

UN Joint Programme

Accelerating SDGs Investments in Indonesia (ASSIST JP): Contribution to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Credits: ASSIST Joint Programme/UNDP Indonesia
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>> What is the ASSIST JP?

Accelerating SDGs Investment in Indonesia Joint Programme (ASSIST JP) is a flagship initiative of the United Nations to support Indonesia's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the strategic leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, four UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, and UNIDO) collaborate as ASSIST JP to accelerate Indonesia's SDGs by increasing financing through innovative mechanism. Running from 2021 to 2025 with USD 9.58 million in funding, ASSIST JP focuses on innovative financing to bridge the SDG funding gap by:



Taking proven and new innovative financing instruments to scale.



Strengthening stakeholder's capacity in accessing and utilizing finance toward achieving the SDGs.

ASSIST JP collaborates with national and subnational stakeholders to mobilize public and private capital through:

- Issuance of thematic bonds (SDG Bonds, Blue Bonds, municipal bonds).
- Promoting green and SDG-linked loans prioritizing women-owned/-led SMEs.
- Operationalizing the Indonesia Impact Fund for SDG-oriented sectors.



GESI: A Core Commitment

ASSIST JP leverages sustainable and innovative finance as a catalyst for development, embedding gender equality and social inclusion as core principles. Its output consistently promotes gender equality by addressing the gender gaps in financial inclusion and economic opportunities. By integrating gender aspects into its activities, ASSIST JP ensures that women, people with disabilities (PwDs), and vulnerable groups benefit from its initiatives.

> Key Achievements in Numbers



52.2%

Girls participated in 2024 Budget Olympics



25

Women Entrepreneurs: Strengthened financial literacy through financial inclusion training in Lombok



55.8%

Stakeholders that participated in ISFF and Municipal Bond activities in East Java are women



528

Women empowered in business development through industrial upgrading initiatives across the textile, jewelry, and agrifood sectors



42%

Women Beneficiaries: Reached under the Catalytic Funding initiative



150

Women shrimp farmers supported with technical assistance in farming technologies and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach



49%

Women Farmers: Trained in climate-smart sustainable agriculture practices



26

Women Entrepreneurs: Trained in SheDisrupts Indonesia 2023



9.6M

Girl students have received education assistance, and more than **1,600** children in need of special protection have been supported—part of the over **50 million** people who have benefited from the issuance of SDG Bonds



10

Women-Led Startups: Strengthened capacity in business and Impact Measurement & Management (IMM) through the Blue Finance Accelerator Program

> Key Contributions to GESI

01 Gender Integration in Thematic Bonds Framework

- Advocate to the Government of Indonesia (GoI) to incorporate and strengthen gender perspective aspect in thematic bonds framework.
- Incorporate gender equality aspect into project selection of SDG Bond and Blue Bond Issuance as well as the Technical Guideline and feasibility study for municipal bond.
- Integrate gender aspects into capacity building/training modules on thematic bonds for the GoI.

02 Integrating Gender Lens within the Integrated Sub-National Financing Framework (ISFF) and Municipal Bond Issuance

- Foster gender-responsive financing in East Java by embedding inclusivity in financial policy discussions and decision-making.
- Collaborate with the provincial government through the Integrated Subnational Financing Framework (ISFF) to implement alternative financing aligned with SDGs, with a focus on child-centered sectors.

Encourage women's participation in Key Actions

Roundtable Discussion on Innovative Financing (Surabaya):



44% participants were women

contributing insights on alternative financing mechanisms.

Municipal Bond Training:



64% participants were women

emphasizing women's growing role in subnational financing and public-private investments.

Public Discussion Series on Innovative Financing:



59.2% participants were women

reflecting increased female engagement in financial governance.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on WASH Financing Needs:



55.6% participants were women

prioritizing gender-sensitive perspectives given the disproportionate impact of inadequate WASH infrastructure on women and girls.

- Outcome: Through the East Java Municipal Bond Policy Memo, ASSIST JP is assessing the feasibility of bond issuance to improve WASH services, advocating for sustainable and gender-inclusive financing that enhances community participation and promotes gender-balanced economic growth.

03 Integrating gender aspects into policy brief and advocacy related documents on Public Finance for Children (PF4C)

- Strengthen Public Finance Management (PFM) by enhancing government capacity in planning and budgeting for child-responsive and gender-sensitive policies.
- Multidimensional Deprivation Index for Indonesia (MDI-I) was developed with Fiscal Policy Agency (BKF), University of Indonesia, and MODA approach, linking poverty dimensions to fiscal policy.
- Publications:
 - » **Policy Brief on Budget Analysis for Children:** Highlights budget disparities and the need for gender-equitable policies.
 - » **Budget Credibility Report:** Emphasizes the importance of reliable budget allocations for children's services.
 - » **Eight Sectoral Budget Briefs and Notes:** Provides gender-sensitive budget analysis and financing strategies, supporting advocacy for inclusive budget allocations.
- Outcome: Advocacy tools ensure public finance policies address the diverse needs of all children, with a focus on overcoming barriers faced by girls.

04 Integrating gender aspects into the implementation of public finance literation

- Enhance public participation and financial literacy, particularly among children and youth, with a focus on gender equality.
- Supported Ministry of Finance's Budget Olympics (2024) to engage approximately 14,730 students, with 52.2% female participation. Involved 4,599 teachers, promoting a comprehensive understanding of fiscal issues among young people.
- Gender Inclusion Measures:
 - » Monitored gender identity data during registration to ensure equal opportunities.
 - » Created an inclusive platform that empowers both male and female students in developing financial literacy and civic engagement.

05 Promotion of Gender-Sensitive Financial Frameworks

- Encouraged the financial services to consider gender aspect into financial sustainable framework.
- Two of six commercial banks with completed SFF developed under ASSIST JP assistances, Bank Jago and BTPN Syariah, have strengthened their commitment towards women-owned/-led MSMEs financing as part of their sustainability portfolios.
- BTN's impact assessment using the UNEP FI Impact Protocol and Impact Analysis Tool as a part of its commitment in implementing the UN Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) framework. The assessment determined Financial Health and Inclusion as one of BTN's most significant impact areas, in which women are identified as one of the vulnerable groups for this impact area. Moving forward, BTN is committed to addressing the needs and setting targets for its women portfolio.

Key Partners & Collaborators



06 Empowering Women Entrepreneurs



1,428
Participants



26
Workshops/ Training



528

Women participants



including **4** elderly



846

Male participants



including **1** PwD

- 582 entrepreneurs participated in 26 capacity-building activities across various sectors, including textiles, jewelry, agrifood, and aquaculture.
- ASSIST JP, through UNIDO and Nikel, a leading fintech company, conducted a financial inclusion training for 25 women entrepreneurs in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara.
- Collaborators: The Ministry of MSMEs, Sub-national Government of NTB, ASPPUK (Association of Women Facilitators for Small and Micro Enterprises), PLUT KUMKM (Integrated Service Business Centre for Cooperatives and MSMEs), Maporina NTB (Indonesian Organic Farming Association), PHRI NTB (Hotel and Restaurant Association), IHGMA NTB (Indonesian Hotel General Manager Association), KADIN NTB (Chamber of Commerce) and Dekranasda (National Craft Council) of West Nusa Tenggara Province.
- Focus: Product development and value chain, Access to markets, financial literacy, and business growth.

07 Women-Focused Capacity Building Programs

As our commitment to addressing the gender gap and empowering women in business sector, JP provided capacity-building support for women-led entrepreneurs through accelerator programme.

She Disrupts Indonesia

- A pre-accelerator program specifically designed to enhance the capacity of women entrepreneurs, in collaboration with IWEF (Indonesian Women Empowerment Fund), YCAB Ventures, Moonshot Ventures, Creatella Impact, UN Women, Citibank, Monks Hill Ventures and Sasakawa Peace Foundation.
- Training covers key modules, including investment readiness, business model valuation, gender mainstreaming and impact measurement and management.
- 26 enterprises from diverse sectors, including health tech, education, energy, financial services, participated, focusing on sustainable practices and impact-driven economic development.
- The program consisted of online workshops, group work, and one-on-one mentoring sessions, with a strong emphasis on business, technology, and impact, with a significant emphasis placed on gender issues and women's empowerment.

Blue Finance Accelerator

- A 6-month programme aimed to provide capacity building and support mechanisms towards business growth, impact measurement and management and sector-specific aspects.
- 12 (10 are women-led) startups and SMEs active in the areas of sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, marine debris management, plastic pollution reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation participated on this event.
- The programme is presented by JP and Asian Development Bank (ADB), in collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investments as the main ministry partner, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Instellar Indonesia as the implementing partner.



26

Women-led enterprises participated in the programme



4

Women-led enterprises received tech-building services after the programme, equivalent to USD 80,000 in total



10

Women-led enterprises participated in the programme, representing **83%** of all participants.

Gender-Based Approach in Aquaculture: Technical Assistance for Women Shrimp Farmers in North Lombok



150

Women shrimp farmers supported with technical assistance in farming technologies and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach

- Scope of Intervention:** Supports over 150 shrimp farmers in West Nusa Tenggara in partnership with JALA Tech, introducing app-based technology and gender-based approach to help women shrimp farmers improve shrimp productivity and financial decision making.
- Sustainability Focus:** Promotes sustainable shrimp farming by integrating eco-friendly and responsible aquaculture practices through better water monitoring system and gender-based approach.
- Capacity Building:** Provides field assistance and training in technology adoption, financial management using GALS (Gender Action Learning System), and GUYUB (expert-led technical problem-solving workshops).
- Gender-Based Approach:** Empowers women in aquaculture by ensuring equal access to knowledge, resources, and financial decision-making.
- Access to Finance:** Enhances financial literacy and connects women shrimp farmers to funding opportunities.
- Expected Long-Term Impact:** Targets a 20% increase in farming productivity, strengthening economic resilience and environmental sustainability in the shrimp sector.

- 42% of beneficiaries—amounting to 1,524 women—have been engaged in high-impact sectors such as sustainable fisheries, waste management, inclusive and green education, sustainable agriculture, and equitable entrepreneurship through the Catalytic Funding scheme, strengthening the integration of gender perspectives in sustainable development efforts.
- 65.2% of students in the 3T regions of West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara—equivalent to 900 female students—have received English and green-learning modules through Cakap's educational program.
- 111 women beneficiaries in Banten received capacity-building workshops on climate-smart agricultural farm management under Greenhope's program.



1,524

Women beneficiaries in high-impact sectors



900

Female students beneficiaries



111

Women beneficiaries in Banten

- 80+ MSMEs comprising of women (household wives, mothers), including 17 PwDs, and 30 elderly people in Banyuwangi gained capacity-building on entrepreneurship skills in the shrimp processing sector under Delos' program and experienced increase in production revenues by up to 40%.
- 100 fishermen wives received financial literacy training and 240+ children in Rembang's fishery communities received environment-focused education under Fishlog's fisheries development program. Fishlog has also conducted mangrove planting event where 5,000 mangrove trees were planted in Muara Gembong, Bekasi.



80+

MSMEs comprising of women



100

Fishermen wives



240+

Children



5,000

Mangrove trees

Media Coverage



Click the link or scan the QR code to access the press release:

bit.ly/ASSISTPublications



Promoting Equalities for People with Disabilities & Social Inclusion

ASSIST JP is also committed to including PwDs into development initiatives and fostering social inclusion. Through the Catalytic Funding (CF) initiative and capacity building for MSMEs, ASSIST JP has taken actions to ensure that the vulnerable groups benefit from economic opportunities and are included in community-driven development projects.

- Through the CF initiative, JP has ensured inclusion of vulnerable communities as beneficiaries. Under Delos' activities, 17 PwDs along with elderly individuals were given entrepreneurship skills training for shrimp processing, leading to source of income and an increase in production revenues. To ensure targeted support, Delos worked with Banyuwangi's Indonesian Association of PwDs in designing the program and selection of PwDs to participate in entrepreneurial capacity building sessions.
- ASSIST JP is committed to ensuring that participants with disabilities and elderly individuals have opportunities to join enterprise upgrading activities in West Nusa Tenggara. For PwDs, the ASSIST JP provided access to a craft incubation workshop conducted in collaboration with West Nusa Tenggara Craft Council, providing tailored support and an inclusive learning environment that accommodates their needs. Meanwhile, for elderly illiterate women weavers, JP provided more friendly learning approach on product development and design, using more hands-on activities, visual aids, and drawing-based learning methods. These adaptations ensure that all participants, regardless of their physical or literacy limitations, can fully engage and benefit from the training.

These efforts not only promote access to economic opportunities but also ensure that vulnerable groups such as PwDs and the elderly are not left behind in Indonesia's SDG progress.

Inclusion and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups



17 PwDs

along with elderly individuals were given entrepreneurship skills training for shrimp processing



Partnership

with Banyuwangi's Indonesian Association of People with Disabilities under the CF program



Access to craft

incubation workshop for PwDs in West Nusa Tenggara



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