction of the Republic of Indonesia No. 5 Year 2014 on the National Movement to Respond to Sexual Violence Against Children

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/statements/StatementIndonesia\\_CEADW52.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/statements/StatementIndonesia_CEADW52.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Unpaid care work, Country Profile: Indonesia: [interaction.eldis.org](http://interaction.eldis.org)

<sup>15</sup> Hayati et al. 2011. Behind the silence of harmony: risk factors for physical and sexual violence among women in rural Indonesia. *BMC Women's Health*, Vol. 11, No.52.

<sup>16</sup> UNICEF. 2012. *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey: Indonesia*. Jakarta: UNICEF

<sup>17</sup> UN Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2015. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

<sup>18</sup> Fulu E, Warner X, Miedema S, Jewkes R, Roselli T and Lang J, (2013), *Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific*.

<sup>19</sup> Women with HIV face greater risks, Jakarta Post, November 30, 2010 and Republic of Indonesia Country Report on the Follow up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS)

<sup>20</sup> Sex and Age matter. Improving Humanitarian Response in Emergencies  
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/SADD.pdf>