

# The Role of Women in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through Village Action Plans/Rencana Aksi Desa (RADes)

Fanisa Aura<sup>1\*</sup>, Shaw La Mun<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia; <sup>2</sup> Parami University, Myanmar

\*Corresponding author: fanisaaura7@gmail.com

## History of Article:

Submitted: Sep 05, 2025

Accepted: Dec 23, 2025

Published: Dec 25, 2025

## Citation Style (APA):

Aura, F., Mun, S. L. (2025). The Role of Women in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through Village Action Plans/Rencana Aksi Desa (RADes). *Prosperity: Journal of Society and Empowerment*, 5(2), 174-190. <https://doi.org/10.21580/prosperity.2025.5.2.28613>

Copyright © 2025 Prosperity:  
Journal of Society and  
Empowerment

Submitted for possible open-  
access publication under the  
terms and conditions of the  
Creative Commons  
Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0  
International License.



**Abstract:** Women play a crucial role in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5, which focuses on gender equality. At the village level, women's participation in planning and policy formulation through the Village Action Plan (RADes). This research employs a descriptive-analytical method, collecting data from literature, policies, regulations, statistical reports, and studies related to women's empowerment and the implementation of the SDGs in the village. The results show that women make a significant contribution to village development achievements, including improvements in the quality of human resources, family welfare, and environmental sustainability. However, limited representation of women in decision-making forums, gender-biased social norms, budget planning that is not fully gender responsive, and limited disaggregated data are still obstacles. The Village SDGs, the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village (DRPPA) program, and RADes demonstrate positive developments in expanding women's leadership and promoting peaceful, gender-equitable village governance. Therefore, strengthening gender mainstreaming, capacity building, institutional support, and monitoring mechanisms are needed to ensure women's transformative role in sustainable development at the village level.

**Keywords:** Village Action Plan/*Rencana Aksi Desa* (RADes), SDGs, DRPPA, Village Development, Gender Mainstreaming

**Abstrak:** Perempuan memiliki peran strategis dalam mempercepat pencapaian tujuan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan, khususnya SDG 5 tentang kesetaraan gender. Pada tingkat desa, partisipasi perempuan dalam perencanaan dan perumusan kebijakan melalui Rencana Aksi Desa (RADes). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif-analitis dengan mengumpulkan data dari literatur, kebijakan, peraturan, laporan statistik, serta kajian terkait pemberdayaan perempuan dan implementasi SDGs di desa. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perempuan memberikan kontribusi signifikan terhadap capaian pembangunan desa, seperti peningkatan kualitas sumber daya manusia, kesejahteraan keluarga, dan keberlanjutan lingkungan. Namun, keterbatasan

representasi perempuan dalam forum pengambilan keputusan, norma sosial yang bias gender, perencanaan anggaran yang belum sepenuhnya responsif gender, serta keterbatasan data terpilah masih menjadi hambatan. SDGs Desa, program Desa Ramah Perempuan dan Peduli Anak (DRPPA), dan RAdes menunjukkan perkembangan positif dalam memperluas kepemimpinan perempuan serta mendorong tata kelola desa yang damai dan berkeadilan gender. Oleh karena itu, penguatan pengarusutamaan gender, peningkatan kapasitas, dukungan kelembagaan, dan mekanisme pemantauan diperlukan untuk memastikan peran transformatif perempuan dalam pembangunan berkelanjutan di tingkat desa.

**Kata Kunci:** Rencana Aksi Desa (RAdes), SDGs, DRPPA, Pembangunan Desa, Pengarusutamaan Gender

## Introduction

The UN and UN Women emphasize that gender equality (SDG 5) is not just a goal; it is key to accelerating the achievement of all SDGs, including health, education, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability. Women's involvement increases the effectiveness of development interventions at the community level (Women, 2018). National policies and guidelines encourage the integration of SDGs goals into village planning through village regulations, Village Action Plans (VAPs), or other local planning documents, so that villages become important implementation units for achieving national targets (Stephens, Lewis, & Reddy, 2018). The experience of some regions shows that RAdes (Regional Action Plans) and SDGs-village initiatives are starting to be implemented as bottom-up strategies (Satria, Rizaldi, & Kharismaningrum, 2023). The state-allocated Village Fund provides significant resources for local development programs; therefore, if RAdes is designed to be gender-responsive, it can have a substantial impact on women's well-being and the achievement of the SDGs. Data on village fund allocations and village numbers confirm the potential scale of interventions at the village level (Gunawan et al., 2020).

Policy studies and implementation analysis show that the preparation and implementation of RAdes requires technical capacity, inter-stakeholder coordination, and clear financing mechanisms. Additionally, women's participation in village planning processes is often low due to structural barriers, including social norms, domestic workloads, and limited access to information and capacity (Tisnanta, Sabatira, Putri, Pereira, & Banjarani, 2024). While empowerment practices are in place, including women's cadres, women's business groups, and SDGs-related village regulations, measurable empirical evidence linking women's involvement in RAdes to SDGs outcomes in villages is limited. Hence, there is a need for focused research (Oktarina & Yulianti, 2022).

The role of women in development is a strategic step in addressing issues related to women's empowerment, gender equality, and justice, as well as an effort to accelerate sustainable development, commonly referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (Women, 2018). Women can contribute not only to the domestic and political spheres that are always discussed,

but women can also play a role in development, such as at the village level. The role of women in village development can significantly improve community welfare, particularly in terms of gender mainstreaming, as it helps create peaceful villages by eliminating discrimination and gender inequality that can harm either party (Nova, 2022). This is further strengthened by the issuance of Village Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages and the Village Action Plan created by the Ministry of Villages and Development of Disadvantaged Regions.

The Village Action Plan (RADes) is a movement that has concrete steps to realize a peaceful Village, including, mobilizing Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes) to improve better nutrition, food self-sufficiency for more independent Villages, providing renewable energy for Villages, increasing the utilization and irrigation of clean water, realizing export Villages as local potential for the global market, entrepreneurship training to utilize youth as pioneers of change, integrating various programs for maximum impact, the existence of Village digitalization, Villages are prepared to become partners as investments for the future, there is transparency in the use of Village funds which are audited periodically to ensure that the funds are indeed used for the benefit of the Village, holding disaster mitigation training programs and accelerating the development of underdeveloped areas such as infrastructure, education and health services (Patria, 2025).

Realizing a Peaceful Village is not enough with just a declaration, but also requires a commitment to integrating the values of just peace into the creation and implementation of policies at the Village government level. The implementation of these policies aligns with the values of tolerance and women's involvement in the decision-making process, ensuring that the interests of women and children are represented at the Village level. This Village Action Plan is also the first step to maintain justice and gender equality in Village government, which is an articulation of the National Action Plan for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children in Social Conflict (RAN P3AKS) and the National Action Plan for Countering and Preventing Extremism Leading to Terrorism (RAN PE), indicated at the Village level (Pasaribu & Silalahi, 2021).

In adapting to this, the Village Action Plan (RADes) will ensure the protection and empowerment of women and children, increase women's involvement in village-level decision-making processes, and directly implement the pillars of prevention and empowerment for women and children. This demonstrates that the involvement of women and children (especially girls) has a significant urgency in preventing social conflict in the community and playing a role in conflict resolution and increasing women's capacity so that women's rights can be fulfilled in the village, both in the structural aspects of village government and in various other village forums. In this regard, the Village Action Plan (RADes) that will be developed must involve all community members widely and without discrimination (Pasaribu & Silalahi, 2021).

This journal article addresses several questions that will be answered in the following discussion:

1. Why is the role of women so crucial in development?

2. How can women's roles impact sustainable development or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
3. What is the correlation between the Village SDGs through the Village Action Plan (RADes) to implementing Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Villages and Gender-Responsive Peaceful Villages?

The international literature review by UN Women, SDG5, shows causal relationships and synergies between gender equality and the achievement of other SDGs, such as education, health, and poverty reduction. Attention to gender mainstreaming must be done across sectors. Studies in Indonesia highlight the importance of localizing the SDGs through village regulations (PerDes), Village Planning and Action Plans (RADes), and synchronization with Village Medium-Term Development Plans. Implementation in some villages shows potential, but also capacity gaps (Setiya, Raharjo, & Hadiwibowo, 2022). Case studies and implementation reports demonstrate that women, through their roles as health cadres, BUMDes managers, and business groups, can improve local development outcomes, family health, food security, and household economy. However, informal roles are often less institutionally recognized (Oktarina & Yulianti, 2022).

Several policy studies identify barriers, including a lack of gender-disaggregated data at the village level, a lack of capacity among village planners to develop gender-sensitive RADes, limited funding directed specifically at women's programs, and cultural norms that limit women's public participation. Emerging good practices, drafting PerDes SDGs, involving women cadres in planning, participatory mechanisms, inclusive village meetings, and integrating SDGs indicators into APBDes. General recommendations include capacity building, gender-disaggregated data, and gender-responsive budgeting (Setiya et al., 2022).

## Methods

### Research Design

This study uses a descriptive analytical method to describe and analyze the object of study based on existing data and actual social phenomena. The research focuses on specific problems related to village policies and women's involvement in planning and decision-making processes, which are then analysed to draw conclusions (Creswell, 2015).

The study applies a qualitative approach supported by quantitative methods to explain and interpret social conditions related to the realization of Peaceful Villages through women's participation.

### Population and Unit of Analysis

This research does not involve a population or sample in the statistical sense. The unit of analysis consists of village policies, programs, and governance practices related to women and

development, particularly in the context of the Women and Child Friendly Village (WCFFV) program.

#### Data Collection

Data collection is carried out through the use of secondary data, including news, books, journal articles, laws related to villages, policy documents, and official village reports. These data are used to describe village policies, analyze the implementation of the WCFFV program, and examine women's roles in village-level planning and decision-making.

#### Data Analysis

The collected data and literature are analysed using gender analysis theory and gender mainstreaming, which function as tools for developing and evaluating gender-responsive policies. This analysis considers the different experiences, needs, and perspectives of women and men in policy formulation and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation processes, in order to achieve gender equality and justice (Puspitawati, 2009).

### Results and Discussion

#### Women in Development (WID) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

WID emerged in the 1960s-1970s, pioneered by the work of Ester Boserup, who highlighted women's economic contributions and how modernization processes can exclude women if policies do not consider their role. WID promotes the integration of women into economic development programs (Boserup, Tan, & Toulmin, 2013). Focus on women as actors in economic development; recommendations for women-targeted projects and programs, skills training, and access to microcredit. The advantages include raising the visibility of women's contributions and triggering practical programs, such as those in health, education, and income (Okali, 2011). The main criticism is that WID is too technical or instrumental, tending to ignore social structures, power relations, and broader gender issues such as rights, norms, and the domestic division of labour.

The review study suggests a subsequent broadening of perspectives. Women and Development emphasizes the impact of development on women's global economic structure, but still does not highlight domestic gender relations (Muyoyeta, 2000). Gender and Development GAD is a paradigmatic shift from women to gender that focuses on the social relations, roles of men and women, power structures, and institutions that produce inequality. GAD promotes the integration of gender analysis into all gender mainstreaming policies and initiatives. SDG 5 has gender equality as a goal; however, gender is now integrated into all 17 SDGs, including health, education, economy, and environment. The SDGs require disaggregated indicators, inclusive governance, and localized programs (Rathgeber, 1990).

Gender equality refers to the equal opportunities and rights between men and women, enabling them to participate in various aspects of life, including politics, economics, social issues,

culture, education, and other areas of society (Hidranto, 2024). The realization of gender equality and justice is characterized by the absence of discrimination between men and women in various sectors, including development. However, many women are still left behind in various development processes, both as actors contributing to development and as beneficiaries. In the development sector, a gender perspective is necessary to eliminate inequalities in regulations and policies, enabling integrated decision-making in development that does not disadvantage men or women (Octavia Rogate Hutagaol & Amalia, 2023).

Gender-responsive budgeting is a crucial tool for addressing gender disparities and promoting inclusive development. However, program preparation is not yet fully mature; for example, there is no clear mapping by age group. Gender awareness is increasing at the village level, following the implementation of the Village Law (Dhar, 2018). There are efforts to provide more space for women in village government structures and the development of women's small businesses. However, some problems still arise, such as women are still considered complementary, not the main decision-makers, women's protection or empowerment programs such as domestic violence prevention, protection of migrant workers have not been routinely included in village policies, there are no strong regulations from the central government related to gender in the implementation of the Village Law and women's participation in the Village Consultative Meeting exists, but the quality of participation is low and often only a formality (Ferina, Sukoharsono, Purwanti, & Roekhudin, 2023).

Based on data released by the Official Statistics News Number 37/05/Th.XXVII on May 6, 2024, regarding the Gender Inequality Index (Indeks Kesenjangan Gender/IKG) in 2023, which explains that Indonesia experienced a significant decline to 0.447, indicating a decrease of 0.012 points compared to the previous year, and indicating a stable improvement in gender equality. This is particularly significant in most provincial areas of Indonesia (Sutopo, Arthati, & Rahmi, 2014). The following is the attached data from the Central Statistics Agency:

Table 1. Central Bureau of Statistics, Gender Inequality Index (GII), 2024

Dimensions or Indicators	Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reproductive Health (MTF)	Female	0,214	0,181	0,163	0,154	0,140	0,126
Reproductive Health (MHPK20)	Female	0,241	0,271	0,263	0,262	0,265	0,258
Empowerment of Legislative Representation (%)	Male	82,68	79,48	78,91	78,11	78,26	77,86
Empowerment of Legislative Representation	Female	17,32	20,52	21,09	21,89	21,74	22,14



<b>(%) High School Education and Above (%)</b>	Male	38,27	39,77	41,63	41,30	42,06	42,62
	Female	30,99	31,85	34,63	34,87	36,95	37,60
<b>Labor Market</b>	Male	82,80	83,25	82,41	82,27	83,87	84,26
<b>Labor Market</b>	Female	51,80	51,81	53,13	53,34	53,41	54,52

Referring to the data, the decline in the Gender Inequality Index (GIG) in Indonesia in 2023 was influenced by improvements in various indicators, particularly in the Labor Market (PTK) aspect. The percentage of women's participation in the workforce increased from 53.41% in 2022 to 54.52% in 2023. Furthermore, improvements in the reproductive health dimension of Indonesian women also indicate that there is maximized risk mitigation. Meanwhile, the dimension of women's empowerment is formed by two different categories, based on gender, including legislative and high school education, and above (25 years). Both indicators experienced an increase, with the percentage of men at 42.62% and women at 37.60%, representing a specific level of increase of 0.56% for men and 0.65% for women (Sutopo et al., 2014).

Based on these data, Maternal Total Fertility (MTF) is decreasing, and the Period of Employment Relationship (MHPK), which serves as an average indicator of women's reproductive health during the fertile period, approximately 20 years of age, is fluctuating and then trending downward. Access to maternal and adolescent women's health and prevention of child marriage shows that the role of women in advocating for health services has contributed to better achievements in achieving the SDGs (Kioupi & Voulvoulis, 2019). Meanwhile, in terms of indicators of Legislative Representation and high school education and above, the number or percentage of women increased by 6.61%, but this increase was slow. This suggests that women's social capital is increasing, which strengthens their participation opportunities in development; however, this is not directly proportional to the political aspect. In the labour market, women experienced a 2.72% increase, indicating that there are still gaps in terms of employment and suggesting the presence of dominant structural barriers, limited capital, and a double burden.

Based on this data, women are increasingly contributing to development aspects, including the workforce, reproductive health, and the number of educated women. This can enhance women's role in sustainable development, specifically in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which comprise approximately 17 goals (Sutopo et al., 2014). Still, at least these fall into several categories of SDG goals, such as Gender Equality, which targets achieving gender equality and women's empowerment to eliminate discriminatory actions against women and girls in all aspects (Women, 2018). There is also data on the percentage of the formal workforce by gender, reported by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), as follows (Octavia Rogate Hutagaol & Amalia, 2023):

Table 2. (National Labor Force Survey, 2021-2023)

Gender	Percentage of Formal Labor by Gender 2021	Percentage of Formal Labor by Gender 2022	Percentage of Formal Labor by Gender 2023
Male	43,39%	43,97%	44,19%
Female	36,20%	35,57%	35,75%

According to data released by the National Labor Force Survey, the percentages of formal male workers and female workers were 44.19% and 35.75%, respectively, in 2023. The population working in formal jobs is 40.89%, while those in informal jobs are 59.11%, categorized by urban and rural areas. The role of women in development to help realize sustainable development is not only to participate actively, but also in terms of improving the quality and position of women in efforts to realize gender equality in society, family, nation, and state, which is considered very necessary to implement gender mainstreaming (PUG) into all series and aspects of national development (Gunawan et al., 2020).

The existence of Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2000 concerning Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) in National Development is the government's response to gender equality, which is considered crucial in supporting national development in various aspects. In Regulation of the Prime Minister of Home Affairs Number 16 of 2008, relating to the general guidelines for the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) in various regions, with the main target being regional governments that have policies for organizing development and community services using a gender perspective (Fakih, 2001). In this case, no exception is the involvement of villages and the role of women in creating peaceful villages in accordance with the work program launched by the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration (Kemendesa) through the Village Action Plan (RADes), which covers various aspects of village community life (Patria, 2025). The data indicate that women make a significant contribution to achieving the SDGs, particularly in the areas of health and education. However, significant inequalities still exist in political representation and the labour market. This indicates the need to optimize the role of women in RADes to produce more inclusive and sustainable village development.

**Making Big Things Happen from the Smallest: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through Village SDGs (Women and Child Friendly)**

Sustainable development, often referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is an agreement on a national scale that aims to improve the welfare of society, agreed upon in the United Nations (UN) forum in September 2015. It is a form of shared commitment to achieve positive changes in various aspects of global community life. However, in its implementation, of course, there are various challenges faced, considering that the 17 goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover several aspects, such as social, environmental, economic, and



partnership development, which are still being improved, especially in Indonesia itself, which continues to strive to mobilize all its sectors (Hidranto, 2024).

At the event organized by Airlangga University on September 11, 2024, "The 8th International Conference," attended by the coordinating minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartanto, presented his report on the significant progress achieved over the past four years related to the SDGs. He explained that Indonesia had experienced a significant jump in ranking in achieving the SDGs, from 102nd in 2019 to 75th in 2023, with an indicator showing a 76% increase in Indonesia that had been achieved. In this regard, the government also continues to strive to strengthen various sectors that have developed, such as infrastructure development and improving Human Resources (HR), which play a vital role in creating connectivity between various regions (Hidranto, 2024).

Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also encompass a smaller unit focused on community life in villages, known as the Village SDGs. This is an effort to realize villages without poverty and hunger, equitable economic growth, healthcare, environmental care, educational equality, cultural responsiveness, and accelerated networks to achieve sustainable development goals, as well as women-friendly villages. Referring to the Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Number 13 of 2020 concerning Priorities for the Use of Village Funds in 2021, there are 18 development goals and targets through the Village SDGs, one of which is a gender-equal village and a village without disparities.

The Village SDGs refer to Presidential Regulation Number 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Village SDGs themselves refer to development carried out comprehensively in the village. All aspects of sustainable development in the village can benefit the entire community without exception, and women's empowerment and the implementation of gender mainstreaming are integral to one of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the empowerment stage, efforts are made to increase the capacity of village women, including the Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village (DRPPA) program, which promotes women's rights, involves them in every planning and monitoring of development, and facilitates the prevention and handling of cases of violence (Nova, 2022).

A women-friendly and child-friendly village is a form of village implementation that integrates gender perspectives and children's rights into governance, village development, and community development and empowerment, carried out in a planned, comprehensive, and sustainable manner, in accordance with Indonesia's development goals (Daulay, 2006). The Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village (DRPPA) will be implemented in stages, with its development adjusted to the village's potential, regional conditions, and socio-cultural and program priorities (Oktarina & Yulianti, 2022).

The Women and Children Friendly Village (DRPPA) activities in 2022 include mapping for implementation that includes institutions such as, the organization of women and children in the

Village, the availability of village data containing disaggregated data on women and children, the availability of Village Regulations (PerDes) on DRPPA, the availability of financing, village finances and the utilization of village assets to realize DRPPA through women's empowerment and child protection in the Village. In substance, there is women's representation in the village government, Village Consultative Body (BPD), Village Community Institutions and Village Traditional Institutions, the percentage of women entrepreneurs in the Village, especially women heads of families, disaster survivors and survivors of violence, all children in the Village receive child rights-based care, there is no Violence Against Women and Children (KTPA) and victims of the Crime of Human Trafficking (TPPO) as well as no child labour and child marriage.

Then in 2024, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration through Women and Child Friendly Villages carried out various activities including, socialization, development and training held in various regions such as Patean, Banjarmasin and Banjarbaru to hold training on Gender Responsive Budgeting Planning (PPRG) in Villages and to prevent violence against women and children as well as human trafficking and child marriage. There are priority steps taken in DRPPA, such as increasing the role of a mother and family in childcare and education patterns, reducing the amount of violence against women and children, reducing the number of child labour and preventing child marriage, and maximally empowering village assets (KEMENPPA, 2024).

Since its inception in November 2020, the DRPPA program has expanded its reach to approximately 1,967 villages, with a commitment to implementing the program in their areas by April 2024. Starting in 2023, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection has collaborated with KAPAL Perempuan to train the wives of village heads, and has agreed to refer to them as DRPPA Pioneer Women. These wives are the ones who move in a guerrilla manner to provide an understanding of the indicators related to DRPPA so that the villages they live in can provide the best facilities for the protection of women and children. To realize a Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village (DRPPA), it is necessary to involve all elements of the village, starting from figures or officials in the village government structurally, to the involvement of women and children themselves, with the hope of being able to unravel various issues related to women and children as a result of the development system that still has gender inequality (KEMENPPA, 2024b).

The Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Village Program (DRPPA) aims to raise awareness and education on the importance of protecting women's and children's rights, as an effort to prevent domestic violence and child exploitation, as the best facilitator for women and children, such as health services, children's play areas, as well as legal and psychological assistance services. In addition, this program also encourages women to be actively involved in every decision-making process at the village level, including all matters related to policies in economic, political, social, and other aspects that are interrelated. Specifically, empowering women to enhance their economic well-being and improve health services and education for children in the village.

In fact, in several villages that have implemented the DRPPA program, there have been quite significant changes, especially regarding public awareness of increasing sensitivity regarding issues related to women and children, and a decrease in violence against women and children. In this case, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the state continuously pursues on a national scale can be carried out collectively on a smaller scale, such as at the Village Level. The role of women in development, when maximally empowered and included in policymaking, can become agents of change, starting from the smallest units, such as those occurring in their communities, by disseminating the importance of implementing gender equality and development concepts that incorporate a gender perspective, as well as the importance of protection and care for children (Sudirman & Susilawaty, 2022).

#### Village Action Plan (RADes) to Create a Peaceful and Gender-Responsive Village

The Village Action Plan also has integration with the development of Women-Friendly and Child-Caring Villages, which is in line with the work program carried out by the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration, which is related to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection because it correlates with its implementation. RAdes has several objectives that were directly launched by the Ministry of DPTT, including building strong, independent, and empowered villages as a foundation to help national development, creating inclusive village development to prioritize the principles of gender equality, social justice, and maximizing community empowerment without discrimination, and carrying out sustainable development (SDGs), which are implemented in several work programs (Agarwal, 2018).

The Village Action Plan implements the National Action Plan for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (RAN P3AKS) strategy in its area, particularly regarding all matters related to women and children, with a focus on building harmony within their communities. This program involves women in the role from the planning stage through to implementation. In its implementation, this program focuses on Human Rights (HAM), the rule of law and justice, Gender Mainstreaming (PUG), the fulfillment of rights related to women and children, security and safety, good governance, participation, and diverse stakeholders, as well as diversity with local wisdom. Priorities in the Village Action Plan focus on the pillars of prevention and law enforcement, as well as witness and victim protection at the village level, with a focus on community empowerment (Pasaribu & Silalahi, 2021).

Since the Village Action Plan (RADEs) work program was first established to realize Peaceful Villages, several villages have joined the program and declared themselves Peaceful Villages, including the following:

1. Tajurhalang Village, Bogor Regency, West Java
2. Gemblengan Village, Klaten Regency, Central Java
3. Jetis Village, Klaten Regency, Central Java

4. Nglingi Village, Klaten Regency, Central Java
5. Sidomulyo Village, Batu City, East Java
6. Payudandundang Village, Sumenep Regency, East Java
7. Prancak Village, Sumenep Regency, East Java Guluk-Guluk Village, Sumenep Regency, East Java

In their declaration, the villages committed to integrating the values of gender equality and justice to support peace and gender-responsive peaceful villages, ensuring that the needs of women and children are represented. One example is Tajurhalang Village, which has actively maximized the role of women in participating in policymaking and development. This Village Action Plan is also aligned with the National Action Plan for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children (RAN P3AKS). It represents a concrete action of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) movement as a form of socialization of gender equality in society (Wula & Anggraini, 2022). Tajurhalang Village also frequently hosts seminars, training sessions, and discussions, allowing women to share ideas, concepts, or suggestions on programs that can support their role as policymakers at the village level.

The importance of Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) lies in integrating a gender perspective into all processes and stages of policymaking and Peaceful Village work programs, to achieve gender equality and justice. In this regard, the expected output is that policies formulated using a gender perspective will have implications that no longer solely disadvantage one party, particularly women and children, older people, and persons with disabilities (Taylor & Mahon, 2019). The issuance of Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2000 concerning Gender Mainstreaming (PUG) represents a progressive perspective on the importance of women's roles in democracy in Indonesia. Gender Mainstreaming also plays a role in ensuring the achievement of gender equality in community life. Below is an overview of the framework for increasing the capacity of village women in implementing the SDGs:

Proceedings of SEMARTANI by Diah Puspaningrum and Aryo Fajar Sunartomo, University of Jember, 2022:

1. STEP 1: Demands for Implementation and Prioritization of Village Funds for SDGs
2. STEP 2: Village Community Development and Empowerment
3. STEP 3: Capacity Building for Village Women in Gender Equality
4. STEP 4: Women-Friendly Village Type Program

The Village Government plays a crucial role in addressing various issues affecting women and children, particularly within the Village, in line with Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, which outlines Village duties and obligations. Some villages also conduct counselling carried out using various methods such as lectures, discussions or presentations of materials related to women's issues in general or problems often faced by village women, the concept of gender

equality and justice, knowledge about the technicalities related to the flow of drafting village regulations and the provision of legal consultations that provide opportunities for women to raise legal issues related to the counseling material (Alfirdaus, 2018). In terms of development, especially infrastructure, not incorporating a gender perspective can be detrimental to women and children because it tends not to build women- and child-friendly facilities, and ignores high crime rates, harassment, and the safety and security of women and children, as well as the elderly and people with disabilities as users. The role of women is to ensure that these issues are addressed and to oversee gender mainstreaming in accordance with substantively successful policies. Therefore, empowered women possess a high level of sensitivity and strong character, both as individuals and as members of their communities and society (Octavia Rogate Hutagaol & Amalia, 2023).

## Conclusion

The SDGs, especially SDG 5, Gender Equality, make gender equality and women's empowerment a goal, but also a “driver” for achieving other goals, including health, education, economy, and environment. Women have multiple and layered roles in home care, child education, family health, community household economy, local business, environmental maintenance, and in government or public decision-making, policy advocacy, and institutionalization. Therefore, “without women” in decision making, implementation, and control, many of the SDG targets are difficult to achieve thoroughly and equitably (Pristiandaru, 2024). Villages are the basic unit of government in Indonesia. Many people live in villages, and various aspects of basic services, environmental development, local economy, health, and education are implemented in these communities. Therefore, villages are the “backbone” of national SDGs achievement. RADES as a village development planning tool opens opportunities for the application of a gender perspective, including programs responsive to women's needs, budget allocations for gender issues, improved access to services, and the involvement of women in planning & decision-making (Mustakimah, Huriani, & Zulaeha, 2025).

When women hold leadership positions or are actively involved in village planning and budgeting, village development outcomes tend to be more inclusive, considering the needs of women, children, and vulnerable groups, and offer more equitable benefits (Sahabat & Radjak, 2024). Women's education and capacity building, encompassing skills, literacy, and advocacy, enhance human capital. This is crucial for productivity, family health, and nurturing the next generation to support SDGs 3, 4, 8, and 1 (Pasciana, Juliasih, Iriany, Karmila, & Febrina, 2024). Women can become drivers of the local economy through small or medium enterprises, household businesses, micro-enterprises, participation in BUMDes, cooperatives, or the creative economy in the village, helping to alleviate poverty, increase household income, and reduce economic disparities (Admin, 2025).

Women can also contribute to environmental sustainability, community health, and children's education, which are important aspects of SDGs oriented towards sustainable and inclusive development. Because women have specific needs such as reproductive health, childcare, family welfare, and protection against gender violence, their involvement in decision-making enables more responsive and gender-equitable policies. For example, budget allocations for maternal and child health services, education, and social protection. In the village context, women leaders or members of the village apparatus, such as BPD and BUMDes, can help identify the needs of women and children and ensure that RADes and APBDes take gender aspects into account. Without policies that require gender analysis in RADes or APBDes, village development can be gender-biased, even ignoring the needs of women and children, or even reinforcing inequalities. Many villages have not consistently implemented gender mainstreaming despite national regulations and SDG commitments.

If women are not adequately represented at the village apparatus, BPD, and policy body levels, their specific needs are likely to be overlooked. As a result, village development may perpetuate patriarchal patterns, and SDG 5 and cross-SDG targets related to gender equality are unlikely to be achieved in practice. Policies without changes in social culture, norms, gender stereotypes, and domestic burdens may not be enough to address the division of labour. Involving women requires education, advocacy, community engagement, and social change. Without these, policies can be symbolic. Monitoring needs to be conducted to determine if policies are having an impact. Gender-disaggregated data is also necessary in health services, education, employment, and representation. If data is not collected, evaluation is difficult, and gender equality may be overlooked.

The following are practical strategies and local policies that can be adopted at the village level to accelerate gender equality and women's contributions to the SDGs, create village regulations (PerDes) that stipulate women's & children's rights, promote women's participation in decision-making, protect against gender violence, and ensure access to basic services. Set a minimum quota for women's representation in village officials, BPD, development committees, and business groups. Each RAD should include a gender needs analysis, specific targets for women and children, empowerment programs, protection, and clear budget allocations. Involve women from the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages. Not just a consultation, but a joint decision, training for village officials, women leaders, and community cadres on gender issues, participatory planning, advocacy, and inclusive program management (KEMENPPA, 2024a).

Community education, gender equality campaigns, importance of women's roles, redistribution of domestic responsibilities, countering patriarchal norms, support women's micro-enterprises or MSMEs, cooperatives, women-based BUMDes, access to microcredit, entrepreneurship training. Integrate women's economic programs with village environmental, health, and education agendas for inclusive and sustainable village development. Village data collection systems should include gender indicators covering maternal-child health, women's



education, women's participation, access to services, violence, and the economy. Involve women and marginalized groups in monitoring mechanisms so that policies are developed in a top-down approach. Village governments, district or city governments, women's empowerment organizations, NGOs, and women's communities should work together to support the implementation of gender-sensitive RAdes.

## References

- Admin. (2025). *Perempuan Tangguh, Desa Maju: Memaksimalkan SDGs untuk Pemberdayaan dan Kesenjangan Gender*. Retrieved from Pemerintah Kabupaten Cilacap Kuripan Kidul website: <https://kuripankidul.desa.id/perempuan-tangguh-desa-maju-memaksimalkan-sdgs-untuk-pemberdayaan-dan-kesetaraan-gender/>.
- Agarwal, B. (2018). Gender Equality, Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goals. *Science Direct*, 34(2), 26–32. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2018.07.002>.
- Alfirdaus, L. K. (2018). Menajamkan Perspektif Gender, Memberdayakan Perempuan dan Mencapai SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). *EGALITA: Jurnal Kesenjangan Dan Keadilan Gender*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.18860/egalita.v13i1.8076>.
- Boserup, E., Tan, S. F., & Toulmin, C. (2013). *Woman's Role in Economic Development*. London: Taylor & Francis Group.
- Creswell, J. W. (2015). *Qualitatif Inquiry and Research Design: Chosing among Five Approaches*, terj. Ahmad Lintang Lazuardi. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar: Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- Daulay, H. (2006). Pemberdayaan Perempuan (Studi Kasus Pedagang Jamu di Gedung Johor Medan). *Jurnal Harmoni Sosial*, 1(1), 7–14. Retrieved from <http://repository.usu.ac.id/handle/123456789/15292>.
- Dhar, S. (2018). Gender and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 25(1). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177/0971521517738451>.
- Fakih, M. (2001). *Analisis Gender dan Transformasi Sosial, Edisi ke-2*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- Ferina, Z. I., Sukoharsono, E. G., Purwanti, L., & Roekhudin. (2023). Gender Responsive Budgeting in Indonesia: Village Financial Budget Planning. *ICASI: International Conference on Advance & Scientific Innovation*, 4(1), 739–746. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.18502/kss.v8i9.13388>.
- Gunawan, T., Prasetyo, P. S., Riswanda, Herwanto, T. S., Yosefa, Tobing, A. M., & Hermawan, D. (2020). *Pendataan untuk Inovasi Pembangunan Desa di Kabupaten Mamuju*. Bandung: Universitas Katolik Parahyangan. Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/123456789/11458>.
- Hidranto, F. (2024). *Portal Informasi Indonesia*. Retrieved from KOMINFO website: <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/8618/indonesia-di-jalan-menuju-sdgs-2030-tantangan-dan-komitmen-pembangunan-berkelanjutan?lang=1>.
- KEMENPPA. (2024a). *Kemen PPPA Tekankan Pentingnya Kesenjangan Gender Dalam Pembangunan*. Retrieved from Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dan Perlindungan Anak. website: <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/siaran-pers/kemen-pppa-tekanan-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan>.

- KEMENPPA. (2024b). *Perempuan Perintis, Penggerak Desa Ramah Perempuan dan Peduli Anak (DRPPA)*. Retrieved from Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dan Perlindungan Anak. website: <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/siaran-pers/perempuan-perintis-penggerak-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak-drppa>.
- Kioupi, V., & Voulvoulis, N. (2019). Education for Sustainable Development: A Systemic Framework for Connecting the SDGs to Educational Outcomes. *Sustainability*, 11(21). <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/su11216104>.
- Mustakimah, L., Huriani, Y., & Zulaeha, E. (2025). Tantangan Mewujudkan Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Tentang Kesetaraan Gender pada Masyarakat Desa. *Az-Zahra: Journal of Gender and Family Studies*, 4(1), 12–29. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15575/azzahra.v4i1.25462>.
- Muyoyeta, L. (2000). *Women, Gender and Development*. Ireland: 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World.
- Nova, M. A. (2022). Peran Perempuan Dalam Pembangunan Desa (Studi Feminisme dan Gender Pada Perempuan Gampong Blang Krueng Kabupaten Aceh Besar). *Jurnal Al-Ukhuwah*, 1(1), 1–13. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.47498/jau.v1i1.1126>.
- Octavia Rogate Hutagaol, & Amalia, F. (2023). *Booklet Survei Angkatan Kerja Nasional Agustus 2023*. Jakarta. Retrieved from <https://www.bps.go.id/id/publication/2023/12/22/ffb3e2d42b94d727d97e78d8/booklet-survei-angkatan-kerja-nasional-agustus-2023.html>.
- Okali, C. (2011). Searching for New Pathways Towards Achieving Gender Equity: Beyond Boserup and 'Women's Role in Economic Development. *Agricultural Development Economics Division*, 11(9). <https://doi.org/10.22004/agecon.289012>.
- Oktarina, T. N., & Yulianti, A. (2022). The Role of Women in Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection: A Discourse of Ecofeminisme in Indonesia. *Indonesian Journal of Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*, 1(2), 107–138. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/ijel.v1i2.58137>.
- Pasaribu, M., & Silalahi, E. (2021). *Buku Panduan Rencana Aksi Desa/Kelurahan Damai: Membangun Mekanisme Responsif Gender untuk Promosi Perdamaian dan Keadilan Gender di Desa/Kelurahan Damai*. Jakarta: Wahid Foundation.
- Pasciana, R., Juliasih, L., Iriany, I. S., Karmila, M., & Febrina, R. I. (2024). Transformasi Sosial melalui Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak: Studi Kasus Membangun Desa Ramah Perempuan dan Peduli Anak. *Az-Zahra: Journal of Gender and Family Studies*, 5(1), 25–46. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15575/azzahra.v5i1.38557>.
- Patria, A. (2025). *Mengejar Cara Sukses 12 Program Aksi Kemendesa untuk Indonesia*. Kompasiana. Retrieved from <https://www.kompasiana.com/suryokocosuryoputro1324/6775262a34777c69b36a3382/menjeja-cara-sukses-12-program-aksi-kemendesa-untuk-indonesia>.
- Pristiandaru, D. L. (2024). *Tak Ada Tujuan SDGs yang Tercapai Tanpa Libatkan Perempuan*. Retrieved from <https://lestari.kompas.com/read/2024/10/07/110000286/tak-ada-tujuan-sdgs-yang-tercapai-tanpa-libatkan-perempuan>.
- Puspitawati, H. (2009). *Analisis Gender Dalam Penelitian Bidang Ilmu Keluarga*. Bogor: LPPM-IPB.
- Rathgeber, E. M. (1990). Wid, Wad, Gad: Trends in Research and Practice. *Journal of Developing Areas Macomb*, 24(4), 489–502. Retrieved from

- [https://labordoc.ilo.org/discovery/fulldisplay?vid=41ILO\\_INST%3A41ILO\\_V1&tab=Everything&docid=alma994925746502676&lang=en&context=L&adaptor=LocalSearchEngine&query=creator%2Cequals%2CPichón%2C Francisco J&offset=0](https://labordoc.ilo.org/discovery/fulldisplay?vid=41ILO_INST%3A41ILO_V1&tab=Everything&docid=alma994925746502676&lang=en&context=L&adaptor=LocalSearchEngine&query=creator%2Cequals%2CPichón%2C Francisco J&offset=0).
- Sahabat, A. I., & Radjak, K. D. (2024). Village Women's Leadership in Encouraging Gender-Responsive Budgeting Planning. *NEGREL: Academic Journal of Law and Governance*, 4(2), 259–272. <https://doi.org/http://doi.org/10.29240/negrei.v4i2.11582>.
- Satria, S. F., Rizaldi, G. C. C., & Kharismaningrum, R. M. (2023). Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Desa Sebagai Kebijakan Pembangunan Asimetris di Desa. *Policy Brief Desa, Daerah Tertinggal Dan Transmigrasi*, 1(2), 55–58. Retrieved from <https://ejournal.kemendes.go.id/index.php/policybrief/article/view/8>.
- Setiya, T., Raharjo, T., & Hadiwibowo, Y. (2022). Village Sustainable Development Management (Village SDGs) Starting from the Preparation of Village SDGs Village Regulations. *CONSEN: Indonesian Journal of Community Services and Engagement*, 2(2), 54–66. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.57152/consen.v2i2.457>.
- Stephens, A., Lewis, E. D., & Reddy, S. (2018). Towards an Inclusive Systemic Evaluation for the SDGs: Gender equality, Environments and Marginalized voices (GEMs). *Evaluation*, 24(2), 220–236. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389018766093>.
- Sudirman, F. A., & Susilawaty, F. T. (2022). Kesetaraan Gender Dalam Tujuan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan (SDGs): Suatu Review Literatur Sistematis. *Journal Publicuho*, 5(4), 995. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.35817/publicuho.v5i4.41>.
- Sutopo, A., Arthati, D. F., & Rahmi, U. A. (2014). *Kajian Indikator Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. In Badan Pusat Statistik Kajian Indikator Lintas Sektor. <https://www.bps.go.id/id/publication/2014/10/06/db07e5b8991c5f33c0f1309c/kajian-indikator-sustainable-development-goals--sdgs-.html>.
- Taylor, S. R., & Mahon, R. (2019). Gender Equality from the MDGs to the SDGs. *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals*, 54–70. [https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429029622-4?urlappend=%3Futm\\_source%3Dresearchgate.net%26utm\\_medium%3Darticle](https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429029622-4?urlappend=%3Futm_source%3Dresearchgate.net%26utm_medium%3Darticle).
- Tisnanta, H., Sabatira, F., Putri, R. W., Pereira, L., & Banjarani, D. R. (2024). Navigating Legal Complexities in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda for Village Governance in Indonesia. *Sriwijaya Law Review*, 8(1), 335–357. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.28946/slrev.Vol8.Iss2.2997.pp335-357>.
- Women, U. (2018). *Why Gender Equality Matters Across All SDGs an Excerpt of Turning Promises Into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from UN Women Digital Library. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/SDG-report-Chapter-3-Why-gender-equality-matters-across-all-SDGs-2018-en.pdf>.
- Wula, H. V. M., & Anggraini, T. (2022). Peran Perempuan Dalam Pembangunan Desa. *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Riset Sosial Humaniora (KAGANGA)*, 5(2), 201–208. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31539/kaganga.v5i2.4309>.