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AUSTRALIA INDONESIA  
HEALTH SECURITY  
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## Summary

# Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Profile

In East Nusa Tenggara (Nusa Tenggara Timur: NTT)  
Province, Indonesia

[www.aihsp.or.id](http://www.aihsp.or.id)





## The Australia Indonesia Partnership for Health Security (AIHSP) work area in NTT Province.



### Background

Many research results and reports have found that a person's health condition is a personal matter and can be influenced by the social and economic context in which he or she lives. Realising this, the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) in East Nusa Tenggara (*Nusa Tenggara Timur*: NTT) Province is trying to understand the social and economic context in society to develop health security programs and activities that are sensitive and responsive to the conditions of society. These aspects encompass a wide range of groups—including but not limited to women, men, children, adults, elderly, disability, ethnicity, religion, distinct geographical locations, and more.

The Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Profile in NTT Province is developed to provide data that serves as valuable resource for shaping health security policies. These policies are intended to be sensitive and accommodate diverse groups including those previously mentioned who are at risk of being marginalised by existing healthcare programs. To gain insight into these distinct groups, it is imperative to compile data that is disaggregated based on gender, age, and disability. This disaggregated data is essential to comprehend the multifaceted diversity within society and, consequently, to ensure that policies are formulated in an inclusive and equitable manner for all stakeholders. AIHSP strongly advocates for the development of policies based on data disaggregated by gender, age, and disability with the ultimate goal of establishing inclusive health security policies that leave no one behind in the provision of human and animal health services in NTT.

### Methodology

Data collection was carried out through secondary data from several government agencies such as: Health Office, Animal Husbandry Office, Social Affairs Office, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Services, Education Services, and Statistics Indonesia (*Badan Pusat Statistik*: BPS). It also sourced relevant GEDSI issues in three AIHSP working areas in NTT: Belu, West Manggarai, and Southwest Sumba Districts. Primary data was collected in Belu District and South Central Timor (*Timor Tengah Selatan*: TTS). Belu District was selected for primary data collection due to its potential to provide valuable insights into the community's context regarding both human and animal health. Furthermore, it was chosen to represent border areas between countries, which are also areas prone to the spread of Zoonotic diseases. Due to the rabies outbreak in TTS, the district was included in the research to gain insight into rabies outbreak cases. Primary data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews with relevant community members and Focus Group Discussions.



## General Overview

**Population:** Based on BPS data in 2022, the population of NTT is 5,466,365 with almost the same percentage of men as women (M: 49.90 per cent; F: 50.10 per cent). Interestingly, there are slightly more women of productive age (F: 50.28 per cent; M: 49.12 per cent), but their labour force participation rate is lower than men (F: 45.88 per cent; M: 54.12 per cent).

**Livelihood:** According to BPS, among people who are 15 years old above and are working in 2022, there are 51.48 per cent of men and 46.87 per cent of women worked in the primary sector including agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, while 15.00 per cent of men and 19.05 per cent of women work in the secondary sector including construction work, processing industry, and procurement of electricity, gas, and water resources. About 33.52 per cent men and 34.08 per cent women work in the tertiary sector covering the services industry such as: wholesale and retail trade, automotive and motorbike repairs, transportation and logistics, accommodation, food and beverage services, as well as education, health, and social services.

**Women undertake significantly more unpaid work than men (F: 70.85 per cent; M: 29.15 per cent).** One of the types of unpaid work is taking care of the household 83.82 per cent of which is carried out by women.<sup>1</sup> Based on the main status of work, it is socially believed that men have a better main status of work compared to women. This condition is also influenced by social norms in society which construct men as the main breadwinners and family head, with women as additional breadwinners and housewives. This situation has an impact on the lower economic status of women compared to men.

**Education:** In NTT, there is a slightly higher rate of literacy rate in Latin letters among men compared to women. The urban–rural and male–female literacy gap at the district level is shown in Table 1.

District/Province	Residence		Sex		Total
	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	
Belu	98.28	95.71	96.82	95.94	96.37
West Manggarai	100.00	99.30	99.81	98.98	99.40
Southwest Sumba	98.29	89.23	91.53	89.23	90.42
NTT	99.19	96.60	97.43	97.15	97.29

Table 1. Percentage of Literate People aged 15–59 by Place of Residence, Sex, and District in NTT province (2022)<sup>2</sup>

**The Net Enrollment Rate (NER) in NTT for the year 2022 is highest at the elementary school level.** The percentage decreases at higher educational levels as follows:

- Elementary School Level (SD/MI/Package A): 95.40 per cent
- Junior High School Level (SMP/MTs/Package B): 73.87 per cent
- Senior High School Level (SMA/SMK/MA/Package C): 65.52 per cent

<sup>1</sup> NTT society adheres to a patrilineal and matrilineal kinship system but the tradition of looking after the tribe is carried out by men. This illustrates that the decision-making role in the family is on the men's side and has implications for a major role in safeguarding family/tribal rights/assets for men and a domestic and minor role for women. This condition has implications for daily life and the division of roles in the household and society, which places men in major decision-making roles and family care roles for women.

<sup>2</sup> Education Statistics of Nusa Tenggara Timur Province 2022, p. 103.



**Consequently, along with the decrease of NER, the school dropout rate increases especially at the junior and senior high school levels.** Research on the factors causing dropouts at the high school level, includes: (i) there are still assumptions in rural areas that girls do not need to further their education to a higher level.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, more boys are dropping out of school, mostly in rural areas, as they tend to follow their parents especially the father's role as the breadwinner in the family and, therefore, drop out from school to work in the farm or as a construction worker or ojek driver; (ii) the distance between students' house and school; (iii) The level of education of the head of the household influences the decision to send their children to school. Low-level education of the head of the household correlates with the decision not to continue their children's schooling; (iv) low economic status/family income. Many of the dropout students are from low-income families, especially subsistence farmers in NTT who have very little income left for supporting their children's education<sup>4</sup>; and (v) influence from the lifestyle of boys and men in their environment.<sup>5</sup>

**Considering the NER trends, it appears that, although more girls enroll in junior and senior high schools (indicating that more boys drop out at various levels of education), more boys ultimately complete their high school education.** The NER trends will require continued monitoring in the future to assess whether there are changes in the trends for boys and girls regarding the completion of studies at different levels of education.

## Norma Gender

**Adat<sup>6</sup> and Culture: The lives of the people of NTT cannot be separated from livestock such as pigs and cows because they are categorised as *adat* animals.** Pigs are always present in various *adat* rituals such as births, deaths, marriages, engagements, and offerings to ancestors according to the traditional calendar. In cultural traditions, pigs are a means of strengthening kinship ties. Pig blood has its own value and means respect for ancestors through traditional ceremonies, where pigs are sacrificed. During weddings, cows are used as a means of paying *belis*<sup>7</sup> from a groom's family to the bride's family. Pigs are also used as a symbol of healing in conflicted family relationships. In large numbers, pigs and cows can become inherited animals in a family. As *adat* animals, cows and pigs are livestock that must be kept in the community.

**Sociocultural activities that require the availability of animals for rituals and as *belis* could turn into problems because the price of animals has become expensive, while household needs are increasing.** Providing animals for traditional/customary rituals has, therefore, become a social and economic burden for the community. In almost all areas in NTT which still adhere to the tradition of giving *belis* in marriage, there are many cases where the high economic value for *belis* contribute to domestic violence.

**In the household, women carry out the roles and duties nurturing and caregiving for the family members.** In general, therefore, women are responsible for family health care. In a farming family, a woman's duties are not only limited to managing the household, but also helping her husband in the garden/field and raising livestock. Women are usually responsible for livestock kept around the house-yard such as chicken and pigs. While the men are in charge of caring

<sup>3</sup> FGD with male farmers in Silawan Village, 10 August 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Cornelia Christina Temu, Maria Sumaryati Tolok, Priska Vikria, Azmi, Waris Marsisno, 2019. "Factors Influencing High School Dropouts in NTT Province." National Seminar on Official Statistics 2019: Development of Official Statistics in Supporting SDG's Implementation.

<sup>5</sup> FGD with female farmers in Silawan Village, 10 August 2023.

<sup>6</sup> *Adat* is a code of conduct that is passed down from generation to generation and remains as a legacy, so that its integration is strong in relation to community behavioral patterns.

<sup>7</sup> *Belis* is a gift of money, animals, and other valuables from the groom's family to the parents and family of the prospective bride.



for livestock that are grazing far from home—such as cows, goats, and buffaloes.<sup>8</sup> Another productive form of work for women is weaving where they sell their products at the local market.<sup>9</sup>

**In family events such as a death or wedding ceremony, women’s role is significant in preparing food—usually in large quantities for several days.**<sup>10</sup> The social role of women, especially in family events and for their husbands’ clan is very important and it serves as an obligation of a good wife. This obligation is an implication of the *belis* at their wedding, as the husband’s extended family are usually involved in preparing the *belis* as well. In the context of social work in the community, women play important roles in caring for society members—such as being health or Posyandu cadres.

**Decision Making: The decision-making processes in the household, within extended family, clan, tribe, the community, and in the government sector are generally dominated by men.** Decision making related to various aspects of life such as traditional events including weddings, death ceremonies, and traditional events are predominantly decided by men. The men will decide the size of the party, the amount of *belis* to be paid, and task distribution. In customary negotiations, it is usually the man as the elder in the clan or the tribe who will speak up more and make decisions. Women usually prepare for complementary needs—such as food—because events like this usually involve many members of extended families.<sup>11</sup>

**Men have inheritance rights over immovable items with high economic values such as land, gardens, and rice fields.** Large valuable livestock such as pigs, buffaloes, and cows are considered to belong to men. Women get movable goods with lower economic value—such as household furniture, weaving, and jewelry. Giving inheritance to men is mandatory while giving no inheritance to women is categorised as a form of parental love.<sup>12</sup>

**Female-Headed Households: There are 1,183,251 households in NTT during the period of 2020–2022, as stated by BPS. Meanwhile in 2019 it was reported that there were 216,417 (18.29 per cent) Female-Headed Households (FHH) in 2019.** Most women who are also heads of household have multiple burdens in terms of productive and reproductive work within their family, caring responsibilities for dependents in the household, limited production assets, and difficulties in accessing capital which hinder their chances to develop business. FHHs are, therefore, prone to becoming poor households.<sup>13</sup> Apart from divorce and death, high migration rates among men are one of the causes of the high number of female FHHs and abandoned children in NTT.

**A relatively greater number of older women compared to older men also contributes to the high number of FHH in NTT.** This is shown by the data for three consecutive years—in 2019 (148,784 males and 231,025 females), 2020 (211,279 males and 239,316 females), and 2021 (240,240 males and 255,113 females). The higher number of elderly women than men is correlated with life expectancy. In 2022, women’s life expectancy is higher than that of men (F: 71.98 and M: 68.10).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Fina, D.A.N. 2014. "Gender Equality in the NTT Perspective." <https://www.batukarinfo.com/komunitas/articles/kesetaraan-gender-dalam-perspektif-ntt>

<sup>10</sup> FGD with female farmers in Silawan Village, 10 August 2023

<sup>11</sup> Limahelu, Z.E., I.Y.M. Lattu, and E.I.N. Timo. 2019. "Understanding the Relationship between Gender Balance Symbols in Data Houses and Community Actions. SAWWA." *Journal of Gender Study* Vol. 14: 2.

<sup>12</sup> Selviana J. 2022. "Distribution of Inheritance According to the Perspective of Customary Inheritance Law Against Boys and Girls (Case Study in Communities in Barang Village, Cibal District, Manggarai Regency)." *Yusticia Communication Journal*, Ganesha University of Education, Law Study Program Vol. 5: 1

<sup>13</sup> Risnawati A., and T. Harsanti. 2022 "Analysis of Determinants of Poverty Status of Agricultural Sector Households in East Nusa Tenggara in 2020." National Seminar on Official Statistics

<sup>14</sup> BPS NTT. 2022. Angka Harapan Hidup menurut Jenis Kelamin 2020–2022. <https://ntt.bps.go.id/indicator/40/1456/1/angka-harapan-hidup-menurut-jenis-kelamin.html>



The NTT Provincial Government has established **Regional Regulation No. 5/2022 on Gender Mainstreaming and Regional Regulation No. 6/2022 on People with Disability**. Belu and West Manggarai Districts are two of the six districts and cities in NTT that already have District Regulations on People with Disability (PWD) which was issued prior to establishment of similar regulation at the provincial level. The regulation on PWD in Belu District was issued in 2020, whereas in West Manggarai District it was issued in 2017. The stipulation of these regulations serves as evidence of the government's commitment to achieving gender justice and the protection of PWD's rights, however, efforts still need to be made for the implementation of the regulations.

**Disability:** Based on the data from the NTT Provincial Social Service Office, there are **8,147 people with disability in the province (Table 2)**. This number includes physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory disability, and people with multiple disabilities. While there are sex-disaggregated data of the total population of persons with disability in each district, the data does not show sex-disaggregated data for each respective type of disability.

Kab / Propinsi	Type of Disability					Total	Sex		
	Physical	Intellectual	Mental	Sensoric	Multiple		L	P	Null <sup>16</sup>
<b>BELU</b>	137	4	12	66	159	<b>377</b>	200	175	2
<b>MABAR</b>	34	9	69	55	52	<b>219</b>	126	93	
<b>SBD</b>	39	1	9	74	179	<b>302</b>	177	125	15
<b>NTT</b>	2317	389	954	268	<b>3.219</b>	<b>8.147</b>	4294	3620	233

Table 2. Persons with Disability in NTT (May 2023)

Source: NTT Provincial Social Affairs Office, Data on People with Disability in NTT based on data accumulated in May 2023. The terms used in this table is a translation from Bahasa Indonesia

Note: NULL: Insufficient information available on gender.

The number of men with disability is significantly higher than women with disability, however, while data from the Social Affairs Office are available, it is noted that this number is still in the process of completion since some of the areas in the districts have not been covered. Women with disability often work from home in the areas of culinary, hairdressing, and massaging, while men with disability work as street vendors and at workshops-including for furniture and reparation of electronic devices.<sup>17</sup> In terms of marriage, men with disability have more chance of getting married compared to women with disability. Women as child-bearers are expected to give birth to healthy babies and they often face rejection and discrimination to get married. Six of the 22 districts in NTT have had regulations in place concerning the rights of persons with disability (Table 3) and only two AIHSP target districts have Regional Regulations on PWD (West Manggarai and Belu Districts).

Health

<sup>16</sup> Gender was not identified by officers, information from the NTT Provincial Social Service, dated 29 August 2023

<sup>17</sup> Interview with Pijar Timur Director in Belu, 9 August 2023.





Six of 22 districts/cities (27.2 per cent)

1	Belu District Regulation No. 7/2020 on Respect for the Rights of People with Disability	4	West Manggarai District Regulation No. 3/2017 on the Protection and Fulfillment of the Rights of People with Disability
2	East Flores District Regulation No. 5/2017 on Equality and Empowerment of People with Disability	5	South Central Timor District Regulation No. 5/2020 on Respect, Protection, and Fulfillment of the Rights of People with Disability
3	Manggarai District Regulation No. 6/2015 on Equality and Empowerment of People with Disability	6	Kupang City Regulation No. 2/2019 on the Protection and Fulfillment of the Rights of People with Disability

Tabel 3. District/City Regulations Concerning People With Disability (PWD) in NTT Province

## Health

**Access:** It is notable that women access health services and facilities more often than men. They also adhere with health protocols and vaccination more than men, resulting in longer life expectancy than that of men. According to *Posyandu* cadres in Silawan Village, Belu, women complain of illness more often than men.<sup>19</sup> This condition shows that the level of awareness of women in checking their health is higher than men. Women's responsibility for family and community health matters is also higher. This can be seen from the number of women who become *Posyandu* cadres.

Province/District	Outpatient			Inpatient		
	M	F	M+F	M	F	M+F
Belu	40,48	55,21	48,48	89,51	95,91	93,67
West Manggarai	51,75	55,87	53,87	89,85	81,85	83,61
Southwest Sumba	53,99	63,86	58,87	79,74	88,69	85,42
NTT	51,26	53,14	52,27	76,31	82,04	80,22

Tabel 4. Percentage of Residents Using Health Insurance for Outpatient and Inpatient Treatment in the Last Month of 2022<sup>20</sup>

**Women in NTT have higher access to health insurance for both inpatient and outpatient treatment than men.** The difference is not significant for outpatient treatment at less than 2 per cent. For inpatient care, 82.04 per cent of women use health insurance for treatment—compared with 76.31 per cent for men. This data shows that women check their health more often than men. This condition is also influenced by women's reproductive roles.

<sup>19</sup> Interview with *Posyandu* cadre, Silawan Village, August 2023.

<sup>20</sup> NTT Province Health Statistics, 2021, p. 35





**People with disability is one of the most vulnerable groups because of the lack of inclusive health access and facilities—causing them to experience more health problems than people without disability.** Research conducted by Garamin NTT and the Pikul Foundation in Kupang and TTS Districts shows that the health service facilities most often accessed by PWDs are *Puskesmas* (42 per cent), *Polindes* (31 per cent), and *Posyandu* (2 per cent).<sup>22</sup> This research also shows that 34 per cent of PWDs cannot access health services due to the distance to the facility.<sup>23</sup> In fact, during the survey, several illnesses experienced by PWDs were identified, such as coughs, colds and fever (44 per cent), followed by high blood pressure, headaches, and other illnesses related to their physical condition.<sup>24</sup> This means that inaccessible health service facilities and distance is worsening the health conditions of PWDs.

**Morbidity and life expectancy: While the adherence and access to health is higher among women than men, the morbidity rate for women remains higher—especially in rural areas.** The causal factor is the higher workload of women compared to men, where all work—other than productive work—is carried out by women. During the COVID-19 pandemic, women were more compliant in implementing health protocols to prevent COVID-19, so that the death rate for women was lower than for men. The high level of women's awareness of health services is influenced by their caregiving roles which require their constant visits to the health facilities to care for children and the sick, and their active participation in the community health sector—such as becoming *Posyandu* (health posts) cadres.

Kabupaten/Provinsi	Life Expectancy in NTT Province Based on Sex (2020–2022)								
	Male			Female			Total		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Belu	62,68	63,00	65,27	66,45	66,71	69,26	64,61	64,89	67,35
West Manggarai	65,34	65,40	63,33	69,29	69,38	67,09	67,38	67,46	65,26
Southwest Sumba	66,54	66,58	66,59	70,43	70,50	70,56	68,53	68,57	68,65
NTT	65,15	65,28	68,10	68,96	69,11	71,98	67,01	67,15	70,11

Tabel 5. Life Expectancy in NTT Province Based on Sex (2020–2022)<sup>25</sup>

**Disaggregated by sex, the life expectancy of the female population is higher than that of men in 2022 (F: 71.98 and M: 68.10).** The life expectancy of NTT people has risen in the past few years – at a slower pace between 2020 to 2021 but a significantly higher pace in 2022.

**Family Planning Program:** The total number of contraceptive acceptors was 318,148 in 2022. Of this number, only 0.46 per cent were male acceptors, the remaining 99.54 per cent were female acceptors. The prevailing cultural perspective views family planning as primarily the responsibility of mothers (or women). This perspective is entrenched in the culture due to limited awareness and knowledge, and there has been insufficient effort in socialising family planning to men. This condition means women take more responsibility for maintaining reproductive health.

<sup>22</sup> Pikul and Garamin Foundation. 2021. "Rapid Climate Change Impact Assessment Report For Disabled Persons in Kupang Regency and South Central Timor."

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> BPS NTT. 2022. *Angka Harapan Hidup menurut Jenis Kelamin 2020–2022*.





**HIV and AIDS: Cases of HIV and AIDS are higher in men (63.00 per cent) compared to women (37.00 per cent) in NTT.** In 2022, the KPAD NTT<sup>26</sup> observed that among People Living with HIV (PLWHA), housewives constituted the largest group at 22.93 per cent, followed by farmers at 19.72 per cent. Notably, Belu is consistently reported the highest HIV cases in recent years- partly attributed to the prevalence of covert prostitution.<sup>27</sup> Factors contributing to the elevated numbers include employment as migrant workers which increases exposure to regions with higher HIV prevalence, and Belu's position as a border area with Timor Leste-potentially facilitating cross-border interactions that heighten the risk of HIV transmission. Addressing these complexities necessitates targeted interventions and awareness campaigns tailored to the specific risk factors in these districts-underscoring the importance of comprehensive public health strategies.

**Access to antiretroviral (ARV) medication is not equal in all districts of NTT.** In Alor, ARV drugs are only available in the capital city. Not all PLWHA can, therefore, access ARV drug services because of the long distances to health facilities and the difficult geographical conditions that require transportation costs. This condition is in contrast to Belu, where ARV drug services are available at the Atambua City Hospital and several Community Health Centers.<sup>28</sup> Through intensive advocacy by YAKKUM in Belu, there are seven villages that have a budget allocation from the Village Fund (*Dana Desa*) in 2023 to support the establishment of Village-Based AIDS Concerned Citizens (*Warga Peduli AIDS: WPA*), peer support groups, and aid for supporting nutritional intake of PLWHA.<sup>29</sup>

**Violence against women and children: The NTT Women and Children's Empowerment Service (WCES) reported that throughout 2022 there were 637 cases of violence against women (VAW) and 597 cases of violence against children (VAC).** Data on VAC shows there were more girls (76.88 per cent) who experienced violence than boys (23.12 per cent). The highest type of violence in women is domestic violence and in children, sexual violence is experienced by girls. The number of girls victims of sexual violence was higher than boys (Female: 325 cases or 97.89 per cent), Male: 7 cases or 2.11 per cent).

**In 2021, the GMIT House of Hope noted that women's vulnerability to domestic violence is closely related to gender norms in society.** Acts of violence such as beating a wife are considered normal if the wife does not carry out her duties as a "wife/woman" in the household. The triggering factors include the high price of *belis* (dowry), so that the wife is considered to have belonged to the husband.<sup>30</sup> Expensive *Belis* traditions can trigger domestic violence due to existing economic pressures.<sup>31</sup> Many women are among vulnerable groups due to poverty and limited assets for production and business capital (without assets, women have difficulty accessing loans from banks, cooperatives, or other financial institutions).

**Without economic independence, women (wives) are relying on men (husbands) for financial support-making them vulnerable to violence.** Women who are economically dependent on their husbands tend to stay in the relationship although experiencing violence. LBH APIK NTT reported that cases of violence against women increased by 50 per cent during the pandemic. The increase in VAW cases is influenced by the increasingly high burden of living due to decreased income as a result of reduced working hours and layoffs as well as social restriction regulations. One of the challenges for victims of violence in accessing health services is the fact that BPJS<sup>32</sup> does not cover health treatment due to domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

<sup>26</sup> NTT Provincial AIDS Commission (Komisi Penanggulangan AIDS Daerah: KPAD).

<sup>27</sup> Data from NTT KPAD, July 2023.

<sup>28</sup> Interview with KPAD NTT, 22 July 2023.

<sup>29</sup> Interview with YAKKUM Belu, 9 August 2023.

<sup>30</sup> Annual Report of the House of Hope of the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (GMIT), 2020.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Health Social Security Administering Agency (*Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial: BPJS*).

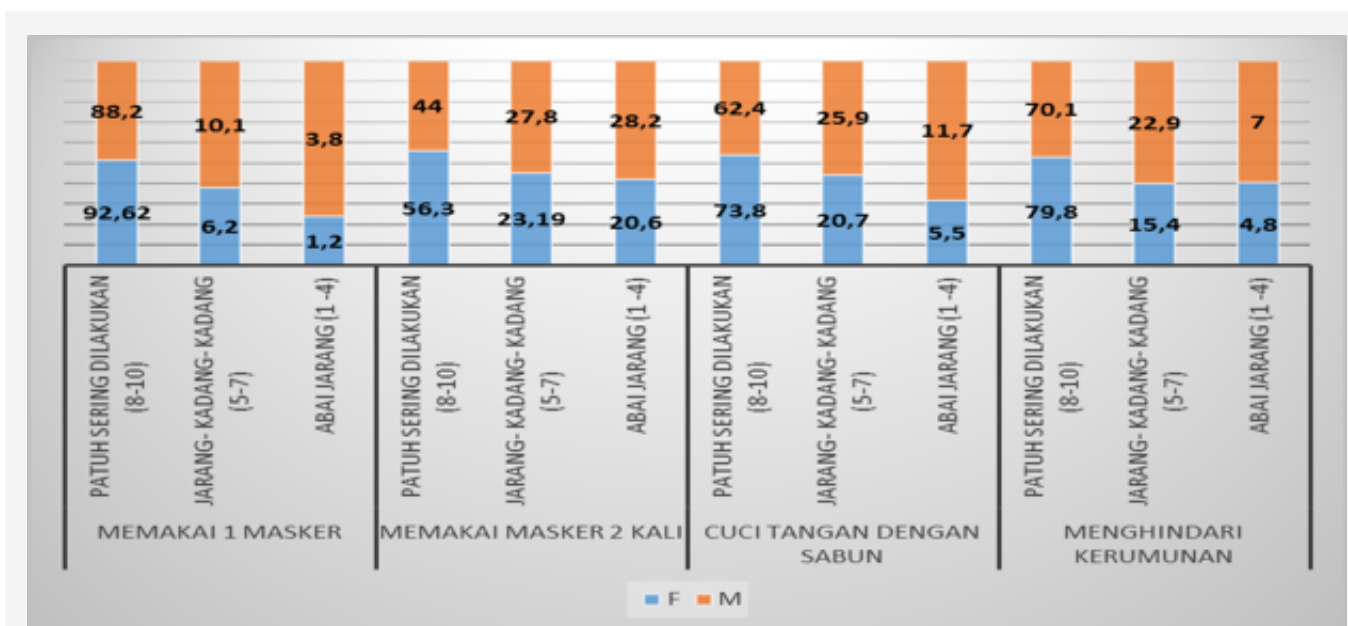


Figure 1. Compliance Level of Respondents with Health Protocols in the Past Week in 2021<sup>33</sup>

### COVID-19 Pandemic:

Consistent with their high rates of health compliance and health access, women exhibited higher rates of mask wearing, hand washing with soap and avoidance of crowds during COVID-19 (Figure 1). The data shows that women were more compliant than men in: (i) wearing masks once (92.62 per cent for women and 88.2 per cent for men); (ii) wearing masks twice (56.3 per cent and 44 per cent); (iii) washing their hands using soap and hand sanitiser (73.8 per cent and 62.4 per cent); and (iv) avoiding crowds (79.8 per cent and 70.1 per cent). Women's adherence to health protocols is correlated with the death rate during COVID-19 where the death rate is higher among men than women.

In NTT, AIHSP assisted the government in delivering vaccination to those living in difficult locations (last mile). This project was facilitated by Save the Children and its local partners in NTT, which resulted in more vaccination coverage for women in total, including for older women. Table 6 presents the data collected on the outcomes of the Last Mile vaccination program.

### Animal Health

**Raising and Caring for Animals: Animals play an important role in sociocultural and economic life in NTT.** It has a gender element-particularly in terms of the care of animals and the potential (health) risks for those who look after them the most.

#### *Pigs and African Swine Fever*<sup>34</sup>

Animals like pigs play an important role in the household economy because the sale of pigs contributes to meeting daily needs-including children's education. For social activities such as weddings, deaths, and other traditional rites pigs are always slaughtered and offered.

<sup>33</sup> BPS Survey on Community Behaviour During the Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM) and Emergency in East Nusa Tenggara Province (2021).

<sup>34</sup> African Swine Fever (ASF) is a fatal disease in pigs caused by the ASFV virus. It is not transmissible to humans. Its spread is rapid through contact and contaminated objects, causing serious consequences for the pig industry, including mass deaths and economic losses.



Vaccination Coverage from Last Mile Project in NTT, facilitated by AIHSP and Save the Children, as of June 2023

Vaccination Coverage (Total Per May 2023)		Persons with Disability being Vaccinated		Older People being Vaccinated	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
11,640	11,182	56	72	1,013	903

Tabel 6. Vaccination Coverage from Last Mile Project in NTT, facilitated by AIHSP and Save the Children, as of June 2023  
Source: Laporan AIHSP and Save the Children.

**Pigs are small livestock that are traditionally kept around the house and categorised as “women’s livestock”, as most of the work in raising pigs is done by women.**<sup>35</sup> The results of the PRISMA AIP survey show that 51 per cent of women are responsible for caring for pigs (cleaning pens and feeding them (with purchased feed), buying medicine, and calling vaccinators for livestock vaccines). The results of this survey explain that women are responsible for the health of pigs.<sup>36</sup> Although women are more responsible for raising pigs, most pigs are owned by men.<sup>37</sup> When the time comes to sell the pigs, it is the wife who assumes the pivotal role of determining the selling price. Promotion and advertisement of these pigs are predominantly conducted through digital platforms such as Facebook or WhatsApp-usually facilitated by either the mother or daughter within the household. It is a common occurrence for potential buyers to directly approach the village to inquire about the availability of pigs for sale. Women farmers have a greater role in seeking information about treatment for pigs compared to men and are more proactive in giving medicine to sick pigs.<sup>38</sup>

**The ASF transmission in NTT resulted in the death of more than 500,000 pigs and caused huge economic losses for farmers.** The total loss due to ASF for the people of NTT is estimated at hundreds of billions to trillions of rupiah.<sup>39</sup> According to the Belu District Animal Husbandry Office, in the 2019 census, the estimated number of pigs in Belu was 40,000–50,000 but fell significantly in 2020 to 20,000.

### Dogs and Rabies

**Since February 2023, there have been six victims of rabid dog bites who died in TTS District (two females and four males; one adult (aged 45 years) and five children (ranging from 5–9 years)).** There were 1,092 victims of dog bites in TTS as of 2 August 2023 (F: 45 per cent, M: 55 per cent)<sup>40</sup>. The most vulnerable group to being bitten by dogs is children-especially boys because they often provoke dogs when playing outside the house. Cases of dog bites in female children and adults are generally not caused by provocation but due to certain conditions such as by a dog that has just given birth or is hungry.

<sup>35</sup> Survei BPS tentang Perilaku Masyarakat Selama Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat (PPKM) dan Darurat di Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Timur, 2021

<sup>36</sup> Interview with AIP PRISMA, July 2023.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> FGDs with female and male farmers in Silawan Village, August 2023.

<sup>39</sup> CEO Promoting Rural Incomes through Support for Markets in Agriculture (PRISMA) Nina FitzSimons in Kupang, Tuesday, 7 February 2023, AntaraNews.

<sup>40</sup> Data from TTS District Health Service, August 2023.



**When bitten by a dog, people usually focus on healing the wound by cleaning it and using traditional medicine.**

There are still many people who do not understand the incubation period for rabid dog bites so they feel safe if the dog bite wound has healed. Since the death cases due to rabies were announced, public awareness of getting the rabies vaccine has increased in TTS. The response from the Animal Husbandry Service, Health Service, and Community Health Centres is very high to ensure that dog-bite victims receive vaccines. Dogs in general are also targeted to be vaccinated to prevent the spread of rabies. In conducting outreach activities to the local communities, the government collaborates with schools and religious institutions (churches).

### Recommendations

**The brief data above sheds light on the gendered social aspects of people's lives.** For policy design and program purposes, it is necessary to embrace this gender bias and promote gender equality, disability, and social inclusion to ensure equal delivery of public services to everyone.

**Recommendation One: Collect sex, age, and disability disaggregated data and use it more effectively to understand and identify strategies for development—especially in strengthening health resilience in NTT.** Such data are crucial and serve as a reference for policy analysis, decision making, and advocacy materials that are inclusive for women, men, people with disability, older people, children, and other women and men of varying characteristics.

**Recommendation Two: Promote collaboration of different actors to collect sex, age, and disability disaggregated data to ensure equal health access and facilities.** Good practice in collaborating with the government, churches, and non-government organisations in distributing health-related information, support for vulnerable groups, and the provision of vaccinations during pandemic and rabies outbreaks can be used for future reference.

**Recommendation Three: Promote inclusive programs to ensure vulnerable groups can have equal access to health facilities.** Learning from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable groups have difficulty accessing information on the prevention of COVID-19 and vaccination services. Efforts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in the future need to be done by developing a more inclusive socialisation and treatment strategy to reach vulnerable groups such as people with disability, the elderly, children, breastfeeding women, pregnant women, ethnic groups with specific language barriers, and people living in remote areas with limited access to electricity as well as information and communication devices.

**Recommendation Four: Promote equal participation for care work in the household and in the community.** Since women were more compliant with health protocols (during COVID-19, their health risks are also higher because they mostly prioritise other members of the family first (children, husband, parents). Care for health in the family should be the responsibility of both parents, rather than majority falling to women. This value must also be consistently resonated to the public so the responsibility of caring for community (such as health cadres and Posyandu) falls equally to both women and men in the society. Care for animals should also be equally focused between women and men to avoid perpetuation of the gendered care role in the society.



**Recommendation Five: Information about animal health and animal disease prevention must reach vulnerable groups-using different approaches that suit each group respectively.** In terms of rabies control for example, while women and children are groups that are close to animals at home, and they tend to play a role in feeding and caring for dogs/pets/livestock, the method of message delivery must suit the context of children, women, men, the elderly, or people with disability. The medium for communication and information (such as radio, social media, leaflets), message packaging, communication methods, and the use of language should be easily understood and attract the attention of the people (the use of Indonesian and local language). The location and time for disseminating information (community gatherings at neighborhood units (Rukun Tetangga), village offices, churches, and schools) must be considered properly by taking into account the diversity and vulnerability of beneficiary groups (people with disability, elderly, women, children, and indigenous groups) so that the message conveyed can be received and understood by all target groups.

