



# **COMPELLED LABOUR AND CLIMATE CHANGE: KEEPING A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**Wiwandari Handayani, Amy Young, Mega Anggraeni**



**KONEKSI RESEARCH COLLABORATION**  
Forced labour and climate change:  
Keeping a focus on women and children

# Background

**Climate change is impacting household finances**, changing in **livelihood, migration** due to environmental changes, **health**, and **education**.

**Environmental change is happening + urbanization/Urban growth** Increasing number of vulnerable people

**Women and children face a “double-burden”** when it comes to climate change. Not only do they face the impacts of a changing climate and extreme weather events, but they also face an increase in child marriages, child/compelled labour, and domestic and family violence.

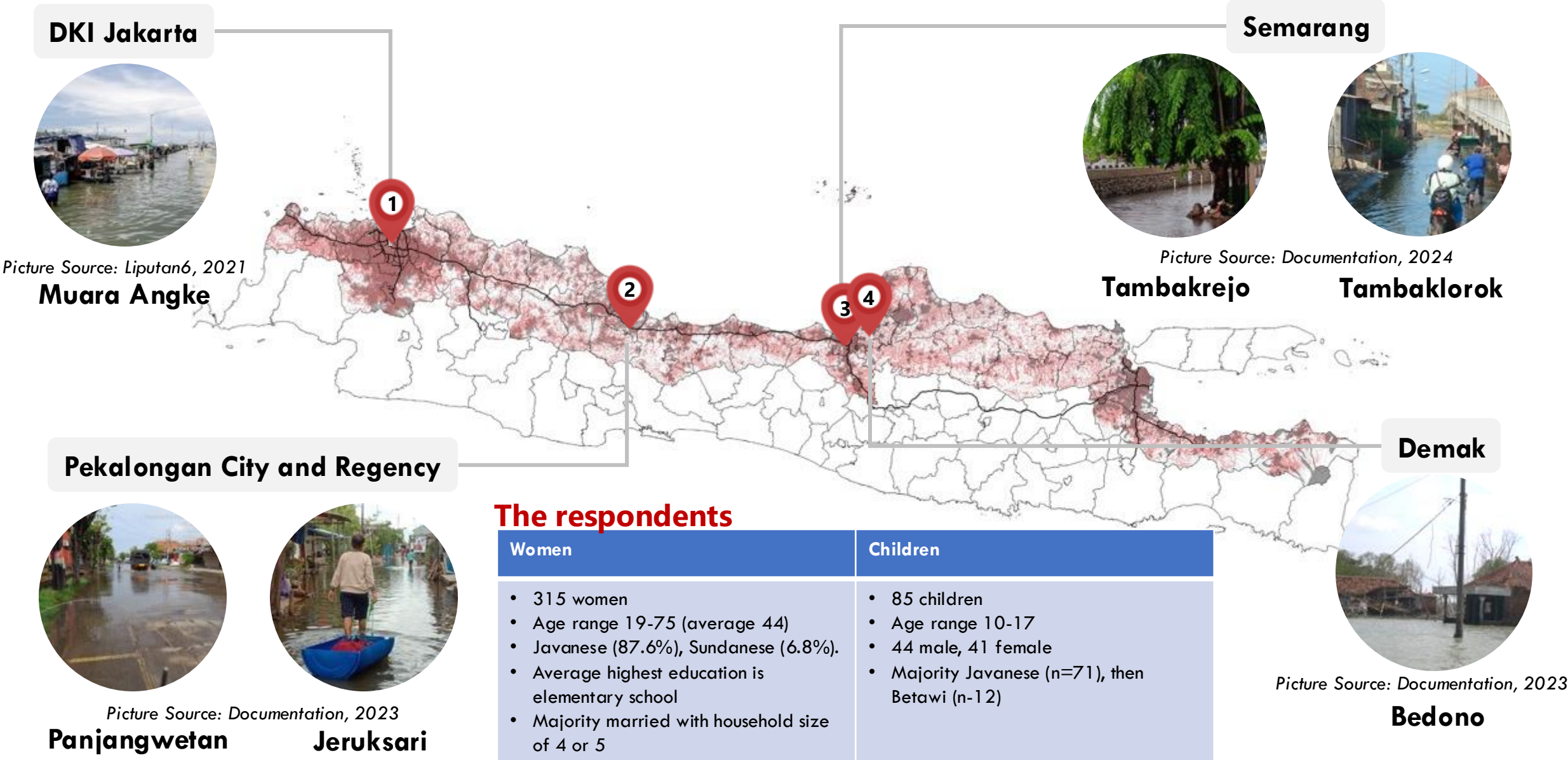
**A better understanding of the policies, initiatives, and experiences of vulnerable women and children in coastal villages** contributes to overcoming the interrelated social impacts of climate change in other coastal areas with similar conditions

This project focuses on compelled labour which we are defining as labour practices that are *socially mandated and which negatively impact wellbeing*. This report focuses on hazardous labour and its health impacts on women and children, as well as working children. While working children can play an important role in family cohesion especially in family-owned businesses, this needs to be balanced by a child's right to education, play and safety.



**KONEKSI RESEARCH COLLABORATION**  
Forced labour and climate change:  
Keeping a focus on women and children

# Vulnerable Urban Area in Northern Java Coastal Area



## The respondents

Women	Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 315 women</li><li>• Age range 19-75 (average 44)</li><li>• Javanese (87.6%), Sundanese (6.8%).</li><li>• Average highest education is elementary school</li><li>• Majority married with household size of 4 or 5</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 85 children</li><li>• Age range 10-17</li><li>• 44 male, 41 female</li><li>• Majority Javanese (n=71), then Betawi (n=12)</li></ul>





(Photo Credit: UNDIP, 2023)

Fisherman Village, Muara Angke Jakarta



(Photo Credit: BRIN, 2024)

Jeruksari Village, Pekalongan



(Photo Credit: UNDIP, 2023)

Bedono Village, Demak



(Photo Credit: UNDIP, 2023)

Tambaklorok, Semarang



# Findings

## Climate Change Impacts

- 80% of women respondents reported that their **household incomes has been impacted** by climate change
- 75% of women's current family **homes had been damaged** by disasters, creating increased costs in repair and causing families to fall into poverty
- Children respondents reported that **flooding disrupts their education** (schools and road are closed due to flooding)

## Impacts on Women

Women and children face a **"double-burden"** when it comes to climate change

All women used their income to provide for their family. Often jobs held by women **are below the minimum wage, under pressure, and lacking adequate health standards.**

**Little protections** for workers in home industries in terms of **workplace health and safety and workplace rights.**

## Impacts on Children

Almost all children who took part in the survey worked (92.8%).

The majority of children indicated that they **worked everyday** (61.4%).

Data highlighted the **risks of early marriage.**

**Underage labour** often occurs because **parents have lost their jobs** due to climate change

# Gendered Impacts

Changes in livelihood see women and children compelled to work in unregulated home industries, including hazardous work environments

Livelihood change can shift gender roles in the household, which can exacerbate drivers of GBV

Physical and mental health challenges reported due to climate change and work impacts

Disrupted access to transportation and education, poverty exacerbated by flooding events

Women did not feel represented in decision making bodies regarding flood mitigation strategies





(Photo Credit: IKUPI, 2024)

Urban Farming in Tambaklorok



(Photo Credit: IKUPI, 2024)

Batik SMEs in Pekalongan



(Photo Credit: IKUPI, 2025)

Women as the Green Mussel Peeler



(Photo Credit: IKUPI, 2024)

Fish Drying



# Current Policy Challenges

1

Disaster Management Law No 24/2007 is an important law to address disaster in Indonesia, but does not categorise sea-level rise and land subsidence as disaster.

2

**Slow onset disaster such as tidal flood has not become a priority for local government.** Most of the response focuses on hard infrastructures with little addressing the social justice issues and other solutions such as nature-based solutions.

3

**No retreat policy is available** to accommodate people who are forced to be relocated because of sea-level rise

4

There is **no integrated development** plan to overcome sea-level rise.

5

There is **no priority scale for responding to the most vulnerable and damaged areas** impacted by sea-level rise in coastal areas.

6

There is **a gap in policy relating to adaptive social security** to accommodate the impacts of climate change.



# Empowering Women and Children: Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change through Adaptive Initiatives – *in situ* adaptation



## Urban farming

Women selling and processing urban farming products



## Waste Bank

- Waste management for sanitation and alternative income for waste bank management
- Supported by NGO



## SMEs organizations

- Product: tea from urban farming, crackers from fish, batik
- In collaboration with NGO, government, & University



(Credit: ACCCRN, 2015)

## Disaster Preparedness Group

Encourage women and youth to participate



## Infrastructure Approach

Grey and green infrastructure by the government



**KONEKSI RESEARCH COLLABORATION**  
Forced labour and climate change:  
Keeping a focus on women and children

# Inclusive Adaptation: Learned from Empowering Women and Children

## Practicability

- The involvement of **women in decision-making** is important for exploring the potential role of empowerment and capacity-building processes as part of climate change adaptation
- **Alternate livelihoods** can be an **empowering source of income** for women and children, providing income from urban farming and waste banks leads to less reliance on hazardous labour conditions.

## Policy

- The government needs to prepare a **holistic Climate Change Law and revise the Disaster Management Law**, which accommodates the impacts of SLR and policy options for effective adaptation to **SLR and land subsidence**.
- **Adaptive local-led programs** need to be included in **adaptation strategies and adaptive social security planning and policy**.
- **Social protections and social adaptation policies** need to include a recognition of the **impact of climate change**

## Inclusivity

**Collaboration and support** from stakeholders (government, private sector, universities, and NGOs) in the form of **financing and capacity building** accelerate the process of community empowerment.

i.e: women group in Tambaklorok, Semarang got support from energy provider company, university, private sector, and NGO on urban farming development, SMEs product, and waste bank



**KONEKSI RESEARCH COLLABORATION**  
Forced labour and climate change:  
Keeping a focus on women and children



**THANK YOU**



**KONEKSI RESEARCH COLLABORATION**  
Forced labour and climate change:  
Keeping a focus on women and children