

# Snapshot: Strengthening women's participation in public decision-making forums in East Sumba

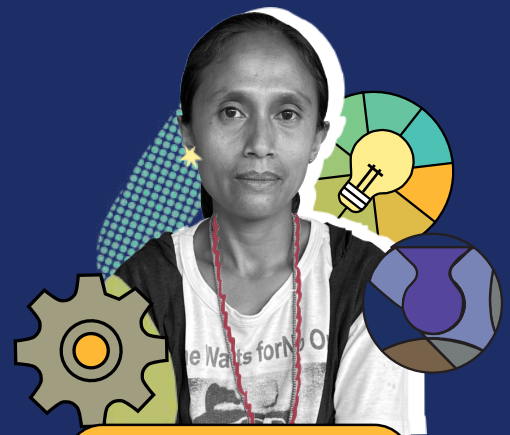
*Testimonies from indigenous women from Mau Ramba village, East Sumba district, on their experiences participating in the Women's Forum (Forum Perempuan) and hamlet planning meetings (Musyawarah Dusun or Musdus). This work was supported by Bumi Lestari, Kemitraan's local Mitra. These testimonies were gathered on 5 December 2023 during an INKLUSI Secretariat monitoring visit.*



**Naema May Nggiri**

“ Previously, women weren't considered. Women were just behind the scenes, only taking care of the children, only cooking for their husbands, for family members, that's how it is. If there were meetings like this, we rarely participated. Women had no value ... But now with this program, through this Women's Forum, we're somewhat able to express opinions, while previously we couldn't. Previously, we weren't at the front, we weren't brave – we were shy. So we're happy with the Women's Forum. We can express ourselves, we can convey our ideas, we're given the opportunity. ”

“ Previously there were Musdus, but women were only in the kitchen. Only the men sat at the front. Only since Bumi Lestari came have we sat at the front and made proposals during the Musdus [at the village office in August 2023]. All of us women came along ... [I feel] like now women have progressed, that we have our own feelings, and ... that maybe we as women can move forward. ”



**Salomi Uru Hida**

“ We from the Women's Forum are happy. We women can also attend as equals. We're free to attend. Our husbands are also very supportive of us joining the Women's Forum ... We're happy that our husbands allow us to talk too. ”



**Elan Rambu Jati**

“ I'm happy because previously we couldn't talk at the front. When we have this group, the Women's Forum, we can sit at the front. ”



**Jera Ana Ndika**