



FOCUS (Fisherfolk Empowerment for Climate Resilience and Sustainability) works in nine villages across five districts in Central Java, Indonesia. Through village profiles study, we aim to map the vulnerability of coastal communities—including women, children, youth, and other minority groups—and their resilience in facing climate change.

This factsheet highlights the voices and experience of the most vulnerable groups while we collected data for village profiles study in the 9 villages: Bedono, Timbulsloko, Purworejo, Morodemak (Demak); Sengon (Batang), Gempolsek (Kendal), Bandungharjo, Balong (Jepara); and Tanjungmas (Semarang).

FACTS:

Bedono

Four of the seven hamlets in Bedono village have 'disappeared' due to the high abrasion rates, sea level rise and land subsidence because of the climate change and nearby industrial operations around the village.

Sengon

Women are often not involved in important village forums. A woman from Sengon Village said that similar forums are "men's affairs", thus women remain invisible in public forums.

Morodemak

Climate change poses a significant challenge for women, who bear the additional burden of cleaning up after these tidal floods. In addition to the threat of flooding, the erratic weather patterns frequently result in power outages, further exacerbating the situation.

Bandungharjo and Gempolsek

Most of the women involved in FGDs in Bandungharjo and Gempolsek villages are fisherfolks who engage in processing and marketing of sea products. Some of them process sea products into rengginang (rice crackers), salted fish, smoked fish, crackers, terasi (shrimp paste), fish balls, etc.

Around 5 years ago, companies offering loans to rural communities began to emerge. They provide loans without collateral—only requiring an ID card (KTP). The repayment process is done weekly and in groups—often referred to as 'tanggung renteng'. The interest in these loans is quite burdensome, around 20-25%. Debts are used by the villagers for daily needs, groceries, and school snacks for children.

Balong

Throughout their history, the Balong community has adamantly opposed large-scale external developments, exemplified by their resistance against entities like PTPN (Nuclear power plant) and PLTU (Coal-fired power plant). They exhibit a remarkable capacity for organization and solidarity, frequently rallying together to defend their rights.

Purworejo

In March 2019, following a rigorous two-year process, 31 women from Tambakpolo, Purworejo Village successfully change their occupation in the national identity cards (KTP) that formerly assigned them as housewives to recognizing them as fisherfolks, thus obtaining fisherfolks' insurance cards. This accomplishment serves as both a positive example and a poignant reminder of the numerous women fisherfolk who remain unrecognized, with their rights as fishers yet to be fulfilled.

Timbulsloko

Timbulsloko stands out as the village most affected by erosion compared to the other 19 villages in Sayung Sub-district, Demak District. In regard to access to clean water, residents still depend on two boreholes for access to clean water. One borehole was funded by community contributions in 2004, while the other is powered by solar energy, donated by Greenpeace in 2023.

Tanjungmas

The 'Sangpuan' forum, abbreviated from 'Sayang Anak dan Perempuan' (Caring for Children and Women), has been actively conducted since 2022 on an annual basis. This initiative focuses on discussing proposals concerning women's and children's issues to be included in the Village's Musrenbang (Village Development Planning Meeting), which are then escalated to the sub-district and city levels for decision-making. These proposals typically address health, economic, and social concerns.

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