

Tourism, Water Scarcity and Inclusive WASH in Eastern Indonesia

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INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA



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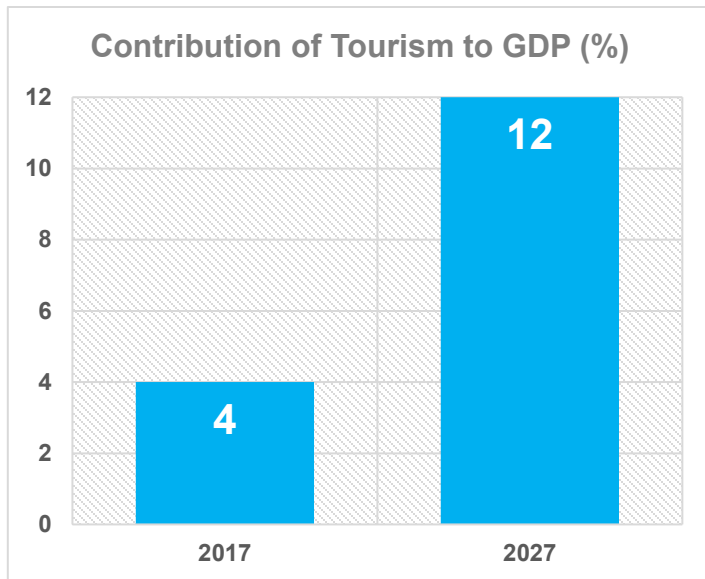


The picture is just an illustration. The picture was taken in Bandung, West Java, courtesy of H. Amauri.

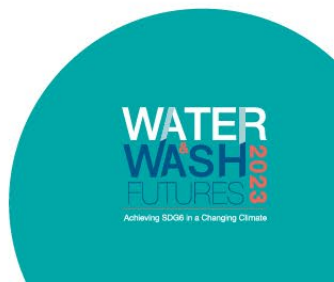
‘The difference is very pronounced. In the hotel, water [from utility] flows every day, but for us, it almost never flow...every month, we are paying for nothing, there is no running water.’
(IRN12, female, community midwife)

Tourism in Eastern Indonesia

- **Labuan Bajo**, a 'super-premium' destination, is famous for the Komodo Dragon and ship cruises.
- Prior to COVID-19, international tourist arrivals to Flores increased by **40% per year**
- Large-scale tourism development can lead to **competition for water** resources, especially where local communities' needs are currently unfulfilled



10 Premium Destinations



Impacts of Tourism Industries



Tourists' per person **water use is higher** compared to local people

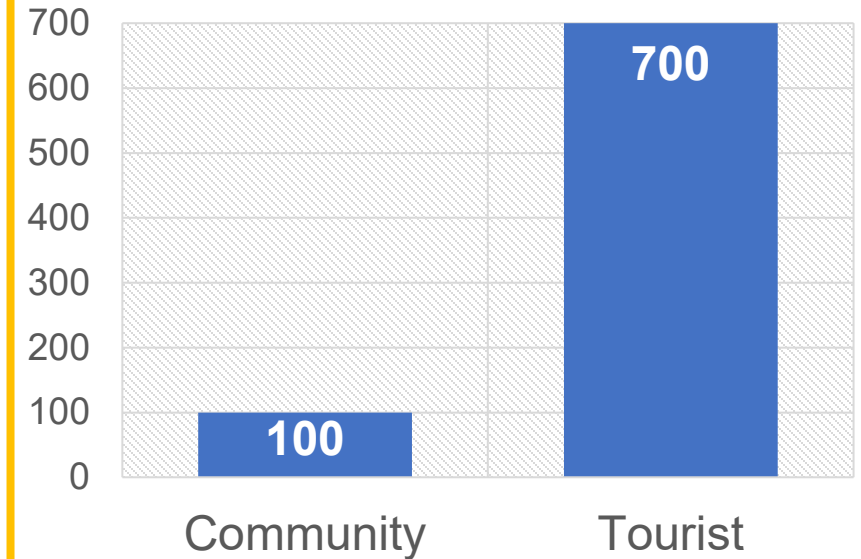


Water scarcity and exploitation with associated **negative gender impacts**, and **pollution** from poorly managed wastewater



Social conflict and damaged social cohesion → threatening tourism's **social contract** and the long-term potential tourism tourism

Water use in NTB (L per capita per day)



Ministry of Health (2018)

Water in Labuan Bajo



Semi-arid water scarce area; Water demand 29.03 L/s (30% from commercial). 2019 → deficit by 10 L/s.

Eastern Indonesia is at particular risk from climate change hazards, particularly drought, flood and cyclone

Communities received less water from the water utility in 2020 than in 2015 → tourism and population growth

Small islands and cruise ships receive water deliveries from the utility via a ship with a 50,000 L tank.

Hotels manage water irregularity via large onsite water storage tanks, in contrast with community

Differing access and ability to store water between hotels and the community is a social concern, e.g. during the dry season

Insufficient local power sources demonstrated small-scale desalination plants were not functional.

Water Problems in Labuan Bajo



With the push towards 'super-premium' tourism destination, there are growing tensions in the community over the inequitable distribution and poor water service levels.



The differential tariff between hotels and the community (albeit a good economic instrument to promote water savings) may have the unintended consequence of preferential water delivery.



Communities were regularly forced to purchase expensive tanker water, increasing water costs to local people caused by tourism development



Potential for inequitable water distribution to lead to unrest and loss of social cohesion in Labuan Bajo.



Increasing severity and frequency of climate hazards will exacerbate existing challenges in equitable water access

Water Problems and GEDSI

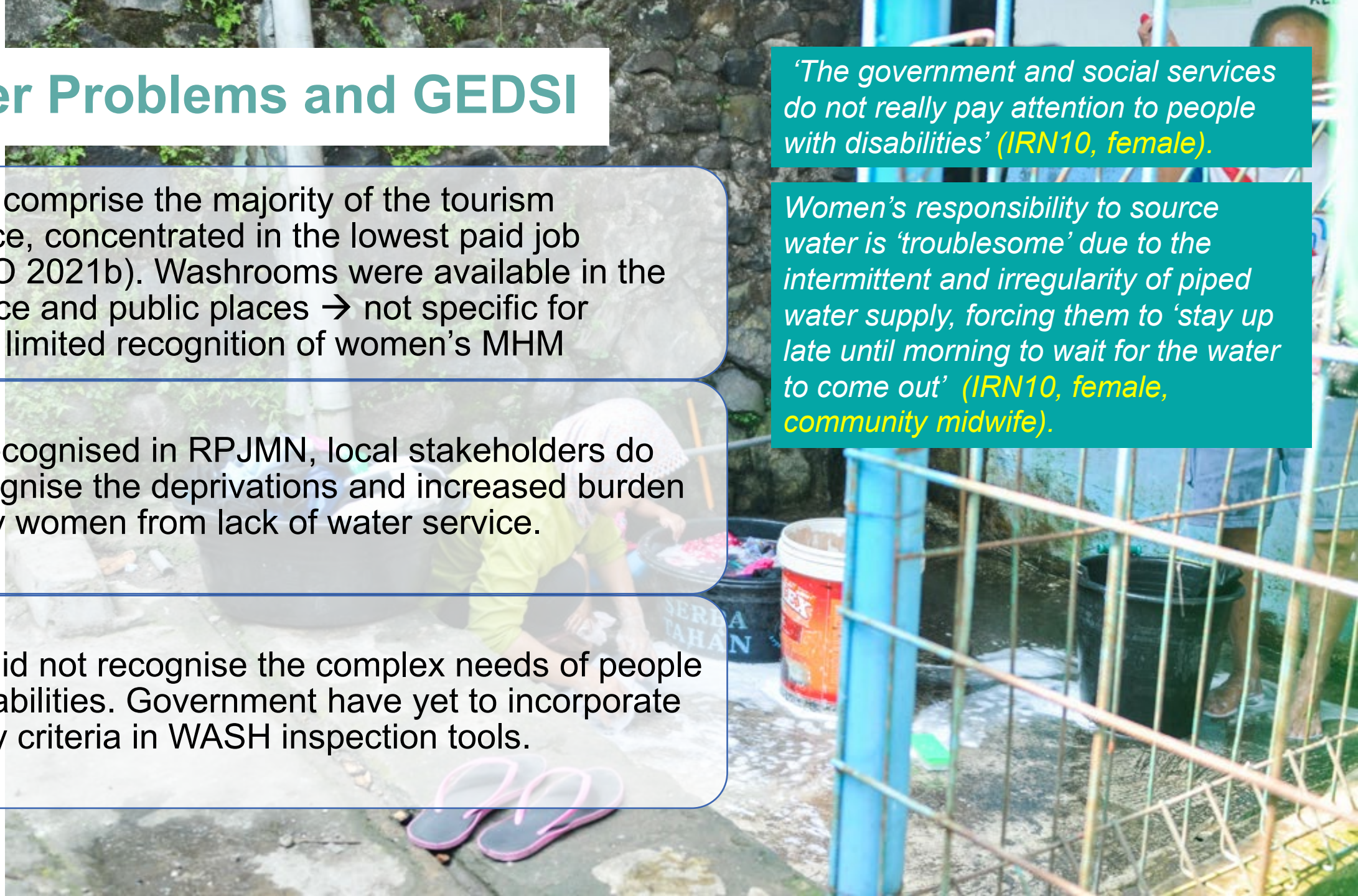
Women comprise the majority of the tourism workforce, concentrated in the lowest paid job (UNWTO 2021b). Washrooms were available in the workplace and public places → not specific for women, limited recognition of women's MHM

While recognised in RPJMN, local stakeholders do not recognise the deprivations and increased burden faced by women from lack of water service.

Hotels did not recognise the complex needs of people with disabilities. Government have yet to incorporate disability criteria in WASH inspection tools.

'The government and social services do not really pay attention to people with disabilities' (IRN10, female).

Women's responsibility to source water is 'troublesome' due to the intermittent and irregularity of piped water supply, forcing them to 'stay up late until morning to wait for the water to come out' (IRN10, female, community midwife).



Conclusion and Recommendations

- Rapid urban growth, top-down development planning, local capacity limitations, and rising water demand by tourism operations have contributed to rising tensions in regard to water scarcity.
- Water utility lacks sufficient human and financial capacity, suggesting a need for increased public subsidy, tariff, pro-poor service review, and exploration of alternative water provision modes.

We propose:

Taking a water stewardship approach that addresses tourism industry responsibilities and precautionary principles for water use and management to avoid conflict.

Building locally-driven solutions, local capacity and opening pathways to collaboration and engagement with decision-makers at national and local government levels and private tourism sector.

This presentation is based on “**Engaging Corporate Actors for Inclusive WASH Services in Workplaces and Host Communities**”, a cooperation of International WaterCentre-Griffith University, Institut Teknologi Bandung, and Udayana University.

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