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When the Energy Project Comes into Our Lives

- an executive summary of the
compilation of women's stories -



Preface

Indonesia is committed to contribute to reducing Greenhouse gases (GHGs) voluntary by its own efforts 29% and conditional with support from others 41% by 2030 as announced by the President, Joko Widodo, against business as usual, which is approximately 2,869 GtCO_{2e} in 2030. The National Action Plan to Reduce GHGs includes the target of energy supply mix, which is among others to increase new and renewable energy portion at least 23% by 2025 and at least 31% by 2050. Unfortunately, this commitment that would lead the national economy into the low carbon path and its actions plans has never been consulted and discussed with the peoples.

The women's stories from 5 energy project sites are collected to challenge the decision makers at local, national and international arenas and show that decisions made without people's consent, including the women, will only bring another problems to already by climate and mal-development affected peoples. Among them, women are the one who bear the brunt of the raising problems.

Their stories that represent many other untold women's stories, have to be taken seriously as lesson learnt for involving women, communities and the peoples in the decision makings of climate actions, for viewing climate crisis and response measures in other perspectives rather than market, investment and massive technologies, and for finding people's centered solutions and alternatives within the experiences and views of the peoples and including the women.

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Aksi for gender, social and ecological justice

The stories of women's experiences with energy projects were collected through a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). FPAR is not only about a research. It is an organizing and movement building tool. It uses methods that support and grow women's movements to understand and advance women's human rights, environmental issues, and in this case particularly on climate response measures, energy politics and energy projects. The empowerment of grassroots women would lead to strengthening the indigenous peoples and local communities governance, challenge the drivers of deforestation, land and resource grabbing, and strengthening civic spaces. FPAR creates new forms of collaborative relationships essential to empower women and to amplify their voices and foster agency to be part of evidence-based advocacy and policy decision makings.

FPAR on Women and Energy Program was developed by Aksi for gender, social and ecological justice. At first it trained 12 local facilitators originated from local NGOs and Community based Organizations in January 2020. They



Aksi and local facilitators for the feminist participatory action research on women and energy

were the one who worked together with grassroots women living in the surrounding of energy project sites, for collecting data, women's stories and empower them.

In total this FPAR that was conducted from February to September 2020, involved 82 grassroots women from 11 villages on 6 energy project sites. This compilation of women's stories is based on 5 energy project sites, which are:

1. Baturraden Geothermal Power Plant on Mt. Slamet, Central Java

2. Hydropower Poso Energy, in Poso, Central Sulawesi

3. Wind Farm Tolo 1 in Jenepono, South Sulawesi

4. Planned Geothermal Power Plant in on Samosir Island of Toba Lake in North Sumatra

5. Hydropower and Water Reservoir in Kedung Ombo, Central Java

Mud pollution into rivers and streams on the foot of Mt. Slamet in Central Java from geothermal exploration

| Project Information | |
|----------------------------|---|
| | Baturraden Geothermal Working Area |
| Location | The project working area covers 5 regencies (a level below a province) in Central Java, on the slope of the volcanic Mt. Slamet, 90% inside a forest protected area |
| Working Area | 24,660 hectares |
| Permit | Geothermal permit based on the decree of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources No. 4577k/30/MEM/2015 |
| Project Implementer | PT. Sejahtera Alam Energy (PT. SAE) with a composition of shares: 75% STEAG PE GmbH (Germany) 75% and PT Trinergy (Indonesia) 25%. |
| Finance | USD 880 million |
| Capacity | 220 MW |
| Status | Exploration and construction of infrastructure (since 2016). The first exploration by digging a well until 1.1 km deep and second exploration by digging 3.5 km deep well, didn't find any thermal energy. Now is waiting for a permit for the third exploration. |

Livelihoods of communities on the foot of Mt. Slamet

Livelihoods of the communities in these two villages are from fish and silk-worm breeding and farming, rice field farming, and tofu production. Those livelihoods are highly dependent from water springs on Mt. Slamet (3,428 m high) that flow through the Prukut River as one the main rivers, as well as many other smaller rivers and streams. The tofu home industries for example, rely highly on clean water; most of their workers are women.

The communities also use water from Mt. Slamet for the daily needs of the families such as for drinking, cooking, washing and bathing. Apart from being a source of water, the Prukut River is also a source for river fishes, and silk worms to feed fishes in their ponds. Moreover, rivers are social places for women while washing clothes and a playground for children.

16 grassroots women from 2 villages, Panembangan and Kalisari, in Cilongok District, Banyumas Regency, Central Java, that locate on the foot of Mt. Slamet, one of the active volcanoes in Indonesia, participated in the FPAR Program. Those two villages in 2016-2017 were directly affected by the exploration activities and construction of infrastructure of Baturraden Geothermal Power Plant. Social, economic and environmental impacts from those years are still continuing up to date.



Mt. Slamet, the second highest active volcano on Java Island. Source: http://www.merbabu.com/gunung/gunung_slamet.php



Mud pollution into the rivers



Before and after the infrastructure construction (roads, buildings, exploration facilities) and drillings for exploration of the geothermal

In November 2016, the water of Prukut River, the main river for communities living on foot of Mt. Slamet, has become very dirty and mixed with mud. The communities in Panembangan and Kalisari, where the FPAR was conducted, were among many communities that could not use the water from the spring, rivers and streams anymore. The communities at first didn't know the cause of the muddy

water. Only after questioning the village officers and did an investigation, they discovered that a company called PT Sejahtera Alam Energy (SAE) had been cutting trees for infrastructure and construction, and drilling for geothermal energy exploration on the slopes of Mount Slamet since March 2016.

Until they were facing the muddy rivers in particular of the Prukut River, the

communities did not know any information about the geothermal project in their area and its potential impacts and harms to their lives and livelihoods.

Besides polluting water springs and rivers, the geothermal infrastructure construction and exploration activities also triggered loss of community livelihoods such as the death of river biota due to mud pollution, including fish, silk worms; the destruction of home businesses including fish breedings and farming and silk worm cultivation. Moreover, the tofu home industries could not produce at all when the water was muddy.

Livelihood and incomes of communities in Panembangan and Kalisari were decline drastically and even some were destroyed. Many were forced to change their professions to become, among others, goat keepers, factory workers, rice farmers, welders, construction workers, selling chicken noodles, selling trash, drivers, farmers. Taking debt from loan sharks became a habit when they were no longer able to make ends meet.

Women bore the brunt of mud pollution

Decreasing community income resulted in decreased the quality of their lives. This further increased the burden on women particularly because they have been forced to look for alternative water sources. They had to fetch water from other springs further away, to ask water from relatives in other villages, and to collect rainwater. Some were even forced to buy expensive gallon water, although not all households could afford gallon water.

The household burden on women became heavier. When the water was muddy, in addition to doing household chores, their daily activities were only used up to fetch water. To fetch water in further away springs, they had to walk long -could be up to half an hour for some women-, to wait in line for hours, and back and forth carrying heavy cranes, buckets, or gallons of water through steep, rocky and wet earthen paths. Before and after fetching water they had to do the household chores and did also various works outside home to meet the family's economic needs.



Women had to fetch water for further away springs, back and forth through steep and slippery earthen path carrying heavy water buckets and gallons

As a result of those various impacts, the communities took action demanding the termination of the geothermal project, and demanded PT.SAE and the government to provide sufficient clean water. The community's demand was responded. The Banyumas Regency government providing water tanks. However, the water tanks provided

were insufficient and the filling times were uncertain. Women had to wait a long time, fight for water, or even not seldom went back home empty-handed. The community also demanded compensation for the loss they suffered from the geothermal infrastructure construction and exploration activities.

What women want....



... “in our opinion, to resolve the problems with muddy water is to stop the operation of the geothermal project”, said Rini, one of FPAR participant from Panembangan village.

One of the solutions thought of by women is to stop the geothermal project, and hence the mud pollution won't happen again, and that water can return to its normal state, abundant, clean and clear so that they can restore their lost livelihoods. Moreover, they expect that the Government will carefully consider existing projects, conduct comprehensive studies, and take firm action against environmental perpetrators that have polluted water and destroyed communities' livelihoods. The project development must also be informed from the start so that the communities can prepare for the potential negative impacts that would happen to them.

However, the compensation process was carried out not in an open manner and not all residents knew or received compensation. The process and amount of compensation were not transparent led to jealousy and mutual suspicion among communities. There was also rumors that bigger compensation was given to people who were close to village officials. Tensions also arose between communities and village officials, who were considered to be siding with PT. SAE. During February - September 2020 women from 2 villages who participated in the FPAR,

assessed their current situation after the problems with mud pollution in 2016-2017. Many families still cannot recover from their livelihood and income loss particularly due to lack of capital. The water flow rate of Prukut River became low and so can't be the source anymore for river fishes or silk worms; some tofu home industries run again but have to pay additional cost for clean water; lower income from alternative economic activities, and so forth. Lives of the communities and particularly the women, are still difficult.

Community's access to water from Poso River is controlled by a hydropower company

| Project Information | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Name | Sulewana Hydropower Plant, or also well known as Poso Hydropower Plant |
| Location | Poso Regency in Central Sulawesi |
| Resources | Sulewana waterfall that comes from Poso Lake and flows into Poso River |
| Project Implementer | PT. Poso Energy (subsidiary of PT. Bukaka Teknik Utama – Kalla Group). Kalla group is owned by Jusuf Kalla, Indonesian two times Vice President, his family members and relatives |
| Construction period | Hydropower Unit 2 since 2004, meanwhile Unit I and III since 2016 |
| Capacity | Sulewana 1: 120 MW, Sulewana 2: 195 MW and Poso 3: 400 MW |
| Status | Sulewana Unit 2 started to operate since 2012, meanwhile Sulewana Unit 1 and 3 are still under construction. |

Livelihoods of communities in Sulewana, Poso

Communities in 3 villages in Sulewana, Poso in Central Sulawesi, are farmers (rice, vegetables and other cash crops) and do fish farming on Poso Lake. Their livelihoods, therefore, is very dependent from Poso River that flows from the Poso Lake. Moreover, Poso River is their source of water for the daily needs. Beside those livelihoods, the communities also collect forest products from surrounding forests. A beautiful waterfall in Sulawana is a domestic tourist destination. Many women opened stalls to sell food, drinks, snacks and other souvenirs.

13 women from those 3 Sulewana villages participated in the FPAR Women and Energy Program to document their experiences related to the development of Poso Energy Power Plant.



Poso Lake, upstream water source for rivers in Central Sulawesi.
Source: <https://www.nativeindonesia.com/danau-poso/>

Poso Hydropower consists of 3 units: The construction of Unit 2 in Sulewana village since 2004 and already operates; meanwhile Unit 1 in Saojo village and Unit 3 in Tampemadoro Village are being constructed since 2016. Since then people's lives in Sulewana, Saojo and Tampemadoro Villages have changed. Although the construction period of those 3 units is diverse, but the problems by communities in those three villages are similar.

There was no disclosure of information to the affected communities regarding the hydropower development plan. The community, including the women, have never been given clear information, either by the company or the government, about the potential impacts by hydropower project nor consultation about it. People only heard orally that there would a project development in their areas, jobs would be offered and people would get electricity for free.

The land acquisition process was not carried out through discussions and agreements about land prices. It was carried out with violence and



Poso Hydropower Plant Unit 2 in Sulewana area

intimidation by the company and village officials. The offered land prices and company's promises resulted in pros and cons against the company, led to disputes and conflicts within the communities, among families, relatives and neighbors. People who no longer have land for farming and gardening due to the land expropriation, were forced to

work as agriculture labors in other people's lands.

Moreover, during the dam construction process including the dredging of Poso Lake, have affected the lake and killed fishes and the fish farms.

Rock bombings polluted the river and damaged houses ...



also closed the road on the riverbank with large stones, so that the communities can only pass by foot, cannot use vehicles, while their farming gardens are quite far away to walk. In addition, the crops of the Tampemadoro community were also damaged due to landslides triggered by company's road construction activities.

Sulewana community has also felt the impact of Poso hydropower Unit 2, that operates since 2012. Since the hydropower began operating, there has been issues of river contamination due cement and oil discharged from the turbines into the river.

The bombing / detonation carried out by the company to destroy and lift rocks on banks of the Poso River polluted it. The Poso River became muddy and brownish colored. Shatters from explosions damaged houses of communities living on the river banks in Sulewana Village. Sulewana waterfall was dried and destroyed due to construction activities to build the Sulewana Hydropower Unit 2.

Communities resistance arose when the company demolished the Yondo Pamona Bridge in Tampemadoro Village, which was built by their ancestors and had historical values for them. The company also closed communities' access to the river through floodgates they build. The company forbid communities to capture sidat fish (a kind of eel) on the river and therefore, the communities are no longer free to carry out their activities along the river. In Saojo Village, the company has

The water from the river cannot be used by the communities anymore. However, the communities are forced to use the dirty and polluted river water since they cannot afford to buy water every day for cooking, drinking, bathing and so on. The pollution also caused the river farmed fishes died. Although the company compensated the loss, but the villagers are prohibited to do fish farming anymore. The river flow is now controlled through built sluice gates.

What women want....

Moreover, the women of Sulewana Village who live near the riverbanks feel unsafe. When the company opens the floodgates, the river flow gets higher, the current is stronger and will inundate lands around the riverbank near their houses. Company activities often cause strong vibrations like earthquakes, which occur when there is a short or sudden blackout, and electricity is discharged to the reservoir. The vibrations cause anxieties among the communities.

Currently, the communities, especially women, are increasingly suffering due to various problems triggered by the project construction and operation. Women in Sulewana, Saojo and Tampemadoro Villages stated that they would continue to fight for their rights. They will continue to collect information related to the company and the impacts that they are facing. They will send letters to the Regent of Poso and the government to inform the situation of women and demand firm action against the company for the losses and impacts they have been experienced due to the activities of hydropower Poso Energy.

... We have to have a courage to speak out in voicing what are our basic rights as women..." Ibu Erni said.



The company constructs a road along the Poso River and prohibit villagers to use it



A wind farm in the middle of community's lives and livelihoods

| Project Information | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Name | Wind Power Plant Tolo 1 Jenepono |
| Location | Covers 100-120 hectares in 3 districts of Jenepono regency in South Sulawesi |
| Finance | USD 160.7 million from Singaporean EQuis Energy |
| Project Implementer | A consortium of 3 companies: PT. Redaya Energy Pte, PT Global Pacific Energy and PT PLN |
| Construction period | 2016-2019 |
| Capacity | 72 MW (20 turbines, respectively 3.6 MW) |
| Status | In operation since May 2019 |

Livelihoods of Jeneponto communities

Pa'rangang Beru village is one of sites where the wind turbines are constructed, in the middle of community's lives and rice fields.

The majority of people's livelihoods are farmers, with food crops including; rice, corn, peanuts, green beans and cassava. Hence, they are highly dependent from water sources.

FPAR Women and Energy was conducted in 3 villages, namely Pa'rasangan Beru Village, Langkura Village, and Bontomatene Village, Turatea District, Jeneponto Regency, South Sulawesi. 9 women from those 3 villages, who loss of their lands during the construction of the wind farm, involved in the program.



forced land acquisitions



Source: <https://theinsiderstories.com/adb-prepares-us3b-to-support-indonesias-power-projects-until-2021/>



Source; <https://www.sulselsatu.com/2018/04/04/sulsel/selatan/syl-titip-pltb-tolo-1-pada-pln.html>

The start of the Wind Power Tolo Development Project since 2016 changed the lives of women in 3 villages of Pa'rasangan Beru, Langkura, and Bontomatene. The communities were forced to sell their rice fields at very cheap prices and far below the market price. The process of land acquisitions was carried out by brokers with promises of jobs and electricity won't blackouts anymore like what they have been experiencing.

Communities, who were not willing to sell their lands, were intimidated and threatened, both from brokers and with the support of the police. One form of intimidations mostly through night visits, was a threat that later the land would be taken over by the Government without any compensation. Other communities received threats that their children who worked as civil servants would be reported and to transferred to other remote villages.

After the land acquisition process, there was no alternative livelihood anymore that could replace the same income from rice fields for communities. Even after 3 years have passed, the communities have never been offered a job; moreover, the communities still experience electricity blackout, at least 3 times a month. The communities are facing hard times due to the wind farm, in particular the women, since they have to work harder to make ends meet. Before they ate rice from their own rice fields, but now they have to buy rice everyday,

Want women want ...

Furthermore, villagers around the wind farm feel fear, particularly when working on rice fields. When the propellers of the turbines spin fast and create loud noise, they are afraid that the propellers will come loose, fly and harm them. Another concern that the villagers feel is the reduced rainfall in their areas that reduced the size of rice fields and prolonged hot weather, and led to decreasing agricultural production. The communities think that the propellers of the wind farm produce very strong winds, so the cloud process to produce rainwater does not occur.

The women hope that their land can return to what it was before and the Jeneponto Government does not expand to other second unit wind farm Tolo 2.

Meanwhile, women who feel that their lives are no longer possible to return to normal, hopes that the wind farm company would fulfill their promise of work so that their family members can be free from difficulties. Further, the Government and the wind farm company should guarantee safety for farmers in the working areas of the wind farm.



Participants of FPAR Women and Energy in Jeneponto



Communities fear of loosing land and livelihoods to the planned geothermal project

| Project Information | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name | Planned Geothermal Power Plant |
| Location | Simbolon on Samosir Island of Toba Lake, North Sumatra |
| Working area | 68,800 hectares |
| Permit | Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources No. 1827K/30/MM/2012 on April 30, 2012 on Assigned Mining Working Area Geothermal in Simbolon, Samosir Regency |
| Project Implementer | PT. Optima Nusantara Energi (later on in cooperation with KS Orka from China established PT Samosir Geothermal Power) |
| Expected to start operation: | In 2024 |
| Capacity | 110 MW |
| Status | Preparation stage: in 2018 already carried out geological, geophysics and geoscience surveys and social mapping on project site. |



Beautiful Samosir Island of Toba Lake in North Sumatra.
Source: <https://www.panorama-destination.com/indonesia/why-toba/>

Livelihoods of communities on Samosir Island on Toba Lake

Lake Toba is a large natural lake in North Sumatra, occupying a caldera of a super volcano. The lake is about 100 km long and 30 km wide. It is the largest volcanic lake in the world and recognized in July 2020 as one of the UNESCO Global Geopark. In the middle of Lake Toba is the Samosir Island. Both the lake and the island were formed after the eruption of a super volcano some 75,000 years ago. Lake Toba and Samosir Island are an Indonesian famous tourist destination.

Livelihoods of communities in these two villages are farming rice, coffee, secondary crops, nuts, pineapple, sweet potatoes and making bricks. Generally, they have their own lands for living and for agricultural activities to meet their daily food supplies. In the last 5 years, however, they face difficulties in land farmings due to extreme weather and also water shortages, both to meet their daily and for agricultural needs.

In the matter of land ownership in this village, there are still land conflicts between two big clans of Samosir: the Simbolon and Marbun.

13 grassroots women from Sigaol Simbolon Village and Sigaol Marbun Village participated in the FPAR Women and Energy Program. Those two villages are included in the Simbolon Geothermal development plan project area.



Coffee farming is one of the livelihoods on Samosir Island.
Source: [https://www.sumatra-ecotravel.com/packages/lake-toba-batak-culture-coffee/#iLightbox\[gallery_image_1\]/3](https://www.sumatra-ecotravel.com/packages/lake-toba-batak-culture-coffee/#iLightbox[gallery_image_1]/3)

Lack of information about the project plan

The communities in Sigaol Simbolon and Sigaol Marbun, including the women, did not get clear and complete information from the local government nor the project owner about the geothermal project development plan. The communities learned information about the plan from some villagers who saw officers coming to the area near their farms to survey the area. Hence, they suspected where would be the geothermal project site.

Since there is lack of information about the geothermal project development plan, land issues are becoming very tense. Villagers then fight over land, both from different clans and not seldom with other family members and relatives.

However, some communities, especially the women, felt uneasy about the project plan. They were concerned about the potential conflicts that may occur: among the community members, between communities and the company, considering the existing land ownership conflicts between the Simbolon and Marbun clan, which has not yet been resolved.



The communities suspected that here would be the geothermal project site



Want women want ...



"... If this geothermal project is the same as Sarulla then I strongly reject. I've been to Sarulla and seen many people displaced from their lands..." Repinna Marbun.*

Note: there is another geothermal project in Sarulla area in North Sumatra.



"... I've heard about geothermal but don't know what company it is and what it will build. Now the land problem is very tense. Everyone is fighting over land, whether it is from different clan or other family members. The land must be protected so that it is not taken by other people..." said Tinori Pasaribu.

In this case, women in those two villages resist a development of geothermal project in their villages because of concerns about losing their lands as the sources of their livelihoods and other negative impacts would be caused, especially because they have heard and even seen the negative impacts of geothermal projects elsewhere. Even if the project owner or the government might give them a compensation, they do not want to because lands for women means a lot to future generations.

"... I feel geothermal does not need to be in our village because the electricity in Samosir is sufficient. Samosir Island is very small, if it is damaged by the project, the island where we live could sink..." Rosintha Manik

After 36 years the problem of forced displacement is still not resolved

| Project Information | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Name | Kedung Ombo Hydropower and Water Reservoir |
| Location | Covering 3 regencies of Sragen, Boyolali and Grobogan in Central Java |
| Areas | 6,576 hectares composed of water 2,830 hectares and land 3,746 hectares |
| Financial resources | In total USD 283 million loan: from the World Bank in amount of USD 156 million (loan period 20 years), Japan Export Import Bank (JEXIM) in amount of USD 25.2 million, and the rest was financed by the Government of Indonesia |
| Construction period | 1985-1989 |
| Capacity and the use | Hydropower of 22.5 MW. Moreover, the use was planned for irrigation, sweet water farmings, tourism, flood control and water reservoir |
| Status | Launched by former Indonesian dictator, President Soeharto, May 18, 1991 |

Livelihoods on the bank of Kedung Ombo Water Reservoir

The FPAR on Women and Energy was conducted in Gunung Sono, Gilirejo Village, Sragen Regency, Central Java. Gunung Sono, which is located closest to the Kedung Ombo Water Reservoir. It is a village developed by the communities who were forced displaced by the construction of Kedung Ombo Hydropower and Water Reservoir during the 1980s. The village is now inhabited by around 200 families. Currently, the majority of the population work as farmers, labor farmers (87%), cattle breeders and fishers.

The land conditions in Gunung Sono are solid soil, arid, hot and less fertile, so that only certain plants can live, such as cassava, corn, peanuts, chilies, spinach, and sweet potato leaves.

15 women from Gunung Sono who participated in the FPAR, came from Pilang Rembes Village, that was inundated for the hydropower and reservoir project.



Kedung Ombo Hydropower and Water Reservoir. Source: <https://www.fordamof.org/berita/post/2956>



traditional fish farm



harvested corns are sun dried and sell to the market

forced displacement ...



inundating the areas with water to force displace the communities.

Source: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/14672715.1994.10416178>

The process of constructing the Kedung Ombo Hydropower and Water Reservoir was carried out without consultations with and consent from communities, both in the process of eviction and determining the amount of compensation. The communities were forced to move and given compensation for losses which value was not commensurate with the areas of land taken and insufficient to buy new land. The villagers who protested experienced violence from the military, causing trauma to women.

Communities were displaced and forced to find new places to live or to go for transmigration. The one who stayed in the surrounding area, worked together to clear the nearby forest Gunung Sono and moved there until today. However, for at least the first 5 years the communities could not plant at all at that place. They had to buy food or ask for food in other villagers' gardens, and they often ate 'nasi aking' (stale rice that is dried under the hot sun then steamed) to survive.

The construction of the hydropower and water reservoir destroyed communities' water springs and also its water tanks that was used for collecting rain water. The arid condition of Gunung Sono and lack of clean water make it even more difficult for women. During the dry season and the water in the wells becomes dry, women have to walk about 12 times back and forth with small jars (particularly elder women can't carry big water buckets) to other well that still has water, through a damaged and rocky road. Many times they have to wait hours in lines until their turn to fetch the water.

lost of shelters and livelihoods, and impoverished ...

The removal of a traditional communities market for the hydropower construction, make the villagers now have to sell their agricultural products in markets that are farther away from their villages. That old market was the center of women's economic activities before the project came in. Women now do not have social space; walk far away for selling agricultural products and to fetch water, therefore the time for rest, are very limited. In addition to work for earning money, women also have to take care of their families and households, and ensure the availability of food and water at home for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing, and other needs.

The struggle of the communities affected by the construction of the Kedung Ombo Hydropower and Water Reservoir is still continuing. People convey their grievances and demands to the government at the regional and national levels through various means such as actions and dialogues. However, so far the struggle for this movement is still dominated by men. The non-involvement of women in this struggle has resulted in women's interests and problems are not included and addressed.



Taking a bit of rest after doing agricultural activities and looking for grass to feed the animals

access to public services and food are very limited ...

Moreover, it is difficult for the communities to access public facilities due to the remoteness of their village, transport costs and the absence of public transportation. The closest health center has inadequate facilities and the medics are not always available, but still villagers have to walk a long way to get treatment. Hence, the communities rarely have their health checked, even many pregnant women did not have their pregnancy checked. The unavailability of educational facilities in Gunung Sono caused many children to drop out of school. Girls are forced to marry young or entrusted to others. As a result, many women get married at early age. Children who continue their studies have to travel long distances to access education.



when low tide women plants crops (above), but it can be destroyed when high tide (below)

“... When water in the reservoir rises and inundates the plants on the bank, all crops are damaged and we can't harvest them. We are helpless ... ”
Ibu Riska

Although now women start to farm on lands on the bank of the water reservoir by planting corns, cassavas and peanuts, the uncertain condition of the reservoir makes the land unable to be planted at any time. Furthermore, the income from farming is not sufficient for daily living expenses. Usually when the water in the reservoir rises and inundates their crops, women have to look for alternative works such as laborers, seller, or catch wild fishes in the reservoir, or sometimes go into debt from local mobile banks or loan sharks.



Want women want ...

The women of Gunung Sono really hope that the government will pay attention to their condition, including access to adequate health facilities, public transportation, and education, including scholarships for children. In addition, women also hope that the government will pay attention to improving the economy of women, through for example fish processing or sewing training for women who no longer own agricultural land, vegetable planting development programs, availability of agricultural land and development of organic fertilizers, as well as livestock development, including the use of livestock waste for become compost or biogas.



Participants of the FPAR Women and Energy

"... so far the demands have been a lot about compensation and the provision of new land, while health, education and women's economic issues have not included in the common male dominated struggle ..." Ibu Riska

... People were forced to move.... The compensation provided was not enough to buy new land. " Ibu Sunarti



Analyzing their situation and made conclusions



The Conclusion

Those women's experiences with energy projects that come to their lives and livelihoods, show that any project particularly in a massive scale like geothermal, wind farm or hydropower would change the environment, livelihoods and lives of the communities in the surrounding areas. Any problem arises due to this intervention, women will bear the brunt of that.

In most cases, big scales projects come with a determination to be built at any cost. This aggression triggers land and resource grabbing, forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, environmental pollution and destruction and impoverishment of the communities. The arrogance of big scale projects ignores human and women's human rights. Even worse, they become the perpetrators of human and women's rights violations, with support from the government on the name of vital national development projects, or from the financial institutions on the name of low carbon economy for reducing GHGs.

The push for economic transformation, however, is not in line with a transformation in the behavior of the power owners within the states, financial institutions and businesses. On the contrary, it is a business as usual with impacts that showed by experiences of women in this documentation. Clean and renewable energy projects would turn into dirty and destructive projects in the eyes of affected communities.

The economic transformation and its transition to reduce GHGs and to strengthen the resilience against climate change must put primacy on the sustainability of livelihoods and lives of the peoples. Their wisdom and experiences must be the base of decisions in regard to any project intervention - be it for climate, development or investment. That is what women want.

This Executive Summary is based on testimonies of more than 50 women from 5 sites of energy project in Indonesia.

The authors: Risma Umar, Marhaini Nasution and Puspa Dewy compiled the testimonies from the respective site.

Aliza Yuliana wrote this Executive Summary and Titi Soentoro did the illustration.

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