

The logo features a stylized green 'W' with a small flag on its top right stroke, followed by the word 'ADAH' in large green letters and 'CHRONICLES' in white letters on a green rectangular background.

WADAH CHRONICLES

July 2026

A woman wearing a blue hijab and a blue patterned long-sleeved shirt is sitting at a desk, holding a black pen and pointing at a book. A young boy in a school uniform is sitting next to her, looking down at the book. The book has colorful illustrations and the word 'Pemanduan' is visible. The background shows a blue wall and some shelves.

**Empowered, Growing,
& Creating Impact**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Dear Readers,

There is one moment that stays with me every time I visit one of our communities. A community leader, programme manager, or learner stands before a group of people and speaks with confidence. They trust their own judgement and no longer look towards a Wadah facilitator for reassurance.

For me, moments like these are deeply rewarding. They remind me that Wadah's work has fulfilled its true purpose. From the very beginning, Wadah has never sought to become a place where people remain dependent. We exist to walk alongside communities: to listen, to encourage, and to create opportunities for every individual to discover the strengths and potential that have always existed within them. When people gain the confidence to make decisions, to lead, and eventually to guide others, we see hope transformed into strength.

The theme **"Empowered, Growing, & Creating Impact"** featured in this edition was inspired by simple yet meaningful moments like these. To be empowered does not mean walking alone. It means having the confidence and capability to stand on one's own, while embracing the spirit of community, continuous learning, and mutual support. It is from this foundation that growth takes root, enabling individuals and communities to create meaningful and lasting impact in the lives of others.

Throughout this edition of Wadah Chronicles, you will meet individuals and communities whose journeys continue to unfold. Those who once came to learn have become teachers. Those who were once guided are now guiding others. Those who were once given an opportunity are now creating opportunities for those around them.

To every community leader, programme manager, volunteer, partner, and supporter of Wadah, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. This journey has been shaped by perseverance, patience, and our shared commitment to one another. Seeing more and more individuals grow in confidence and become agents of positive change within their own communities is a joy beyond measure.

I hope the stories in this edition will remind us that when we grow in order to serve others, we create space for many more individuals and communities to grow alongside us. Happy Reading.

Warm regards,

Anie Hashim Djojohadikusumo

Chairperson

FROM THE EDITOR

After a long journey spanning more than a decade—during which they navigated difficult processes and faced significant obstacles and challenges—a number of communities and individuals who have been supported and guided by the Wadah Foundation (Wadah) have successfully freed themselves from dependence. They have now risen and grown into self-reliant communities capable of standing on their own two feet as expected. Some of them have even become role models for other communities in their local area.

However, it cannot be denied that individuals and communities will only be able to empower themselves, grow and spread a positive impact to other communities if their leaders can consistently adapt in line with evolving circumstances, including regeneration to ensure sustainability. In order to achieve this, a community or individual requires the stamina to endure a long-term struggle,

Building a grassroots community with a strong fighting spirit so that it can thrive, become self-reliant after being “left behind” by Wadah, and have a positive impact on other communities is the first and foremost mission of the Wadah Foundation, a mission that has been consistently pursued since the nonprofit foundation’s inception.

The Wadah Foundation can now breathe a sigh of relief. Many communities and groups that have long received assistance and guidance from Wadah are now growing independently. Some communities have even become fully self-reliant in addressing the various challenges they face, meaning they no longer need to depend on Wadah. This does not mean, however, that they no longer need help from others.

Then, Wadah can take a ‘behind-the-scenes’ role and focus more on being a partner to the communities.

Zul Herman
Editor



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

MOTTO

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

Anie Djojohadikusumo
Founder

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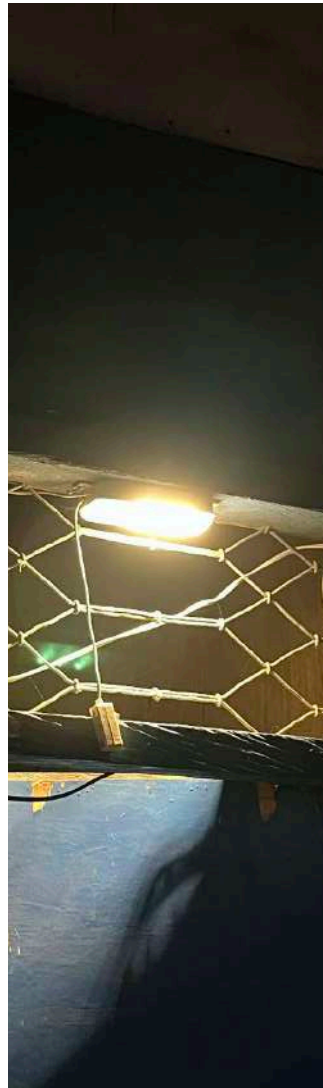
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Can't Read or Write? PKBM Ernama Saraswati Timore Is Here to Help

By: Ani Widyastutik

Can't Read or Write? PKBM Ernema Saraswati Timore Is Here to Help

A few years ago, several residents of Lalosuk Hamlet, Manleten Village, Belu Regency, still struggled to read and write. They were not children who were just starting school, but adults who had previously missed the opportunity to learn how to read. These changes may appear minor, but they have a profound impact. Those who once came as learners now help ensure that the children in their villages receive adequate nutrition. They have grown from learners into empowered community members.

They began again, sitting in a classroom belonging to the local early childhood education centre (PAUD), learning the alphabet one letter at a time through a literacy programme organised by the Ernema Saraswati Timore Community Learning Centre (Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Masyarakat, or PKBM). Slowly but surely, the letters that once felt unfamiliar now weave themselves into words and sentences.

They have transitioned from being aid recipients to becoming individuals who serve their communities.

This story lies at the heart of the entire journey of PKBM Ernema Saraswati Timore.

From Learners to Volunteers

However, what is most touching is not simply the reading skills they have acquired, but what they did afterwards. After gaining basic reading and writing skills, several learners chose to take an active role in their community by volunteering for the Free Nutritious Meals (Makan Bergizi Gratis, or MBG) programme in their areas.

Participants of PKBM literacy programme are chatting with Mr. Frans





Volunteers from the Knaha Moris Nutrition Kitchen attended a PKBM class

A Learning Space Open to All

Since 2021, this PKBM has served as an alternative learning space open to all, regardless of age or educational background. The Equivalency Programmes (Packages A, B, and C) run alongside literacy and skills training, reaching residents of various ages and backgrounds in the Balaran Community, Atambua.

It is here that many people rediscover learning opportunities they had previously missed. For some participants, the PKBM is not merely a place to obtain a certificate, but a space that accepts them just as they are, where they can start afresh and build new hopes.

Fostering Independence

From the very beginning of its support, the Wadah Foundation has sought to foster self-reliance rather than create dependency. Gradually, the roles that were once the responsibility of Wadah's facilitators have now been fully transferred to community cadres. Their responsibilities now range from managing administration to preparing students for graduation.

The three founders of the PKBM, Mr Dionisius, Mr Martin and Mr Frans, together with the tutors, are now the driving force behind this learning centre. Meanwhile, Wadah acts as a supporting partner behind the scenes. This shift in roles reflects the growing capacity and self-confidence of the community members in managing their own institution.

However, this journey has not been without its challenges. To this day, classrooms, equipment, and internet access still depend on the facilities available at the PAUD, since the PKBM does not yet have its own building. The tutors also create their own teaching materials. Despite these limitations, mutual cooperation has become a pillar of support.

They share classrooms and borrow equipment from one another while awaiting a new chapter. They don't wait for perfect conditions to keep moving forward; they make the most of what they have.

When the Empowered Begin to Empower Others

This year marks an important milestone in PKBM Ernawa Saraswati Timore's journey. Thanks to the support of "Friends of Wadah", construction of the PKBM building will begin soon. The new building will provide a more suitable learning environment and create opportunities to develop long-awaited skills and vocational programmes—such as weaving, computer skills, and agriculture—which have remained plans until now due to limited space and equipment.

The journey of PKBM Ernawa Saraswati Timore demonstrates that change often begins with simple steps. They have gone from being unable to read to having the courage to take on roles within the community.

What started as a borrowed learning space has evolved into an aspiration to build an increasingly independent educational institution. Most importantly, more people now believe in their own abilities and have the determination to use them to help others.

Perhaps the deepest meaning of empowerment is this:

"Those who were once helped now step forward to help others, and those who were once empowered now empower others in turn."





Posyandu Sumber Rezeki: Strengthening Basic Health Services for the Manyarejo Village Community

By: Siprianus Nahak

Posyandu Sumber Rezeki: Strengthening Basic Health Services for the Manyarejo Village Community

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to provide health care for an entire village—from newborns to the elderly—using only basic equipment in a makeshift clinic set up on the porch of a villager's home? There is no dedicated building or room, nor any comprehensive facilities—just several plastic chairs, a simple set of scales, and unwavering dedication. This is the daily reality for the volunteers at the Posyandu Sumber Rezeki in Manyarejo Village, Plupuh Subdistrict, Sragen Regency. Their perseverance is an inspiring example, and their work is a vital foundation for the village's public health.

From 2023 to 2025, the Posyandu Sumber Rezeki has faithfully fulfilled its role in serving residents at every stage of life, providing checkups for pregnant women and postpartum mothers, as well as services for infants, toddlers, adolescents, and the elderly. A total of 60 Posyandu (Integrated Health Services Post) cadres serve as the driving force behind the health services provided to 333 beneficiaries in Manyarejo Village.

Each month, the front porches of residents' homes are transformed into temporary health service spaces. Here, health cadres weigh infants, monitor the growth and development of toddlers, and listen to the health concerns of the elderly. This is no easy task—especially when it is carried out on a voluntary basis, without adequate facilities, and often amidst the time constraints of volunteers. Who must also manage their own households and jobs.

Yet the health volunteers know that their work is far from over, despite these ongoing services. Many families have yet to utilise their gardens as a source of nutritious food, and the volunteers themselves are still learning how to deliver health education more confidently.

If these limitations are not addressed, they could hinder the achievement of a simple yet profound goal: creating a healthy and self-reliant Manyarejo Village.



Posyandu cadres measure head circumference

A number of mothers are taking part in activities at Posyandu Sumber Rezeki



A Collaboration of Three Organisations

This is where the story enters a new chapter. The Wadah Foundation, the Arsari Djojohadikusumo Foundation, and the Institute for Rural Technology Development (Lembaga Pengembangan Teknologi Pedesaan, or LPTP), working under the Sangiran Integrated Cultural Programme (Program Kebudayaan Terpadu Sangiran, or PKTS), are not merely external organisations that come and go; they are partners who work directly in the field alongside the community health workers.

For the people of Manyarejo, the PKTS programme is nothing new. The village had previously been involved in efforts to preserve the Sangiran archaeological site, and that same spirit of mutual cooperation is now being directed towards community health and nutrition.

This support is modest yet practical, and the approach is simple. It encourages community leaders to conduct door-to-door visits with more confidence, while also introducing residents to a new practice that is simple yet impactful: growing healthy vegetables in their gardens. This small step addresses two problems at once.

Gardens that were once just empty spaces are now slowly transforming into sources of nutrition for families, where spinach, water spinach, and various other vegetables thrive without requiring significant expense. Equally importantly, community health workers who were once hesitant to speak to residents are becoming more confident and articulate communicators. This transformation may not always appear in statistics, but it is clearly evident in people's daily lives.

This process also teaches a deeper lesson: true empowerment doesn't come from providing instant answers, but from accompanying the community through its learning journey. Rather than lecturing, the PKTS facilitators sit with the community health workers, listen to the challenges they face, and work together to find solutions that are best suited to the circumstances in Manyarejo.

Moving Forward Together

This story is not over yet. The PKTS programme is set to team up with the Ministry of Health to accelerate the transformation of primary health care services and strengthen the basic competency standards of Posyandu cadres across Manyarejo. This collaboration is expected to equip the cadres with a more structured knowledge base, covering everything from nutrition education techniques to using simple technology to record residents' health data.

This collaboration goes beyond training alone to support the well-being of volunteers who safeguard the village's health every day, from one front porch to the next. After all, without their dedication, the community's impressive health statistics would never become a reality.

The story of the Posyandu Sumber Rezeki reminds us that big changes often start with small things: a small garden, a little courage, and hands willing to roll up their sleeves alongside the community. From there, the dream of a healthy and self-reliant Manyarejo Village slowly but surely becomes a reality—one home visit, one educational session, and one green garden at a time.



The cadres at Posyandu Sumber Rezeki

Mama Ani and the Community Ensure the LTS in Nagekeo Will Continue to Shine

By: Fransiskus Dendi Uma

Mama Ani and the Community Ensure the LTS in Nagekeo Will Continue to Shine

It wasn't late yet when Mama Maria Mau, a resident of Tendamude Village, affectionately known as Mama Ani, walked from house to house. Solar-powered lights shone brightly from behind the windows of residents' houses. In one of the rooms, a child was studying intently. However, Mama Ani was there not just to pay a social visit. In her hand, she held a list of electricity maintenance fees. She wanted to ensure that the bright lights in this village would stay on by maintaining them together.

For years, the nights in Tendamude, Pagomogo, Tedakisa, Rendu Ola, and Makipaket were synonymous with pitch darkness. As soon as the sun set, children closed their books, household chores came to a halt, and smoke from kerosene lamps began to affect people's health. These limited lighting options not only restricted the children's learning activities but also curtailed work activities and hindered the local economy.

Residents Install Solar Panel Systems Themselves

A turning point came in 2019. Through a collaboration between the Wadah Foundation, the Nagekeo Regency Government, Barefoot College, and the Indian Embassy in Jakarta, solar power (Listrik Tenaga Surya, or LTS) successfully illuminated 600 homes, including schools, community health posts, places of worship, and village offices. From the very beginning, residents were not treated as mere spectators. Village women, who became known as "Mama Terang," were trained and empowered to become LTS technicians. They were directly involved in installing the systems and were also prepared to maintain them independently.



Mama Maria Mau



A solar powered lamp lights up brightly at night

The changes brought about by solar power are now evident in residents' daily lives. Children can study at night, and the once-routine purchase of kerosene is no longer necessary, leading to significantly lower household expenses. Evenings have become productive hours for cracking candlenuts, winding thread, and weaving, while the community-based integrated health post (posyandu), schools, and village office can operate for longer hours. New services have also emerged. The village of Pagomogo successfully obtained a permit to establish a junior high school, and the Mbay II sub-district received an operational permit for an early childhood education centre (PAUD).



Solar Mamas are discussing the LTS module



A farmer is watering his newly planted crops

Over time, residents in several RTs gradually became more aware of the need to pay. Then the heads of RT 01 and RT 02 took action by actively encouraging their residents. As a result, the LTS workshop is now always clean and well-maintained, with Mama Marselina Nena and Mama Yohana Tawa are responsible for its upkeep. In the event of a malfunction, residents simply call a local technician.

Collecting Fees Door-to-Door

Maintaining stable and bright LTS lights hasn't always been easy. The maintenance fee agreement established in March 2026 initially faced some setbacks because residents' awareness was not yet consistent, and people were accustomed to waiting for the Village Head to coordinate action. However, at that point, Mama Ani and Mama Florida Teang took the initiative of going door-to-door to collect the fees.



Solar Mamas are undergoing refresher training



LTS Technicians

Similar momentum is also beginning to take hold in other villages. At a management meeting in Rendu Ola on 16 May 2026, hamlet heads, committee members, technicians, posyandu cadres, and teachers were brought together. w

In Makipaket, community leaders Yohakim Pasy and Ahmad Jango provided practical support, and 14 LTS users have now paid their dues.

Then, support from the Wewoloe Parish Priest and the Head of Mbay II Village has paved the way for wider collaboration, including a joint meeting with the Head of Mbay II Village on 19 June 2026 and a meeting with residents of two rugged villages, Garo and Wowo, the following day. Residents of both villages warmly welcomed the expansion of the programme.

It was getting late when Mama Ani closed her record of contributions. In Nagekeo, LTS is indeed opening the door to better access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. But what matters most is not the panels on the roof, but the hands of residents like Mama Ani, who ensure that the light never goes out.

Teras Baca Ummi: A Learning Space Born Out of Compassion

By: Dwi Septiani

Teras Baca Ummi: A Learning Space Born Out of Compassion

As afternoon approaches, Teras Baca Ummi—a local community reading corner in Sasa Village, Ternate—begins to fill with children. They turn up without being asked. Some immediately reach for their favourite storybooks, while others help each other to spell words one by one. Several mothers sit beside their children, chatting with the volunteers.

Bu Tini with Reading Room for Children

A few years ago, this scene was not around. Children spent their time without any structured learning activities, while reading materials were extremely limited. It was this situation that moved the heart of Martini H. Malan—affectionately known as Bu Tini—to open her home as a reading corner where children could come to read books.

Bu Tini is no stranger to the world of literacy. While continuing to teach Qur'an recitation, she taught herself about libraries, believing that reading can open up a brighter future for children. When the residents of Sasa launched the "Literacy Village" initiative in 2016, she was entrusted with the role of coordinating children's reading activities. Armed with her passion and her family's support she opened her home in 2019 as a library corner named "Teras Baca Ummi."



Opening Doors, Mobilising the Community

Her journey hasn't always been easy. Initially, only a few residents understood the purpose of converting a home into a reading space. Nevertheless, Bu Tini didn't lose heart. Every afternoon, the doors of Teras Baca Ummi are open. "Work with sincerity, and everything will be done with joy and happiness," she said.

That patience eventually paid off. Parents who were initially sceptical came to trust the programme after seeing their children's academic performance improve at school—some even became top students. Today, around 30 children use Teras Baca Ummi every day, including children from other neighbourhoods. They come of their own accord, confidently choose books they like, and help friends who are still learning to read.

Children read books at Teras Baca Ummi





Growing Together with the Community

Activities at Teras Baca go beyond just reading. Bu Tini has developed a tutoring programme for children from early childhood through high school, supported by her younger sister, Ira, and local high school students. This year, students from Khairun University in Ternate are running a thematic literacy programme there. The Ummi Reading Terrace has been part of the Sasa Neighbourhood community network, supported by the Wadah Foundation, since 2018. The reading room is no longer just for children; it has also evolved into a space where adults can share their concerns.

After their Qur'an study sessions, mothers often talk about their worries that their children might get involved with the wrong crowd. It was from these conversations that the idea for an inter-neighbourhood football tournament came, with the children themselves serving as organizers. The children proved to be very responsible, and preparations are now underway for a larger neighbourhood-wide competition. In addition, Bu Tini has encouraged the mothers to grow vegetables in their gardens for their own use. Around ten people have started gardening to help reduce household expenses.

From Sasa to the National Stage

Her dedication to maintaining the reading room has finally been recognised. Last October, Teras Baca Ummi participated in a neighbourhood library competition with several tiers, advancing from the regency/city level to the provincial level, and was ultimately selected to represent North Maluku Province at the national level. There, Teras Baca Ummi won first place nationally for Region 4. This achievement has made it a model for other neighbourhoods seeking to participate in literacy competitions.

The Reading Room is open all the time

Every afternoon, the doors to the reading room open once again. The children arrive brimming with curiosity, and the volunteers welcome them with books, stories, and care. This simple routine, repeated day after day, fosters a culture of learning—because the children know they have a space where they can grow together.



Women, the Foundation of Self-Reliance in Koa Community

By: Ani Widyastutik

Women, the Foundation of Self-Reliance in Koa Community

The sun had barely lifted above the horizon when the volunteers of the Community-based Integrated Health Post (Posyandu) began arriving at their post in Koa Village. They set up folding tables, hung up baby scales and neatly organise record books. They had everything ready before the mothers arrived with their babies and toddlers.

This happens again on the seventh day of every month. Nobody reminds them to attend, and there is no supervision. They come because they believe that looking after the health of mothers, babies, toddlers, and the elderly in their village is a responsibility that must be shared.

In four hamlets—Tunbes, Kabukolen, Fafioban, and Haususu—there are around twenty women who act as Posyandu volunteers. They weigh babies, monitor toddlers' growth and development, support pregnant women, offer nutritional advice, and care for the elderly. What they do may seem simple, yet it is through their dedication that healthcare services in Koa Village continue to thrive.

Volunteers with a Long History of Service

Among these volunteers are Mama Ani Afliana Dilak, who has served as a Posyandu volunteer in the Fafioban hamlet for 26 years, and Mama Orsila M. Lassa, who has faithfully served as the Posyandu volunteers' secretary for 18 years. These experienced volunteers are the foundation of Koa's ever-strengthening self-reliance. These women teach not through words, but through their presence and consistent example. The new volunteers learn from them how to read growth and development charts, fill in the Growth Monitoring Card (Kartu Menuju Sehat, or KMS), and lead nutrition sessions with increasing confidence.



Infant immunisation programme



Posyandu activities at Koa Community

Self-reliance Grows through Togetherness

In Koa, independence does not mean not needing anyone. Independence is when someone knows they are capable and has the courage to prove it, so as to make a real difference to the people around them. The change has been gradual, but it is clearly visible. Mothers who used to come to the Posyandu because they were invited now come because they themselves understand the benefits. Meanwhile, volunteers who were unsure about filling in the KMS form now do so calmly and confidently.

Families can now spot the signs of poor health more quickly, understand the importance of a balanced diet, and feel more confident in making decisions regarding their family's health. This progress is not because the system is perfect, but because of the women who have chosen to remain committed. There are five service desks—covering registration, weighing, record-keeping, health education, and immunisation which operate consistently every month.

Working with the Simple Equipment and Facilities

Limitations in facilities and infrastructure—such as incomplete equipment at some Posyandus, the continued reliance on simple hanging scales, and the presence of new volunteers who must learn quickly—have not dampened their spirits.

Despite all these limitations, the women of Koa did not wait for perfect conditions before taking action. They organised a rotational schedule, shared knowledge, and showed up every month.

This proves that self-reliance does not come from having complete facilities, but from the sincerity to keep attending.

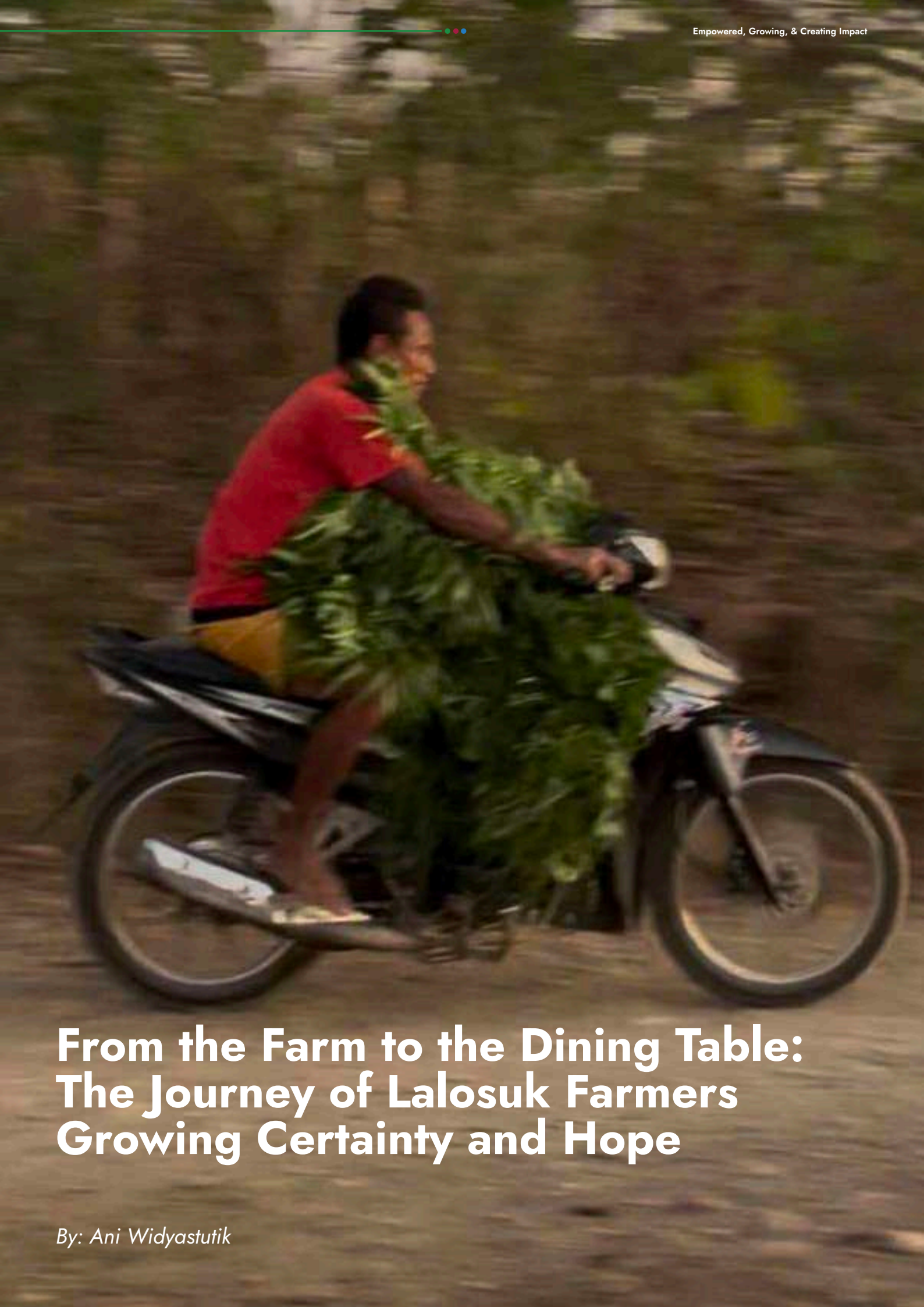
Support that Fosters Growth

The Wadah Foundation's presence in Koa Village is not about imposing solutions from the outside. Wadah is there to sit down with the community, listen, and gradually strengthen their confidence in the power they already possess.

The training of community leaders, regular mentoring, and shared classrooms established in recent years have now borne their most valuable fruit: the emergence of Koa leaders who are confident enough to take on roles without constantly needing guidance.

The organisation is not there to serve as a permanent crutch, but to ensure that when communities stand on their own, they do so firmly and with dignity. They are no longer dependent on Wadah, but have become capable of standing on their own and taking the lead directly.

The next seventh day of the month will come, and the women of Koa will once again be there to set up the tables, hang up the scales, and welcome the mothers and children. Perhaps that is where the true meaning of empowerment is most clearly seen, not when a programme has officially ended, but when the community chooses to keep moving forward because they believe that change lies in their own hands. If the women of Koa continue to work faithfully, the next generation will go on to grow and flourish, just as they had hoped.

A man in a red shirt and yellow shorts is riding a motorcycle on a dirt road. He is carrying a large, dense bundle of green leafy vegetables, likely chard or similar, which is secured to the back of the motorcycle. The background is a blurred dirt path with some greenery, suggesting a rural or farm setting. The overall tone is warm and focused on the journey of the produce.

From the Farm to the Dining Table: The Journey of Lalosuk Farmers Growing Certainty and Hope

By: Ani Widyastutik

From the Farm to the Dining Table: The Journey of Lalosuk Farmers Growing Certainty and Hope

Every nutritious meal served at the Knaha Moris Nutrition Kitchen (Dapur Gizi) is the result of hard work and a long process by the farmers. However, it is not just about planting; it is also about learning, adapting, and becoming self-reliant. This is the story of a community that has transitioned from relying on aid to becoming self-sufficient, because it is grounded in belief and process.

Change Began in the Soil

Most of the farmers who now supply Dapur Gizi in Lalosuk Hamlet, Belu Regency, have long received guidance from the Wadah Foundation in collaboration with Field Agricultural Extension Officers (Penyuluh Pertanian Lapangan, or PPL). This guidance covers more than just farming techniques. It involves a shift in mindset, teaching farmers how to manage their land more wisely and utilise organic fertiliser. It makes them aware that they are responsible for the quality of their harvest from the moment they start farming, rather than only when the product reaches the point of sale.

The results are clear: every commodity that arrives at Dapur Gizi has passed the Cooperative's rigorous selection process, ensuring consistent quality. This system guarantees a steady supply of high-quality products.

Eliminating Market Uncertainty

Marselinus Efendi Mau, a high school graduate better known as Fendi, decided to become a farmer. Before becoming a supplier of Japanese squash and long beans, he had only ever known how to plant crops and take the harvest to the market, where the prices were unpredictable.

Now, everything has changed. "My crops now have a more reliable market and my income is more stable," he said.

Thanks to this newfound stability, he has been able to save money and eventually purchase a motorcycle to support his daily work. For Fendi, Dapur Gizi isn't just a customer—it's the gateway to a new chapter in his life.

Meanwhile, Mama Mince Mau, a teacher of early childhood education who helps her husband manage their vegetable garden, has had a similar experience. She still remembers how vegetable prices at the market would plummet without warning, making all her hard work pointless.

Now, as a pak choi supplier to Dapur Gizi, she feels a different kind of certainty. "My husband does not get tired from selling at the market anymore," she said. It is not just about convenience; Mama Mince is now part of a larger ecosystem, contributing in two ways: as an educator and as part of the community's food chain.



Local Farmers supply their harvests to the Nutrition Kitchen



Volunteers from the Dapur Gizi are chopping fresh vegetables supplied by local farmers



Local farmers supply tempeh and rice to the Nutrition Kitchen

Mentoring the Path to Self-Reliance

From the very beginning, the Wadah Foundation has sought to build a strong foundation that fosters self-reliance with dignity, not dependence. Meaningful support empowers a community to become self-sufficient, even when the support is no longer there.

True success begins when farmers can maintain the quality of their own harvests, when cooperatives can conduct selection processes independently, and when a young man can support his family by working on his own.

The stories of Fendi, Mama Mince, and many other suppliers in Lalosuk show that genuine transformation rarely stems from a single significant intervention. Instead, it emerges from a patient and consistent process based on trust.

They are no longer simply farmers waiting for favourable market prices for their crops. They are now part of a food system they have built themselves, upholding the standards that they have defined. This is what it means to grow from within—the strength they possess comes from being trusted to thrive and manage their own potential. They are able to meet today's needs and build a better future for their community.



A local farmer's field

The Spirit to Overcome Challenges, Bringing Change to Pomat

By: Fransiskus Dendi Uma

The Spirit to Overcome Challenges, Bringing Change to Pomat

Not far from the city of Maumere, the capital of Sikka Regency, lies the hamlet of Pomat, which stretches across a remote, rugged, and arid hilly region, far beyond the reach of the state-run electricity grid (Perusahaan Listrik Negara, or PLN).

Residents spend their days working in the fields and making a living from crops such as rice, corn, peanuts and tobacco. However, as soon as the sun sets, all farming activities must stop. The light from oil lamps in their homes begins to glow, serving as the only source of illumination. This limits both the children's study time and the family's productive activities.

Now, when night falls, the hamlet of Pomat is no longer shrouded in darkness. In one of the modest hillside homes, children open their books under a solar-powered lamp while their mother continues spinning thread for weaving. A scene like this would have been almost impossible to imagine just a decade ago.

Self-Managed Solar Power System

The change began in 2015, when 50 homes in Pomat Hamlet gained access to a solar panel system (Listrik Tenaga Surya, or LTS) through a programme initiated and implemented by the Wadah Foundation (Wadah). What were once dark homes are now brightly lit. Children can study at night, and residents have more time for economic and social activities. However, for Wadah, providing electricity is just the starting point; what matters more is that the community can manage it independently.



Rugged and arid hills of Pomat Hamlet

Over ten years later, the solar power system is still operational thanks to the care of the residents. Every second Tuesday of the month, residents gather to pay a maintenance fee of between Rp5,000 and Rp10,000 per household. Maintenance and repairs of the units proceed without significant issues, handled by technicians who have emerged from the community. Residents no longer have to wait for outside assistance when a light malfunctions; they know exactly where to report it.



Pomat villagers are listening to instructions from the UBSP

Setting an Example for Neighbouring Communities

The residents' ability to independently manage the LTS has fostered a sense of self-confidence that has spread to other areas of community life. Following the training held in January 2026, residents formed Bokashi compost-making groups that now operate on a rotating basis.



The processing and curing of tobacco



LTS technicians are repairing the solar panels

Meanwhile, the LTS management team works closely with the community-based savings and loan cooperative (Usaha Bersama Simpan Pinjam, or UBSP). The Pomat Multipurpose House, which is currently under construction, will serve as a new gathering point for all community activities, ranging from various meetings to social and religious events. Pomat's self-reliance is now setting an example for neighbouring communities. Technicians from this hamlet are trusted to provide assistance to other hamlets in Sikka.



The solar panel was taken down for repair

In Wolomude, the local committee and technicians successfully repaired six damaged LTS units, and residents' contributions are managed as a revolving fund. In May 2026, Mama Maria Petra accessed the fund to increase the capital for her ikat weaving business.



The changes taking place in Pomat did not emerge from a project that was completed and then abandoned. The evenings that once brought this arid and remote hamlet to a halt have now become a time for learning, weaving, and gathering. This light will continue to shine—not because of a steady stream of aid, but because the residents have chosen to keep it alight.

Weaving by a member of the Pomat village community



YAYASAN WADAH TITIAN HARAPAN

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