

# UPLIFTING URBAN LIVES

Indonesia's civil society organizations  
working to transform cities

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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In 2010, a group of young urban planners and activists formed Kota Kita, a non-governmental organization, to encourage the involvement of citizens in transforming their communities in Surakarta, Central Java. Among its founders is John Taylor. An urban planner, he led a team from Kota Kita to prepare this booklet on Indonesia's urban civil society sector, with help from the following:

## Funding

Ford Foundation and Kota Kita Foundation.

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# NEW DATA

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This booklet is based mainly on the findings of a survey, done for the first time, on the work of urban civil society organizations (CSOs) across Indonesia.

Kota Kita initiated the survey in September 2023, by starting with its own network of partner organizations. Very quickly, the sample size snowballed through referrals.

In a bid to give a broad picture of the sector, Kota Kita identified and sent survey forms to 120 CSOs. Of this total, 80, representing 67 percent, responded.

Every attempt was made to identify as many urban CSOs as possible in each region, but the study was limited by resources and time. To produce a better picture, a round of in-depth interviews was done with 15 CSOs spread evenly across the different typologies.

The aims of the research team are to: (i) spotlight the contributions of urban CSOs amid Indonesia's urbanization process; (ii) extract lessons from their adaptive strategies and diverse approaches; (iii) offer recommendations for enhancing their sustainability and effectiveness; and (iv) identify key actions to promote a more conducive enabling environment.

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# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

## RISE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) IN INDONESIA

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For decades, millions of Indonesians have moved away from their villages and small towns to seek better lives and futures in the country's major urban centers. The irresistible allure of these centers has driven up the country's urban population, so much so that it is now more than three times that of its population in 1945 when it gained independence. This shift to an urban economy and society, in turn, fuelled a strong growth in the nation's economy and standard of living. But urbanization brought with it negative consequences: pollution, growing income inequality, uneven development, and deteriorating environmental conditions. To worsen matters, climate change has, in recent years, deepened these inequities and vulnerabilities.

Remedial measures, however, are being taken, inspiring hope for equitable and sustainable progress. Playing a part in the process are civil society organizations (CSOs). These not-for-profit organizations work for the benefit of their communities or society to create a positive impact on the world.

Among them are urban CSOs. These change agents strive to make cities more livable for everyone to thrive and prosper. The work they do is especially vital in places where the local governments are weak or negligent, as they voice the essential needs of the people and help fill the crucial gaps in services and infrastructure.

This booklet spotlights many of the works of urban CSOs and civil society activists. It illuminates what they do, how they work, the different ways they forge change, and the many predicaments, places and people that have benefited from their contributions. We hope the booklet will coax governments, societies, institutions and people to take note of the vital roles these CSOs play in creating a better urban society.

A first-time Kota Kita survey, which forms the basis of this publication, shows three main findings that give a unique insight into the value and impact of urban CSOs in Indonesia's cities.

## THE URBAN CSOs

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**1)** Urban CSOs take on a variety of different organizational structures, depending on how much time their members can dedicate to the organization, the funds they can raise, the scale at which they seek to work, and the stage of their organizational growth. They also work on a kaleidoscope of issues. This extraordinary variety is vital for cities. Each CSO spurs progress and change to some aspect of urban life, provides insights, builds capacities, and, in doing so, creates possibilities. Such diversity make for a wealth of ideas vying to solve the myriad challenges that cities and their communities face. Given how quickly cities are evolving, and how complex they are becoming, such diversity augurs resilience and promise of a better urban future.

**2)** The places and regions in Indonesia where they work are diverse — from small towns and fast-developing medium-sized cities to large urban conurbations and the megacity region of Jakarta. Their extensive presence is because the challenges of urbanization are increasingly popping up in every corner of the country. One of the primary features of the urban CSOs covered in this booklet is how well connected they are to local communities, their people, and contexts. This sense of rootedness ensures that people's voices are heard, and local concerns are addressed.

**3)** Indonesian urban CSOs share a set of common values. They believe in the promise and potential of cities to work better in creating a more sustainable and just society. More importantly, they see it as their right and obligation to trigger social change. This self-belief is apparent, no matter how small the impact. Collectively, it represents an unshakeable spirit that strives to improve urban life for all. In turn, it has helped urban CSOs to add to the dynamism of Indonesian cities today. Still there is a lot more work to do.

*This booklet salutes the contributions and achievements of urban CSOs and activists across Indonesia. The well-deserved attention is done in a straightforward manner – by highlighting the variety of work they do, and the range of their capacities, ingenuity, and fortitude. This booklet does not just seek to inform. It is also a call to action. Everyone benefits from better cities but realizing sustainable, equitable, and prosperous cities demands collective responsibility and action. All stakeholders, including governments, need to work towards these goals, and value urban CSOs as our vital, irreplaceable partners in this collective endeavor. They play a critical role in recognizing and empowering those at the margins of society, prevent us from forgetting places and ignoring issues, and offer innovating solutions to help us re-imagine a better urban future.*

## CHAPTER 2

# TYPES & ORIGINS OF CSOs

CSOs are non-governmental and not-for-profit entities that are dedicated to pursuing specific issues or causes, or they represent or advocate for specified communities and groups. Their form and size vary, and they exist across Indonesia.

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## FIVE TYPES OF CHANGE AGENTS

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With 'urban' CSOs, their focus is on urban issues in cities, with many serving marginalized and disempowered citizens living and working in the city.

To understand the broad spectrum of Indonesia's urban CSOs, we introduce a typology that organizes them into five broad types. The typology classifies and defines them by specific common characteristics, such as the function or goal of the organization, its maturity, way of working, and institutional/professional arrangement.

## YOUNG NGOs

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Young NGOs (YNGOs) are six years old and younger. Often, they comprise a small group of professionals and have a narrow thematic focus such as participatory planning or water management. They tend to focus on a small number of cities.



## THINK TANKS



Think tanks (TTs) are a team of technical experts that focus on specific problems and use their analyses to influence or propose government policies and regulations. Mostly autonomous, they can be on their own, located in or affiliated to universities. Some also implement projects and see themselves as ‘think-do tanks’.

## ESTABLISHED NGOs



Established NGOs (ENGOS) are legally registered for at least 7 years, which would typically give it some stability and recognition in their field. They have professional or paid staff and are usually organized with a specific mission. Their sizes vary. Some have hundreds of staff members and large operating budgets. The small ones may have as few as 10 full-time staff. But they all have established a sustainable operating model and a recognized sense of purpose.

## VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS



Volunteer organizations (VOs) are made up of members sharing a common interest, community origin, or location. As the name suggests, most VO members are not paid. Some VOs exist only online, with no physical locations.

## GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS and INFORMAL ASSOCIATIONS



Grassroots organizations (GROs) usually represent low-income communities or neighborhoods, advocating for their interests and needs. The members, often unpaid, tend to be from the community.

Informal associations (IAs) represent specific professions or livelihoods, such as vendors, taxi drivers, or daily-wage laborers. They advocate for the group's interests and needs. IAs may be relatively small, but some have a large membership and can be influential, like the Indonesian Association of Street Vendors, APKLI, that represents street vendors.



A facilitator from Kota Kita engages informal bus drivers with the drivers' association to discuss the challenging regulatory environment they face, in Surakarta, Central Java.



Volunteers of NGO Borneo Urban Lab organized classes and fun activities with the children of Pelambuan neighborhood in a new community space in Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan.

## 25-YEAR JOURNEY OF URBAN CSOs

The evolution of this sector in Indonesia dovetails with the political, social and economic developments of Indonesia over the last 25 years. This period stretches from the end of the New Order (1998) and the beginning of Reformasi (the Reform Era) to the early 2020's. To understand the changes over time, our analysis suggests that the period from Reformasi to the early 2020's constitutes multiple phases, each with distinct characteristics of the development of and effects on the sector.

### Stage 1 (1998-2002)



#### FREEDING

In the final years of the New Order, urban youth groups and pro-poor organizations protested against the living conditions stemming from poverty. Their actions helped cause the fall of the Suharto regime. However, urban issues were not at the forefront of CSO activism. It was not until the birth of Reformasi and the dawn of democracy that saw some activists seize the moment to assert new claims, including the rights to water, housing and civic space. But in that time, an enabling regulatory environment for civil society did not exist then. As a result, the government scrutinized and restricted CSO activities.

### Stage 2 (2003-2009)



#### BURGEONING

The early Reformasi years saw a sharp rise in interest in issues such as democracy and civil rights. Long pent-up demand for civil reform, coupled with an influx of international donors and aid, fuelled a period of rapid growth of Indonesian civil society. Urban CSOs consequently multiplied and flourished. At the same time, emerging urban movements that were more diffused and localized also sought to address such issues as urban poverty and letting marginalized groups participate in development projects. But formalized and extensive engagement of urban CSOs in urban development issues, such as infrastructure or urban livability, remained limited. The reason: the Government hardly acknowledged, let alone recognised, the potential of CSOs.

## Stage 3 (2010-2018)



### MATURING & CONSOLIDATING

Pro-development policies during this period contributed to rapid urbanization along with a demographic tipping point that saw the majority of Indonesia's population living in cities. This raised awareness and stoked interest in addressing everyday urban problems. It was especially palpable among civil society actors and the public. Multiple influential mayors, encouraged by what they saw on the ground, also emerged with compelling visions and approaches to transform their cities. This moment coincides with, among others, the rise of Mayor Tri Rismaharini in Surabaya, and Mayor Joko Widodo in Surakarta. These mayors established that it was possible to have alternatives to the status quo in urban governance and planning. Local CSOs found themselves getting more engaged with critical urban issues, including waste management, transportation, flooding and poverty. They pursued the issues either on their own or in partnership with local governments. This significant shift occurred mainly in cities in Java, where major urban investments were concentrated.

## Stage 4 (2019-2024)



### CONSTRAINING & COLLABORATING

Swift urbanization in this period reached even small and far-flung corners of the country, causing a mound of problems. Consequently, urban CSOs emerged across Indonesia. Many of the newcomers were comfortable using technology, including social media, to be more visible as well as to mobilize support and public interest, even going beyond their local spheres of work. They attracted attention as they stoked a marked rise in youth activism and involvement in solving local issues. Their ability to collaborate and create teams with diverse skills demonstrated a capability to marshal support across multiple networks and places — a sophistication that largely eluded the earlier generations of Indonesian CSOs. Unfortunately, government interest in inclusive and meaningful citizen participation, especially by supporting CSOs, seems to be on the decline. It forced urban CSOs to be more flexible and enterprising when seeking support. This may be a welcome development, but the unwanted time and resource pressures put the urban CSOs, particularly the smaller or newer ones, in a more vulnerable position.

## CHAPTER 3

# PURSUIT OF CSOs

In striving to transform cities, the urban CSOs share some common goals, and tools and techniques. More importantly, they are motivated by a desire to make cities more livable for all urban residents.

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### WHAT ARE THEIR GOALS?

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The Kota Kita survey results indicate that the goals of urban CSOs in contemporary Indonesia are to make cities more livable for each and every urban resident. Specifically, they seek to create cities that are:



#### SOCIALLY JUST

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Most urban CSOs seek to improve the lives of the poor by improving their access to water and adequate housing, for instance. They also strive to protect the vulnerable against being exploited and to promote humane and socially just conditions for work.



#### ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

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Many urban CSOs work at the neighborhood (kampung) level to ensure these key building blocks of Indonesian cities encourage people to walk, are green and leafy, and provide easy access to schools and other essential infrastructures.



#### RESILIENT AND SAFE AMID THE UNCERTAINTIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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Urban CSOs aim to do it by reducing vulnerability and promoting more sustainable ways of living.



## EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Collectively, CSOs work to ensure cities are places where everyone has opportunities, full access to basic services and prospects of a better life. Also, all groups can claim their rights. But significant barriers persist, including policies that exclude vulnerable groups or communities, such as migrants, women, children, the elderly and the disabled.



## IN BALANCE WITH NATURE

A number of CSOs see the fate of people closely tied to the natural environment in and around the cities they inhabit. They seek to protect natural resources such as water and air, encourage biodiversity, and reduce the use of harmful chemicals, plastics and fossil fuels. These measures will ensure a more healthy and sustainable life for the people.



## SAFE AND SECURE FOR PEOPLE

A growing number of urban CSOs are focusing on improving safety and security in cities. The various ways being explored include making roads safer and urban communities healthier and reducing violence and crime without resorting to heavy-handed ways.



Students waiting to ride the public bus to school in Surakarta, Central Java. Kota Kita gave the local government the community's views on ways to make transportation to and from schools safer and more accessible.

## WINNING WAYS

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### CONDUCTING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Going door-to-door, meeting with community members and leaders, sharing information with residents, and listening to their needs and issues are some of the main ways by which urban CSOs effectively identify communities and groups who lack information, make and share information for them in accessible ways, raise awareness, and, importantly, forge trust for sustainable partnerships.



### MOBILIZING STAKEHOLDERS

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Urban CSOs, especially informal associations and GROs, are effective at mobilizing stakeholders because they already represent the interests of their specified groups, say, local residents or businesses. Also, many NGOs and VOs know the key actors who will provide information about their communities to help spur them into action. The unique ability of urban CSOs to leverage on person-to-person relationships is invaluable for activating stakeholders and mobilizing them at opportune moments.



### RAISING AWARENESS

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Urban CSOs use campaigns to raise awareness about myriad issues by sharing information, sending out communication materials, organizing events, and educating specific audiences or even the general public. Increasingly, they are using social media and the Internet to popularize new ideas about cities. For example, Kota Kita's survey findings show that by fostering debate of issues like reducing the use of plastic or promoting accessibility for disabled people has led to greater awareness of these urban concerns and actions.





## CO-DESIGNING PEOPLE-CENTERED SOLUTIONS

Urban CSOs can help local communities to contribute in building and maintaining public spaces and infrastructure. Often, the communities lack even such simple aids like computers or the skills to follow design and construction documents. These are essential for the communities to be effective partners or leaders in participatory endeavors. In addition, the CSOs have the needed competencies for participatory planning and design which require undertaking community surveys, mobilizing residents, sharing accessible information, and empowering people to express their needs, ideas, and preferences. It is also an intractable fact that co-created infrastructure and space tend to be better maintained and used by local communities. They can also reflect local culture and values.

## FACILITATING COLLABORATION AND DIALOGUE

As objective and potentially influential intermediaries, urban CSOs can help stakeholders in cities engage with one another. By encouraging dialogue, they help the groups reach consensus in making decisions. One example is facilitating dialogue between local government officials and poor communities. The CSOs can also create safe spaces for dialogue where marginalized voices feel welcome and are confident to speak up. Through their use of plain language as well as dynamic and creative participatory exercises, urban CSOs simplify technicalities and procedural intricacies. They also quell any apprehension to engage with bureaucrats and tackle red tape. Through these actions, the CSOs help improve communication, build social capital for marginalized groups, and support community empowerment.



## FORMULATING POLICY SOLUTIONS

Some urban CSOs, particularly Think Tanks and NGOs, do not just formulate policy solutions for urban problems, they even test them and evaluate their performance. The data and analyses are invaluable for policy proposals, which are further enhanced by the CSOs' ability to facilitate in-person engagement with leaders of the local or national government.



## PARTICIPATORY MAPPING

The ability to work on the ground has enabled some CSOs to team up with local residents and use tools like participatory mapping to identify and locate community assets and problems without ignoring the physical and social context. The resulting maps are a valuable resource when undertaking community-, or even urban-level projects, as they accurately show the needs or issues that other stakeholders may have missed.



## ADVOCACY

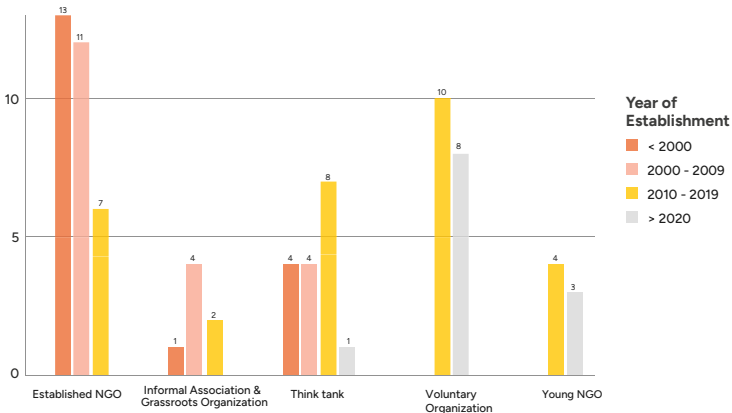
The in-depth knowledge of specific issues, and the ability to express the communities' interests put urban CSOs in a good position to lead campaigns, champion causes, and advocate for invisible and under-represented groups and causes. Increasingly, they are pressing urban policymakers and decision-makers to uphold, introduce and implement policies or laws to bring about change.



## SURVEY AND RESEARCH

Several urban CSOs have done a stellar job in leading and facilitating quality research because of their familiarity with and proximity to relevant individuals, communities and spaces that constitute the grassroots of cities. As a result, they often carry out surveys and investigate pressing urban issues because they know who to engage with to get information and resolve the issues. Urban CSOs that are strongly linked to specific places are particularly valuable as research leaders or partners. Their efforts also often uncover vital idiosyncrasies that can shape outcomes. Such essential, fine-grained knowledge generally eludes the existing processes of community-based research and engagement that exclude CSOs.

## NUMBER OF CSOS FROM EACH TYPE AND WHEN THEY WERE SET UP



## WHERE THEY ARE WORKING

The Kota Kita survey gives insightful information on the distribution and location of 80 CSOs across Indonesia. The findings also give a representative picture of the CSO landscape in the country. Here are some useful insights from the findings:

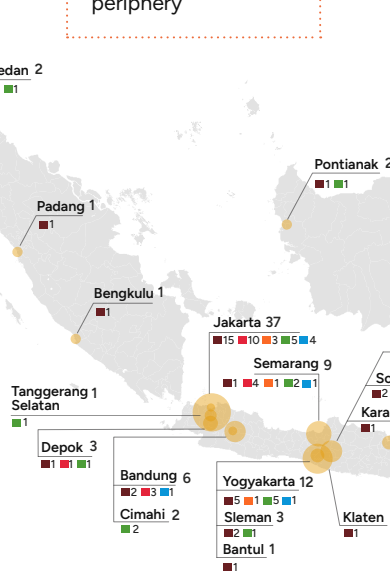
### CITIES BEYOND JAKARTA ARE HOME TO ONE-QUARTER OF URBAN CSOs

These places have 26% of the urban CSOs and are referred to as Indonesia's urbanizing periphery, which the survey defines as towns and cities beyond Java. The label also excludes large established urban centers such as Makassar or Medan.

The urbanizing periphery, therefore, consists of smaller cities of the archipelago, such as Bengkulu, Padang, Pontianak, Balikpapan, Mataram and Parepare. Many relatively new urban CSOs have emerged in there and they include Borneo Urban Lab in Banjarmasin (2022), Pena Borneo in Pontianak (2020), Enjoy Balikpapan in Balikpapan (2016), and Sampan Institute in Sulawesi (Parepare, Sulawesi Selatan) (2016). They reflect the spread of awareness of, and concern over, urban issues in more remote regions. This can be expected to reshape regional and national development agendas.

26%

of urban CSOs in sample are located in Indonesia's urbanizing periphery



64%

of urban CSOs are in Java

### JAVA DOMINATES, WITH ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF URBAN CSOs

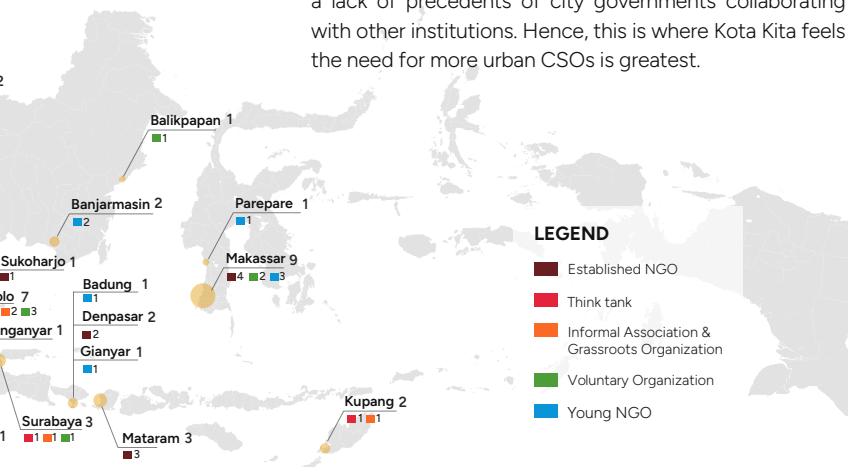
Java's dominance is no surprise given its status as the country's main island, with the country's largest population and the majority of its cities. It has 64 percent of the urban CSOs, with the remaining 36 percent dispersed among the other islands. The uneven state goes back for decades. Most of the earliest urban CSOs were established in Java, the traditional hub for most urban investments. Its growth and development were further fuelled by the large number of people from the rest of the country migrating to Java to live and work. But this Java-centric dominance in the urban CSO sector is starting to shift, with cities outside Jakarta attracting CSOs as awareness and concern for urban issues spread.

## METROPOLITAN CENTERS HAVE MORE THAN HALF OF URBAN CSOs

**55%**

of urban CSOs are located in large 'metropolitan' urban area

Metropolitan areas, which are places with more than 2 million people, have 55 percent of urban CSOs. These places include Surabaya, Bandung, and Makassar as well as the country's capital, Jakarta, which has one-quarter of all CSOs. Urban CSOs tend to work in large cities not just for their multiple and complex challenges, but also because of the prevalence of other institutions like universities. These institutes of higher learning raise public awareness of CSOs significantly and make it easier for CSOs to solicit their support as well as collaborate with city governments. Conversely, fewer urban CSOs in smaller cities indicates the newness of their brisk urbanization. In turn, it suggests a lack of precedents of city governments collaborating with other institutions. Hence, this is where Kota Kita feels the need for more urban CSOs is greatest.



## CLUSTERS OF CSOs IN LARGE CITIES CAN GIVE THEM AN EDGE

Kota Kita's research shows that the magnetic pull of large cities, such as Jakarta, Semarang, Surakarta, and Makassar, for urban CSOs can lead to three or more of them forming a cluster, with its attendant advantages. Clustering provides a favorable environment for CSOs to innovate, give mutual support, collaborate and act collectively as a consequence of their physical proximity. To some degree, this arguably is the civil society equivalent of the concept of agglomeration found in economics and geography. In cities where urban CSOs are isolated and operate alone, their potential impact and influence are likely to be inhibited as there are far fewer opportunities to exchange ideas and knowledge.

## CHAPTER 4

# CSOs AND THEIR CHALLENGES

Inherent in the struggles of CSOs is overcoming internal obstacles, like weak organizational skills. Here are some of the main challenges CSOs face according to their differing characteristics; for example size, technical capacity, and professional nature.

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### MAIN INTERNAL STRUGGLES

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#### Established NGOs

- Managing administrative costs to ensure enough income for operational expenses, such as staff pay and office rent
  - Government procurement rules prevent NGOs from securing contracts of local governments
  - Shrinking resource base and a competitive funding environment
  - People are not familiar with what NGOs do and do not recognize their contributions
  - Identifying the right capacity to match organizational needs
- 

#### Think tanks

- Maintaining an independent voice
  - Ensuring research is effective at influencing policy
  - Inadequate funds for research and operational expenses
- 

#### Grassroots organizations and informal associations

- Inadequate skills, information, and resources for their work
- Inability to find institutions to partner with since they operate in small areas
- People are unfamiliar with the important role they play, so their voices and interests are not well received

## Voluntary organizations

- Inadequate resources to carry out activities
- Maintaining the commitment of volunteers to the cause
- Inaccessibility of other organizations and communities
- Inability to effect lasting change, like introducing policies

## Young NGOs

- Inadequate know-how to write proposals to obtain grants
- Identifying and accessing a network of potential partners
- Accessing skills and capacity to secure contracts
- Accessing resources for operational costs and staff

Community members sharing ideas and suggestions for the design of a collective working space in the low-income neighborhood of Ngampon, in Surakarta



## CHAPTER 5

# PUTTING IDEAS TO WORK

From making cities more bicycle-friendly to securing adequate housing for kampung folks, CSOs have taken on a rich variety of everyday challenges. No matter whether they are new, well-established, small, or made up of volunteers, the following examples show the innovative, collaborative, and successful approaches that CSOs use to improve and transform lives. Their success offers solutions for other cities, helping to bring about far-reaching changes across the country.

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### 1. Digital tools create informed people

Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and other cities

Volunteer organizations such as **Menemukenali**, **Gang-gangan**, and **Melihat Kota** comprise youths who believe strongly that cities can educate, stimulate, and improve society. They use social media to make people more aware of emerging issues, moderate online discussions, organize guided walks around their cities, and hold public discussions of urban issues that attract similar-minded young people. By engaging people to explore and discuss issues, they help open their eyes and minds to learn about the social challenges that confront them. This approach has drawn people's attention to long-overlooked and long-accepted problems such as the quality of public transport or access to green, public spaces. These CSOs also provide a safe space that younger people prefer for engaging in matters that affect their communities.







## 2. Making cities bicycle-friendly Surabaya, East Java

Long frustrated with the dominance of cars and the lack of infrastructure for other modes of transport, bicycle enthusiasts in Surabaya turned to an unusual route to tackle the problem. They used their football club Persebaya Football Club to form the volunteer organization **Subcyclist (Surabaya Cyclists)**, and mobilized fellow fans to go on cycling excursions in and around the city. These trips opened their eyes to social realities and difficult issues, such as pollution, inept waste collection and poverty. They may be locals but many were unaware of the situation until Subcyclist began the weekly excursions to encourage dialogue among the people from different socio-economic backgrounds. The new awareness fostered a sense of belonging and pride, enabling Subcyclist to push elected officials to do more for cyclists and demand for more social programs for low-income groups.



## 3. Empowering the disabled Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan

Youth activists in Banjarmasin held community outreach activities to connect and collaborate with people with disabilities to do a disability-focused census. The findings on the number of disabled persons in the city and their struggles led to the birth of a new NGO: **Borneo Urban Lab**. The results also spurred the local government to better acknowledge the needs of people with disabilities and made people aware of how inaccessible the city was for them. Further, the mayor's positive response led to disabled people being engaged in designing spaces and amenities that better accommodate their needs. It set in motion the building of facilities such as a community center for





people with disabilities, and an innovative model of motorized motorcycle taxis for people in wheelchairs. Over time, the many advocacy campaigns helped introduce inclusive policies that prioritize disabled people. The city is now more holistically inclusive.



#### 4. Bringing nature and people closer together

Jakarta, DKI

The neglect of parks and unused park spaces in Jakarta troubled a team of architects, designers, and community activists. It prompted them to set up **Ayo Ke Taman (Let's Go To The Park)**. Its mission was to convert the places into areas that fostered a love for nature and a refuge everyone can enjoy. Using social media, they developed educational workshops and digital content. They also organized public competitions and activities, such as studying trees and birdwatching, to promote urban biodiversity. One of its flagship programs, Festival Taman, invites citizens to enjoy green, open spaces, a move that also enhances social interactions. Ayo Ke Taman has collaborated with the Jakarta government to organize creative activities to draw people to green open spaces. The various efforts are bringing urban residents outdoors and back to the parks.



#### 5. New income from creating "waste banks"

Gianyar, Bali

Waste piling up and polluting local waterways and unused spaces in Gianyar regency, sparked a group to form an urban environmental CSO named **Griya Luhu**. Believing that education and community involvement were the best ways to protect the environment, Griya Luhu held a



campaign in schools and at the community level to educate people about sustainable waste management. It initiated a scheme that encouraged people to recycle the waste they collect for reuse, a move that helped boost their income. There are 74 such community-managed waste banks across Gianyar. Griya-Luhu's initiative has since evolved into a social enterprise that helped clean the city, made people more aware of being sustainable, and earned extra income from recycling waste.



## 6. Delivering social benefits to the poor

Jakarta, DKI

Communities in Jakarta have long suspected that public funds meant to benefit poor families were being mismanaged and diverted elsewhere. Among them is the **Indonesian People's Struggle Union (SPRI)**, a GRO that focuses on monitoring the delivery of the city government's social assistance program to the poor. It introduced a scheme that equipped people from low-income communities with tools to collect data about the distribution of social assistance funds. The findings showing mismanagement were shared with the government, even as SPRI advocated for greater transparency and better-resourced social programs. But more importantly, it demonstrates how community-driven data collection and management can transform the way public resources are distributed and, in turn, improve the effectiveness of the efforts to alleviate poverty.





## 7. Improving fisherfolk's livelihood

### Medan, North Sumatra

In a vast archipelago like Indonesia, the fishermen play an important economic role in the country's agriculture sector. Yet they languish in some of the poorest communities in Indonesia's cities, living in makeshift homes in coastal areas. At the same time, the state forces them, sometimes violently, out of their fishing villages. The **Indonesian Traditional Fisherfolks Organization (Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia, KNTI)** is a CSO that represents the interests of fisherfolk throughout the country, including the large city of Medan. It defends them against relocation without satisfactory alternative housing and compensation as well as protests against the construction of new coastal barriers that damage fishing boats and threaten their livelihoods. In doing so, the KNTI helps ensure the fisherfolk benefit from the country's services and resources the same way as do the wealthier communities.



## 8. Are women safe outside their homes?

### Solo, Central Java

Women and girls have long feared using public transport. They also feel vulnerable in public spaces. Blame this "unfreedom" of safe mobility on the Asian tradition of affording privileged treatment to men and boys. As a result of this low awareness of gender dynamics, the capacity of women to access gainful employment opportunities are limited. This deeply unfair situation was exposed in Solo, by the NGO **Kota Kita**. It did so by conducting interviews and focus group discussions with female students, women factory workers, and informal women vendors while mapping the city's



infrastructure for mobility. It also organized workshops to train women and girls in bicycle maintenance, mobilized cycling enthusiast groups, and organized events to promote cycling among girls. By using data-driven research and advocating for bicycle communities, Kota Kita has been able to engage and convince the city's transportation department to introduce a regulation that created bicycle-only lanes on major roads. The regulation also promotes traffic safety measures that protect women and girl cyclists. The city, consequently, became more accessible to them.



## 9. Keeping climate change at bay Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara

Droughts, erratic and excessive rainfall, and the steady rise in sea levels in the impoverished eastern provinces of Indonesia are especially devastating for their vulnerable communities, including women, fisherfolk and migrants. The **Institute of Resource Governance and Social Change (IRGSC)**, a think tank, conducts research in Kupang and other urban areas of East and West Nusa Tenggara to help cities and citizens cope with these challenges. It does so by mapping the risk and locations of vulnerable populations and explaining the impact of a changing environment on food and water resources. It also trains local governments and other stakeholders to adapt and prepare for a future that is likely to be hotter, wetter and more unpredictable. Research by think tanks like IRGSC influences local policies, budgets, and plans aimed at making livelihoods, infrastructure, buildings and services more resilient. It also protects the most disadvantaged.





## 10. Securing housing and tenure rights

Jakarta, DKI

In 2015, thousands of households in Jakarta were evicted from their kampung homes to make way for the expansion of the city's flood management infrastructure. It aggravated an already difficult situation as the securing of tenure and adequate housing are a perennial challenge in Jakarta, as well as other large cities because of intense market pressure on land and the difficulty for the low-income to access decent housing. Faced with homelessness, the residents of 25 kampungs organized a GRO called the **Jakarta Urban Poor Network**. It joined forces with two established urban CSOs — think tank **Rujak Centre for Urban Studies** and advocacy NGO **Urban Poor Consortium**. Together, they mobilized affected communities and pressured the city government to present a more humane solution. Their efforts ultimately resulted in the co-design and construction of public housing flats for those evicted and built near their former homes. The collective ownership of these flats was arranged to be managed as a community-run cooperative, which provided the poor families with much-needed tenure security. Other kampung communities, deemed vulnerable because of their proximity to rivers and waterways, were invited to voluntarily move their homes back from the river edge for greater security. For their cooperation, they were given septic tanks and brought under the city's solid waste management system, which was necessary to prevent such communities from being typically and unfairly blamed for riverine pollution.



## 11. Fostering a sense of belonging

### Makassar, South Sulawesi

Cultivating strong community connections for urban youth can be achieved through play activities they can relate to. These include literature, art, performances and even discussions about movies. Since its launch as a community library in Makassar, **Kedai Buku Jenny**, a YNGO, has aimed to promote a sense of community through the sharing and enjoyment of the arts. Focusing mainly on children, the space offers activities such as storytelling, theater, art exhibitions and talk shows. Similarly, the VO **KataKerja** relies on literature to arouse interest. As a social movement, KataKerja strives to change the conventional image of a library as a 'quiet' place for reading to a space facilitating the convergence of ideas, both written and oral. It creates space and opportunity for thematic discussions, author-reader meetings, film screenings, musical performances, and collaborative artwork creation. In Kalimantan, another VO named **Enjoy Balikpapan**, engages citizens in a different way. It hosts exhibitions that invite people to imagine the future of Balikpapan in 20 years' time. These "Sepuluh Keping" exhibitions were organized with the city's Development Planning Agency. The VO also presents infographics of Balikpapan city on its digital platform to encourage the public to be part of its inclusive urban development.





## 12. Rebuilding safer homes after disasters

### Palu, Central Sulawesi

In 2018, more than 4,000 people were killed and thousands became homeless in Palu city, after a tsunami triggered a powerful earthquake. The government subsequently relocated the coastal communities to a safer site 5 km from the coastline. But the move puts them far away from their traditional livelihoods. It prompted the NGO **ARKOM Indonesia (Community Architects of Indonesia)** to adopt a participatory design approach with the survivors to develop an alternative relocation scheme to address their needs while keeping them safe. ARKOM introduced a collective savings scheme for community members to gain access to capital to purchase land nearer to the coast. Households could also repay the sum incrementally and receive individual land titles. At the same time, earthquake-resistant technology, including robust prefabricated materials, were used to build the homes. Mangroves were planted and maintained along the coast to create a breakwater barrier to reduce the impact of future storm surges and tsunamis. The various proposed measures were accepted by the local government underscoring the potential of CSOs to help vulnerable communities use design and planning to rebuild their lives, and make their settlements more resilient.





Urban CSOs can help articulate the needs and voices of marginalized communities in urban plans and policies. Members of the blind community in Banjarmasin share their struggles to access public transportation in a discussion facilitated by a local CSO.

## CHAPTER 6

# CSOs EVOLVE FOR IMPACT

To keep up with the continual changes in cities, many CSOs adapt swiftly while others fade away. But on the whole, the sector is evolving to meet increasingly complex urban problems, overcome shrinking resources, and help shape public and governmental attitudes.

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This resilience can be seen in urban CSOs adopting new tools and technologies, forming alliances, altering their methods, and exploring alternative means of mobilizing resources to stay relevant and be at the forefront to meet changes.



### FORMING ALLIANCES

Cities change, often quickly, to meet new challenges. This requires urban CSOs to always be prepared to tackle fresh and unpredictable challenges. To stay in step, if not ahead, CSOs form alliances and coalitions with other CSOs, including professional associations, groups of students, residents and even private-sector organizations. The collaboration allows CSOs to complement and pool each other's strengths and resources to be more effective in their respective missions. Teaming up is especially useful for small CSOs to optimize their modest budgets and a narrow range of skills. Forming alliances is also politically empowering, as multiple stakeholders can exert greater influence than a solitary entity.



## MOBILIZING NEW AUDIENCES

To influence shifts in local policies or direct public attention to an emerging or neglected issue, CSOs now seek support of new audiences or constituencies. Such a move can help marshal influence and even resources. One example is Greeneration Foundation in Bandung where some young VO's have mobilized youths to push local governments to ban plastic bags and reduce the use of plastic.



## NEW WAYS TO FIX OLD PROBLEMS

Fresh and novel ideas to overcome persistent problems are tough to find. To worsen matters, bureaucratic culture and procedures often impede creativity, flexibility, and experimentation. On the other hand, most CSOs need to be adaptable and innovative to optimize their limited resources. And this is where size matters. Being small enables them to be nimble, gain from the closer proximity to their communities, and make the most of their background knowledge. These advantages drive them to be innovative and facilitate the scaling-up of new approaches for greater and swifter impact.



## FRESH FUNDRAISING TECHNIQUES

Relying on traditional sources, such as grants from city governments or donations from companies or wealthy individuals, is no longer the way to go. Increasingly, CSOs are pursuing new sources of funds. Indonesian crowdsourcing platforms, like Kitabisa, have become a popular avenue for them and community groups. The new channels to support change-making ideas boost their potential to remake cities.



## ENLISTING NATURE TO PROTECT CITIES

Climate change has exposed the vulnerability of cities to natural disasters. But the best ways to protect communities do not always require costly infrastructure. Adopting more natural and sustainable approaches can mitigate overheads, like building massive infrastructure shields such as seawalls and coastal barriers. Currently CSOs are exploring more natural alternatives. For example, instead of proposing building new infrastructure, the ENGO Lahan Basah Foundation is creating coastal defenses by capturing sediment to support mangrove restoration in Demak, Central Java. This natural solution to the rise in sea levels can reduce the impact of coastal storms as effectively as the common concrete barriers.



## EXPLORING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Cities have always been hubs of innovation and technology, but their local governments can be slow to introduce new ways of doing things. CSOs are embracing the digital age by using social media to fire up interest and marshal support for diverse issues, disseminating information, and making government records available to the public. Young Indonesians, in particular, are adept at creating digital communities where the members interact online. This enhances their appeal further afield to younger groups. The importance of harnessing technology and social media tools cannot be overemphasized in giving CSOs both digital and physical avenues to engage the public.



Kota Kita facilitator engages children on a walking tour of a neighborhood in Solo, as part of a design process for redesigned street corridors. Young people's ideas are essential for creating inclusive cities.

# CHAPTER 7

# THE WAY FORWARD

Kota Kita's analysis of the survey indicates that important steps have to be taken to bolster the capacity of the urban civil society sector to uplift life in Indonesian cities. This final chapter presents a set of findings and recommendations that are relevant to CSOs as well as other actors, such as the Government, international donors, philanthropy institutions, and the private sector.

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The resilience of Indonesian CSOs is reflected in their adoption of new tools and technologies, formation of alliances, the adapting of their methods, and exploring of alternative means of mobilizing resources. These measures have helped them to stay relevant and position themselves to be at the forefront in tackling and overcoming changes. These measures CSOs took are highlighted in the survey and can be grouped into six categories:

## 1. WORK WITH OTHERS

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Indonesia's CSOs have shown they care about important issues, and are skilled, creative and able to do things no others can. But they need more opportunities to make a bigger impact. One way to be more effective is to partner with other organizations, such as other CSOs, local governments and communities, and even local businesses and companies. Such partnerships in tackling complex and challenging urban problems will also build the CSOs' capabilities in problem solving.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- City governments should engage the services of CSOs when implementing local development projects. The move will create and boost a supportive enabling environment. They should establish local forums with CSOs to learn about their capacity and potential to be partners.
- CSOs should develop networks with other CSOs, to leverage on their respective skills and technical capacities. This will pave the way for partnerships to be formed.
- CSOs should reach out to the private sector and philanthropy organizations to raise awareness about their capacities and achievements, and suggest opportunities to form partnerships.

## 2. GROW STRONGER INTERNALLY

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Many CSOs need to reinforce their internal operations and systems to be more efficient and effective. For example, setting up transparent accounting systems will signal to potential partners that they are accountable and can be trusted. Likewise, an advisory board is good to have as it can give insights on how to improve decision-making and strategizing.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Philanthropy organizations and donor agencies should provide resources that incentivize CSOs to diversify funding sources and strengthen their internal capacity. One possible way is to provide funding that is flexible and encourages self-development.
- ENGOs and TTs should extend mentorship schemes to IAs, GROs, and VOs, to improve their administration and financial management.
- Private-sector institutions, in such fields as accounting and law, can provide pro bono support to CSOs to strengthen their organizational capacity.

## 3. REMOVE BARRIERS CSOs FACE

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Current laws make it very difficult for urban CSOs to do contract work in cities. Some CSOs, by virtue of their local knowledge and experience, are eminently suited to provide quality service. Procurement barriers, however, tend to stand in their way.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- CSOs should support Working Group for Civil Society Endowment Fund, a national coalition that is urging the authorities to enable CSOs to bid competitively for local contracts.
- Local governments should ease procurement standards that are unnecessarily restrictive or not vital.
- CSOs should also consider registering themselves as social enterprises so that they can bid for contracts.

## 4. INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO RAISE CSOs' PUBLIC PROFILE

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Despite their impressive frontline work and impact, urban CSOs remain largely unknown to the public. They should seek more opportunities to tell their stories, about the work they do, why they are vital to urban life and livelihoods, and how they help create better cities. Such action will elevate their roles and give them greater recognition.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- CSOs should have more outreach activities to communicate their mission and enhance their visibility and credibility.
- CSOs should increase their capacity to communicate effectively the impact of the social changes they achieve. The ways to do it include publishing blogs, producing videos, creating social media content, and disseminating impact stories.
- Local researchers and media outlets should do more – and with greater intensity – to help secure the public recognition and approbation the CSOs deserve.

## 5. RESOURCES CRUCIAL FOR CSOs STABILITY

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Some CSOs, despite their meager resources, are doing a lot. Some even work with little or no funding at all. Think what they could do with more funds. Funding is all-important for organizations to hire staff, buy equipment, promote their work, and be more autonomous and creative in seeking solutions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Philanthropy institutions and donor agencies should give more long-term support to CSOs to enhance their institutional sustainability, including providing resources to establish endowments and build capacity.
- CSOs should request donor agencies and the government to give them financial aid to pay for overhead costs.
- CSOs should strongly back the Working Group for Civil Society Endowment Fund, which is advocating on their behalf for the setting up of the National Endowment Fund for CSOs, to provide financial support.

## 6. TRACK AND EVALUATE WORK DONE

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One reason CSOs struggle to tell their impactful stories is that most do not monitor their results or document their efforts systematically to share with the public. Doing it continuously, using simple metrics to capture the impact of their work, is one of the best ways for CSOs to grow and sustain themselves. Well documented evidence, coupled with the impact on beneficiaries, will bring greater recognition and build trust and awareness in their communities and local governments.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- CSOs should prioritize strengthening their internal capacity to collect data of their work and assess their progress, thereby improving their ability to share their work.
- YNGOs and VO's should adopt monitoring and evaluation practices from the start, if possible, to demonstrate more effectively their results and impact of their work.
- Donor agencies should emphasize the value of conducting impact evaluations that assess objectively a CSO's performance.



Urban CSOs like Kota Kita are skilled in working with local community members, sharing information, understanding needs, and gathering suggestions for urban planning.



CSOs use creative and innovative tools, such as participatory murals, to raise community awareness of important issues and to foster a sense of belonging.

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”**

**Margaret Mead, American anthropologist**

# ANNEX

Indonesia has at least 120 urban CSOs. Broadly, they can be grouped into five categories: think tanks, informal associations and grassroots organizations, young NGOs, established NGOs, and voluntary organizations. Here is the list of the 120 urban CSOs identified by Kota Kita in its 2023 survey.

## Established NGOs

### **Akar Foundation**

Kota Bengkulu, Bengkulu  
[www.akar.or.id](http://www.akar.or.id)

### **AKSANSI / Asosiasi KSM Sanitasi Seluruh Indonesia**

Sleman, DI Yogyakarta  
<https://aksansi.org>

### **Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
<https://sites.google.com/aksiforjustice.org/aksiforjustice/>

### **Arkom Indonesia**

Sleman, DI Yogyakarta  
<https://www.arkom.id>

### **BaleBengong**

Denpasar, Bali  
<https://balebengong.id>

### **Bina Karta Lestari / Bintari**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
<https://bintari.or.id>

### **Center for Community Development and Education**

Banda Aceh, Aceh

### **CRI / Combine Resource Institution**

Bantul, DI Yogyakarta  
<https://combine.or.id>

### **FAKTA / Forum Warga Kota Indonesia**

Jakarta Timur, DKI Jakarta  
[www.fakta.or.id](http://www.fakta.or.id)

### **Gemawan / Lembaga Pengembangan Masyarakat Swadaya dan Mandiri**

Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat  
<https://gemawan.org>

### **Gita Pertiwi**

Karanganyar, Jawa Tengah  
[www.gitapertiwi.org](http://www.gitapertiwi.org)

### **Habitat Indonesia**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta  
<https://habitatindonesia.org>

### **Perkumpulan Idea**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta  
<https://perkumpulanidea.or.id>

### **InSWA / Indonesia Solid Waste Management**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
<https://inswa.or.id>

### **Instran / Institut Studi Transportasi**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
<https://instran.id>

### **Jalatera / Yayasan Jala Lentera**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah  
<https://jalatera.id>

### **KEMITRAAN / Kemitraan bagi Pembaruan Tata Pemerintahan**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
<https://kemitraan.or.id>

### **KKSP / Yayasan Kelompok Kelompok Sosial Perkotaan**

Medan, Sumatera Utara  
[www.kkspfoundation.org](http://www.kkspfoundation.org)

### **Konsepsi / Konsorsium untuk Studi dan Pengembangan Partisipasi**

Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat  
<https://konsepsi.org/>

**KuPAS / Koalisi untuk Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Sipil**

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

**Lab Tanya**

Tangerang Selatan, Banten

**LAPAR Sulsel / Lembaga Advokasi dan Pendidikan Anak Rakyat**

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

<https://laparsulsel.org>

**L-eReM / Lembaga Rakyat Marginal**

Banda Aceh, Aceh

**LP2M / Lembaga Pengkajian & Pemberdayaan Masyarakat**

Padang, Sumatera Barat

<https://lp2m.or.id>

**LP3ES / Lembaga Penelitian, Pendidikan dan. Penerangan Ekonomi dan Sosial**

Depok, Jawa Barat

<https://www.lp3es.or.id>

**Mitra Samya**

Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat

<https://mitrasamya.id>

**Nusatenggara Centre Foundation**

Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat

<https://nusatenggaracentre.or.id/>

**Ohana**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

[www.ohanaindonesia.org/](http://www.ohanaindonesia.org/)

**Pamflet Generasi**

Jakarta Selatan, Jakarta

<https://pamflet.or.id>

**PEKKA / Yayasan Pemberdayaan Perempuan Kepala Keluarga**

Jakarta Timur, DKI Jakarta

<https://pekka.or.id>

**PerDIK / Pergerakan Difabel Indonesia untuk Kesetaraan**

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

<https://perdik.org>

**Perkumpulan Inisiatif**

Bandung, Jawa Barat

<https://inisiatif.org>

**PERSEPSI / Perhimpunan untuk Studi dan Pengembangan Ekonomi dan Sosial**

Klaten, Jawa Tengah

<http://www.persepsi-klaten.org>

**Pikul Foundation**

Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timur

<https://pikul.id>

**PlastikDetox /Yayasan Kita untuk Semesta**

Denpasar, Bali

<https://plastikdetox.org>

**Project Multatuli**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta

<https://projectmultatuli.org>

**PUPA / Yayasan Pusat Pendidikan dan Pemberdayaan Untuk Perempuan dan Anak**

Bengkulu, Provinsi Bengkulu

<https://www.pupa.or.id>

**Roemah Inspirit**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta

<https://www.roemahinspirit.id/>

**Rujak Center for Urban Studies**

Jakarta Utara, DKI Jakarta

<https://rujak.org>

**Sahabat KAPAS**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah

<https://sahabatkapas.org/>

**Seknas FITRA**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta

[www.seknasfitra.org](http://www.seknasfitra.org)

**SIGAB / Sasana Inklusi dan Gerakan Advokasi Difabel**

DI Yogyakarta

<http://www.sigab.org>

**Tifa Foundation**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta  
<https://www.tifafoundation.id>

**URDI / Urban and Regional Development Institute**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
[www.urdi.org](http://www.urdi.org)

**WALHI / Yayasan Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
[www.walhi.or.id](http://www.walhi.or.id)

**Yasanti/ Yayasan Annisa Swasti**

Yogyakarta & Bantul, D.I. Yogyakarta  
<https://www.yasanti.org>

**YPBB / Yaksa Pelestari Bumi****Berkelanjutan**

Bandung, Jawa Barat  
<https://ypbb.web.id>

**YASMIB / Yayasan Swadaya Mitra**

Bangsa Sulawesi  
Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan  
[www.yasmibsulawesi.org](http://www.yasmibsulawesi.org)

**YSKK / Yayasan Satu Karsa Karya**

Sukoharjo, Jawa Tengah  
<https://yskk.org>

**Think tanks****Akatiga**

Bandung, Jawa Barat  
[akatiga.org](http://akatiga.org)

**CCPHI / Partnership for Sustainable community**

Jakarta Barat, DKI Jakarta  
[www.ccpbi.org](http://www.ccpbi.org)

**CEGAS / Center of Geomatic Applications for Sustainable Development**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
[cegas.id](http://cegas.id)

**CELIOS / Center of Economic and Law Studies**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
[celios.co.id](http://celios.co.id)

**CIPG / Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta  
[cipg.or.id](http://cipg.or.id)

**CIPS / Center for Indonesian Policy Studies**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
[www.cips-indonesia.org](http://www.cips-indonesia.org)

**IAP / Ikatan Ahli Perencanaan Jawa Tengah**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
[iapindonesia.org](http://iapindonesia.org)

**ICAIOS / International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies**

Banda Aceh, Aceh  
[acehresearch.org](http://acehresearch.org)

**IKUPI / Inisiatif Kota Untuk Perubahan Iklim**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
[ikupi.org](http://ikupi.org)

**INDEF / Institute for Development of Economics and Finance**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
[indef.or.id](http://indef.or.id)

**IRGSC / Institute of Resource Governance and Social Change**

Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timur  
[irgsc.id](http://irgsc.id)

**P5 / Pusat Pelayanan Perencanaan Pembangunan Partisipatif Undip**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
[pwk.ft.undip.ac.id/id/p5/](http://pwk.ft.undip.ac.id/id/p5/)

**PATTIRO**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
[pattiro.org](http://pattiro.org)

**Pusat Kajian Pendidikan dan Masyarakat (PKPM)**

Banda Aceh, Aceh  
[pkpm-aceh.org](http://pkpm-aceh.org)

**PSII / Pusat Studi Infrastruktur Indonesia**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta  
[www.infraindo.org](http://www.infraindo.org)

### **PSUD / Pusat Studi Urban Desain**

Bandung, Jawa Barat  
psud-cuds.id

### **RDI / Resilience Development Initiative**

Bandung, Jawa Barat  
rdi.or.id

### **RISED / Research Institute of Socio-Economic Development**

Surabaya, Jawa Timur  
rised.or.id

### **Ruang Waktu Knowledge Hub**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
ruang-waktu.com

### **Smart City UI**

Depok, Jawa Barat  
smartcity.ui.ac.id

### **The Aceh Institute**

Kota Banda Aceh, Provinsi Aceh  
acehinstitute.org

### **The PRAKARSA**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
theprakarsa.org

### **The SMERU Research Institute**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta  
smeru.or.id

## **Grassroots organizations or informal associations**

### **Ciliwung Merdeka**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
Gattot Strenkali / Paguyuban Warga

### **Strenkali Surabaya**

Surabaya, Jawa Timur

### **Jaringan Rakyat Miskin Kota / JRMK**

Jakarta Utara, Jakarta

### **Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia / KNTI**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
<https://knti.or.id>

### **Paguyuban Kalijawi**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

### **Papatsuta / Pasamaan Pasar Tradisional Surakarta**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah

### **Sompis / Solidaritas Masyarakat Pinggiran Solo**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah

### **SPRI / Serikat Perjuangan Rakyat Indonesia**

Jakarta Barat, DKI Jakarta

## **Voluntary organizations**

### **Arungi Ruang**

Cimahi, Jawa Barat

### **Curiosity Indonesia**

DKI Jakarta

### **Enjoy Balikpapan**

Balikpapan, Kalimantan Timur

### **Gang-gangan**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

### **Jalan Gembira**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

### **Kanca Taman Yogyakarta**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

### **Ketjil Bergerak**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

### **Kolektif Agora**

Jakarta - Bandung

### **Kota Bergerak**

Depok, Jawa Barat

### **Kotata'**

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

### **Kotta / Komunitas Transformasi Kota**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah

### **Liga Muda Perencana**

DKI Jakarta

### **Lokalab.co**

Bandung, Jawa Timur

**Melihat Kota**

Jakarta - Bogor

**Menemukanali**

Cimahi, Jawa Barat

**Nekropolis**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

**Pedestrian Jogja**

Yogyakarta, DI Yogyakarta

**Peka Kota**

Semarang, Jawa Tengah

**Pena Borneo**

Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat

**Pukaps / Pusat Kajian Perempuan Solo**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah

**Sasude / Sanggar Anak Sungai Deli**

Medan, Sumatera Utara

**Stravenues**

Multiple cities

**Subcyclist**

Surabaya, Jawa Timur

**Tanah Indie**

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

**Ruang Solidaritas Joli Jalan**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah

**Urbanist**

Malang, Jawa Timur

**Young NGOs****Ayo Ke Taman**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
ayoketaman.com

**Bicara Udara**

Jakarta Pusat, DKI Jakarta  
bicaraudara.id

**Borneo Urban Lab**

Banjarmasin, Kalimantan Selatan  
borneorurbanlab.org

**Griya Luhu**

Gianyar, Bali  
www.griyaluhu.org

**Grobak Hysteria**

Kota Semarang, Jawa Tengah  
grobakhysteria.or.id

**Kaki Kota**

Banjarmasin, Kalimantan Selatan  
Katakkerja  
Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan

**Kedai Buku Jenny**

Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan  
kedaibukujenny.id

**Pratisara Bumi Foundation**

Badung, Bali  
www.pratisarabumi.org

**Rame-Rame Jakarta**

Jakarta Selatan, DKI Jakarta  
www.rameramejakarta.org

**Sampan Institute**

Kota Parepare, Sulawesi Selatan  
sampaninstitute.com

**SRI Institute**

Sleman, DI Yogyakarta  
sriinstitute.com

**Urun Daya Kota**

DKI Jakarta  
www.urundayakota.org

**Transportologi**

Surakarta, Jawa Tengah



CSOs can help local governments to understand the needs and preferences of disabled passengers in order to improve public transportation service. Kota Kita engages with representatives of Semarang's disabled community to map their journeys and understand their needs.



# UPLIFTING URBAN LIVES

Indonesia's civil society organizations  
working to transform cities

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**KOTA  
KITA**  
A CITY FOR ALL

Kota Kita Publication

