



Newsletter 2023

September-December

Project Highlights

Heroes Among Us:
Creative Week on
Disability Inclusion

News

- UNiTE: Empowering Change, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
- To End AIDS, Let Communities Lead!
- Dismantling Gaps Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Social Inclusion

SDG Focus



For
More
Info





Foreword

From The UN Resident Coordinator's Notepad

Dear readers,

Greetings, and welcome to the last edition of the UN in Indonesia Newsletter for the year 2023.

2023 was a very eventful year, with many challenges and opportunities.

This edition features highlights from the work of the UN in Indonesia between September and December 2023. It is not coincidental that the SDG Focus of this volume is SDG 5: Gender Equality. In this volume, you will find stories from UN agencies in Indonesia, with projects to reduce the gap of gender disparity. 16 Days of Activism, for instance, is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day, as an effort to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

It would be too long to mention here all the excellent and relevant work that the UN in Indonesia has achieved in 2023. But I would like to signal one more joint endeavor in particular, as it encapsulates the true spirit of the UN: disability inclusion. As we close the year, we celebrate the journeys of persons with disabilities who have overcome stigma and challenges. They possess a wealth of skills, talents, and abilities, deserving of the same opportunities and freedoms as everyone else. The Heroes Among Us event highlighted just that.

Let us UNITE to champion equal opportunities, combat discrimination, and ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you and happy reading,

Valerie Julliard

UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia

Gender Equality is Not Just a Women's Issue

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a key component of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 5, Gender Equality, aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Indonesia's performance in the 2022 SDG Gender Index shows the need for more political will and coordinated efforts to fulfill girls' and women's rights. Globally, one in three women and girls globally experience such violence in their lifetime, underscoring the need for continuous action.

It is important to recognise that gender equality is not just a women's issue but a human rights issue that affects everyone. By promoting gender equality, we can create a more just and equitable society for all.

To find out more about Goal #5 and other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>



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Heroes Among Us: Creative Week on Disability Inclusion

A 5-day event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, under the title “Heroes among us”, was organized by the United Nations Information Centre, in collaboration with ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIC, UN Global Pulse, UN Volunteers, and UN Women. The goal of the event was to celebrate the creative spirit and resilience of persons with disabilities, including women, who have overcome stigma and challenges in various fields of art and culture, technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Six talkshows and three workshops were conducted to highlight the stories of persons with disabilities, including violence against women with disabilities, Inclusive technology, the role of volunteerism in enabling disability inclusion. It is crucial to recognize their role as influential agents of change in our society.

The exhibition, talk shows, and workshops attracted more than 1,000 visitors from various backgrounds, such as civil society organizations, media, government officials, academia, the private sector, and the general public. The exhibition was the last of several events organized this year to promote inclusivity and appreciation of persons with disability.

“The only true disability is the inability to accept and respect differences”

- **Saphira “Sasha”
Kusbandiyah** -
Disability Inclusion Influencer



UNiTE: Empowering Change, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

On Human Rights Day, the United Nations and Institut Français Indonesia hosted “UNiTE: Music Concert and Performing Arts to End Violence against women” event at M Bloc, Jakarta, on 10 December. This event, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, Komnas Perempuan and Yayasan Pulih, marking the conclusion of the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign that aims to rally action for a violence-free future for women and girls.

The music and art festival drew attention, particularly among the youth, to speak out on the prevention of violence against women and girls, as well as reinforcing solidarity with the victims and survivors of violence.

The event featured music performances from Danilla Riyadi and Hippotopia. Furthermore, this year’s UNiTE event opened applications for an “Open Stage”. The brief asked university students interested in gender equality to submit a video of music and art performances that promote ending violence against women and girls and empowerment. Of more than 30 applicants, five performers from universities in Jakarta, Jayapura, Mataram, and Surabaya were selected to showcase their music, poetry, dance, and theatre performances, demonstrating their artistic skills while campaigning for social change.



Dismantling Gaps Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Social Inclusion

Across most development dimensions, persons with disabilities living in remote areas are one of the most marginalized groups in Indonesia. This was among the key findings from the UN in Indonesia’s study in 2022, **Leave No One Behind in Indonesia: A data-driven study identifying inequalities and discrimination faced by those furthest left behind.**

Dolin and Yefta are two Community UN Volunteers who served with the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Indonesia in Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara, and Jayawijaya, Highland Papua. They are both members of their respective indigenous communities: Dolin is part of the Muri Tana (Umbu) tribe and Yefta belongs to the Hubula tribe. This enabled them to quickly connect with the right people and entities relevant to the study.

Read how Dolin and Yefta make a difference in their own communities.





© Management Unit for the Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta

New Inscriptions from Indonesia!

The Cosmological Axis of Yogyakarta and its Historic Landmarks become the 10th World Heritage Site in Indonesia. The site consisting of the Kraton Complex, a series of landmarks, monuments, and spaces located along a 6 km south-north axis, is an exceptional testimony to Javanese civilization and culture. Directly associated with outstanding living traditions and practices, it exhibits an important interchange between diverse belief systems and values.

Another of the new Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from Indonesia is Jamu. This form of herbal medicine and treatment has been since the eighth century. The practice is transmitted informally, typically within families and among neighbours, although some practitioners are self-taught. It is associated with respect for confidentiality and trust, and its practice is viewed as a means of strengthening social ties.



Confronting Perceptions of Women with HIV to End Normalized Violence

Ayu Oktariani, 37 and based in Bandung, is the national coordinator of the Indonesia Positive Women Network (IPPI), a national non-governmental network founded by women living with HIV and affected by HIV in Indonesia. UN Women has supported IPPI since 2011. In 2020, UN Women started supporting the network in addressing violence against women living with HIV, building the online platform **DELILA** for women to report cases of violence and providing referral services for these women.

“After being infected with HIV, the situation that women face becomes more difficult. The perception that women living with HIV are “bad women” makes people normalize violence against them. So, if a woman living with HIV is being hit or treated poorly, that’s normal; she is worthless,” said Oktariani.

Read Ayu’s interview [here](#).



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Grab Drivers in Indonesia Take a Stand Against Sexual Violence

As of 2023, Indonesia boasts a staggering 21 million users of online transportation services, with Grab emerging as one of the leading platforms. However, a shadow has loomed over the industry – the rising cases of sexual violence. On the other side of the widespread usage and accessibility, unfortunately, is a number of reported cases of sexual harassment within the transportation network.

In response, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) partners with Grab Indonesia and the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV) by raising awareness among Grab drivers through the Safety Training for Grab Partners (PAKEM). The training, attended by over 500 Grab drivers in five cities - Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Medan, and Denpasar—covered topics such as sexual violence prevention, reporting mechanisms, safe driving practices, as well as service excellence.

Read more about how Melawati and other Grab partners fight against sexual violence [here](#).



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United Nations Day Commemoration

On October 24th, the United Nations in Indonesia partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commemorate the 78th UN Day with a series of events at the National Library in Central Jakarta. Under the theme “Our Common Future: Peace and Prosperity for All,” the day underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation and global collaboration in achieving these shared goals.

A diverse program engaged participants with engaging talk shows exploring topics like youth perspectives on the UN, career opportunities within the organization, cultural heritage, and energy solutions. Approximately 400 participants, including representatives from UN agencies, the diplomatic corps, government institutions, media, academia, and the general public, came together to celebrate the Day, with tens of thousands reached via social media.

UNOPS at COP28

At COP28, The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) hosted a high-level panel discussion on Indonesia’s peatland restoration and its contribution to climate change mitigation. The event convened officials and experts from Indonesia, the UN, and various institutions, focusing on protecting peatlands for SDG13 climate action.

Speakers from BRGM and civil society shared strategies and challenges, highlighting the need for national commitment and community involvement. Dr. Didy Wurjanto of BRGM stressed the importance of collaborative, sustainable efforts at all levels. The discussion also covered global peatland research and restoration initiatives. The potential of applying the BRGM-REF model globally was noted.

On different occasions at COP28, PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur (SMI) and UNOPS-supported Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) announced a strategic partnership to accelerate Indonesia’s energy transition towards net zero emissions by 2060.



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To End AIDS, Let Communities Lead!



In Indonesia, 2 out of 3 people living with HIV do not have access to anti-retroviral treatment. This year's theme of World AIDS Day is "Let Communities Lead", underlining the critical role of communities in response to HIV over the 40 years. However, according to UNAIDS data, community-led HIV prevention programs in the Asia Pacific area are underfunded.

Thanks to community advocacy, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) established a human rights accountability mechanism for HIV-based discrimination this year for the first time. "Now, anyone who is discriminated against because of their HIV status can submit a report and complaint to the National Commission on Human Rights in order to receive justice and work toward having their rights restored," UNAIDS Country Director for Indonesia Tina Boonto stated.



© UNFPA

Youth Concert in Papua Raises Youth Awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health

Shine of Black, a hip hop group from Jayapura, and Ona Hetharua, a singer from Maluku, commemorated World AIDS Day 2023: "Working Together with Communities" and 16 Days Against Violence against Women (16Days of Activism) with "Papua Youth Concert: Kitong Baku Jaga, Sa Jaga Ko, Ko Jaga Sa" at the Papua Governor's Office on Saturday, 9 December 2023. At this event, Ona Hetharua launched her latest song, "Mace Tra Bodo" which delivers the message of anti-violence against women.

There was also a poetry musicalization performance by Moluccan poet Eko Saputra Poceratu, a "Mace Tra Bodo" dance challenge, a stand-up comedy competition, a talk show on young people and sexual and reproductive health, as well as youth counseling services and free HIV tests.

The event was a campaign to raise awareness of young people on sexual and reproductive health rights, prevention of gender-based violence, and climate change adaptation held in collaboration between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Indonesia, the Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (PKBI) DKI Jakarta, Tifa Melanesia Babunyi (TMB) Foundation, the Papua Provincial Office of Education, Library and Local Archives, and the Papua Provincial Government.

Read more [here](#).



UNESCO and Youth Engagement towards Sustainable Futures

On 14 November 2023, the **Knowledge Summit of UNESCO Youth as Researchers and Tanoto Student Research Awards (YAR-TSRA)** brought together over a hundred students from various backgrounds and 6 partner universities from across Indonesia. The gathering held at Pos Bloc Jakarta concluded a series of YAR-TSRA online training sessions, mentoring opportunities, and Localized Workshops held across the country for 12 weeks, empowering students to respond to socioeconomic challenges with youth-led innovative solutions.

UNESCO Jakarta strengthened the role of Youth and Young Professionals (YYPs) as one of the activities of the 3rd International Workshop on Youth and Young Professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) for Disaster and Climate Resilience. The youth explored the Nature Park of Muara Angke and worked on strategic pathways for YYPs in resilience building through SETI at the country level and through the U-INSPIRE Alliance and other regional and global youth networks.

In October 2023, UNESCO Jakarta and Citi Indonesia jointly presented Kita Muda Kreatif Inclusive Showcase activities in Denpasar and Tabanan, Bali. The Creative Youth at Indonesian Heritage Sites programme, or Kita Muda Kreatif, from UNESCO Jakarta and Citi Indonesia, through the support from Citi Foundation, has empowered over a thousand young entrepreneurs in Indonesia since 2017, providing them with opportunities to improve their livelihoods, while preserving culture.



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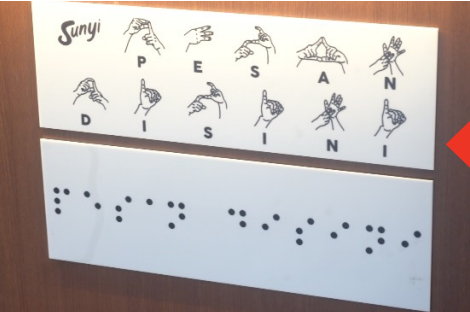
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Blown away: Launch of the Wind Power Investment Roadmap for Indonesia

The utilization of wind energy can be considered an important contribution to Indonesia's energy transition process. In 2023, with the support of the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP), Indonesia was able to produce a roadmap for the country's wind energy sector, to drive the energy transition in Indonesia. The roadmap serves as a guideline for the government, public and private sectors businesses, and other stakeholders involved in the development of the wind energy sector. The draft roadmap tackles existing challenges, bridging gaps through lessons learned: standardized processes, clear policies, wind research, infrastructure upgrades, and improved finance/regulations.

Building on the roadmap, ETP will continue to support the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources with next steps: permit/regulation advice, onshore wind potential, grid assessment, and pre-feasibility studies. These outputs aim to attract wind power investments and support Indonesia's energy transition.





September

- 5th: International Day of Charity
- 7th: International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
- 8th: International Literacy Day
- 15th: International Day of Democracy
- 17th: World Patient Safety Day
- 18th: International Equal Pay Day
- 21st: International Day of Peace
- 23rd: International Day of Sign Language
- 27th: World Tourism Day
- 28th: World Maritime Day
- 29th: International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

October

- 1st: International Day of Older Persons
- 2nd: World Habitat Day, International Day of Non Violence, and Batik Day
- 5th: World Teacher's Day
- 10th: World Mental Health Day
- 11th: International Day of the Girl Child
- 13th: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 15th: International Day of Rural Women
- 16th: World Food Day
- 24th: United Nations Day

November

- 2nd: International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists
- 3rd: International Day for Biosphere Reserves
- 10th: World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 14th: World Diabetes Day
- 16th: International Day of Tolerance
- 19th: World Toilet Day
- 20th: World Children's Day
- 25th: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

December

- 1st: World AIDS Day
- 3rd: International Day of persons with Disabilities
- 9th: International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10th: Human Rights Day
- 12th: International Universal Health Coverage Day
- 18th: International Migrants Day
- 20th: International Human Solidarity Day

About UN in Indonesia

Pitch us your story!

Send your article, blogs, and photo stories to:

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The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945. It has 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. In Indonesia, the UN is committed to supporting the Government of Indonesia in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The UN Country Team is led by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC for short), the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at the country level. RCs led UN Country Teams in consultations with the Government define and agree on the UN strategic response to the Government's development priorities in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Resident Coordinator is the designated representative of – and reports to – the UN Secretary-General.

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