



COUNTRY BRIEF



WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN INDONESIA

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Photo: UN Women/Satu Bumi Jaya

Women, Peace and Security Context in Indonesia

Indonesia recognizes that a stable, just and peaceful society cannot be achieved without acknowledging and highlighting women's important role in building peace, preventing conflict and addressing emerging security threats, such as climate change and violent extremism. Within the global framework of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Indonesia has endeavoured to localize the WPS agenda into a National Action Plan (NAP). In 2014 the government launched the first NAP for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children during Social Conflicts¹ (also known as NAP-WPS) through Presidential Decree (Perpres No. 18)², focusing on three pillars: prevention, handling and empowerment, and the participation of women and children.

The second NAP on WPS (2020-2025), adopted in July 2021 through Regulation of Coordinating Minister on Human Development and Culture No. 5 Year 2021, incorporates emerging and non-traditional security issues deemed as priorities for Indonesia, including the prevention of violent extremism, intolerance and radicalization, land disputes and the prevalence of misinformation and disinformation,

¹ Rencana Aksi Nasional tentang Perlindungan dan Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak dalam Konflik Sosial (RAN P3AKS) [National Action Plan for Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children in Social Conflicts, hereinafter referred to as RAN P3AKS].

² Followed by the Regulation of the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare No. 8 of 2014 with the detailed WPS programme.

including false news and hate speech online. After nearly a decade of implementation, Indonesia is preparing the development of a third generation NAP to expand from a focus largely on women and child protection and empowerment in social conflict, to the inclusion of emerging issues, such as climate change, cyber security and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Indonesia, along with several other Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), have emphasized women's roles in conflict prevention, including preventing and countering violent extremism. In recent years, the government has made efforts to localize and harmonize the WPS agenda through ongoing implementation of the NAP on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism that Leads to Terrorism 2020-2024 (NAP on P/CVE), adopted through Presidential Decree No. 7 in year 2021 under the leadership of the National Counter Terrorism Agency of Indonesia (BNPT). The NAP on P/CVE incorporates gender and human rights dimensions in addressing P/CVE in Indonesia. At the ASEAN regional level, BNPT also led the development of the workplan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism 2019-2025 (the Bali Work Plan on PCRVE). The Plan includes a gender-responsive approach to preventing violent extremism and cross-sectoral collaboration with various ASEAN sectoral bodies, the goal being to ensure that the Bali Work Plan on PCRVE takes the gender roles and needs of women in preventing violent extremism into consideration. These bodies include the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

Advancing women's role in international peace is also a priority of Indonesian foreign policy, as reflected in the adoption by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2538 (2020) under the presidency of Indonesia. It was the first resolution on peacekeeping devoted in full to women, and it was also the first resolution in the history of Indonesian diplomacy at the UNSC calling upon Member States and the UN to strengthen their collective efforts to promote uniformed and civilian women's full, effective and meaningful engagement in peacekeeping operations at all levels and in all positions.

Within ASEAN, Indonesia is the top troop contributor to UN peacekeeping missions and ranks as the fifth largest troop-contributing country globally. It deploys close to 3,000 uniformed personnel although only 6.5 per cent are women (as of August 2024).³ Notably, 20 per cent of its military observers and staff officers are women, nearly reaching the 21 per cent target to close the gender gap, as per the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (2018-2028) of the United Nations Department of Peace Operations⁴.

Challenges

Indonesia has made significant strides in advancing the WPS agenda, but considerable challenges remain. Addressing the gendered impacts of traditional and non-traditional security issues is critical, especially in a region highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters that exacerbate the security risks and vulnerabilities faced by women, girls and other marginalized groups. Online disinformation has deepened gender inequality, fuelling social tensions and exacerbating pre-existing divisions. Cultural and structural barriers, including patriarchal norms and religious doctrines, not only continue to limit women's participation in the security sector, but recent research also suggests that hostile sexist attitudes (i.e. misogyny) that are prevalent in communities underpin both violent extremism and gender-based violence⁵.

Institutional challenges, such as inadequate synergy across levels, budget constraints and disruptions caused by frequent ministry reorganizations, complicate the RAN P3AKS development. Limited understanding of the WPS agenda and inconsistent interpretations of gender equality, especially among duty-bearers, also hinder progress. With better understanding and integration of the WPS agenda, alongside improved documentation and continuity in implementation, Indonesia is well-positioned to build on its progress and embed gender equality into security frameworks at all levels.

³ Troop and police contributors | United Nations Peacekeeping

⁴ Gender | United Nations Peacekeeping

⁵ "Misogyny & Violent Extremism: Implications for Preventing Violent Extremism" by M. Johnston and J. True (2019).

To address those challenges, UN Women Indonesia is working closely with the government, civil society, academia, international development partners and communities to assist the people of Indonesia in better promoting gender equality and sustainable peace.

Key data



21% OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN 2024⁶



177% FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS SERVING IN UN MISSIONS AS OF 2024⁷



20% OF MILITARY OBSERVERS AND STAFF OFFICERS AMONG INDONESIAN PEACEKEEPERS ARE WOMEN



570+ FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS DEPLOYED SINCE 1999

THE NUMBER OF FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS TRIPLED FROM 59 IN 2017 TO 183 IN 2024



6% OF POLICE OFFICERS WERE WOMEN IN 2024⁸

UN Women Indonesia's Work on Women, Peace and Security

Implementing national action plans to advance the WPS agenda

Since 2014 UN Women Indonesia has played a key role in supporting the implementation of two generations of the RAN P3AKS. In partnership with the **Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection** and the **Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Cultural Affairs**, UN Women has focused on capacity-building, advocacy and strengthening accountability mechanisms for the NAPs, enhancing core skills on WPS, particularly in the areas of monitoring and reporting by the NAP task force. These efforts aim to enable the meaningful participation of women's groups, youth and women with disabilities, ensuring that their contributions give rise to more equitable and inclusive peacebuilding and local planning processes.

⁶ Monthly ranking of women in national parliaments | IPU Parline: global data on national parliaments

⁷ o2-Contributions by Country (Ranking)

⁸ INP Chief Highlights Ongoing Challenges for Female Officers | INP | Indonesian National Police

UN Women has also provided technical assistance to advance the WPS agenda at both national and subnational levels by bolstering the task force's infrastructure to foster synergy between policymakers and civil society for the effective implementation of the second-generation NAP. Key initiatives include a strategic planning workshop to identify priorities and specialized training on protecting women and children's rights during social conflicts.

UN Women has also supported the integration of gender perspectives into the NAPs and their complementary conflict-prevention strategies. Both generations of the NAP emphasize the importance of civil society participation, including women's organizations, youth groups and religious leaders, in conflict prevention and efforts to prevent violent extremism.

In partnership with the **Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) Indonesia**, UN Women has helped to empower local and subnational stakeholders to develop WPS policies, enhancing the involvement of women and youth in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery. At the national level, UN Women continues to provide coordination and technical support to ministries overseeing NAP implementation and advocacy. Through joint advocacy and capacity-building initiatives, the organization strives to strengthen the NAP's accountability mechanisms, ensuring that the gender dimensions of social conflict are more effectively addressed. Notably, AMAN Indonesia has been the lead organization in promoting the implementation of the WPS agenda in Indonesia. In 2020 the NGO successfully led a digital review of the first generation of NAP implementation that brought together over 200 representatives from civil society across 24 provinces, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration among government, communities and civil society stakeholders in the field.

Community-based approach to building social cohesion and conflict prevention

UN Women Indonesia recognizes the critical role women have played as peacebuilders in Indonesia's history, particularly in communal and social conflicts. To support local communities, especially women and girls, UN Women focuses on capacity-building to promote social cohesion, resilience and the prevention of violent extremism. Since 2017, in partnership with the Wahid Foundation, UN Women has implemented the Peace Village initiative, which emphasizes women's empowerment in community decision-making and conflict prevention. The initiative helps communities to develop local action plans, to identify early warning signs of intolerance and radicalization and to engage in inter-faith and multistakeholder dialogues.



Photo: UN Women/Satu Bumi Jaya

By the end of 2022, 18 villages had declared and 17 villages intervened to prepare themselves as 'Peace Villages,' committing to fostering tolerance and peace, starting within families at the grassroots level and establishing a foundation for peace through economic opportunities and social cohesion. Meanwhile, another community-based model called the *Desa Ramah Perempuan dan Peduli Anak* was initiated in 2021 by the MoWECP to integrate women and children's rights perspectives in governance and development of the village⁹. The model focuses on increasing women's empowerment in entrepreneurship, increasing the role of mothers/families in childcare/education, reducing violence against women and children, decreasing child labour and preventing child marriage.

WPS and the Youth, Peace and Security Nexus

UN Women Indonesia focuses on the intersection of the Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security agendas to enhance the participation of young people, particularly young women, in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery. By aligning these two agendas, UN Women aims to address the security challenges

⁹ [Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia | Minister of PPPA Encourages Acceleration of the Implementation of Women-Friendly and Child-Friendly Villages](#)



Photo: UN Women/Satu Bumi Jaya

that disproportionately affect women and youth, such as gender-based violence and online hate speech and radicalization.

Through collaborations with civil society organizations, journalists and youth activists, UN Women amplifies youth voices in peacebuilding through dialogues and forums, incorporating a strong gender perspective. In Peace Villages, UN Women works with the Wahid Foundation to support young women in leadership roles, organizing community activities and promoting peace. During the COVID-19 pandemic, youth in Peace Villages launched initiatives like the Lokal Project in East Java, using social media to advance gender equality, mental well-being and interfaith dialogue.

UN Women has also mobilized young feminists and advocates from all over Indonesia as National Gender Youth Activists who advocate for ending violence against women, improving women's economic empowerment, and strengthening the country's governance, peacebuilding and resilience mechanisms through youth leadership and participation. Additionally, digital media literacy training is provided to empower young people to counter extremist and intolerant narratives while addressing the diverse impacts of conflict on youth.

Addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and enhancing community resilience

In a diverse country that continues to face overlapping emergencies and crises – from conflict-related humanitarian needs, to natural hazards, widening inequalities and other insecurities – within the overarching risks of social tension within and among its over 80,000

villages, it is of paramount importance to create practices for gender-responsive resilience and to ensure that women and girls have the capacity to withstand crises driven by social and economic factors or disasters.

To protect and empower women in disaster and conflict-affected settings, UN Women, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and women-led CSOs, works to address these issues by strengthening gender-responsive policies, building local capacities and promoting the active participation of women and vulnerable groups in peacebuilding. Key initiatives include the following activities:

- Enhancing disaster management frameworks, integrating the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus approach, and supporting the Indonesia National Cluster for Disaster Management to improve coordination during crises.
- Improving gender data through the integration of gender-sensitive components into Indonesia's One Disaster Data regulation, promoting interoperability and local data-sharing mechanisms.
- Expanding platforms for cross-sectoral collaboration, fostering greater awareness and the adoption of the HDP Nexus approach.

Building on the Peace Village model, this project will strengthen community resilience and reduce vulnerabilities in emergency and conflict-affected areas by addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, focusing on Central Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara.

UN Women Indonesia aims to continue developing interventions contributing to key policy implementation relevant to disaster risk reduction, P/CVE and the protection and empowerment of women and children in social conflict.

Cybersecurity and Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

In Indonesia as in other Southeast Asian nations, digital security and the interplay with gender dynamics has emerged as a key priority for the WPS agenda. Online spaces have the potential to be socially transformative when harnessed positively, but they have also been used to spread misinformation and disinformation, including for the purposes of radicalization. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence has also been on the rise in Indonesia, highlighting gaps in the country's legal and reporting systems which struggle to effectively address and penalize perpetrators or to provide adequate support for survivors.

Data from the local advocacy organization SAFEnet¹⁰ shows that women are more likely to experience technology-facilitated gender-based violence, with 76 per cent of the survey respondents who reported experiencing this phenomenon being women¹¹. Research conducted by UN Women¹² identified acts such as trolling, online hate speech, doxing, privacy breaches and technology-facilitated trafficking, often targeting women involved in civic engagement and peacebuilding, as leading to their disengagement due to threats and feelings of insecurity.

¹⁰ Providing psychological counselling; promotes general awareness and advocacy around digital rights and safety; and partners with digital platforms, feminist networks, civil society and government actors to prevent technology-facilitated GBV.

¹¹ [Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Indonesia](#)

¹² In Indonesia and the Philippines: [un-women_digital_insecurity_2024-c.pdf](#)

Key partners of UN Women

- Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs
- Ministry of National Development Planning
- Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration
- The National Police
- National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia
- National Counter Terrorism Agency of Indonesia
- Women Parliamentary Caucus
- Civil society, women's organizations and youth-led organizations
- Local governments

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