

Exploring female-headed households' sanitation needs, Tasikmalaya

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SNV

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About the author and research team:

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<u>Jackie Shaw</u> (IDS Research Fellow) played an essential role co-facilitating this research project in Tasikmalaya and providing vital mentoring support to Elaine during this project and others. More information on her work and resources can be found in the acknowledgements and reference section at the end of this document.

Staff from SNV Indonesia, local translators and the eight research participants were all essential to making this project happen. At the end of this paper they are fully acknowledged.

Front cover image:

Photo caption: Participants and a SNV staff member behind the camera whilst recording video footage around Awiluar village. The women are in the roles of camera person, sound manager and floor manager. SNV staff member is facilitating the activity whilst being accompanied by Jackie Shaw. (Awiluar village, Tasikmalaya, June 2022). Photo credit: Ai Tina Agustina.

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Introduction

Female-headed households often get left behind in water, sanitation and hygiene programming and policy. This learning paper presents the initial questions and findings from the participatory video research project, 'Sanitation, health and livelihood issues for female-headed households in Tasikmalaya', along with recommendations for action. The aim of the project was to ensure that the specific needs and long-term interests of female-headed households in Awiluar village, Tasikmalaya, a peri-urban community in west-Java, Indonesia, are better met going forward.

There has been a lot of great research into the value of using participatory video with marginalised groups to bring their perspectives, stories and needs into development programming and policy. In this project, eight women from female-headed households were encouraged to explore and talk about the everyday challenges they face and ideas for solutions. This being participatory research, the themes were largely determined by the participants (sanitation, health and livelihoods), however, the focus on sanitation was obviously influenced by the Sanitation Learning Hub's (SLH) and SNV Indonesia's agendas. This area in Tasikmalaya was selected by SNV for the research project as there are significant sanitation and hygiene issues requiring attention from various stakeholders. The initial stage of the project was conducted in partnership with SNV Indonesia from 2-16 June 2022 as part of the WASH SDG programme which aims to support Tasikmalaya City, west-Java Province (and other two cities in Lampung Provinces) to achieve city-wide sanitation services that are sustainable, climate resilient, and equitable for all people.

Figure 1 below outlines the key steps in the participatory video research project which the findings detailed in this document emerged from. Further details on the approach can be found in the accompanying learning paper, 'Using participatory video for empowerment in sanitation programming'; this describes key activities involved in the participatory video research approach and their value to programming. It aims to spark sanitation and hygiene researchers' interest in the potential for using participatory video, especially in participatory action research projects.

Figure 1: Key steps implemented in the participatory video project

Participant selection to identify eight women from female-headed households to participate in the research.

Introductory training on participatory video method and process for SNV team, interpretors and three local government staff.

Participatory video research process with the women. This included activities to develop: personal confidence, group trust, team work, collective and visual storytelling, reflective enquiry, communication skills and technical skills using audio-visual equipment.

Completion of the video <u>Masalah Sanitasi bagi Kepala Rumah Tangga Wanita:</u>
<u>Sanitation issues for female headed households</u>. This video was one of the key outputs from the research process produced by the women with support from facilitators. Its purpose is to communicate their priority messages around sanitation, health and livelihoods.

Video screenings and discussions, first with six local government staff and then with 30 people from the local community. More community screening are planned in October 2023.

Box 1. Profile of the women who participated in the project

The eight women who participated in the project are from Awiluar peri-urban village in Tasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia.

All are over 40 and all single through either the death of or separation from their husbands. All women support their families; they all have children and grandchildren. All the women need to work to pay for their own and their families basic needs: food, water and medicine. All are practicing Muslims, which is the predominant religion in Java.

Many of the women owned their own fishponds where they tried to cultivate catfish for a living; some made clothes and household items; some sold food around the village; one provided massage therapy; and another worked in the rice fields, among many other ad hoc jobs.

All women had a toilet within their home, however the faecal waste from these went to fishponds, open drains, rice fields and rivers.



Photo caption: All eight participants, SNV staff, the interpreter and SLH/IDS staff in group "selfie" photo. Photo credit: Annisa Pramesti Putri.

2. Findings and reflections

As it is the early stages of this project, findings presented are 'light-touch'. Although deeper long-term analysis is not yet possible, we feel this case study has value for various stakeholders, especially those in Tasikmalaya. We hope that presenting a snapshot of the current findings and recommendations will provide encouragement for all stakeholders to take action.

This project aimed to fit into SNV's longer-term <u>WASH SDG programme</u>: in particular working towards the goal to increase the involvement of vulnerable groups, including woman from female-headed households, in WASH decision making activities. It was hoped that this project would add a fresh approach in supporting vulnerable groups to express their voice.

Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) principles are mainstreamed through all SNV programmes since it is one of their core values to leave no-one behind. Although the WASH SDG programme formally finished in September 2022, SNV's attention to GESI, including female-headed households, will remain in all current and future programmes.

The research findings below are presented by priority themes that emerged through the process.

Priority WASH issues identified by women

Houses surrounded by water contaminated with faeces:

"This is my neighbour's faecal waste pipe where the water ends up in my fishpond [...] now my catfish always die. Even I told them don't do so, they kept doing it. They are so stubborn, and I am so sick of it. Now my fishpond smells horrible." (Woman from female-headed household)

All women had a latrine within their home, however the faecal waste from these went to fishponds, open drains, rivers, and rice fields surrounding their houses.

For the women who own fishponds these are located directly outside of their houses, in some instances neighbours are piping their faecal waste directly into these fishponds.

The women defined the main impacts of being surrounded by contaminated water as:

- The environment smells horrible.
- Their catfish aren't healthy enough to eat and/or sell.
- That the water is dirty so should not be used for consuming or cleaning activities.

The video shows that a couple of the women managed to grow catfish in their fishponds, which they have made into food products and sold. They don't eat the fish themselves. The Indonesia health ministry have told the public to stop eating fish grown in latrine fishponds. It has effectively been banned. The women felt bad about selling fish products but didn't want to stop as it is an important income-generating activity that they need to survive.

We talked about tools and methods for desludging fishponds but most of the women did not want to do this as it is a very unpleasant job.

The video also shows that many people regularly touch contaminated water, for example, to wash their clothes. This issue was also brought up in the research process where it was revealed that some of the women felt that if the water looks clear then it is ok to touch, but not to drink or bathe in.



Photo caption: Fishpond outside of house in Awiluar village. Faecal waste from the household is piped directly into fishponds, open drains, rivers and ricefields. **Photo credit:** Elaine Mercer

Lack of access to clean water:

"Some people who claim to be from the health department sell medicine for cleaning up the water. I'm being forced to buy it. I bought it but I don't not use it for my water because I'm afraid of the illness I get if I use the medicine." (Woman from female-headed household)

There are boreholes in the village that provide access to water, but this water is not considered totally clean; women who drink this water boil it before being consumed. Some of the women do not trust this water to drink, so buy bottled water instead. Some have been sold medicine that claims to clean the water but do not trust it. All the women use the borehole water for bathing. Some women have access to boreholes with lids and some have access to boreholes that do not have lids. Boreholes with lids are preferable as rubbish cannot fall into them so easily.

Priority non-WASH issues identified by women

Chronic health problems:

"I have trouble with my stomach, and I also have high blood pressure." (Woman from female-headed household)

"When I have the rheumatic pain, I drink traditional medicine." (Woman from female-headed household)

Many of the women complained of chronic illness such as recurring headaches, stomach pains/sickness and joint aches. The reasons for ill-health were varied for the women. From conversation with some of the women there were indications that religious and cultural beliefs are understood to affect a person's health. It was interesting was that poor sanitation and hygiene was not given as a reason for ill-health by any of the women.

Rubbish everywhere:

"There is garbage and a messy shard of glass behind my house. No body cares about it. So I volunteer myself to clean it up until my hands hurt." (Woman from female-headed household)

Refuse waste is also a big problem in the village with few or no rubbish collections being made and people discarding their rubbish carelessly around the environment.

Anxiety and instability (often finance-related):

"Even though I'm sick, I still must go for living.

Because if I'm not go for it, my six-family members and I will have nothing to eat." (Woman from female-headed household)

The shift from previously being a housewife to the main income provider, having to find a lot more paid work to support their families, was very stressful and anxiety-inducing for most women.

Many women work in several jobs/income-generating activities but barely have enough money to feed their families.

Many women have quite serious health complaints and only a few of them had health insurance to help cover the costs.

Many women were very sad about being without a husband to financially, practically and/or emotionally support them.

One woman had experienced harassment from community members in relation to their marital status/previous marriages.

Solutions suggested by the women

The challenges outlined above, and the solutions presented below form the basis for the narrative of the video produced by the women.

The women need:

- · Access to funds to start or support their businesses.
- · Financial support when they are ill.
- · Neighbours to stop open defecating.
- · Neighbours to stop using their fishponds as sewers.
- Free septic tanks from the government.
- · Septic tanks that are emptied regularly.
- · Fishponds to be clean.
- Grow healthy fish to eat and sell.
- · Access to more clean water.
- Trash to be collected by government services.

We discussed the possibility of the women buying septic tanks, but this was ruled out by all of them as too expensive. Pit-latrines were ruled out by SNV as the water table is too high and soil too unstable for them.



Photo caption: The women work together in a participatory activity to create a 'problem tree' map of their individual and shared problems and to think about possible solutions. Photo credit: Annisa Pramesti Putri.

Local government reactions to the women's priorities

Introducing the project and method to local government officials in Tasikmalaya (3-4 June 2022)

During the introductory training, local government stakeholders revealed several WASH priorities from their perspective. Within this session we learnt that there is a clear urgency from the Health Department in Tasikmalaya to improve sanitation:

"It must be noted that from 69 sub-districts in Tasikmalaya City we are only reach seven sub-districts who have declared themselevs open defecation free (ODF). In percent, this is only just ten percent. The rest percent of it, there must be a massive acceleration." (Local government official, Health Department)

We also learnt that the local government understand and are concerned about the serious, long-term health implications for women and children especially, of local sanitation problems in the community:

"Stunting[...]is also closely related to sanitation because if we merely address nutrition in children, if the sanitation system is not fixed, the youngster will not only became ill but also their growth and development will get down again. As a matter of fact, we require departmental synergy and cooperation to address the stunting issue in Tasikmalaya." (Local government official, Health Department)

"...stunting can also be caused by poor water sanitation. Currently, as we know, particularly in Tasikmalaya. Tasikmalaya's water is found to be 60 percent contaminated." (Local government official)

Video screening and dialogue with local government in Kecamatan Purbaratu (15 June 2022)



Photo caption: The women with SLH/SNV facilitators & interpretor working with local government officials at screening & dialogue. Photo credit: Ai Tina Agustina

Following the research and production phases of the project, SNV invited local government officials to watch and discuss the video. Watching the women's video was an opportunity to increase local government understanding of the lived experience of people in their area with respect to some of these priorities. Below are the significant responses by the local government officials to the four key questions asked during the dialogue following the film screening.

What does the video show?

- "The reality of people's lives"
- "Community life with environmental conditions that are very worrying"
- "Daily life of the women and the state of the surrounding environment, including life experiences and complaints about environmental conditions, especially the problem of water contamination by disposal."
- "They can convey their complaints."

What did you feel when you watched it?

- "It turns out that the burden of mothers is bigger."
- "Sad and very touching when we see the conditions of life they live."
- "What we feel after watching is a sense of concern and we become more aware of the conditions they face, both their daily conditions and their environment."
- "Glad the participants can make videos."

What did you learn about the women's lives?

- "Fortitude and patience in living life."
- "What we learn, we will be more caring and have empathy to listen to their aspirations."
- "They need government assistance to increase their income."

How can we work together to solve the problems?

As this was a more involved question requiring the government officials and the women to talk together about solutions, this session was longer with people breaking into four groups and presenting back the main ideas. Below are the key messages from these presentations.

"If the cities can report it directly to the website it can be quicker because sometimes they also have to do some procedural things, like they have to go to the head of the village and then someone else and then go to the chief of the district, which is here. So when the people can do it themselves through labor.go.id, it hopefully can be quicker to proceed." (Local government official)

Significant issues raised in the meeting that could be reported included:

- Report trash build-up: The video shows that trash is also a problem in the village with piles of trash building up and no regular rubbish collection. A local government official suggested the women report this to the General Development Institute.
- Report sexual harassment: The women were sensitively encouraged to report any cases of sexual harassment or abuse/violence towards women to the Institute of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. A direct phone number was shared.
- Report poorly maintained boreholes: a local government official asked the women to report badly maintained boreholes.
- Build mutual trust: Local government official and community members need to build trust and cooperation between each other:

"We have to have cooperation with each other, how to make the environment clean and also have the individual consciousness about throwing the rubbish to the proper place." (Local government official)

- Officials like the communication method: Most government officials were impressed with the professional quality of the video and the clear messages communicated in it.
- Direction on significant issues still required:
 Although, the local government officials recognised and agreed with many of the challenges and some solutions that the video presents, they offered no definite commitments or solutions to the women's requests. These included:
 - Accessing free communal septic tanks: The government officials said they know that communal septic tanks are needed to address open defecation and raw sewage being piped into fishponds, open sewers and rivers; however, they gave no advice on how to access them. They did not talk about the need for people to access sustainable sanitation and hygiene systems or a need for educating the community about the health dangers of open defecation, including raw sewage in water.
 - Accessing clean water: There is often a clean water shortage, especially in the summer as Tasikmalaya is high altitude, and any rainfall runs to lower regions. One official talked about the need for large tanks to collect rainwater, more boreholes and for community members to look after

- boreholes better. No further advice was given.
- Obtaining a business loan: One official said the government will help the women to get loans from bank, but no further advice was offered.

The wider community's reflections on the women's priorities

Key issues that came up in the screening of the women's video with neighbours in Singkup village, Tasikmalaya, on 17 August 2022, included:

The need for:

- Money to invest in toilets, septic tanks, garage delivery track/storage and business.
- Information and education on solid waste segregation (organic with non-organic).
- Information, education and socialisation on keeping the ponds, rivers and environment safe and sanitary.
- Neighbourhood cleanliness people need to not litter and there needs to be regular rubbish collection.
- · To build toilets.
- · To build septic tanks.

In response to seeing the piles of trash building up in the video, at the community screening, people said they would like funds to invest in a garbage delivery truck and storage.

Tina (SNV Tasikmalaya) who facilitated the screening and discussion notes:

"Other people apart from the first 8 women from female headed household apparently also feels to have similar issue regarding their WASH problem. Need to engage the specific city office to have solve the problem through their activity plan."

3. The value of using participatory video



Photo caption: The women record each others' statements for the video, using the exercise called 'edited statements'. Photo credit: Jackie Shaw

The participatory video methodology used for this research project not only led to powerful insights into the women's lives, but it also had a big impact on the women's confidence, group bonding and their ability and motivation to communicate clearly on priority issues in their lives. For more information drawn from this project on the values, challenges, and recommendations of using participatory video for action research, please read this accompanying learning paper 'Using participatory video for empowerment in sanitation programming'.

One the second day the group video recorded a quick round of expectations, here are some of the women's comments:

- "I would like to play and learn together with all of these women"
- · "I want to seek wider insight."
- "I want a good knowledge, even though I don't know anything."
- "I want to know something even if I'm just a fool."
- · "I wish to know things that are useful for me."
- · "I want to have some extensive knowledge."
- "I wish for great wisdom and blessings."

Women's quotes at the end of the process included:

"I'm happy for this project, for this event. I'm more confident to say something because before I was very, very quiet."

"I am so thankful for having a chance to meet the government and also talking about sanitation and also thank you guys for being the facilitator and support me to be confident as well."

"After I meet you and learning together, I know everything like how to make a movie and how to use the equipment. I don't feel like the old woman, I feel like a modern woman."

"I am speechless. I am beyond happy, like very, very happy. Because of this event. Starting from learning how to operate camera, talking about sanitation, delivering opinion. It is amazing."

SNV Indonesia and interpreter quotes:

"I'm very joyful having these women become a little bit braver, to speak what they think." (Tina, SNV facilitator)

"It's a very different experience for them [the women] being asked their opinion on something. And, you know, having to give her opinion on something is, is actually a big deal." (Lisan, local translator)

"At their age usually, people don't want to do anything new. They don't want to get out of their comfort zone, but they really did and I think it is really amazing." (Ira, local translator) Local government officials in Tasikmalaya not only permitted the project to go ahead but were keen to learn about the methodology and the potential it has for improving policy. Four government officials attended a 1.5 day introductory training on participatory video methodology prior to the women's workshop. It helped them realise the importance of building participants' confidence to speak up as well as the power of team work to improve the quality of a project.

 The three officials who attended the 1.5 day training at the start of the project were very enthusiastic about the methodology especially in terms of empowering marginalised women:

"It helps the women to be involved when there will be decision-making, because the women usually are feeling unconfident and they have no room; now they have voice to deliver what is their thought[...]so they can deliver their opinion, they can deliver their insight." (Local government official)

 At the dialogue the women informally talked with the officials about the value of the participatory video process, the confidence it has given them and how they worked together as a team to share their concerns and priorities in a really engaging way:

"I feel more confident after the project than before, I really feel there is a development inside myself, now I am a lot more confident." (Woman from female-headed household)



Photo caption: The women record location footage and statements around the village. Photo credit: Jackie Shaw

4. Recommendations for action

Through the research process some of the sanitation, health and livelihood priorities identified by the women have been discussed by SNV Indonesia staff, SLH, local government officials, and some community members, with some ideas for solutions emerging. However, many of the issues have not yet been properly addressed and need to be pushed forward.

Below are the Sanitation Learning Hub and SNV Indonesia's suggestions on next steps for action.

Priority issue: The women want their neighbours to stop open defecating, including using their fishponds, rivers and rice fields as sewers.

Action: Report all findings to the government

- The women and SNV Indonesia need to report all the findings raised in the video, the dialogue and community discussions to the Institute of Information and Communication website lapor.go.id or Whatsapp group – as suggested by the local government officials.
- The women and SNV need to raise awareness with the community about the complaint mechanisms and share the numbers, websites and WhatsApp group where they can report incidents.

Action: Community engagement on the health risks of open defecation (including contact with contaminated water)

The scientific link between touching contaminated water and then orally contracting water-borne diseases does not seem to be known by the women. Beyond well-researched health impacts such as diarrhoea and cholera, inadequate sanitation and hygiene have been linked to several neglected tropical diseases, undernutrition and stunting. Read more here.

Generally, there is a need for community education around the dangers of touching water contaminated by faeces.

• Encourage behaviour change around handwashing practices: This might be a simple and cheap way for the women to improve their health. It would involve promoting regular handwashing with soap and clean water at crucial moments, i.e., after going to the toilet and after touching contaminated water. SNV has developed several information, education, and communication resources about hygiene behaviour change activities. It is recommended that these are used

by eight women from female-headed households and the Awiluar Village chief to start with. SNV could then support the development of tracking or monitoring tools with Environmental Health Staff under the Health Office. Later these resources could be used by other relevant agencies to encourage behaviour change more broadly in the community. Some barriers to consider are a lack of good quality handwashing facilities in the village. Effective handwashing would require regular access to clean water from either rainwater capture (which was not generally being utilised) or boreholes, as well as soap.

- Health tests: Considering many of the women suffer with recurring headaches, stomach pains and sickness, it could be worth investigating if these symptoms are linked to poor sanitation. Medical tests would help to identify any illnesses.
- Community triggering: SNV could collaborate with key agencies to do community triggering on the link between health and poor sanitation and hygiene, in which Health Office and Woman Empowerment Office are recommended. Within this it would be important to explore what shapes people's belief around ill-health and wellbeing. From the first phase of the research project there were clear indications that religious and cultural beliefs are understood to affect a person's health. These beliefs would need to be carefully explored in relation to scientific reasoning, so as not to undermine their significance.
- Hold government to account: SNV and the women need to hold the local government officials to account using the link between poor sanitation and stunting, which the officials themselves stated that they are very concerned about but offered no advice on. SNV and/or the women could do some research in the community on the link between health and sanitation and present this back to the local government. Participatory methods would be encouraged.
- Community video screenings and research:
 More screenings of the women's video and more
 participatory discussions throughout the village
 and across the community is likely to reveal how
 widespread this problem is and provide evidence to
 present to local government. The women can learn
 how to facilitate these discussions through training
 and accompaniment by SNV.
- Participatory planning: Wider community, SNV with other relevant NGOs/CSOs, could request a meeting with the local government officials with a focus on creating a community-wide open defecation free (ODF) plan together. This might put pressure on government to act. SNV could facilitate this using participatory methods.
- Media engagement: SNV will promote media engagement and link this to City Communication and Information Office to share stories on the need to improve sanitation, highlighting the link to health.

Priority issue: The women want free septic tanks (and a regular emptying service) from the government.

Actions:

- Honest conversations with local government: Septic tanks are clearly an important part of the strategy for SNV Indonesia in progress towards ODF status in Taskimalaya. However, if the government are not prepared to give poorer people septic tanks, there needs to be some other strategies in place. It seems that a very honest conversation needs to be had between SNV and local government officials to understand the likelihood of the women getting free septic tanks. If this is low, then they need to discuss all other possible routes forward with them looking at short, mid and long-term solutions.
- Set realistic expectations with women: Even if the women do get free septic tanks, it will still take time for the rest of the community to become free from open defection. This means the fishponds and the environment in general are likely to be contaminated for quite some time unless a community-wide approach to ODF is taken. Some of the women talked about leasing out the septic tank to neighbours and everyone contributing some money for the tanks to be emptied regularly.

Priority issue: The women want to grow healthy fish to eat and sell.

Nothing was mentioned about this in any of the meetings. It surprised me that this was not discussed at the dialogue with the local government official as some of the women were selling fish unsafely out of necessity.

Growing fish in ponds where household faecal matter is piped, is common in Vietnam, Bangladesh and other parts of southeast Asia. Guidance says it can be done safely but there are strict guidelines that need to be adhered to. For example, Fish Pond (Aquaculture): tools for sustainable sanitation and water management. Also, if the fish are not acceptable for human consumption, they can be a valuable source of protein for other high-value carnivores (like shrimp) or converted into fishmeal for chickens. All guidance says that washing hands and clothes in the water is problematic for health.

In the research discussions the main solution the women saw for achieving clean fishponds was to have septic tanks. Having a septic tank would help stop the ponds becoming overfilled with faecal matter but it seems that some of the waste could be safely consumed by the fish.

Actions:

• Tailored guidance on aquaculture: Giving the women basic guidance on making the process safer would be valuable as they are going to continue to sell fish even when the government tells them not to, as they are desperate. It might be difficult for the women to

follow guidance that has not been tailored for their needs and context, but it is worth considering. Local government and SNV could further follow up these findings and set up a guidance with the lead of the respective office.

Priority issue: The women need access to more clean water.

Actions:

- Follow up with Chief of Purbaratu District about their ideas for rainwater harvesting and new boreholes.
- Tests on the quality of the water in boreholes should be a priority.
- Wider community and women to report poorly maintained boreholes through the website/WhatsApp.
- Clean water is now a priority issue for SNV Indonesia so they could take the lead on this and put pressure on the local government.
- SNV and/or the women could do some community research on the need for clean water, and challenges and innovations in accessing it. This would be useful to gather and present to local government officials.

Priority issue: The women need access to funds to start or support their businesses. Also, to cover time off work when ill.

Action:

 SNV could follow up with local government official Chief of Singkup Village on behalf of the women and find out what the next steps are for getting a loan and what the interest is. It was clear from the community screening that other people could benefit from a lowinterest loan too.

Priority issue: The women want the trash to be collected by government services.

Actions:

- SNV and village level officials should support the women to use the website and WhatsApp group to report the trash problem and to contact Chief of Singkup Village directly.
- SNV and the women should submit the ideas that have come out of the community screening about people wanting funds to invest in a garbage delivery truck and storage. It seems that given the space and equipment the community could directly deal with this issue.
- SNV could do a training on solid waste segregation, or put pressure of the local government to provide this.



Acknowledgements

- Jackie Shaw and Elaine Mercer from the Institute of Development Studies facilitated the participatory video research process. Elaine Mercer authored this paper. Many thanks to Mimi Coultas, Alice Webb, Naomi Vernon and Annisa Pramesti Putri for editorial support.
- Extra special thanks to the eight women from female-headed households from Awiluar village, Tasikmalaya, for being brave, generous and enthusiast participatory video research participants.
- Many thanks to Annisa Pramesti Putri, SNV Indonesia, who was essential to the conception, planning, logistics, facilitation, interpretation and research support for this project.
- Many thanks to Ai Tina Agustina from, SNV Tasikmalaya, who provided essential local logistical, facilitation and research support.
- Many thanks to Zahara Lestari, Lisan Kyrana and Roisatul Chumaidah who provided excellent interpretation and research support.
- Many thanks also to Ahman Dadang Hidayat and Satria Yogi Sanjaya from SNV Tasikmalaya also played important roles in logistics, coordination and research support.
- Special thanks to Jackie Shaw (IDS Research Fellow) for her expert facilitation, participatory research and mentoring skills. Jackie is a social psychologist with expertise in the use of visual and performative methods to drive and mediate participatory action research, community development and social change processes. She is a participatory video pioneer and co-wrote the first definitive participatory video handbook (1997) and has been using participatory video in many diverse contexts around the world since 1984 and training practitioners globally since the early 90s. Her current approach has been developed from her research into learning how to navigate the inherent development challenges more ethically and effectively.

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Please visit the Sanitation Learning Hub's collection on <u>Sanitation and Health</u> for detailed information and practical guidance addressing many of the sanitation and health issues raised in this paper.

SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 17

SLH Learning Paper

Exploring female-headed households' sanitation needs, Tasikmalaya

Female-headed households often get left behind in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming and policy. This SLH Learning Paper presents findings and recommendations for action, from the participatory video research project, 'Sanitation, health and livelihood issues for female-headed households in Tasikmalaya'. The project supported eight women in Awiluar village, Tasikmalaya, (a peri-urban community in west-Java, Indonesia), to explore the challenges they face and ideas for solution using a participatory video process.

The process included activities to develop personal confidence, teamwork, collective and visual storytelling, reflective enquiry, communication skills and audio-visual technical skills. The women collectively created a video to communicate their sanitation, health and livelihood priorities, which was screened with local government officials and community members promoting vital dialogue and encouraging action. The aim of the project was to ensure that the specific needs and long-term interests of female-headed households are better met going forward.

Further details on the approach can be found in the accompanying SLH Learning Paper, 'Using participatory video for empowerment in sanitation programming'; this describes key activities involved and their value to programming. It aims to spark sanitation and hygiene researchers' interest in the potential for using participatory video.





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Citation: Mercer, E. (2023) 'Exploring female-headed households' sanitation needs, Tasikmalaya', SLH Learning Paper 17, The Sanitation Learning Hub, Brighton: IDS, DOI: 10.19088/SLH.2023.015

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ISBN: 978-1-80470-148-5

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This document has been financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarily share the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its contents rests entirely with the authors.

