

A photograph of a dirt path in a rural area. In the foreground, two young children are walking towards the camera, each carrying a large bundle of firewood on their head. The child on the left is a girl wearing a blue and yellow striped t-shirt with the text "YOU CAN'T BE BROKE AND UGLY PICK A STRUGGLE" and patterned shorts. The child on the right is a boy wearing a brown button-down shirt and grey shorts. In the background, two more children are visible, also carrying firewood. The path is flanked by lush green vegetation and banana trees.

WADAH CHRONICLES

July 2025

INDEPENDENCE

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER



To Our Valued Readers,

With gratitude and thanks to Almighty God, we, the Wadah Foundation team, joyfully present "Wadah News, July 2025 edition." We sincerely hope that what we share can inspire us all to continue making a difference in the community.

Every page of this newsletter embodies the spirit of **independence** we continue to nurture. Through countless stories, individuals in our community reveal their inner strength, stepping forward as **beacons** of light for others. These examples demonstrate that even the smallest efforts can have a significant impact.

However, we know that self-reliance will be even stronger if supported by a genuine spirit of partnership. This news update will also share stories about how we've joined hands, collaborated with various parties, and opened doors to new opportunities. When we unite, supporting and complementing each other, we find that no dream is too big to achieve. This togetherness is what makes us more empowered and self-reliant.

I hope that each story and inspiration in Warta Wadah resonates with you and motivates you to continue doing good. Let's never lose hope in the power of independence and collaboration. Let's work together with kind hearts to create a better future for our whole community.

Happy reading, and let's continue working with a spirit of unity!

Sincerely,

Anie H. Djojohadikusumo

Founder & President Wadah Foundation

FROM THE EDITOR

The primary objective of the Wadah Foundation is to empower marginalized grassroots communities to live independently and with dignity. As a professional international nonprofit organization, the Wadah Titian Harapan Foundation continually innovates and adapts to the evolving dynamics of the communities it serves. Since its inception 17 years ago, Wadah has made numerous changes and adjustments both within the organization and in the grassroots communities it serves. These efforts have enabled the foundation to achieve its initial goals and make a lasting impact.

Change is inevitable, regardless of our preferences or readiness. Without continuous, planned, and directed change, achieving Wadah's primary goal becomes nearly impossible. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus wisely stated, "Nothing in this world is permanent except change itself" (540 BC–480 BC).

In 2025, Wadah adopted a new strategy that significantly changed its operations. Former employees of the Wadah Foundation were encouraged to become field partners within the community. Those who remained with Wadah were urged to enhance their knowledge and skills to better support and collaborate with their colleagues in new roles.

Reflecting on current conditions, life in the near and distant future doesn't appear easy. The highly volatile and challenging global economy and politics significantly impact our country. This will also directly and indirectly greatly affect the lives of grassroots communities. That's why Wadah's 2025 strategy is highly relevant to implement as a way to empower marginalized communities, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

Zul Herman

Editor

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VISION

Empowered and
dignified society

MISSION

Empowering individuals
holistically through education,
health, and economic
development programs

6 VALUES OF WADAH



Godliness



Honesty & Sincerity



Inclusive



Humility



Unity



Diversity

MOTO

We grow to **SERVE**
and we serve
so that others may
GROW TOGETHER WITH US

Anie Djojohadikusumo
Founder

Wadah 2025, Fostering Competent Change Makers and Catalysts

BY: PAULA STELA NOVA LANDOWERO

Since 2022, the Wadah Foundation has laid a strong foundation for internal human resource development. This initiative aims to produce professional and credible change-makers and catalysts.

As we enter 2025, this commitment is being further deepened through a new strategy. It is not only about encouraging staff to become community partners but also about actively enhancing the knowledge and skills of other internal staff members, thereby supporting and collaborating as partners with their colleagues who have transitioned into new roles.



Investment in Knowledge and Skills for Internal Support Staff

The Wadah Foundation recognizes that the success of new policies in 2025 relies heavily on the capabilities of its internal HR team. To support this, a series of comprehensive training programs has been designed for staff who serve as support partners for their colleagues in the field.

These training programs focus on both hard skills—such as project management, data analysis, and technology use for distance learning—and essential soft skills, including leadership, effective communication, conflict resolution, and community facilitation.



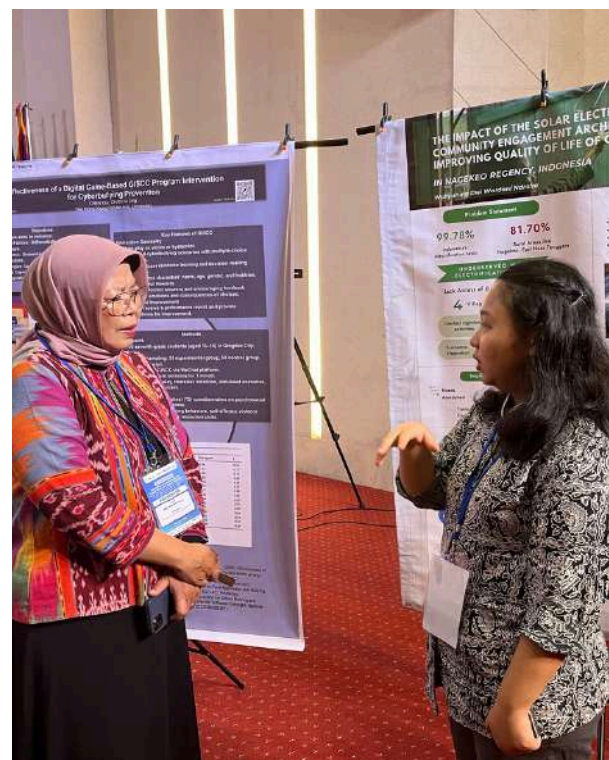
The training modules are tailored to real-world needs to ensure their relevance and immediate applicability. This includes collaborating with external partners, such as a leading private bank, to create a financial literacy training program that enriches staff knowledge.

Managing Programmes from Upstream to Downstream

Every staff member equipped with knowledge and skills is given a specific assignment: to manage a program from start to finish. This assignment is a form of trust and a practical way for them to apply the knowledge they've gained. For example, a staff member might be tasked with developing a mental health training module for families.

In addition, a staff member is responsible for development or renovation activities of facilities and infrastructure, starting from problem mapping, technical planning, activity supervision, and facilitating coordination with contractors and community participation. All these processes are carried out by taking on the role of a facilitator, so the primary responsibility for the implementation of activities remains with the community supported by Wadah.

This assignment process is mentored by the Wadah Foundation Board, encouraging staff to think critically, find solutions to challenges in the field, and develop their own initiatives. Weekly discussions, regular progress reports, and peer-learning sessions are an integral part of this process, ensuring each staff member feels supported yet remains autonomous in carrying out their role.





Implementation and Real Impact in the Field

The implementation of the program serves as a test of the staff's capacity. They are responsible for every stage, from coordinating with village officials and community leaders to reporting and evaluation.

Technology, including digital reporting applications and online communication platforms, plays a crucial role, enabling the team to work efficiently and stay connected with their partners in the field. The success of the programs executed by the staff directly reflects the effectiveness of the Wadah Foundation's human resource development strategy.

Successful programs and empowered communities showcase the expertise and dedication of individuals. Their strong work ethic is evident in the tangible results achieved through their service and demonstrates that they are true catalysts for change, capable of expanding Wadah's reach nationally and guiding communities toward sustainable and dignified progress.

As we approach 2025, a new chapter begins for the Wadah Foundation. We will invest in our internal human resources through intensive training and direct assignments. This will be complemented by systematic support rooted in participation, collaboration, and communication from all stakeholders. Together, we will cultivate a new wave of change agents prepared to face future challenges.



Mama Meriana Brings Light to Talwai Village

BY: FRANSISKO DENDI



In a remote yet breathtaking part of Alor Regency, the village of Talwai sits surrounded by hills and lowlands. The villagers, deeply connected to the fertile land, grow candlenuts, coffee, and areca nuts, which form the core of their economy. They also farm a variety of crops, including bananas, cassava, and sweet potatoes, to support their families and nourish their community.

At dawn, the sun energizes the village, as villagers tend to their fields and children rush to school, hopeful for the day ahead. But at sunset, darkness falls, casting a shadow over their lives. Without electricity, the village becomes quiet, relying only on the flickering glow of kerosene lamps, which often feels inadequate.

During these times, the Wadah Foundation, along with the local community and village leaders, draws inspiration from the unwavering spirit of Meriana Meilani. Known affectionately as 'Mama Terang,' this dedicated solar power technician represents hope and resilience. Her commitment to bringing light to her village is a strong testament to the difference one person can make, even if it involves a long journey to India. Mama Meriana isn't just lighting homes; she's illuminating lives and filling her community with hope for a brighter future.



Studying LTS in India

The dimly lit conditions during nights in the village became the driving force for Wadah to work and empower the community. It all began with a visit from the Wadah team, who invited community members to join an LTS training programme in India.

Mama Meriana did not waste the opportunity to change the village's conditions to bring light to its residents and confidently declared her intention to participate in the training, becoming one of the LTS technicians in India.

“We want to go to India; we want to join the LTS training because there is no electricity in our village”- Meriana

The strong wish to change Talwai village faced many difficulties. At that time, no villagers wanted to take part in the LTS technician training program in India. Villagers believed that prospective technicians would become migrant workers (TKW), and many shared stories of the hardships and dangers these workers often faced

However, Wadah, represented by Mr. Gabriel Beri Bina and Mr. Mario, successfully built trust and engaged in extensive dialogue with Mama Meriana. “It is impossible for good people like Mr. Gab and Mr. Mario to do evil to us. They can't give us rice and plates,” said Mama Meriana, convincing herself.

Despite the negative opinions of her neighbors and fellow villagers, Mama Meriana remained undeterred in her quest for change. Fueled by determination and enthusiasm, she bravely stepped out of her comfort zone to transform her village.





“Because it's my responsibility, people come and ask for repairs, so I go. Even if they don't pay” - Meriana

Without any knowledge of English, Mama Meriana successfully completed the entire LTS technician training programme organised by Barefoot College International, India. Thanks to the work of these organizations from both countries, Talwai Village, which used to be completely dark every night, now has solar power and can enjoy light at night.

Mama Meriana Constantly Maintains the LTS

With the LTS, villagers can peel candlenuts and betel nuts during the night. Children can also study at night. Therefore, having the LTS has really changed the lives of the villagers in Talwai significantly.

Meanwhile, Wadah continues to provide assistance in managing LTS by forming an LTS committee in Talwai village so that the positive impact of LTS will continue for the 197 beneficiaries.


Now, part of the Talwai village is already connected to PLN electricity. However, Mama Meriana still feels responsible for the sustainability of the LTS in the Talwai village. To this day, Mama Meriana selflessly repairs the LTS components for the households of the beneficiaries without any compensation

Her unwavering spirit serves as a powerful reminder that even in the face of darkness, extraordinary individuals can shine brightly, illuminating the path with their courage and sincerity.



“The Sun from the Kebun Cengkeh” - The Inspiring Story of Fivin from Ambon

BY: DWI SEPTIANI



In the warm and simple daily life of Ambon City, there lives a remarkable woman named Fivin, born on January 14, 1989. As a devoted wife and a mother of three, she is also an educator who passionately dedicates herself to the growth and development of young children.



A Graduate of the Faculty of Education and Teacher Training (FKIP) in Biology

Fivin's journey in education began unconventionally. After graduating from the Faculty of Education and Teacher Training (FKIP) with a degree in Biology in 2015, she didn't immediately take on a teaching role. Instead, she started selling yellow rice in front of the Rinjani Early Childhood Education Centre, managed by Mrs. Warni.

It was here that her passion for education blossomed as she observed Warni overwhelmed with teaching responsibilities. Without being asked, Fivin offered her assistance.

This passion led her to join the Rinjani PAUD as an educator. However, in 2022, while the Rinjani PAUD was striving to become a model school, Fivin's dedication had to be put on hold due to his parents' illness, which required her full attention. Leaving the world of education was not easy for Fivin.

Leaving the world of education was not easy for Fivin. There was an emptiness left behind, a deep longing to return to serving others.

“Wadah is the strongest foundation for service. Wadah always inspires me to embrace people like family. I am always proud to be part of the Wadah family” -Fivin

Returning to PAUD

A ray of hope emerged for Fivin when she met Ca Kiky, a member of the Ambon Wadah Foundation team. Through Ca Kiky's invitation, she reconnected with a world she loved at the Ambon Wadah Learning Centre, particularly through the Titian Harapan Kebun Cengkeh PAUD program

Her passion for service was reignited, making the Wadah Foundation feel like a true home. Fivin began honing her knowledge and skills in early childhood education, eager to make a difference.

Initially, she was entrusted with managing student data through the Dapodik application. However, driven by her passion for service, she took on more responsibilities, including developing lesson plans, supporting learning activities, and being present among the children.

Her dedication and consistency earned trust. In January 2025, Fivin was appointed as the Head of the Titian Harapan Kebun Cengkeh Early Childhood Education Centre. She carries out this mandate with a great sense of responsibility and an unquenchable thirst for learning.

She actively participates in training programmes such as PAUDPEDIA from the Education Office, plays a role in HIMPAUDI Province activities, and uses social media to share creative ideas in learning.





Family Support

Her family has begun to see positive changes in her. Now, her husband and children give her their full support. They see how Fivin manages balancing her role as a stay-at-home mom and her community service activities.

At work, she is known as 'The Sun'—a nickname given by her colleagues for always bringing enthusiasm, warmth, and hope every day. For her, true success is not measured by personal achievements, but by the impact felt by those she serves.

Fivin actively contributes to both education and community empowerment in the Maluku Province. She serves as the Chairperson of the Primary Health Service Integration (Posyandu) in the Rinjani region, enhancing the economic sector while also teaching.

“Success is when people come to you with hope and you are able to maintain it” - Fivin





Devi, From Dreams to Real Contributions with Wadah

BY: OVIE VIEIRA

Ni Luh Devina Kusuma Wati, or Devi, is a Balinese girl who left an inspiring mark at the Wadah Global Gathering (WGG) in 2015 in Yogyakarta. Her journey began when she met Karina, a friend of Ibu Anie Djojohadikusumo, who runs an orphanage in Ambarawa.

Devi accepted Karina's invitation to teach traditional Balinese dance at the orphanage for just a week. However, the warmth of the children touched her heart, leading her to extend her stay. It was during this time that she learned about WGG, a forum designed for individuals with potential to become prominent speakers.

Inspiration and Reflections from WGG

The WGG experience was an unforgettable moment for Devi. She had the opportunity to meet new friends from various countries, all of whom shared stories about their shortcomings, which they turned into strengths to make a positive impact. As she listened to these transformative stories, a deep sense of emotion overwhelmed.

Devi that later made her realise that everyone has shortcomings, which are not obstacles to achieving great things. On the contrary, weaknesses can be catalysts for creating goodness and making a significant impact on others

Devi understands that not all hopes will be fulfilled, and this realization can be burdensome. She emphasizes the importance of maintaining a strong mindset and being prepared to accept outcomes that may not align with our expectations, as many factors are beyond our control. Nevertheless, she encourages us to strive to the best of our ability and reminds us that if the results are not yet satisfying, we should not give up.



Traces of Work and Real Contributions

Devi currently works at the Wadah Titian Harapan Consumer Cooperative (KKWTH). Her creative spirit extends beyond her job; she is actively writing and has recently published a collection of poems. Additionally, she captivates audiences with her modern cover dance performances that blend traditional Balinese dance, showcasing how culture can evolve and innovate.

Devi's presence at KKWTH is a tangible example of the positive impact Wadah has had on her. Armed with a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in technology management, she is committed to serving others through KKWTH, which Devi sees as an integral part of the Wadah Foundation

She feels confident that her work helps with economic growth. Her master's project, which was the development of a cooperative website, aims to introduce community products, and it has been published in the international journal Atlantis Press. Devi is also active in assisting KKWTH members in promotional design and copywriting, ensuring that her knowledge is directly applicable

"This program taught me to dare to dream and to recognize the value within myself "- Devi





In addition, she participates in the Nutrition Kitchen programme, helping to prepare equipment for Wadah's community kitchens.

All of these are valuable experiences that prove how knowledge can bring about real change. Even though Devi thinks she hasn't completely achieved everything, she is thankful that some of the dreams she wrote down during WGG have become real, even if they are still not very clear. WGG taught Devi to dare to dream and realise her value.

The opportunity to speak at the event boosted her confidence, and the stories from her new friends enriched her perspective. All these lessons remain valuable guidance for Devi to this day. 'This programme dared me to dream and recognise the value within ourselves,' said Devi.



Becoming a Partner, More Empowered and Independent

BY: DWI SEPTIANI

The Wadah Foundation's policy of transitioning its staff to partner roles has brought a fresh perspective to those involved. This change is not just about a new status but also opens greater opportunities for development, innovation, and creativity.

A clear example of this policy's success is Dwi Yuan, a former staff member of Rumah Wadah Daerah Yogyakarta, who has now become a Wadah partner and is recognized as a wayang puppeteer and cultural arts advocate in Cancangan Village, Yogyakarta.



Dwi Yuan's journey at the Wadah Foundation

Dwi Yuan first joined the Wadah Foundation in 2015 as a teacher of pendar and pencak silat. Then, he was trusted to become an operational staff member at the Rumah Wadah Daerah (RWD) in Yogyakarta from 2020 to 2022

While working as a staff member, Dwi Yuan remained active in artistic activities and used his free time to study at a puppetry school.

Becoming a Partner for Independence

In 2022, the Wadah Foundation issued a policy to convert employees into partners. One of those who received this new status was Dwi Yuan, who welcomed the change. Rather than feeling left out, Dwi saw this as an opportunity to become more independent and explore his potential further.

With continued support from the Wadah Foundation, he began a catfish farming business and a garden near his home, and established the Sanggar Danyang Waris, an art centre where children and youth in his village can learn about culture and the arts.



Ki Dalang “Dwi Kidang Sambodo”

With support from Wadah in the form of a puppeteering scholarship, accompanied by 30 leather puppets, a screen, and a puppet box, Dwi Yuan continued to hone his skills as a puppeteer. He studied diligently from his seniors and teachers at the puppetry school and slowly, his skills began to be recognised by the community. Today, he is known as ‘Ki Dwi Kidang Sambodo,’ an honorary title signifying his acceptance as a wayang puppeteer by the community.





As a puppeteer, Ki Dwi Kidang Sambodo not only entertains his audience with captivating stories but also incorporates important life lessons and noble values. Among these cherished values, he emphasizes Wadah's values, which encompass the belief in God, sincerity, family, modesty, unity, and diversity. Dwi believes these values are highly relevant and should be embraced in our daily lives.



Dual Role and Extensive Network

Not only is Dwi Yuan an artist, but he also works at the Sleman Regency Tourism Office. With his experience in the Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) approach, which he gained while being a Wadah cadre, is often trusted to guide guests and oversee programs in various regions. His network of friends has also grown, adding to his busy schedule as a puppeteer. He now frequently performs at various events, both within and outside Sleman.

For Dwi, being a Wadah partner does not mean losing his place; on the contrary, he feels embraced as part of the Wadah family.

***"Empowered,
Not Employed"***
-Dwi

"As a partner, I don't feel like I'm being employed. I feel more free to create. My potential is still valued and empowered" - Dwi

Working with Wadah, Opening New Space for Growth

BY: SISILIA MARIETA



In 2025, Wadah will experience a significant turning point, showcasing the dedication, empowerment, and professionalism of its staff. A progressive policy has been implemented that encourages staff in the regions to transition from simply "working for Wadah" to "working together with Wadah" as partners.

While this shift may initially feel unsettling for some, it has opened up new opportunities for many, including Margaretha Wadu, affectionately known as Rita, who now envisions possibilities that were once unimaginable.



From Employee to Partner

Since 2020, Rita has served as the Head of the Kupang Regional Wadah House, leading with her heart and embodying Wadah's values, culture, and spirit of service. For her, the Communication, Coordination, and Interaction (KKI) work pattern was not just a method; it was a way of life.

When Rita transitioned to a Wadah partner, she viewed it not as a demotion but as an opportunity for growth. She confidently moved forward, taking on the role of Chair of the No Fitu Timor Foundation. Under her leadership, 10 Nutrition Kitchens were established across various locations in Kupang.

Rita manages one of these Nutrition Kitchens, overseeing operations, developing service strategies, and actively engaging the local community. Each location has 47 volunteers participating in the Free Nutritious Meal Programme.

Most impressively, Rita has reconnected with old friends, including former tutors and participants of the Remaja Wadah Indonesia (Rewind) programme, as well as alumni of the After School program (Pendar). Those who were once supported by Wadah are now empowered to take on leadership roles at the Nutrition Kitchens under the No Fitu Timor Foundation.

Working Capital Becomes a Challenge

Starting something new often comes with challenges. In the Free Nutritious Meals program, a collaboration with the government, issues arose when initial funding was delayed, creating an urgent need for operational capital. This situation opened the door for influences that diverged from the original empowerment mission.

Ultimately, she opted for a middle path, valuing professionalism and open communication while avoiding confrontation, even when it conflicted with her conscience and drained her emotions.

"It's not easy, But I learned from Wadah that while the process can be painful, we must not give up. My mental strength has been forged at Wadah" - Rita





***“If I had never been part of Wadah, I might not have reached this point”
-Rita***

Ultimately, she opted for a middle path, valuing professionalism and open communication while avoiding confrontation, even when it conflicted with her conscience and drained her emotions.



Many Children Receive Nutritious Food

Thanks to the Free Nutritious Meal Programme (MBG), many children, particularly those from East Timor who previously ate only once a day, now enjoy regular, nutritious meals.

This improvement has led to a significant increase in school attendance, with many students who had dropped out re-enrolling—not due to changes in the education system, but because the promise of a lunch plate has rekindled their hope.

Rita feels grateful for these changes, but her pride stems from something deeper: the growth of the service network run by those once supported by Wadah. In her heart, Wadah has never been far away; its values are ingrained in every step of the service she provides today.

She believes that Wadah has elevated the dignity of individuals, empowered them, educated the nation's children, and instilled a spirit of dedication. She believes that Wadah has elevated the dignity of individuals, empowered them, educated the nation's children, and instilled a spirit of dedication

Nutrition Kitchen: Collaboration for Community Health and Economy

BY: SISILIA MARIETA



Since its inception, the Wadah Foundation has been dedicated to providing holistic support in Education, Health, and Economic Empowerment. A key initiative is the Free Nutritious Meal Programme, which aims to ensure access to nutritious food for vulnerable individuals, particularly young children, to cultivate a healthy, productive, and empowered generation.

Yayasan Wadah operates five Nutrition Kitchens, each independently managed by partner community coordinators. These are located in Kampung Beting (3,210 beneficiaries), Gunung Kidul (3,143), Cibodas (3,320), Atambua (3,165), and Koa (1,648).

The programme specifically targets students registered in the Basic Education Data System (DAPODIK) whose schools are within a six-kilometre radius or a 20-minute travel time from a Nutrition Kitchen, adhering to the technical guidelines set by the National Nutrition Agency (BGN).

The Free Nutritious Meal Programme significantly boosts the local economy by employing 47 community members in various roles, including field assistants, preparation teams, processing staff, portioning teams, distribution personnel, and dishwashers. Volunteers at the Nutrition Kitchen express gratitude for this regular income, which supports their livelihoods.

***"By becoming a Nutrition Kitchen volunteer,
I can buy school uniforms for my children."
-Ibu Sumini***

Challenges and Long-Term Plans of the Nutrition Kitchen Managers

The Nutrition Kitchen managers encounter significant challenges despite their operational success. They often deal with limited availability of local raw materials, necessitating purchases from distant areas. Additionally, they strive to ensure consistent nutritional quality within a tight budget while keeping volunteer motivation high.

Moreover, the collaboration between the Wadah Foundation, represented by the kitchen owner, and BGN, represented by SPPI – Sarjana Penggerak Pembangunan Indonesia - as the Head of the Nutrition Service Implementation Unit, presents its own unique dynamics. This partnership requires patience, strong communication skills, and a commitment to joint problem-solving to prevent service disruptions.

To tackle the challenges of raw material availability and promote operational sustainability, managers at the Nutrition Kitchen receive intensive mentoring from the Wadah Foundation. This initiative emphasizes the development of long-term strategic plans.

Which include diversifying local suppliers by partnering with farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and village-owned enterprises (Bumdes) within the community. The clear goal is to secure a stable and fresh supply of raw materials while also stimulating local economic circulation in alignment with empowerment principles.



"By becoming a Nutrition Kitchen volunteer, I can set aside part of my income to help my parents, something I had never done before." - Ibu Eka



The Wadah Foundation grants the Nutrition Kitchen managers full autonomy in purchasing raw materials, prioritizing local suppliers who meet established pricing standards. This approach optimizes the circulation of funds within the community. Additionally, local residents actively participate as suppliers of food ingredients tailored to the needs of the Nutrition Kitchen.

The Wadah Foundation operates under a non-profit principle, ensuring that it does not charge rent for the Nutrition Kitchen's operation. Funds returned to the Foundation are limited to the initial investment costs, including construction, renovation, and the purchase of work equipment

Once these investments are recouped, any surplus operational funds from the Nutrition Kitchen belong entirely to the Community Coordinator, who manages the kitchen. This structure promotes financial independence and sustainability, allowing the initiative to continue its social service activities in the community without reliance on donor support.



The Role of Wadah Foundation in Mentoring

The role of Wadah Foundation in mentoring Dapur Gizi is crucial. Besides facilitating the provision of resources through the Wadah Titian Harapan Consumer Cooperative, Wadah also bridges strategic partnerships with the local Health Department and Community Health Centers for nutritional knowledge. Furthermore, it equips volunteers with financial literacy so they can wisely manage their income, plan their finances well, and improve their sustainable living standards.

306 Families in Alor Village Can Enjoy LTS Lighting

BY: FRANSISKO DENDI



In the remote area of East Nusa Tenggara, specifically in Alor Regency, many villages still lack access to PLN electricity. The region's challenging topography, dominated by hills and valleys, contributes to this situation, leaving residents' settlements shrouded in darkness.

Most residents rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods, cultivating economically valuable commodities such as coffee, nutmeg, betel nut, and cashews. These crops form the backbone of their family income. During the day, children actively study at school, but when night falls, all activities come to a halt, and darkness envelops the settlement.

The only light source in their homes is kerosene lamps, which, despite being inefficient and posing health risks, remain the sole option due to the lack of alternatives.

Recognizing this situation, the Wadah Titian Harapan Foundation (Wadah) was inspired to bring about change for a better life in the community. Wadah's enthusiasm for empowering the community has never waned, as they believe that limitations do not prevent individuals from achieving a more dignified life.



A Moment of Light in 2018

The year 2018 marked a pivotal moment as Wadah's enthusiasm aligned with the community's strong desire for change, bringing forth a ray of hope. Six women from a humble village eagerly volunteered for solar power technician training.

Five attended a program in India, while one trained in Sikka under the guidance of Bibi Rasmi, a pioneering alumna of Barefoot College. This training transformed these women from simple housewives into 'Mama Terang' or solar power technicians

Despite their limited English skills, the 'Mama Terang' overcame numerous challenges during the LTS technician training in India. Wadah emphasized, "To achieve something, it's not about ability or talent; what's more important is the willingness and courage to maximize one's potential for change and contribution to society."



Real Impact of LTS

The introduction of Wadah's pioneering LTS lighting system has transformed the lives of 306 households in the village, which was once pitch-black at night. With the new lighting, residents have become more productive, able to continue daily activities such as peeling candlenuts, betel nuts, and coffee beans even after sunset. This shift has directly boosted family production and income.

Students now enjoy the ability to study comfortably at night, free from the limitations of darkness, which opens up greater educational opportunities for them.





The household economy has also benefited significantly. Expenditures on kerosene have dropped dramatically, allowing families to reallocate funds to other essential needs.

Importantly, the elimination of pollution and health hazards associated with lamp smoke has improved indoor air quality and reduced the risk of respiratory diseases, fostering a healthier living environment for all family members. Additionally, children can now play and study in a safer and brighter setting.

Challenges Amidst Change

Although LTS has brought many positive impacts, its implementation as a renewable electricity technology poses several challenges, particularly in adapting to community conditions. One significant obstacle is the need to change old mindsets and habits.

Communities accustomed to minimal lighting and reliance on kerosene lamps require time to fully utilize LTS's potential and recognize its long-term benefits. Continuous education on the proper use and maintenance of LTS is crucial for its optimal functioning and longevity.



Additionally, fostering collective awareness of LTS as a shared asset and organizing communities for independent management are equally important tasks. The organization also faces challenges in encouraging village governments to legalize LTS management in local regulations, ensuring the program's legal and administrative sustainability.

Moreover, encouraging residents to take responsibility by paying maintenance fees for LTS sustainability requires a persuasive approach and a deep understanding of the community's economic conditions. Wadah's role extends beyond these challenges; the organization is committed to supporting beneficiaries in managing the LTS system independently.


The goal is to ensure the ongoing benefits of LTS while expanding its positive impacts. For the organization, the light of hope must remain lit, overcoming every limitation. It is never too late to change for the better; desire and courage are the driving forces for achieving change.



A woman wearing a purple hijab and a white face mask is seated at a table, operating a sewing machine. She is focused on her work, with her hands positioned near the needle. The background shows a domestic setting with a water dispenser and some household items. The table is covered with a patterned purple and gold cloth.

“Back to Banyumulek I Must Return” – Returning Home to Serve

OLEH: DWI SEPTIANI



Rani Eka Rahmawati, known simply as Rani, is an inspiring healthcare professional from Lombok. After working as a nurse at a large hospital in Jakarta, she felt a strong calling to return to her hometown and serve her community in Banyumulek Village. This decision was unusual, as many people typically move to Jakarta for opportunities.



Returning Home to Serve

From a young age, Rani was immersed in the spirit of service, influenced by her parents' active involvement in social activities. A pivotal moment came in 2019 when she participated in a Wadah Foundation event in Jakarta, which solidified her determination to return home.

In 2020, Rani's passion and dedication caught the attention of the Wadah Foundation management, leading to her appointment as the leader of the Rumah Wadah Daerah (RWD) Lombok. In this role, she oversees Wadah's assisted communities in the region while continuing to apply her expertise as a healthcare professional.

Wadah's Role in Supporting Rani's Journey

The Wadah Foundation consistently supported Rani in her dual role by entrusting her with leadership responsibilities and providing essential medical equipment and medicine. This support enabled her to deliver optimal medical care to her village, even reaching remote areas.

In 2022, Rani transitioned from being an employee at the Wadah Foundation to a service partner, which further strengthened her role as a health and social activist. This new status granted her greater freedom and independence to provide healthcare services aligned with her expertise and aspirations.

With the support of Wadah, Rani was able to develop her initiatives, including the management of an independent clinic with a publicly accessible pharmacy.

Wadah provided not only medical equipment and medicines for the clinic but also emotional support and learning opportunities for Rani at other clinics they supported.

"Becoming a Wadah partner doesn't stop me from serving the community; instead, it allows me to focus more on what I love" - Rani





Although Rani's plans for further learning were interrupted by her pregnancy and childbirth, Wadah continued to create avenues for her personal growth and professional networking.

This ongoing support allowed Rani to develop her skills further and benefit the community at large. This transformation exemplifies Wadah's commitment to empowering individuals, fostering local leadership, and creating sustainable impact through strategic partnerships.

Rani is actively involved in the community beyond her clinic work. She collaborates with elderly Posyandu (health posts), Puskesmas (community health centers), and the Education Office to conduct routine health checks for the elderly, which include monitoring blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and uric acid levels. Additionally, she has initiated exercise programs for the elderly and provided free counseling.



A Social Catalyst

Rani provides family health education and child development insights, serving as a valuable resource for PAUD teachers regarding management and teaching methods.

She believes that health and education must go hand in hand, viewing community service as an integral and holistic effort. As both a healthcare professional and a social catalyst, Rani uses some of the profits from her clinic and pharmacy to support the operational activities of Wadah's assisted communities.

Her commitment exemplifies that service performed with heart will always return to its roots, continually growing to benefit others.



UI and Wadah Foundation Strengthen Their Role in the Beting Community

BY: DWI SEPTIANI



Practical training is a crucial part of the learning experience in the Social Welfare Study Program at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia. This program aims to integrate knowledge, values, ethics, and social welfare skills, preparing students to become professional social workers equipped to tackle real-world challenges

This program aims to integrate knowledge, values, ethics, and social welfare skills, preparing students to become professional social workers equipped to tackle real-world challenges. The current internship activities emphasize developing competencies in micro, mezzo, and macro interventions across various community contexts.

Presently, three students from the Social Welfare Science program are interning at the Wadah Community, continuing the established collaboration between UI and Wadah from previous periods.

Practicum at Wadah Community in Kampung Beting

The Wadah Foundation (Wadah) was selected as a practicum partner because its mission aligns closely with the values and objectives of the UI Social Welfare Science program. As a non-profit organization focused on education, health, and economic empowerment, Wadah aims to foster a resilient and dignified community through a holistic and participatory approach.

This vision resonates with the program's emphasis on active community participation and the sustainability of social interventions.

From January to June 2025, three students from the UI Social Welfare Science Program—Sarah Najma, Nabila Handalah, and Pandu Setya Brata—completed a practicum at the Wadah Kampung Beting Community.

This experience began with an engagement phase focused on building effective relationships and communication. The students conducted interviews and observations to gain an in-depth understanding of the Wadah Foundation's structure, vision, mission, and the internal dynamics of the community they were assisting.

After the assessment process, the Wadah Kampung Beting Community was chosen for its accessibility and readiness to receive assistance. The three students selected complementary areas of intervention

Sarah Najma focused on enhancing the computer skills of early childhood education teachers, Nabila Handalah worked on strengthening the community's joint savings and loan program (UBSP), and Pandu Setya Brata concentrated on supporting the development of the Free Nutritious Food Program (MBG).

The practicum process involved several key stages: assessment, formulation of activity plans, and field implementation. Throughout this process, the Wadah Foundation served as both mentor and facilitator, providing regular feedback and fostering communication between the students and the community.

Theory and Practice Are Not Always Aligned?

Students have noted that field practice often diverges from the theoretical concepts learned in the classroom. Essential skills such as flexibility, empathy, and effective communication are crucial when engaging with the community.





A key lesson from this experience is the importance of building trust and managing complex social dynamics in an inclusive and participatory way.

The community appreciates the presence of UI students, as they bring new energy and fresh perspectives to ongoing programs. These students are seen as collaborative partners rather than just implementers of activities; they actively help design and refine programs to meet the community's real needs.

Wadah Collaboration, UI: A Good Practice Example

Students face significant challenges in practical activities due to time constraints, as they must also attend classes on campus. To address this issue, a solution was implemented that involved scheduling activities during weekends or holidays. Additionally, intensive coordination with the community and field mentors was established to ensure the effectiveness of these activities.

The collaboration between the Wadah Foundation and the UI Social Welfare Program exemplifies how academic institutions and community organizations can enhance each other's efforts in education and community empowerment. This synergy not only benefits students and the community but also strengthens the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable social change.





YAYASAN WADAH TITIAN HARAPAN

LET US GROW TO SERVE

We are delighted to inform you that, effective July 21, 2025, the head office of Yayasan Wadah Titian Harapan has moved to its new address:

RUMAH YAYASAN

Danau Tondano Street A3, Bendungan Hilir Village,
Tanah Abang District, Central Jakarta, 10210, Indonesia

We truly appreciate your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to welcoming you to our new office.

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