

Project Name:

Promoting Inclusive Public Services and Economic Access for Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak Communities

Background

The Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak are two minority indigenous communities in Jambi Province. Traditionally, these communities lived in forest areas that not only served as their livelihood sources but also held deep cultural, spiritual, and medicinal significance.

However, forest conversion policies have led to the near-total loss of these forest areas, which have been turned into oil palm plantations, industrial forest plantations (HTI), mining sites, and transmigration zones. As a result, these communities have become increasingly vulnerable, marginalized, and impoverished due to the loss of their primary livelihood.

Even before the loss of their forests, the Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak experienced social exclusion due to geographic isolation, distinctive lifestyles, discrimination, limited access to accurate information, and a lack of understanding of their rights. The forest loss has only worsened this condition, pushing them further into a cycle of poverty marked by lower social status, income, and limited access to basic services and decision-making processes.

Consequently, the Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak are unable to adapt to general societal systems. Existing development schemes often fail to reach them. These conditions most severely affect women, children, and persons with disabilities. Daily activities of women and children heavily depend on natural resources. Traditional norms restrict their mobility, while adult men are allowed to travel to villages and cities, resulting in easier access for men to education, health services, civil registration, and information.

Gender issues in basic services are often limited to women's access as service recipients, with little attention paid to their roles as providers or implementers. The power imbalance between men and women also contributes to early marriage practices, compounded by a lack of reproductive health knowledge, increasing maternal and child mortality risks. According to Jambi Provincial Health Office (2020):

- **Tebo Regency:** 11 maternal deaths, 40 neonatal deaths, 52 infant deaths, and 53 child deaths.
- **Merangin Regency:** 5 maternal deaths, 30 neonatal deaths, 40 infant deaths, and 41 child deaths.

Children of the Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak communities face difficulties obtaining birth certificates due to their parents lacking marriage documents or marrying at a young age. This hinders their ability to obtain Family Cards (KK) and access formal education. Cultural norms further reduce educational opportunities for girls compared to boys. Moreover, stunting has been identified among children in both communities.

As for persons with disabilities, there are nine identified cases: six in Orang Rimba Pamenang and three in Talang Mamak Simarantihan. Disabilities can both cause and result from poverty. Persons with disabilities are often excluded from development policies and regarded as burdens. Existing laws and policies still lean more toward a charitable approach than a rights-based one.

Thus, programs that focus on fulfilling basic rights and providing social assistance for women, children, and persons with disabilities are crucial, especially in the Orang Rimba (Merangin and Tebo) and Talang Mamak (Tebo) areas.

Currently, both communities remain marginalized from basic rights and public participation, which should be guaranteed as citizens. Inclusive citizenship comprises four key principles: (1) Community membership, (2) Legal identity, (3) Fulfillment of rights, and (4) Participation. These principles have not been fully realized for the Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak due to societal and policymaker stigma. Their indigenous identity often results in exclusion from public services.

Goals

- **General Objective:** To foster social acceptance of minority indigenous communities through improved public services and economic access that are GEDSI-sensitive.
- **Specific Objective:** To improve public services in order to fulfill the basic citizenship rights of the Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak, especially women, children, and persons with disabilities.

Target Areas

- **Tebo Regency:** Sumay Sub-district (Semambu and Suo Suo Villages)
- **Merangin Regency:** Pamenang Sub-district (Rejosari, Sialang, Pauh Menang, and Pelakar Jaya Villages)

Program Focus

- GEDSI mainstreaming to improve access to basic services, social protection, and government programs.
- Policy advocacy for empowering indigenous women and other vulnerable groups.
- Promoting the participation of women and vulnerable groups in public forums, development planning, and village institutions.
- Developing local economic potential based on community strengths.
- Advocating for the protection of traditional livelihood lands and community food security.
- Strengthening capacities and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration (cadres, government institutions, private sector, CSOs, youth groups, and others).

Partners

- Provincial Government of Jambi
- Regency Governments of Tebo and Merangin
- UPTD PPA (Women and Children Protection Unit) in Merangin and Tebo
- Pamenang and Sumay Public Health Centers
- Village Governments in project areas
- PT LAJ and PT ABT in Tebo
- PT KDA in Merangin
- Women's Alliance of Merangin, Beranda Perempuan Jambi, GirlUp Siginjai
- PT LAJ Conflict Resolution Team – Orang Rimba Working Group (POKJA)
- Bukit Tiga Puluh Collaboration Forum

- Provincial Collaboration Forum for Empowering SAD (Orang Rimba) in Jambi
- SAD Teachers and Mentors Forum in Merangin
- Missionary Mentors in SAD areas in Merangin
- Community Cadres of Orang Rimba and Talang Mamak

Budget

- 2022: IDR 500,000,000
- 2023: IDR 650,000,000
- 2024: IDR 860,200,000
- 2025: IDR 850,000,000
- **Total:** IDR 2,860,200,000

Program Duration

July 2022 – December 2025