

KAPAL Perempuan



KAPAL Perempuan Institute is a feminist civil society organization in Indonesia working to advance gender equality through critical education, grassroots women organizing and data-driven advocacy to push for better policies and services. KAPAL Perempuan became EM2030's national partner in Indonesia in 2019, at a moment when child marriage, gender-based violence, and women's rights were key concern raised by the women's movement in the national development debates.

Since the early 2000s, the KAPAL Perempuan Institute has been developing a critical education model for activists and establishing Women's Schools to foster women's leadership. Currently, more than 225 Women's Schools have been established across various regions of Indonesia, serving as spaces for learning, building solidarity, forming networks of grassroots women's movements, acting as a point of reference for case management, and generating community-based data to inform advocacy for policy and service reform.

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Trainees used to ask why they should look at problems that are considered private and why they should question traditions that they considered normal. They even wondered if we were sharing wrong information” — **Misi Misiyah, Director, KAPAL Perempuan**

139

villages with
child-marriage prevention
regulations

250

advocates trained in
gender data-driven
advocacy

225+

Sekolah Perempuan
community schools

10

provinces reached
through advocacy
training

THE JOURNEY

From reactive advocacy to strategic influence

Before partnering with EM2030, KAPAL Perempuan was already engaged in advocacy and evidence generation on gender equality and women's rights, including legal reform on child marriage. However, access to national-level policy spaces and statistical systems remained limited, and it was difficult to use data strategically.

Through the partnership with EM2030, KAPAL Perempuan gained access to the SDG Gender Index. The Index gave KAPAL something essential: it supports evidence-based advocacy and translates policy language into terms that are more easily understood by planning agencies and the Central Statistic Agency. KAPAL Perempuan integrated the Index into its advocacy processes its own training programmes and into government training materials, including the DRPPA (Women-Friendly and Child-Friendly Villages) technical guidance used at the district level.

This repositioned KAPAL Perempuan from external advocate to trusted advisor to policymakers. Rather than approaching ministries solely through demands, KAPAL Perempuan engaged as a substantive partner on both technical and policy contributing to Indonesia's 2021 Voluntary National Review, helping shape the National SDG Action Plan, and becoming a trusted advisor to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), and the SDG Secretariat.

THE COALITION EFFECT

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“Data-driven advocacy has always been at the heart of KAPAL’s work. Data is the core of the struggle. With no data, we end up in a futile argument. But when we have solid data about gender issues, either quantitative or qualitative, we can use that as a tool to push government to give their protection to women.”

— Misi Misiyah, Director, KAPAL Perempuan



EM2030’s role was enabling rather than directive. The coalition provided tools, platforms and resources that KAPAL translated into national impact:

- **Child marriage prevention translated into local law.** KAPAL engaged policymakers in three provinces to ensure implementation of Indonesia’s 2019 Marriage Law at the local level, using data from EM2030 tools and its own research. This resulted in 139 villages in East Lombok adopting regulations to prevent child marriage. Turning a national legal reform into enforceable local action.
- **Strengthened advocacy capacity across 10 provinces.** The SDG Gender Index, alongside Equal Measures 2030’s Data-Driven Advocacy (DDA) curriculum and other related advocacy resources were adapted and localised for Indonesian contexts. KAPAL integrated these tools into its own training programmes and government training modules such as DRPPA technical guidance. Beyond technical knowledge, the DDA approach strengthened advocates’ ability to analyse data, frame policy arguments, and engage decision-makers with confidence and clarity. In October 2025, The DDA curriculum built the skills of 250+ advocates across 10 provinces to use data in policy engagement. Alumni networks have continued well beyond the training: one group went on to document the rise in child marriage during COVID-19, feeding their findings directly into advocacy for a gendered pandemic response.
- **National integration of gender data.** Following KAPAL’s engagement, the SDG Gender Index was used by Indonesia’s National Statistics Office (BPS) in its global SDG reporting. KAPAL’s programmes were cited as good practice in national and international policy forums.
- **Global recognition.** Through Equal Measures 2030’s platforms, KAPAL participated in the Civil 20 (C20) during Indonesia’s G20 presidency in 2022, using the SDG Gender Index to ensure gender equality was prioritized in C20 recommendations. Engagement in international forums, including CSW and the Australasian Aid Conference, reinforced KAPAL’s standing with the Indonesian government.
- **Flexible funding.** Equal Measures 2030’s subgrants provided sustained resourcing for advocacy on child marriage and sexual violence, including through the disruptions of COVID-19. Engagement with other EM2030 coalition members reinforced shared strategies around data-driven feminist advocacy.

Sustaining impact through crisis and political change

From 2020 onward, COVID-19, natural disasters, and a shift toward more conservative governance created significant disruption. Where many civil society organizations lost institutional access, KAPAL maintained it. Because KAPAL's advocacy was anchored in recognized SDG frameworks and evidence, relationships held even as political leadership changed. When ministers moved on, the frameworks stayed. This is what data-driven advocacy makes possible: continuity of influence through institutional change.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Indonesia navigates increasing resistance to gender equality, KAPAL is focused on reinforcing gender-responsive planning and accountability at the subnational level, where implementation gaps are most visible and where girls' lives are most directly shaped.

Data remains central to this strategy: not only as evidence, but as a means of maintaining engagement with state institutions during periods of uncertainty. By anchoring advocacy in recognized frameworks, KAPAL works to ensure gender equality stays embedded in development processes even as political priorities shift.



Learn more about KAPAL's work:



kapalperempuan.org/



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