

PROJECT TITLE

Enhancing Participation of Indigenous Peoples, Especially Women and Persons with Disabilities, through Inclusive Policies and the Development of Alternative Income Sources Based on Natural Resources

BACKGROUND

From 2022 to 2024, the ESTUNGKARA Program in East Sumba Regency has made tangible contributions to Indigenous Peoples and followers of the Marapu belief system. In 2022 and 2023, the program was implemented in four villages: Mauramba and Meorumba in Kahaungu Eti Subdistrict, Ndapayami in Kanatang Subdistrict, and Kalamba in Haharu Subdistrict. In 2024, the program expanded its coverage to two additional villages: Wanggameti in Matawai Lapawu Subdistrict and Mbata Kapidu in Waingapu City Subdistrict. This expansion was driven by high public interest in receiving assistance, particularly regarding Indigenous community empowerment issues.

GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) remains a relatively new concept for both stakeholders and the general public. Nevertheless, it has already shown positive impacts. Approximately 70% of communities and village governments are beginning to understand that every citizen has equal rights in the development process. The ESTUNGKARA Program has contributed to Indigenous empowerment, particularly in improving access to basic services, social protection, strengthening policies at the village and district levels, and enhancing community economic conditions.

One of the most striking forms of marginalization is the neglect of the basic right to education for the Marapu community. The participation of Indigenous women and persons with disabilities remains very limited, both in political spaces and in accessing basic services. Over the past three years, Indigenous communities have begun to realize that the state has made efforts to protect and promote the welfare of its citizens through various policies. However, in practice, the implementation of these policies is often undermined by corporate or individual interests. As a result, Indigenous Peoples continue to face marginalization and are frequently subjected to intimidation, discrimination, and physical violence under the pretext of law enforcement.

OBJECTIVE

To increase the participation of Indigenous Peoples—especially women and persons with disabilities—through inclusive policy development and by enhancing alternative income sources based on the sustainable use of natural resources.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The ESTUNGKARA Program is implemented in East Sumba Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province. The target villages include:

- Mbata Kapidu Village
- Kalamba Village
- Ndapayami Village
- Wanggameti Village

OUR FOCUS

- **Mainstreaming Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)**

To encourage the participation of women and persons with disabilities in development planning processes. This includes:

- Advocacy for policies on protection and empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups
- Facilitating access to basic services, government programs, social protection, and services for women survivors of violence

- **Promoting Economic Empowerment and Community Resilience**

Supporting the independence and empowerment of women within community economic institutions, including efforts to strengthen community food security.

PARTNERS

- East Sumba District Government
- Civil Society Organizations/NGOs: WALHI NTT, KOPPEDA, Pelita Sumba Institute, Sumba Integrated Development, Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) Sumba, and SOPAN Sumba
- Sumba Christian University
- Tanua Sumba Foundation

BUDGET

IDR 450,000,000 (Four hundred and fifty million rupiah)

PROGRAM DURATION

- **Phase I:** 2022–2025
- **Phase II:** 2026–2028

RELATED DOCUMENTS

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