

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender-based Approach to Climate Change Adaptation

A Research from Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

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1. Research background

Indonesia is severely affected by global climate change. Alongside impacts to health and wellbeing, climate change directly and indirectly contributes to economic downturn and slow development in the region, not only at the national level but also in many rural provinces. One of the larger islands in West Nusa Tenggara, Lombok is an area at high risk from the impacts of climate change. For instance, Lombok is projected to face increasingly severe threats to crop yields caused by the increase in air temperature and changes in rainy season patterns. These changes will disrupt plant metabolism and increased plant diseases and pests. Reduction of crops further threatens to reduce farmers' livelihood and impacts food security, leading to significant economic decline. The impact of climate change is also felt strongly in coastal areas, where it has damaging effects on high-value economic sectors such as sea transportation, fisheries, trade, and tourism centred on the coast.

To address current impacts on the island, and minimise future risks of climate change, it is critical that action is taken now to adapt and build resilience, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and girls who may face additional barriers to adaptation. Considering the increasingly certain and tangible impacts of climate change, a comprehensive study was conducted by Islamic Relief alongside IPB University to **assess the extent to which** women and girls are vulnerable to climate change disasters, and the factors which hinder their adaptation, in Lombok. This will be useful for **increasing the capacity of communities to adapt** to climate change and improving **the mainstreaming of gender issues** in development planning in Lombok as well as at local, national, and global scale. In addition, addressing the gender issues into climate resilience provides an opportunity to achieve target across three key inter-related SDGs (Goals 5, Goal 13, and goal 16).

2. Approach and methodology

The study was conducted from April 2022 to November 2022 with a quantitative and descriptive quality approach. Data and information were collected from literature reviews, field surveys, in-depth interviews, Focus group discussions (FGDs), and consultations with stakeholders. Field surveys were conducted in three ways; namely household surveys (with categories of respondents including married men and women, boys, and girls); in-depth interviews (with categories including unmarried/single women respondents and persons with disabilities); and key informant interviews (KII) & FGD (with the category of respondents including regional apparatus organisations (OPDs) and community organisations (CSOs). Each category of respondents was taken to represent the characteristics of coastal, highland, and urban areas in Lombok. The total number of respondents from field survey was 311, spread across the island.

3. Impacts and role of vulnerable groups in climate change

According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2022), the impact of climate change will be distributed differently among regions, generations, social classes, income groups, occupations,

and genders. Because climate change exacerbates pre-existing conditions of inequality and vulnerability, it has been identified that climate change can more negatively impact the lives of vulnerable groups, such as women and girls (UNICEF, 2011). The impacts of climate change felt by women in this study included **financial, physical, psychological, and social impacts**. All women (both married and unmarried) felt the health-related impacts of climate change, while over 50 per cent women reported a reduction in income and increase in workload as climate change threatened livelihoods. They also feel the physical and psychological impacts of climate change as the deterioration of household income leads women to take on additional work and double their burden inside and outside the home. It's found that married women are not too aware of the impact they are feeling, because their understanding of climate change still in low level due to their limitation of fewer resources and have less access to education. Meanwhile, unmarried women facing limitation in terms of decision making. They are often marginalized from being involved in decision-making, including in social activities outside the home because of their own busyness, and do not have a division of roles like married women. This leaves unmarried women with less power in social activities which can burdens their vulnerabilities. **However, both of married and unmarried women are significantly vulnerable to the impact compared to men, even though they have difference forming factors and their respective barriers.**

The impact of climate change on children, on the other hand, is felt primarily in terms of physical health impacts (increased frequency of flus and coughs) and loss of education. According to this study, over 60 per cent of children reported that they have been forced to not go to school because of disaster event and extreme weather. Moreover, girls reported feeling a heightened risk of having to drop out as household income declined due to climate change and parents struggled to afford tuition fees. For persons with disabilities (PWDs), the generally most-strongly-felt impacts of climate change largely relate to health, and include increased frequency of diarrhoea, pain, lethargy, headache, abdominal pain, and the flu. PWDs also experience physical and financial challenges due to climate change, such as loss of income as natural resources become more scarce and less accessible.

4. Adaptation for vulnerable groups

Adaptive roles

Women play a range of roles domestically, socially, and economically which can help facilitate better adaptation and environmentally favourable outcomes. These include conserving water, disseminating information, seeking employment (non-agricultural field) for additional income, and disaster preparation. In addition, women in Lombok have local knowledge regarding the functions of medicinal plants that can be used in an emergency and recovery after disaster. However, there is a socio-cultural assumption among most indigenous communities in Indonesia (including Lombok) that women must carry out domestic activities first before performing other roles outside the home, which restricts women's adaptive roles beyond the home.

Similarly, children have the potential to play a range of roles which can assist with preparedness and disaster risk reduction, including risk awareness, threat identification, rescue training, and disaster management, but this potential is underutilised. Children are often only seen as a vulnerable group that must be protected. They are rarely included in consultation processes, such as discussion documents or calls for submissions. As the next generation, however, all children must be seen and trained as agents of change who can actively participate in climate change action. To fulfil this

capacity, children must be given the space and support to participate meaningfully in climate adaptation.

For PWDs, there is no specific role in the community because they are not involved in climate change issues/activities. Most of the respondents with disabilities felt that they had not been prioritised by the village community. Efforts that have been made in the face of climate change are still limited to: (a) asking families for help; (b) staying indoors and maintaining stamina; and (c) helping clean the house. The existence of physical limitations and inaccessibility of spaces for PWDs makes it difficult for them to get information about the issue of climate change. Disability groups require attention, especially in terms of: (a) information and socialisation; (b) technical assistance for capacity building; and (c) social assistance.

Challenges to adaptation

For women, the factors which undercut their capacity to adapt can be categorised into educational, financial, cultural, and institutional barriers. Put simply, women have a lower educational background than men, have less access to financial resources, are more restricted from participating in adaptive activities due to socio-cultural norms, and have less institutional support. Statistically, there is a difference in the variety and intensity of adaptation activities available to men and women, with intensity of activity carried out by men in the high category and women in the low category. Moreover, women are less likely to participate in decision-making outside of the home, with only 37.5 per cent of unmarried women involved in decision making in the community. Meanwhile, the decision-making of married women are led by the head of the household (their husband). This makes women have less power in some activities which can burden their vulnerabilities.

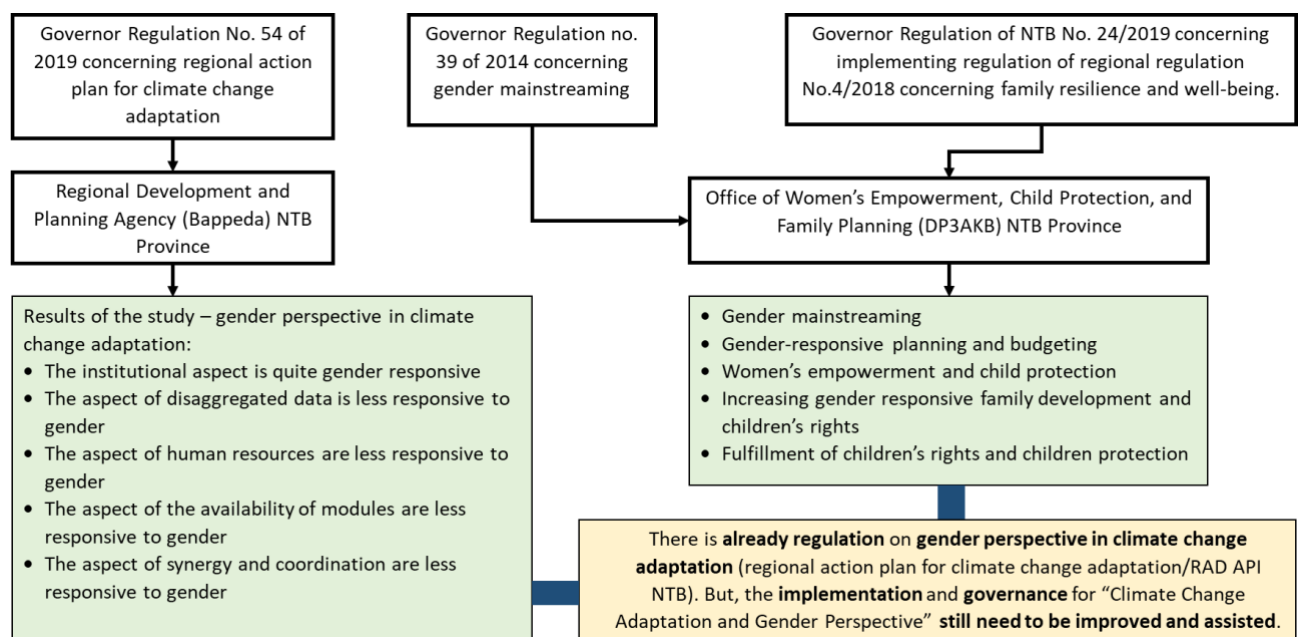
For children, the lack of relevant platforms for climate change awareness and adaptation constitutes to be a significant barrier which restricts the ability of children to participate in climate actions. Although 78 per cent of child respondents claimed to have heard/know about/studied climate change information, 42.7 per cent, - the majority of whom were girls - still have limitations to information due to an unfavourable social environment, economic conditions, and gender norms which lead to girls missing out on education. Based on the survey results, boys' participation in climate adaptation forums/communities is still slightly higher (16.67 per cent) than girls' (11.27 per cent).

Finally, PWDs' experience barriers including poor education, lack of income, social exclusion, and limited access to decision-making. The research shows that just over 14 per cent of PWDs were aware of climate change. Challenges are also faced in terms of institutional policies, there is a **deficiency of integrated policies that combine the implementation of preparation and education on climate change adaptation and that are gender-responsive in Lombok**. Although some institutional measures have been taken to address gender within climate change adaptation, there exists a lack of synchronization of climate change adaptation policies at the provincial level that have not been adopted for implementation at the district/city level in the form of a legal regulation. This hinders socializing gender-sensitive climate change adaptation to society and changing harmful notions and norms that prevent adaptation.

5. Gender-based climate change adaptation governance in Lombok

In the context of the West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) provincial area, initiatives have emerged to adapt to climate change by pursuing development policies that are responsive to the negative impacts of climate change, namely through the Governor's Decree Number 219 of 2007 concerning the

establishment of a task force for mainstreaming aspects of climate change in West Nusa Tenggara Province for fiscal year 2007. Policies related to gender mainstreaming in development activities and planning have also been regulated in the Governor Regulation No. 39 of 2014. The agency responsible for climate change issues in the NTB region is the Environment and Forestry Service, while the one responsible for gender issues is the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and Family Planning. Although there are already policies and institutions related to climate change and gender, collaboration between these two organisations has not been optimal. Based on the results of consultations and discussions with various stakeholders, actions to address the issue of climate change and gender in Lombok are still implemented separately. The results of the governance analysis of gender-based climate change adaptation in Lombok is illustrated as follows:



In relation to the funding budget, based on the results of the FGD, a gender-responsive budget (ARG) has been implemented in NTB, but experiences problems in implementation. This condition demonstrates the need to accelerate budget marking for climate change and gender-combined themes. Therefore, concrete steps to improve the implementation of gender-responsive climate change budgeting on the island of Lombok in accordance with the challenges need to be taken.

6. Recommendations

Based on the main findings of this research, Islamic Relief presents the following recommendations, which can be found in further detail in the Conclusions & recommendations section.

For the international community:

- Acknowledge that the impacts of climate change are not gender-neutral and address this through affirmative ways of working with women’s groups.
- Build agreement or consensus among policymakers and experts to identify, analyse, and implement gender mainstreaming opportunities.
- Ensure gender mainstreaming of climate policy by encouraging civic spaces to amplify the voices of women and other vulnerable groups.

- Develop multi-stakeholder partnerships and joint works to establish and operate the dedicated gender-responsive agenda items of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as concrete measures in promoting women's leadership.
- Increase awareness and information dissemination globally on gender-related issues on climate change, especially under situations due to the adverse impact of climate-induced natural disasters.
- Prepare global strategies on gender-based climate adaptation and resilience by promoting various locally-shaped solutions and adopting multi-stakeholder participatory approaches that prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Develop a global framework on climate adaptation and resilience which integrates the goals and agendas of other international frameworks and agreements (such as the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reductions, and Sustainable Development Goals) and which addresses women's needs in priority actions by considering religious and socio-cultural aspects in their approach.
- Provide inclusive climate finance mechanisms to vulnerable countries under The Paris Agreements which focus on gender and social inclusion.

For the Government of Indonesia:

National Level

- Develop or formulate integrated derivative regulation of climate adaptation-related national policies with concern for implementing gender-responsive actions on prioritised sectors which are backed by both vertical and horizontal coordination as well as data sharing mechanisms among ministries/institutions.
- Establish fiscal transfer incentives for sub-national governments that have planned and implemented gender-responsive climate change adaptation or climate-resilient development policies.
- Ensure the existence of national policies to provide inclusive economic opportunities to vulnerable people, especially women (both married and unmarried and other marginalised groups (such as PWDs).
- Strengthen institutional structures regarding climate adaptation to monitor and evaluate the implementation of inclusive climate-related policies focused on gender-responsiveness both at national and sub-national levels.
- Initiate climate fundraising in the framework of the public-private partnership to enhance public participation to finance proponent activities of climate adaptation and resilience actions.
- Adopt a climate change financing framework to integrate gender mainstreaming in annual national planning and budgeting and develop a formal mechanism to tap into the available climate financing from international sources to reduce the burden on the national exchequer or minimise low-capacity fiscal problems.

Sub-national Level

- Recognise participatory tools as a method of climate vulnerability and capacity assessment to complement scientific climate data and information.
- Enhance rural women's adaptive capacity by regulating to protection of their sources of livelihood under local agroecological conditions as well as providing adequate infrastructure.

- Develop inclusive early warning systems for climate-induced natural hazards to be acceptable and accessible to local communities, especially women (both married and unmarried), and other marginalised groups.

For the local community:

- Technical assistant and financial support to afford transport and uniforms for children attending school due to their lack of money during disaster.
- Technical assistant for implementation of 12-year compulsory education, alongside community awareness and effective socialisation of information, to help reduce cultural biases and stigmas.
- Increase community awareness on the importance of girls' education and adaptation, as well as financial support for local organisations and women's rights advocates on the ground.
- Increased rates of general education and specific education on reproduction and gender equality to be implemented into school curricula, in effort to prevent the young married/pregnancy.
- Prevent maladaptive methods of farming such as clearing as they cannot afford alternatives through technical assistant and financial support for farmers to buy climate-adaptive products such as sustainable feed and water-resistant cages for lobsters.
- Financial support in the form of low-interest or no-interest loans could be provided for farmers to get out of debt.
- Provide treatment costs to PWDs where possible so that they can regain access to employment even with their disability.

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